

5.6. REEF GUARDIAN COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2016-17

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to endorse the Reef Guardian Council Action Plan 2016-17.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is a member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Council stewardship program. A requirement of this membership is to prepare an annual Action Plan detailing the environmental initiatives Council will be undertaking in 2016/17 which directly benefit and protect the Great Barrier Reef. Environmental initiatives are broken down into five categories, which are: water management, waste management, land management, climate change and community. The Action Plan has been developed using Council's Operational Plan and Capital Works Program and liaising with the following Teams: CEO Unit, Infrastructure, Sustainable Communities, Water and Waste Water.

BACKGROUND

The Reef Guardian program is a stewardship program that encourages and supports councils, schools and industries to become actively involved in protecting the Great Barrier Reef. The Reef Guardian Council program recognises the good environmental work councils are achieving throughout the 42-million-hectare Reef catchment. The Action Plan records the diversity of council actions and projects that contribute to Reef health. It aligns with Queensland and Australian Government objectives to improve the long-term outlook for the Reef. The Action Plan is a tool for Council to share its Reef management actions with the local community and the rest of the world. The Action Plan is reviewed and updated annually, and an annual Highlights Report is produced to show the continuous improvements occurring across a range of council activities.

COMMENT

The Reef Guardian Council 2016-2020 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority and Douglas Shire Council was signed by both parties on 29 July 2016. The Reef Guardian Councils Steering Committee meeting on 21 October 2016 held in Surfers Paradise was attended by Cr Leu, Cr Noli and Cr Carey. Council was represented by Council's Sustainability Officer at the Reef Guardian Councils Working Group on 30 November – 1 December 2016. A Reef Guardian Council Action Plan for Douglas Shire is a yearly requirement of the MoU. The 2016-17 Action Plan is the third Action Plan produced under the new Douglas Shire Council.

PROPOSAL

That Council resolve to endorse the Reef Guardian Council Action Plan 2016-17

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Economic:** Action will result in long term savings for Council, for example through energy savings and protection of tourism income by safeguarding and improving the condition of the Reef.
- Environmental:** Action will have a positive impact on the Reef, rainforest and habitats, as well as reducing coastal erosion and storm water runoff.
- Social:** Promotes awareness of various Council projects and the positive impact they have on the Great Barrier Reef.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:

Theme 4 - Engage, Plan, Partner

4.2.3 - Work with regional, state, national and international stakeholders to promote beneficial partnerships to support strong, resilient and sustainable communities.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Information Provider Bringing people together to develop solutions to problems.

CONSULTATION

Internal: CEO Unit, Infrastructure, Sustainable Communities, Water and Waste Water Teams

External: Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1. Douglas Reef Guardian Action Plan 2016-17 **[5.6.1]**

Douglas Shire Council Reef Guardian Council Action Plan 2016–2017



A Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Initiative



Reef Guardian Council program

The Reef Guardian Program is a stewardship program that encourages and supports councils, schools and industries to become actively involved in protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

The Reef Guardian Council program recognises the good environmental work councils are achieving throughout the 42 million hectare Reef catchment.

Whether Reef Guardian Councils and their communities are large or small, they are making continuous improvements to help the Reef.

Action Plans

This Action Plan records the diversity of council actions and projects that contribute to Reef health. It aligns with Queensland and Australian Government objectives to improve the long-term outlook for the Reef.

The Action Plan is a powerful tool for the council to share its Reef management actions with the local community - and the rest of the world.

Milestone Reports

The Action Plan is reviewed and updated annually, and an annual Highlights Report is produced to show the continuous improvements occurring across a range of council activities.

Endorsement

The council recognises the importance of the Reef Guardian partnership and values the contributions made by staff and the community 'working together today for a healthier Reef tomorrow'.



