

Douglas Shire Council
Reef Guardian Council Action Plan
2015 / 2016



A Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Initiative



Reef Guardian Council program

'Reef Guardians' 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 Milestone Report is produced to highlight the continuous improvements occurring across a range of Council activities.



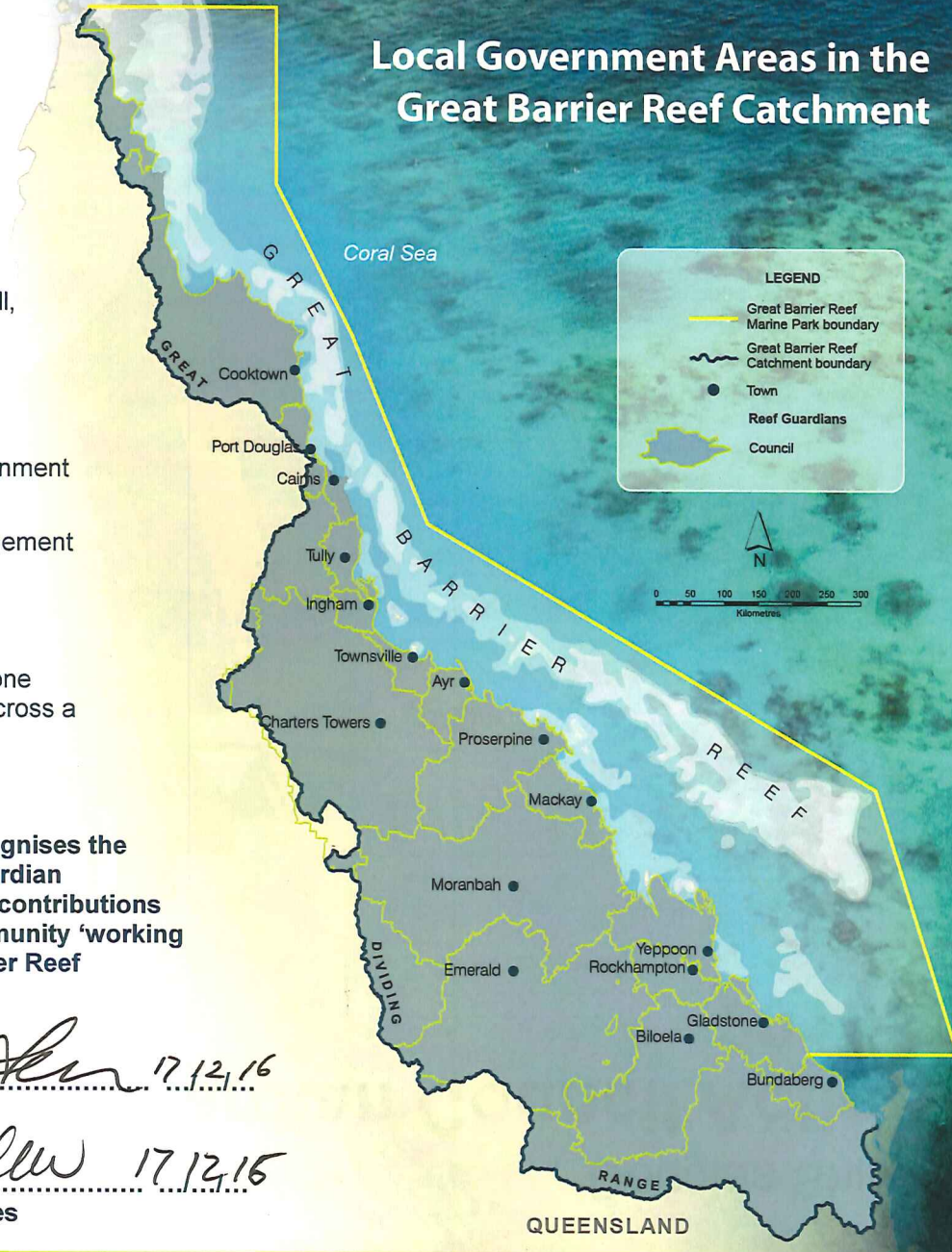
Endorsement

Douglas Shire 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'

Mayor: *Julia Scher* 17.12.16

CEO: *Quinn Andrew* 17.12.15
Council signatories

Local Government Areas in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment



Reef 2050 Objective

The Great Barrier Reef retains its integrity and system functions by maintaining and restoring the connectivity, resilience and condition of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Land 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
Douglas Shire Planning Scheme	Develop a planning scheme that manages future development with a view to protecting coastal ecosystem services, habitat connectivity and water quality	Council Budget (est. \$500,000)		Manager of Development and Environment	In draft with Qld Govt
Park Management Plans	Develop management plans for Council parks and reserves including coastal reserves and foreshore areas	Council budget		Manager Infrastructure	Planned
Douglas Shire River Improvement Trust	Establish a River Improvement Trust to address damage to rivers and attract resources in response to flooding.	Seeking State Govt funding		Manager Infrastructure	In progress
Kaba Gada	Work with Indigenous trustees to protect Kaba Gada sensitive areas from degradation, through restricting access, and pest management	Council Budget		Management Team	In progress

Ongoing Activities

Project name	Project name	Project name
Rates incentives for properties holding a Conservation Agreement for a Nature Refuge under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.	In-kind support for Conservation Groups (work crews, ferry passes, waste disposal) to groups restoring coastal ecosystems	Natural Resource Management: Tree planting, weed control, pig trapping activities and provide advice/assistance to land owners
A number of native plants available from Council's nursery free for ratepayers.		

