



## LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 2019

### Communique

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

Outlook Report	This report was released at the end of August 2019. The members were given a presentation on the report's key findings. A view summary of the document can be seen here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNnlEoJTBnc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNnlEoJTBnc</a> .
Reef Guardian Grants	Members were informed of changes to the Reef Guardian Grants since the last round was made available. Updates include: the amount of money organisations can apply for, the change in the submission process, and the role LMACs will have in the new process. The theme for 2019 is <i>'Connecting people to the Reef and each other'</i> .
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><b>Cape York 'Creating sensitive visitors to the GBR Northern Region':</b> Collecting images and text, awaiting editorial deadline from Chamber of Commerce (publishers).</p> <p><b>Douglas Champions video:</b> Champions and preferred production company has been selected.</p> <p><b>Cairns 'Waterway Warriors':</b> Training has been completed and groups have started making their own videos.</p> <p><b>Cassowary Coast 'Flying Fish Point State school billabong':</b> Soil testing about to commence at site.</p> <p><b>Bowen–Burdekin 'Leave no footprint':</b> The Low Tide walk to the lighthouse event went really well. Over 3,500 people took part in the walk. The signage, volunteers and JCU students were a valuable addition to the event from previous years. A brochure and further engagement with the high school students is still to be finalised.</p> <p><b>Whitsunday 'Restoration of Twin Creek':</b> The site is being prepared for planting. Earth works conducted on the creek line is being completed by a contractor with funding in addition to the GBRF grant.</p> <p><b>Mackay 'What a load of rubbish':</b> A cigarette butt 'voting' bins have been installed. Cass Hayward gave a presentation at the marine debris conference in Brisbane last month about this project. Auditing will be done on the gross pollutant traps in October.</p>





	<p><b>Capricorn Coast, Rockhampton, and Gladstone ‘What’s down our drains project’:</b> Drain Buddies in all three local governments have had the inaugural clean out and the waste has been identified, classified and will be entered into the Australian Marine Debris Initiatives database. This data will be used to identify debris for targeted behaviour change actions. Working groups are being formed to review the data collected and plan out the behaviour change activities.</p> <p><b>Burnett ‘#LessIsMore’:</b> The ‘LessIsMore’ project recently conducted a bees wax wrap production ‘train the trainer’ session attended by about 40 participants. The teachers involved with the session have not only learned the skills of making bees wax wraps but have thought of innovative ways of promoting them within the community including giving them as part of school welcome packs and as prizes for nude food days. A survey to assess baseline behaviours has been circulated within the community and will be used to assess behaviour change over time. Another component of the project is encouraging local businesses to replace their plastic straws with paper. This is progressing well and a reuse of plastic straws art project has been identified to support the Milbi festival. The third aspect of the project, cigarette butt bins and behaviour change, is also progressing well.</p>
Cape York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AIMS workshop</b> – This was held before the LMAC meeting with more than 40 people attending, including Indigenous rangers. There was a lot of interest from Traditional Owners in the Northern Australian Marine Monitoring Alliance (NAMA).</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research permits</li> <li>○ Reef Regulations</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting: Thursday 21 November 2019</b></p>
Douglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Low Isles</b> — new caretaker appointed</li> <li>• <b>Outlook Report</b> - The committee acknowledged concerns from tourism and business representatives about the potential impact of negative publicity from the Outlook Report.</li> <li>• <b>Sustainable fishing</b> – This remains a priority issue for the committee and the subcommittee continues to engage relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>• The committee resolved to improve recycling practice at the marina with a focus on engaging key stakeholders to develop a long-term strategy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting: Thursday 14 November 2019</b></p>





