

7.3. REEF GUARDIAN COUNCILS ANNUAL MEETING 2026

REPORT AUTHOR	Executive Assistant
EXECUTIVE	Chief Executive Officer
DEPARTMENT	Office of the Chief Executive Officer
TEAM	Office of the Chief Executive Officer
DATE	27 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the attendance of Councillor Abigail Noli at the 2026 Reef Guardian Council Executive Committee and Working Group Meeting in Mackay 26-27 August 2026.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will host the 2026 Reef Guardian Councils Executive Committee and Working Group Meeting in Mackay. This annual gathering provides an opportunity for Reef Guardian Council representatives to share knowledge, build capability, and strengthen strategic collaboration across participating councils. The program also includes site visits that showcase practical projects addressing key threats to the Great Barrier Reef, aligned with individual council Reef Guardian action plans.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

At the Ordinary Meeting held 28 May 2024, it was resolved that Council would

1. Continue to participate in the Reef Guardian Council Program for the period 2024-2028.
2. Nominate two (2) representatives as core members of the Executive Committee (Councillor and/or Senior Management) over the four-year term.

The expectation being that only one (1) of the representatives attends meetings as required. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority does offer financial support for the costs associated with attending the Executive and Working Group meetings in person.

REPORT/BACKGROUND

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Council program showcases environmentally sustainable practices undertaken by councils in the Great Barrier Reef catchment. The program recognises that the effective management and protection of the Reef requires a coordinated effort from industries, communities and all levels of government.

Through the Reef Guardian Council Program, local governments are delivering key management actions that address the threats facing the Reef and its heritage values. As key management partners, Reef Guardian Councils contribute to the long-term resilience of the Reef through the work they do outside of the Marine Park.

The Reef Guardian Council Program contributes to the delivery of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Accommodation, flights and travel to all meeting and field sites will be arranged and paid for by the Program team. The Reef Authority will provide two nights' accommodation along with cab-charge vouchers for travel to and from the airport. Therefore, the cost to Council is estimated to be less than \$100 for meals and sundry expenses.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The program highlights Council's environmental initiatives that address key threats to the reef, promotes innovation and the adoption of best practice, and encourages reef stewardship within the community.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Great Barrier Reef provides numerous social benefits to the local Community. It has historic and cultural values to the local Traditional Owners. Participating in the Program presents an opportunity to Council to enhance community well-being, support our local Traditional Owners groups and sea country, and show our due diligence in preserving a global icon.

CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Liveability

To deliver community activities to promote safe, healthy, inclusive and socially engaged communities with an environmental conscious.

1.7 - Investigate and promote environmental, green, eco-friendly and nature focused initiatives.

Operational Plan 2026-2027 Actions:

2.7.2 - Maintain regular contact with Federal and State parliamentarians.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Not applicable

CONSULTATION

Internal Consultation: Nil

External Consultation: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

CONCLUSION

Attendance at the 2026 Reef Guardian Councils Executive Committee and Working Group Meeting will provide valuable opportunities for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and showcasing Council's commitment to reef stewardship. Endorsing Councillor Noli's participation supports Council's ongoing involvement in the Reef Guardian Council Program and its contribution to the protection and long-term sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil