



LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 2019

Communique

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

<p>Great Barrier Reef Foundation grants</p>	<p>The LMACs are working closely with 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 GBR Northern Region’: members agreed on key messages from community Traditional Owners to encourage sensitive visitor behaviour in the northern GBR.</p> <p>Cairns ‘Waterway Warriors’: social media video training for community groups to start in August.</p> <p>Cassowary Coast ‘Flying Fish Point State school billabong’: Council expects billabong reconstruction will begin at Flying Fish school in late August.</p> <p>Townsville ‘Urban marine debris strategy development’: Various aspects of the project have started; analysis of Townsville data from gross pollutant traps, sourcing educational material from previous projects, designing a presentation targeting Reef Guardian Schools, developing a local litter reduction program for World Oceans Day, identifying locations for future potential gross pollutant traps.</p> <p>Bowen–Burdekin ‘Leave no footprint’: sub-committee is working with Bowen Tourism regarding the Low Tide Lighthouse walk on 31 August.</p> <p>Whitsunday ‘Restoration of Twin Creek’: The variety and number of trees required for the project has been identified. Council will be organising a couple of community days for stage one of the planting.</p> <p>Mackay ‘What a load of rubbish’: Four of the gross pollutant traps (GPT) have been installed and one audit has been conducted. Hot spots have been identified and most collected items at each GPT will be traced to its source.</p> <p>Capricorn Coast, Rockhampton, and Gladstone ‘What’s down our drains project’: Drain buddies have been installed and upcoming cleaning, sorting and analysing are being planned.</p> <p>Burnett ‘#LessIsMore’: Good progress is being made on the project with funding received at the end of June and a Monitoring and Evaluation plan due to be submitted at the end of July. The LMAC agreed to form a steering committee which will meet to manage all</p>
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	<p>three activities and progress this source reduction project in the Burnett region as the drivers of the project.</p>
Cape York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil spill training: Following a major fuel spill at the Cooktown wharf last month, the Coastguard and other volunteers requested Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) provide oil spill response training in Cooktown. MSQ has proposed two days of training in Cairns which means volunteers incur considerable costs. The LMAC plans to write a letter to MSQ requesting the training is held in Cooktown, and asking for a full debrief on the spill with Council and other key stakeholders. • Erosion: The committee plans to write to the state and federal Members Cynthia Lui and Warren Entsch about poor road construction and maintenance standards on Cape York. The committee also plans to host a community presentation on erosion research later in the year. • Filling knowledge gaps: The LMAC will write to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation requesting an opportunity for knowledgeable Cape York locals and Traditional Owners to be involved in/have an opportunity to feed into a proposed consultancy to determine priority locations for taking action to conserve and protect less disturbed catchments, such as Cape York. Cape York has six catchments assessed as 'no priority' in the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan'. <p>Next meeting: Wednesday 25 September 2019</p>
Douglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Isles caretaker recruitment: The committee maintains a keen interest in the outcomes of the Low Isles caretaker recruitment process and hopes a strong relationship with the community can be formed with the newly appointed caretaker. • Submission to the Queensland Sustainable Fishing Strategy: Local recreational and charter fishers continue to express their interest in improving the sustainability of local practices, including seeking a net-free area within the Douglas shire. The committee's recreational fishing subcommittee prepared a submission for the Queensland Sustainable Fishing Strategy consultation process on behalf of Douglas shire recreational and charter fishers. • Zoning infringements: The committee was made aware of a number of recent fishing infringements in the green zone at Skinny Reef (16-118). The committee resolved to support community awareness about the zoning arrangements by distributing a flyer and media release.