Cairns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Outlook Report</b> - Members acknowledge the Authority's comprehensive Outlook Report and summary document. Members are committed to sharing the Outlook Report's messages as a call to action for all stakeholders.</li> <li>• <b>Reef threats</b> - The biosecurity issue raised important points about the need for cross-agency communication and collaboration between agencies, particularly in reference to the Reef 2050 Plan and RIMREP.</li> <li>• <b>Great Barrier Reef Foundation</b> - Members who attended the Great Barrier Reef Foundation roadshow gave update and feedback about the meeting and their annual report.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting: Tuesday 19 November 2019</b></p>
Cassowary Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LMAC members receiving awards</b> - Cassowary Coast LMAC is punching above weight with members - a commercial fisher and banana farmer - receiving prestigious awards recognising their sustainable businesses.</li> <li>• <b>Turtle nesting</b> - awareness promotion for turtle nesting will begin in October.</li> <li>• <b>Billabong project</b> - Flying Fish Point State School billabong project is moving ahead.</li> <li>• <b>Beach clean-up</b> - A recent clean up showed a decline in litter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting: Wednesday 13 November 2019</b></p>
Hinchinbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lucinda and Hinchinbrook clean-ups</b> - to become an annual event. Cathedral School (Townsville) assisting with this year's clean-up (22 September).</li> <li>• <b>Fishway @ Tyto wetlands</b> – This project will provide a great educational opportunity, showcasing the importance of fish passageways. Hinchinbrook Shire Council has agreed to support the project including allocating a staff member to progress applications for funding and any subsequent council approvals.</li> <li>• <b>Reef appreciation and awareness field trip</b> – Extension agronomists providing nutrient planning and advice to Herbert sugarcane growers recently participated in a reef appreciation and awareness field trip on board two LMAC members' vessels. Participants were exposed to the Reefs they are helping to protect.</li> <li>• <b>Combined community event with Cassowary Coast LMAC</b> – The event scheduled for 6 November in Tully will have a fishing focus and two guest speakers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting: Wednesday 20 November 2019</b></p>





Townsville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New members</b> – Several potential new members attended as observers.</li> <li>• <b>ReefClean</b> – coming up in October a flagship Great Barrier Reef Clean Up event at Rollingsstone Beach on Saturday 5 October from 8.30am–1.00pm. A community clean up in partnership with Burdekin Shire Council will also be held at Alva Beach in Ayr on Sunday 20 October at Alva Beach as part of ReefClean and the Great Northern Clean Up.</li> <li>• <b>Climate change mitigation and renewables</b> – for discussion at the next meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting: Thursday 14 November 2019</b></p>
Bowen–Burdekin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prawn Farm</b> – Tassal purchased the farm in 2016 and is now operational. The council had a tour of the farm and encouraged the LMAC members to go and have a look as well.</li> <li>• <b>Crazy ants</b> – these animals have been found in Shute Harbour (Whitsundays), but on the islands. They have not been detected in Bowen.</li> <li>• <b>Bowen sewage treatment plant</b> – the treatment plant is being upgraded and this in turn will increase its effluent quality. The council will use the treated water on public land in the Bowen region.</li> <li>• <b>BBLMAC secretary</b> – there is still no one in this role. If no one can be found for the job, it will be advertised in the local papers.</li> <li>• <b>New members</b> – all members were encouraged to identify people that would be interested in joining the group – in particular those who are in the Burdekin region.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting: Monday 4 November 2019</b></p>
Whitsundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Great Barrier Reef Foundation Reef Islands Initiative in Whitsundays</b> – A presentation on proposed collaborative on-ground and in-water actions to protect and restore critical island values for wildlife and the Reef community in the face of climate change.</li> <li>• <b>Coral restoration works on Daydream Island</b> – Coral gardening initiatives on Daydream Island include: coral propagation and restoration and edu-tourism. Members were encouraged to visit Daydream Island to see the progress made.</li> <li>• <b>Whitsunday Reef recovery and public art project</b> –an update provided, including photographs of the installed art and coral propagation locations.</li> <li>• <b>Whitsunday mooring and Reef protection markers</b> – 153 new public moorings and 121 new Reef Protection markers have been installed in the marine park as part of this project. Hook Passage and Cockatoo Point installations are due to be done in November this year.</li> <li>• <b>South Whitehaven Lookout</b> – Opened to the public in July 2019, the lookout has 1800m of walking track with three viewing points</li> </ul>





	<p>and multiple rest areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strategic session</b> – the members took part in a workshop looking at what they enjoyed about being in the LMAC, how the LMAC shares information and community projects that they could be potentially be involved in.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting: Tuesday 12 November 2019</b></p>
Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Modern waste treatment</b> – Peter Zemek from Zemek Fundamentals explained the processes involved in modern sewage treatment. He gave an overview of its history and why we treat sewerage and how to recycle effluent. The members were pleased to hear that Mackay has one of the largest reuse schemes in Australia.</li> <li>• <b>Racecourse projects</b> – presented by George Williams, members learnt about the current farm portfolio, the farming systems implemented and agronomic advancements that they use.</li> <li>• <b>Youth ambassadors</b> – following from the successful video that made with Wildmob, students from Sarina State High School will visit Daydream Island to look at the threshold tipping point of algae.</li> <li>• <b>Fitzroy Creek</b> – with money from Reef Trust, earthworks will be conducted to rehabilitate the area to cut and fill the gully in preparation for planting 4,000 trees. Along with the hydro mulch, this project is expected to reduce the erosion of the area and in particular decrease the amount of fine sediments that get into the waterway.</li> <li>• <b>Tackleworld fishing competition</b> – members were encouraged to attend the event and join Authority staff to promote sustainable fishing practices.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting: Wednesday 13 November 2019</b></p>
Capricorn Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Proposed state designated aquaculture development areas</b> Stephen Smith from Department of Fisheries presented with a focus on downstream water quality.</li> <li>• <b>CCLMAC survey</b> – The Chair shared the results of the member survey of CCLMAC operation which were dominated by positive feedback. A couple of areas were identified for improvement.</li> <li>• <b>Outlook Report 2019</b> – members supported the Authority’s honest messaging and reliance on the science and supported the call to action.</li> <li>• <b>Crown-of-thorns starfish control update</b> – The CCLMAC discussed the current work being undertaken to address crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks in the Capricorn Bunker Group and the relationship between outbreaks and zoning, and how far south outbreaks have been detected.</li> <li>• <b>Working group updates</b> – members of each of the CCLMAC working groups for: CCLMAC community engagement, Reef naming, and materials choice for erosion works in the GBR, provided updates on actions undertaken since the July meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Local activities</b> – the work and outcomes from the Five Rocks</li> </ul>





	<p>beach clean-up, where ~900kg of marine debris was removed, and the Yeppoon State School Environmental Expo day, were applauded.</p> <p><b>Next meeting: Thursday 14 November 2019</b></p>
Gladstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Outlook Report 2019</b> – members welcomed the Authority’s presentation on the Outlook Report 2019 and discussed the need to communicate important, but sometimes overlooked, values the Reef provides e.g. protection for coastal townships, economic benefits through fishing, tourism, recreational use, and the corresponding jobs that rely on the Reef. The GLMAC is keen to explore ways to support the delivery of the Outlook messaging through forums, sharing positive regional stories and involving youth.</li> <li>• <b>Reef communication</b> – Options to better communicate Reef messaging to a wider audience was discussed with options including better use of YouTube, TedTalk style videos, weekly Reef news, engaging youth in Reef forums such as the LMACs and having Reef Ambassadors that the community can relate to.</li> <li>• <b>Joint LMAC meeting</b> – The members discussed the invitation from the Burnett LMAC to convene a joint meeting in July 2020 and are keen to explore the options to do so.</li> <li>• <b>Douglas Shoals remediation project video</b> – members provided positive feedback on both the Douglas Shoals remediation project YouTube video and the work being undertaken to restore the shoals.</li> <li>• <b>Curtis Island clean-up</b> – planning is continuing and funding is still being sought to cover logistics of the clean-up.</li> <li>• <b>Art on the Reef</b> – the installation of art on the Reef was actively discussed by the members with both support and concern raised in regards to changing the natural, wild state of the Reef to something manmade.</li> <li>• <b>Envision hands</b> – members applauded the work of Reef Guardian schools and shared how Containers for Change Weipa, and Tangaroa Blue also contributed bottle caps to the cause when they heard of the great work happening to support Envision hands – recycling bottle caps into prosthetic limbs for children.</li> <li>• <b>Upcoming events</b> – members highlighted the upcoming ReefClean marine debris clean-ups happening over the October long weekend, the ReefClean source reduction workshop on 15 October and the upcoming ConocoPhillips science week activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next meeting: Wednesday 13 November 2019</b></p>





Burnett

- **Outlook 2019** – members supported the strong and decisive report on the status and outlook of the Reef, noting that in terms of Reef information the report is second to none.
- **Success stories** – The LMAC agreed stories of hope and action should be shared more widely and frequently to encourage the global community takes action ('we all have a role to play') to help the Reef. The findings of the One Tree Island Reef were noted as an example.
- **Crown-of-thorns-starfish management** – an update on the crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks in the Capricorn Bunkers and Swains Reefs were discussed with culling currently being undertaken in the Capricorn Bunkers.
- **Great Barrier Reef Foundation community grants** – the grants and monitoring and evaluation process was discussed by the members with feedback to be provided to the GBRF for further discussion at the November BLMAC meeting.
- **Joint LMAC meeting** – The members discussed the proposal to convene a joint meeting with the Gladstone LMAC in July 2020 and options to have a key speaker for an open community presentation.
- **Great Sandy Marine Park review** – members received an update from the Chair on the status of the review.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 19 November 2019**

