



LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 2019

Communique

The Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) met throughout the month of November 2019 as part of their official meeting schedule for the 2018–2021 LMAC term. This table highlights items discussed at each meeting.

Crown-of-thorns starfish program update	Members were sent a link to a video to watch before the meeting. In the video, there was an overview of the program as well as providing an update on the program's recent work.
2019 Reef Guardian Stewardship Grants	Members were given copies of all of the expressions of interest (EOI) applications that were submitted for their region. During the meeting, those eligible to participate, discussed the EOIs and provided recommendations to the Authority. The Authority will use the information in the recommendations when determining which applications will be invited to submit a full application.
Great Barrier Reef Foundation grants	<p>The LMACs are working closely with local groups that obtained Great Barrier Reef Foundation community action grants earlier this year. Many committees received updates:</p> <p>Cape York 'Creating sensitive visitors to the Great Barrier Reef Northern Region': The LMAC is exploring additional options to reach its target audience of Cape York travellers, including brochures, posters and websites.</p> <p>Douglas Champions video: Interviews are underway and on schedule and will feature three LMAC members.</p> <p>Cairns 'Waterway Warriors': Video/social media training has been completed and the video has been launched. It will be aired at a short film competition in Cairns in November.</p> <p>Cassowary Coast 'Flying Fish Point State school billabong': A community information session was held in conjunction with this month's LMAC meeting. Soil test results are positive and final designs are being developed.</p> <p>Bowen–Burdekin 'Leave no footprint': Brochures printed and circulated in Bowen and Ayr. Two boxes were given to the Burdekin Shire Council and will be distributed to the Tourism Information Centres, motels and caravan parks.</p> <p>Whitsunday 'Restoration of Twin Creek': The mulch has been ordered and is expected to be delivered in December. Quotes requested for the irrigation and Council is working with Whitsunday Catchment and Landcare to source the plants required.</p>





	<p>Capricorn Coast, Rockhampton, and Gladstone ‘What’s down our drains project’: Completed litter analysis from the Drain Buddies and workshopped the key items to focus effort on reducing through behaviour change, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yeppoon: plastic straws and their wrappers - Rockhampton: cigarette butts - Gladstone: plastic lined sugar sachets used in coffee shops <p>Burnett ‘#LessIsMore’: The #LessIsMore project continues to grow with more beeswax wraps train-the-trainer sessions occurring; collection and replacement of around 9750 plastic straws, design of branded paper straws to replace plastic and sticker pledge for businesses participating in straw swap, continued work on the butt bin project. Members noted the extraordinary work by two members who drove this project.</p>
Cape York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Election: The members and the Authority will write to Cook Shire Council CEO requesting a presentation after the local government elections to introduce the Reef Guardian Council program, the committee and local issues relating to tourism and roads. • Fisheries regulations: The committee discussed new Fisheries regulations and congratulated the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on its quick response to queries on its Facebook page. • Marine Debris: Members discussed the difficulty of tackling marine debris on Cape York when beaches are inaccessible and rubbish is difficult to dispose. <p>Next meeting: 20 February 2020</p>
Douglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reef Guardian Stewardship Grants: Members expressed concern about the level of information they received in the expression of interest form as part of the Reef Guardian grant process. • Vessel recycling contamination: The chair will write to Port Douglas marine managers and tenants with suggested actions to improve recycling contamination - including designating a “waste captain” on each vessel to oversee collection and sorting. Another option could be to set up a camera and fine polluters. • Projects in the region: The committee is developing a Register of Potential Projects to assist when new grant rounds are released. Included on the list will be coordinating a sustainable fishing strategy for Douglas shire. <p>Next meeting: 11 February 2020</p>