	<p>Next meeting: Tuesday 10 September 2019</p>
Cairns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch n release anchoring system: The committee urged agency partners to pursue the use of the latest methods for environmental impact reduction following the presentation of the Catch 'n release anchoring system, and to send the Facebook link and website www.catchnrelease.com.au to the other LMACs. • Dive tourism: Given the importance of dive tourism to the Cairns economy, it is critical that the industry begins 'future proofing' to adapt to a changing Reef. <p>Next meeting: Tuesday 17 September 2019</p>
Cassowary Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reef Fin fish closures: Members would like to see an improvement in communicating information about seasonal reef fin fish closures, and asked whether reminders could be scheduled on the Eye on the Reef app. • Sustainable Fishing Strategy: Members wrote a submission in support of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, but requested the strategy and related documents be interpreted to the general public in a plain English version. • Recreational fishing technology: Members reported anecdotally that new recreational fishing technology is increasing catch and called for better monitoring, data and management responses. <p>Next meeting: Wednesday 11 September 2019</p>
Hinchinbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edmund Kennedy NP: Questions as to why access for 4WD has been granted by QPWS to the Edmund Kennedy National Park • Dune damage: members raised concerns around 4WD on beaches, noting that off-road clubs claim to be doing the right thing however individuals are causing damage. • Fisheries reform: discussions around fisheries reforms and black market sales. • Infofish: presentation from Infofish representative and discussions around installing a fish ladder into Tyto wetlands. <p>Next meeting: Wednesday 18 September 2019</p>
Townsville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change position statement: The LMAC congratulated the Authority and supports the position statement on climate change





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland health: Concerns regarding the health of wetlands and the lack of ongoing protection and management of their health and resilience • Townsville Port: Townsville Port advised they no longer provide bottled water to cruise ship patrons and that they are now trialling eDNA to monitor port waters for pest species using a biosecurity array <p>Next meeting: Thursday 12 September 2019</p>
Bowen–Burdekin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How robust is the science demonstrating to the Great Barrier Reef: Dr Peter Ridd was invited by a member of the LMAC when they found out that Dr Ridd would be in the region to speak about his concerns regarding climate change science and other issues affecting the Reef. He explained what was involved in a peer review process and his suggestion for the need for an institute for policy science quality control. Dr Ridd’s attendance was not sponsored by the LMAC or the Authority. • Natural disaster relief and recovery arrangements: The Whitsunday Regional Council has been successful in obtaining a grant to work on Molongle Creek boat ramp. The council have obtained permits from the Authority and National parks to undergo dredging for the project. • New members: The LMAC welcomed a new member to the group representing the community and have three other people representing commercial fishers, tourism and agriculture are interested in joining the committee. • Secretary: The members were encouraged to use their networks to identify someone who can fill this role. <p>Next meeting: Wednesday 4 September 2019</p>
Whitsundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitsunday Reef recovery and public art project: In a presentation from Reef Ecologic, the LMAC members were given an update on the project. The permits have been approved and the installation has begun. They were shown photos of the final structures, which many members have seen them on display. • Shark research: DAF have been collecting acoustic data from Cid Harbour and conducting tag and release methods there as well. It was noted that a tiger shark was caught and released a couple of times in the one day. The next trip is scheduled in September. • Seagrass monitoring: Volunteers go out twice a year to monitor a couple of sites in the region. They have noticed a decline in the amount of seagrass near the new boat ramp and are keen to see if it





	<p>comes back when they go out again. The data has been submitted to Seagrass Watch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wake height: members raised their concern about the wake height of some boats going passed Cockatoo Point and the impact this has on snorkelers and other boats in the region. It was noted there is legislation in the transport act about the speed of vessels in these conditions. • Strategic direction: The members took part in a workshop to identify issues in the region that could be used a focus for future meetings. Issues included: reef care, climate change, gaps in data, water quality, and Authority agility and legislation. • Reef festival: The LMAC will have a stall at the Nature Celebration on Friday night sharing with the Authority. Members were encouraged to come along to the street parade on Saturday as well as the Family Fun Day on Sunday. <p>Next meeting: Tuesday 10 September 2019</p>
Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality improvements Urban v's agricultural: There is often a lack of understanding between urban and agricultural water quality improvements. The members were given a presentation about what is happening in both sectors in this region and a summary of the data that has been collected. • Mangrove Watch: This citizen science has not been conducted in the region for a while and the members were encouraged to use their networks to identify someone who would be willing to take on the role of co-ordinating this in the region. • North Queensland Bulk Ports: continuously monitor the coral, sea grass and air quality around the ports. The information is available on their website: https://nqbp.com.au/sustainability/air-quality • Healthy River to Reef Report Card: The local report card was launched on 18 July. All members were encouraged to attend the launch. <p>Next meeting: Wednesday 11 September 2019</p>