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

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
Improve Efficiencies in Wastewater Network	Reline sewer network in Mossman and Port Douglas	Council Budget (\$2.5 million 3 years)		Manager Water and Wastewater	In progress
Improve Efficiencies in Water Network	Replacing dilapidated water network system to reduce infiltration and loss	Council Budget (\$2.5 million 3 years)		Manager Water and Wastewater	In progress
Variable speed pumps	Install variable speed pumps at Council pump stations	Council Budget		Manager Water and Wastewater	In progress
Water Demand Management Strategy	Installation of infrastructure for use of recycled water at Port Douglas sports oval	Council Budget 16-17		Manager Water and Wastewater	Planned
Daintree Gateway Amenities Block	Sewerage to be treated & released on site.	Council Budget		Manager Infrastructure	Planned
Gas chlorine at Mossman WWTP	Installation of gas chlorine at Mossman WWTP to reduce chlorine discharge to environment and lower environmental risk	Council Budget		Manager Water and Wastewater	Completed

Ongoing Activities

Project name	Project name	Project name
Erosion / Sediment Control through best practise at Council sites.	Require site-based stormwater management plans to be submitted with development applications	Compliance/enforcement actions at construction sites
Maintain nitrogen levels of released waste water below Qld Government guidelines	Continued use of recycled water at two Port Douglas golf courses and investigation of new markets	

Education and on-ground actions target the source of marine debris and reduce the volume of debris entering the Great Barrier Reef.

Waste Management



What Councils can do

Minimise waste entering the Reef from land-based sources:

- 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
Killaloe Landfill Leachate Management Plan	Develop Leachate Management Plan for Killaloe Landfill including repairs & upgrades	Council Budget		Manager Development and Environment	In progress
Improved Recycling	Investigate opportunities to improve recycling and re-use of waste at landfill sites	Council Budget		Manager Development and Environment	In progress
Illegal Dumping Strategy and community education program	Develop an Illegal Dumping Strategy comprising educational, regulatory and enforcement elements.	Council Budget		CEO Unit	In progress
Recycling shop	Include in contract for Killaloe waste facilities	Council Budget		Manager Dev & Environment	In progress
Waste Management Strategy	Review and revise Waste Management Strategy	Council Budget		Manager Development and Environment	In progress
Investigate steam spray to kill weeds	Investigate and implement procedures and techniques to reduce herbicide spraying in Council operations	Council budget		Manager Infrastructure	In progress
Fertilizer Bag Recycling	Join trial program encouraging and assisting the recycling of commercial fertilizer bags			Manager Development and Environment	In progress
Public Recycling Bins	Increase the number of public space recycling bins around Port Douglas	Council budget		Manager Development and Environment	In progress

Ongoing Activities

Project name	Project name	Project name
Trade Waste Inspection Program	Participate in and promote external recycling /collection schemes (eg. mobile phones , batteries, chemicals)	

Reef 2050 Objective

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
Community Plan	Investigate the strategic planning framework for the development of a Douglas Community Plan for the long-term economic, cultural, social, health and environmental sustainability of Douglas communities.	Council budget		CEO Unit	Planned
Sustainable Community Education Program	Promote sustainable activities on website (eg. electricity savings from Council rooftop solar panels, encourage recycling etc.)	Council budget		CEO Unit	Planned
Ecoweek and other events	Partner with regional Councils and community organisations for environmental events e.g. ECOWeek and Beach clean-ups, in 2016	Council budget	Other Councils, community groups	CEO Unit	Planned
Love where you Live. Keep Douglas Clean and Green.	Stage 2: Anti-dumping and littering community education campaign.	Council budget		CEO Unit	In progress
Engage a sustainability officer	Develop a new position and engage a Sustainability Officer	Council Budget		Manager Development and Environment	Planned
Plastic Free Douglas	Working group to phase out the use of disposable plastic through education of retailers and customers of alternatives	Council Budget	DSSG, LIPS, Tangaroa Blue, CAFNEC	CEO Unit	In progress

Ongoing Activities

Project name	Project name	Project name
Local Marine Advisory Committee representation		

Objective

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
Solar Power Diwan SES shed	Installation of solar panels and battery system to provide an independent power system for the Diwan SES shed.	Council Budget \$14,154		Manager Infrastructure	Completed
Cow Bay Public Toilet facility	Installation of a single 'accessible' unisex toilet. Water to be supplied by bore with bore pump powered by solar panels. Lighting also to be run by solar powered battery system.	External funding \$85,000	National Parks	Manager Infrastructure	In progress
Port Douglas Sports Complex	Paint the roof with a reflective coating designed to reduce the heat within the building by at least 10 degrees.	Council Budget \$40,000		Manager Infrastructure	Completed
Diwan Cricket Association Shed	Installation of insulation in ceiling of the sports shed to reduce heat build up.	Council Budget \$15,000		Manager Infrastructure	Planned

Ongoing Activities

Project name	Project name	Project name
Switch Off at Work and Rethinking Printing: energy efficiency promotion in the workplace		