Local Government Areas in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment



Endorsed:

Council signatory

Reef 2050 Objective

Attachment 5.6.1
The quality of water from all sources including industrial, urban waste and stormwater sources has no detrimental impact on the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

Water Management

What councils can do

Help to restore catchments:

For example:

- Incorporate environmental mapping and priorities in planning schemes and development decisions
- Help to restore landscape and waterway connections and functions
- Use best practices in council and industry developments
- Manage weeds and pests and restore disturbed council land
- Establish beach management plans



Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status	Reef 2050 actions
Cowie Range Road Upgrade	Sealing the existing Cowie Range dirt track reducing the amount of erosion, sediment and run off into the Reef.	Council Budget	-	Infrastructure	Complete	EHA10
Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS)	Planning and putting in place medium-long term resiliency strategies to combat coastal erosion, flood inundation and disasters.	State Grant Council Budget	-	Sustainable Communities	Commenced Phases One and Two	EHA10, CBA4
Coastal Foreshore Planting	Planting of native species on the coastal foreshore of Fourmile Beach and Pretty Beach	Council Budget	-	Infrastructure – Open Spaces	Not Commenced	EHA7, 13

Ongoing Activities

Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Reef 2050 actions
Proposed Douglas Planning Scheme 2016	The new proposed planning scheme aims to conserve the Shire's natural environment and outstanding biodiversity, whilst also utilising the region's natural resources efficiently.	Council Budget	EHA7, WQA7
Newell Beach Sand Replenishment	Maintenance reinstating the eroded portion of Newell beach.	Council Budget	EHA10
Natural Resource Management	Tree planting, weed control, pig trapping activities and advice/ assistance to land owners.	Council Budget	EHA7
Nursery Native Plants	A number of native plants are available from Council's nursery free of charge for ratepayers, encouraging residents to plant native species.	Council Budget	EHA7, CBA12

Water Management

What councils can do

Continuously improve the quality of water entering the reef from wastewater and stormwater sources through urban water cycle initiatives:

- Promote water sensitive urban design in new developments
- Adopt best practice stormwater management
- Monitor and if necessary upgrade sewerage treatment plants
- Provide collection facilities for chemicals, waste oil and other pollutants
- Protect and rehabilitate waterways



Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status	Reef 2050 actions
Smoke Testing Sewage Pipe Line	Smoke testing along the sewage pipe line to identify problems in connected lines and to determine if any storm water pipes have been illegally connected to the waste water system overloading the system.	Council Budget	-	Waste Water	Commenced	WQA11
Riverbank Restoration at Mossman Waste Water Plant	River wall to minimise and prevent sediment and soil runoff to the Reef.	Council Budget	-	Waste Water	Design Specification Commenced	WQA11, EHA6
Leachate Investigation at old Port Douglas landfill site	Investigate whether there is any leachate at the old Port Douglas landfill site.	Council Budget	-	Sustainable Communities	Not Commenced	EHA27, WQA6, 10, 11

Ongoing Activities

Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Reef 2050 actions
Sewer Pipe Lining in Mossman & Port Douglas	Extending the life cycle of sewer pipes damaged by root intrusion or long term deterioration, by lining.	Council Budget	WQA11
Erosion/Sediment Control through best practice at Council sites	Site-based stormwater management plans are required to be submitted with development applications.	Council Budget	WQA12, 13

Waste Management

What councils can do

Minimise waste entering the Reef from land-based sources:

- Control litter coming from landfills and public bins
- Introduce waste minimisation programs for Council and community
- Introduce littering and illegal dumping penalties
- Encourage community clean-ups before the wet season
- Install pollution traps on urban waterways



Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status	Reef 2050 actions
Public Place Recycling Bin Program	Installation of public place recycling bins at Cape Tribulation.	Council Budget	-	Sustainable Communities	Complete	EHA27
Killaloe Landfill Capping	Clay capping to reduce storm water infiltration and leachate generation.	Council Budget	-	Sustainable Communities	Commenced	EHA27, WQA6, 10, 11
Council Staff Bin Islands & Communications	Upgrade of internal bins within staff occupied Council buildings and targeted communications aiming to increase recycling rates.	Council Budget	-	Sustainable Communities	Commenced	WQA24
Waste Audits	Waste composition and weight audits to determine baseline waste characteristics.	Council Budget	-	Sustainable Communities	Commenced	EH27
Green Waste at Transfer Station	Provide free green waste disposal at local landfill sites for nine days in the lead up to cyclone season.	Council Budget	-	Sustainable Communities	Commenced	EHA27
Community Waste Communications	Targeted recycling communications aiming to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and recycling contamination rates.	Council Budget	-	Sustainable Communities	Not Commenced	WQA24

Waste Management

Ongoing Activities

Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Reef 2050 actions
Killaloe Leachate Capture	Capture of leachate at Killaloe Landfill for treatment and disposal.	Council Budget	EHA27, WQA6, 10, 11
Illegal Dumping Strategy Implementation	'Love where you live' litter and illegal dumping program which includes components of education, awareness raising, enforcement, research and evaluation.	Council Budget	EHA27
Promote Recycling Schemes	Continue to promote external recycling & collection schemes (e.g. mobile phones and batteries)	Council Resources	

Reef 2050 Objective

Attachment 5.6.1
Local, regional and Reef-wide community benefits are understood and the community is actively engaged in managing Reef activities.

Community

What councils can do

Celebrate community connections to the Reef and encourage stewardship:

- Introduce education campaigns to reduce impacts on the Reef
- Build community capacity to tackle threats to the Reef
- Form partnerships to achieve ongoing improvements to Reef health



Project Name	Description	Financial/ Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status	Reef 2050 actions
Port Douglas Drinking Fountains	Installation of drinking foundations along the Port Douglas Esplanade. Providing the community with an alternative to disposable plastic bottles which often end up in landfill or the Reef.	Council Budget	-	Infrastructure - Outdoor Spaces	Commenced	CBA5
Soap Aid Recycling	Used soap collection bins at Council's Administration Building and Hub office. Partnership with Soap Aid to recycle used soap (primarily from the accommodation sector) and reduce the amount that contaminates fragile groundwater systems.	Soap Aid Council Budget	Soap Aid	Sustainable Communities	Commenced	
Economic Development Plan	Plan for long-term economic, cultural, social, health and environmental sustainability of the Douglas Shire.	Council Budget	Community groups & businesses	CEO Unit	Commenced	CBA5, 7
Drain Stencil Project	On-ground drain stenciling to raise awareness of urban pollution and the impact it has on the marine environment.	Community & Council Resources	Cairns and Far North Environmental Centre, Low Isles Preservation Society & Plastic Free Douglas	CEO Unit	Not Commenced	CA11,12



Community

Ongoing Activities

Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Reef 2050 actions
Plastic Free Douglas	Plastic Free Douglas aims to reduce the number of disposable plastic bags which end up as litter and landfill in the Douglas Shire.	Partnership with Bendigo Bank, Cairns and Far North Environmental Centre, Douglas Shire Sustainability Group, Low Isles Preservation Society and Tangaroa Blue	EHA27
Scrap Shack	Council's recycle shop at Killaloe Landfill & Transfer Station diverts material away from landfill.	Council Budget	EHA27

Objective

Attachment 5.6.1
Communities adapt and respond to a changing climate by taking action to avoid impacts on the Great Barrier Reef and coastal ecosystems.

Climate Change

What councils can do

Help communities to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate:

- Assess council and community risk and vulnerability due to a changing climate
- Prepare for and respond to climate change through planning and policies
- Introduce sustainability principles to council procurement
- Encourage efficient use of energy by council and community



Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status	Reef 2050 actions
Port Douglas Community Hall Lighting Upgrade	Upgrade fluorescent lights with more efficient and longer lasting LEDs.	Council Budget	-	Infrastructure	Complete	
Mossman Caravan Park Lighting Upgrade	Upgrade mercury metal-halide lights with more efficient and longer lasting LEDs.	Council Budget	-	Infrastructure	Commenced	
Sustainability Policy	Policy detailing Council's sustainability policy, including Council's carbon footprint.	Council Budget	-	Sustainable Communities	Commenced	CBA4
Port Douglas Reservoir	Building a new reservoir in Craiglie, linked to the Mossman Water Plant and Port Douglas supply by a gravity fed system which is less reliant on large pumps (excluding the Flagstaff reservoir pump) and therefore uses less energy.	Council Budget	-	Water	In Progress	WQA11, EHA6

Ongoing Activities

Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Reef 2050 actions
Sustainable Practices at Work	Promoting energy efficiency best practice and a reduction in printing in the workplace	Council Resources	