<p>Capricorn Coast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reef Clean program update: presentation received on the Reef Clean program and what it means for the region • Crown-of-thorns-starfish program: members were pleased to receive the Authority report including the crown-of-thorns starfish management program and Douglas Shoals updates and climate change position statement, highlighting activities being undertaken in the southern Great Barrier Reef. Members were pleased to hear of the adaptive and responsive management actions being undertaken. • Long term erosion strategy for all of the Keppel Islands: members discussed the need and opportunities e.g. through Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy or Shoreline Erosion Management Plan. • CCLMAC Progress evaluation (member survey): members were surveyed to assess member perspectives of CCLMAC operation and fulfillment of LMAC objectives set at the start of the term. • Inshore <i>in situ</i> water quality monitoring for the Fitzroy Region: Capricorn Conservation Council provided an update on their submissions to have the water quality monitoring reinstated. The CCLMAC agreed that this is an ongoing issue of high concern to the group requiring a collaborative approach. • Geotextile bag use: an update on the work of the LMAC working group, noting the significance of geotextile bag use to plastic/micro plastic pollution of marine systems. The group continues to collect information and data. • QPWS update: members received a brief of the conservation and management activities undertaken by QPWS in the region. • Springboard: members discussed the Capricorn Coast LendLease Springboard program and the participation by some of the LMAC member's organisations and the Authority. <p>Next meeting: Thursday 12 September 2019</p>
<p>Gladstone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal hazard adaptation strategy: Gladstone Regional Council presented on the CHAS explaining the need for, and benefit of, long-term planning for the region. • Reef Clean program update: presentation received on the Reef Clean program and what it means for the region. • Crown-of-thorns-starfish program: members were provided with an update on the crown-of-thorns starfish management program and the activity being undertaken in the southern Great Barrier Reef.





	<p>Members were pleased to hear of the adaptive and responsive management actions being undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go slow: members discussed the recent spate of turtle strikes and agreed to raise awareness of the need to 'go slow for those below'. • Curtis Island Clean Up: members received an update about the cleanup proposed for October 2019. • Ghost pot removal update: http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2019/7/3/pot-blitz-nets-old-crabbing-gear-in-gladstone • Lillie's Beach permits: surveillance monitoring of beach driving in the area was discussed and supported, and thanks provided to the Gladstone Regional Council for this initiative to help with recreational user compliance. • Fishing pressure and anchor damage: Rock Cod Shoal and other local recreational sites were discussed along with opportunities to address the issues. <p>Next meeting: Wednesday 11 September 2019</p>
Burnett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reef Clean program update: presentation received on the Reef Clean program and what it means for the region. • Crown-of-thorns-starfish program: members were provided with an update on the crown-of-thorns starfish management program and control activities underway in the Capricorn Bunkers. Members were encouraged by the adaptive and responsive management actions being undertaken and reiterated their request for an Authority/crown-of-thorns starfish presenter to attend an upcoming LMAC meeting. • Oceanfest: several LMAC organisations are participating in the event with LMAC members encouraged to collaborate in the Authority stall and Reef tent. • Great Sandy Marine Park review: members discussed the request from the Australian Marine Conservation Society to co-sign submission. While the BLMAC were supportive of many aspects of the submission, members agreed to abide by their original submission. • Lady Musgrave Reef: members discussed the proposed pontoon, which provides for overnight stays, and existing tourism infrastructure in the lagoon and the interest in receiving further information and updates on these matters from the Authority.





	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public moorings: the location and number of public moorings was raised, and it was agreed to gather further information on specific locations/issues to present back to the Authority. <p>Next meeting: Tuesday 17 September 2019</p>
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