Cairns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterway health: This was a major theme at the meeting, with presentations on the Waterway Warriors and members expressing support for a water quality monitoring project in the Barron River. • Reef restoration: Reports of successful coral spawning and the pioneering work of researchers and groups such as the Reef Restoration Foundation. The committee feels it is very important that people around the world know that the communities living beside the Reef are actively caring for it. • Hotline numbers: Requests for the community to report illegal fishing and turtle strandings highlighted there are a number of reef-related hotline numbers for different topics. Members recommended a single, easy to remember point of contact: 1800 MARINE which be used instead of trying to identify which number was the most relevant • Biosecurity: The strategic importance of recognising this state and federal issue in the Reef 2050 Plan review. <p>Next meeting: 18 February 2020</p>
Cassowary Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community event: Members met at the Flying Fish Point State school billabong site for an information session with partners and the community. Farming members shared their experience with similar projects and there was strong support for hands-on learning by the students. • Fish closures: Members raised the need for greater promotion of fin fish and barramundi closures by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the Cassowary Coast with many stories shared of fishers (including charter boats) ignoring the ban. • Sustainable fishing strategy: Members are keen to take the lead and collaborate with the Hinchinbrook LMAC on a sustainable fishing strategy for the region. <p>Next meeting: 12 February 2020</p>
Hinchinbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach clean-up: Hinchinbrook community beach clean-up was held on the 22 September with requests for it to become an annual event. Just under one tonne of rubbish was collected. Hinchinbrook Council and Cathedral School (both Reef Guardians) were amongst many local community organisations that were represented. • Info Fish presentation: A joint presentation by Info fish to the Cassowary Coast and Hinchinbrook LMACs occurred on 6 November. • Sportfishing Festival: The Chair attended the Sunshine Coast Sportfishing Festival, and has secured next year's event in the Hinchinbrook region. The Hinchinbrook Sportfishing Club plan to use competitors to assist with monitoring recaptures of tagged fish.





	<p>Next meeting: 19 February 2020</p>
Townsville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change action strategies and recommendations: There were three presentations given to the members: Reducing energy use a Reef HQ with sustainable solutions (Sascha Thyer, Reef HQ); Reef Ecologic Becoming a Carbon Neutral Organisation (Dr Adam Smith, Reef Ecologic) and Australia’s Climate 1856-2017: a new data-based regime (Bill Laing, Climate Analyst) • Geoffrey Bay: Members discussed compliance in the Green Zone at Geoffrey Bay and methods available to the public to report infringements as well as additional education and engagement to reduce occurrences. • Reef HQ: Members are looking at ways to share Reef HQ energy reduction in the region as a positive example and inspiration for the community. • Symposium: Members have arranged a mini-restoration symposium with the Australian Institute of Marine Science to occur prior alongside the February LMAC meeting. The symposium is proposed to be held prior to the February LMAC meeting and will be open to the community. <p>Next meeting: 13 February 2020</p>
Bowen–Burdekin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority CEO: Josh Thomas was welcomed to the meeting and the members were grateful for the opportunity to showcase their region to him. • Island and Marine Interventions: Mark Read gave a presentation about island interventions that have been happening in the Great Barrier Reef recently. The members were keen to hear about additional the work being done on Raine Island since Mark had given his previous presentation to the LMAC. They recommended that this be promoted more in the media. • Crown-of-thorns starfish program: The members agreed that the COTs control program was a good news story and would like to be kept up-to-date with further developments. • Reef Guardian Grants: The members are hoping that the expression of interest that had been submitted for them to review, will be one of the applications that will be given the opportunity to submit a full application. <p>Next meeting: Wednesday 5 February 2020</p>
Whitsundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education in the Whitsundays: The members were given an update from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries about the five point plan that they are implementing to improve people’s safety. The members also heard about the work that will be conducted by Reef Ecologic in the region to boost shark smart behaviour.





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Healthy Rivers to Reef Report card: The 2018 report card was launched mid this year and an additional stewardship report card was launched last month. The report card found that more than half of the grades had remained the same since the last report card, four overall scores had lifted and three had declined. • Whitsunday Eco Tourism: A feasibility study was conducted in 2018 for potential premium ecotourism products along the Whitsunday Island Craig Trail. Queensland Tourism is working with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services on this project and are in consultation with the Traditional Owners and key stakeholders. It is expected that an announcement will be made around Easter next year. • North Queensland Bulk Ports: The port has been undergoing seagrass and monitoring research with James Cook University for over 20 years. Their partnership with James Cook University on the integrated marine monitoring program won the national award for Outstanding Collaboration for National benefit at the Business and Higher Education Round Table Awards this year. <p>Next meeting: Tuesday 11 February 2020</p>
Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Queensland Bulk Ports: The port has been undergoing seagrass and monitoring research with James Cook University for over 20 years. Their partnership with James Cook University on the integrated marine monitoring program won the national award for Outstanding Collaboration for National benefit at the Business and Higher Education Round Table Awards this year. • Turtle Nests: There has been an increase in the number of turtle nests in the region since last year. It is hoped that this will lead into an increase in the number of turtle hatchlings as well. • Data in the region: Numerous organisations have data available on their website. This can be used by students for research projects as well as information for the general public. <p>Next meeting: Wednesday 12 February 2020</p>
Capricorn Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Institute of Marine Science Keppel's project: Bob Muir, Libby Evans-Illidge and Tracey Lee Forester of Australian Institute of Marine Science introduced the Keppels project to the LMAC, key points including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 year project ○ Involves engagement and stewardship component ○ Includes mapping sea country to identify suitable sites for Reef restoration work ○ Will build indigenous skills for the future ○ Will investigate new Reef management and conservation tools. • North Queensland Bulk Ports: Kevin Kane, Director Environment presented on the legislative framework, research, decision making approach, monitoring and engagement involved in the Hay Point maintenance dredging. Members





	<p>heard first-hand about the innovative approach to the project that has led to improved dredge management at Port of Hay Point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of service: Long standing members Rob Freitag and Colleen Fagan (absent) were applauded for their service to the LMAC over 15 and 10 years respectively. • Calendar: The LMAC members discussed the possibility of developing a Capricorn Coast LMAC calendar to share photography of the region and raise awareness of the LMAC and the Reef. <p>Next meeting: Thursday 13 February 2020</p>
Gladstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtis Island ReefClean event: Members celebrated the awesome results of the Curtis Island ReefClean event with around 35 people and 9 partner organisations successfully removing 985kg of debris. Members also reflected on the great support provided by the and local businesses and that supported the event • Sharing positive stories: The Gladstone LMAC are committed to sharing stories of change and action to promote awareness and encourage the community to #lovethereef and are investigating ways of doing this within the Gladstone community • Recognition of service: Long standing members Teresa Wilkie, Danny Aeshlimann were recognised for over 10 years of service to the GLMAC, while Graham Humphreys was recognised for an impressive 20 years. • CQUni indaba and CMERC launch: CQUniversity extended an invitation to members and the community to attend the community conference and launch of the new Coastal Marine Ecosystem Research Centre on Thursday 5 December • Nearing the top for clean ups: Members celebrated the efforts of the local community and the Gladstone region ranking second in the AMDI database for number of clean ups this year • Connection to Gladstone Youth Council: Cr O'Grady has agreed to provide the connection between the Gladstone Youth Forum and the LMAC, sharing the issues and initiatives with the future leaders of the region <p>Next meeting: Wednesday 12 February 2020</p>





Burnett	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interfish Pty Ltd: Don and Katie Gilson kindly opened their doors to the Burnett LMAC providing a look into a commercial coral collection facility. The meeting was held on site with members able to check out the amazingly vibrant coral specimens, the impressive facility and hear about the coral collection industry – its regulation and stewardship initiatives. In addition to being a Reef Guardian Don is also a member of the BLMAC.• Recognition of service: BLMAC secretary Jim Buck was recognised for 10 years of service, while members Brett Gamlin, Graham Smith and Sue Sargent (LMAC Chair) were recognised for 15 years of service <p>Next meeting: Tuesday 11 February 2020</p>
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