

Hinchinbrook Shire
Council

REEF GUARDIAN COUNCIL ACTION PLAN



Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



www.gbrmpa.gov.au

Reef Guardian Council program

The Reef Guardian Council program (RGC program) is a collaborative stewardship arrangement between local government in the Great Barrier Reef catchment and the Authority, which recognises that local and regional approaches are central to protecting and managing the Reef and the communities it supports.

The RGC program was first launched in 2007 and in 2020 has grown to include 18 member councils covering an area of 300 000 square kilometres and a population of more than one million people.

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.

Actions are scalable reflecting each council's financial and technical capacities. To be a member, councils with a population of less than 50,000 residents must commit to at least one action for each item (climate change, coastal development, land-based run-off, direct use, heritage values), while councils with greater than 50,000 residents must commit to at least three actions per item. Examples of actions are provided in Table 1 of the Reef Guardian Council program Terms of Reference, however the program empowers councils to drive change and deliver innovative solutions to help the Reef by identifying other actions beyond those provided.

Endorsement

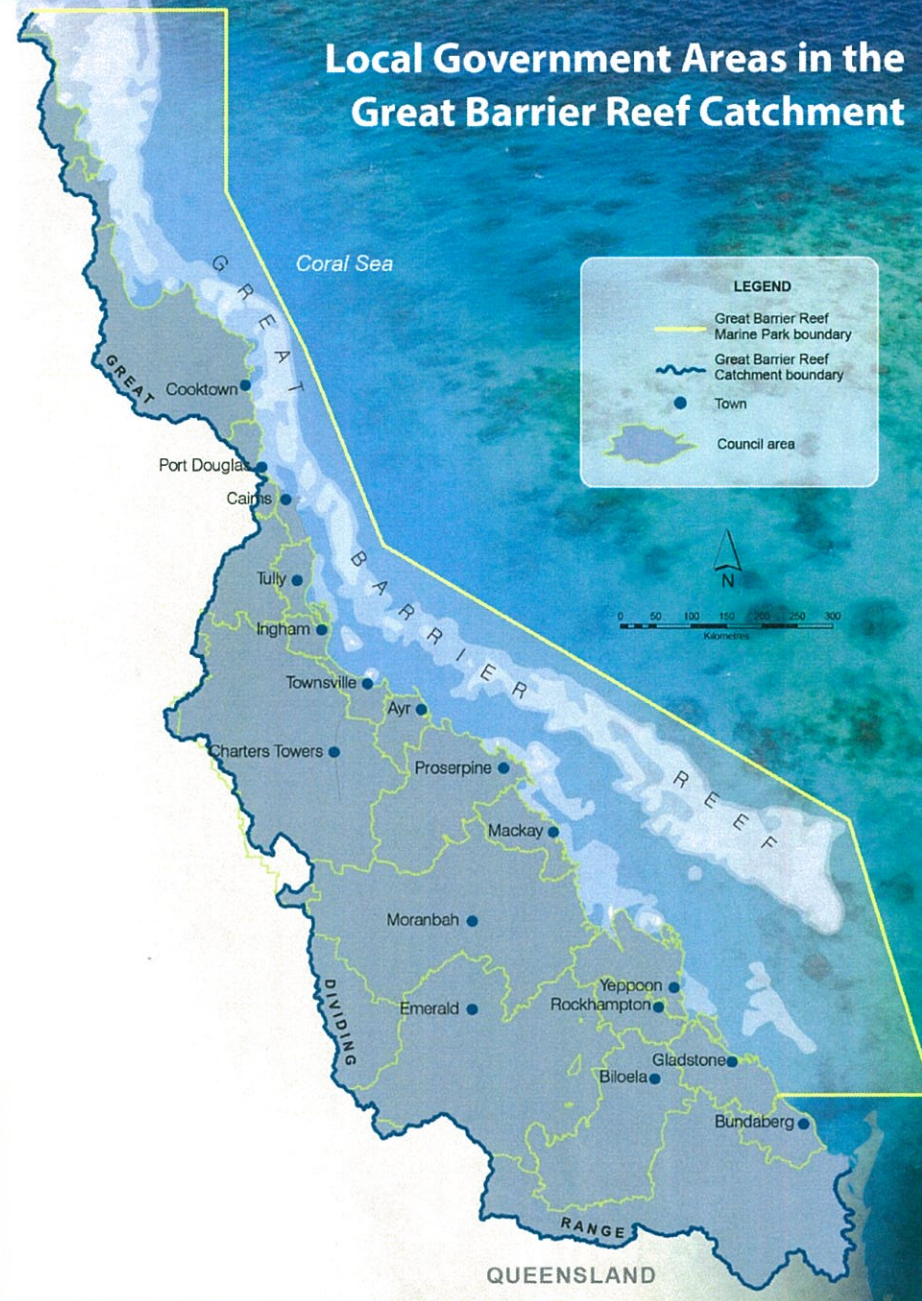
The council recognises the importance of the Reef Guardian partnership and values the contributions made by staff and the community 'working together today for a healthier Reef tomorrow'.

Period of Action Plan: 2020-2024

Endorsed: [Signature] 30/3/21

Council signatory

Local Government Areas in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment



Climate change

Action	Description	Responsible department/ Support	Partnerships	Delivery Year				Project Status
				1	2	3	4	
Develop and implement a Corporate Sustainability Plan	Reduce Council's resource consumption and waste generation.	Financial Services/ Utility Services	NA					Started
Creating/supporting a circular economy	Explore re-use/recycling options for all waste streams collected via Council's transfer stations.	Utility Services	Local and regional partnerships					Not started
Solar investigations	Further investigation solar opportunities for Council infrastructure.	Infrastructure and Utility Services	NA					Not started
Waste education	Develop and deliver a waste education program aimed at promoting reducing, reusing and recycling. "Support guardians of the future"	Utility Services	MAMS Group Local Schools					Ongoing
Water use efficiency	Shire wide installation of smart water meters, which assists in the identification of leakages and overuse.	Utility Services	NA					Started
Corporate Plan	Inclusion of Climate Adaptation Strategies and activities into Council Corporate Plan	CEO	NA					Started

Coastal development

Action	Description	Responsible department/ Support	Partnerships	Delivery Year				Project Status
				1	2	3	4	
Litter and Illegal Dumping Strategy	Development and implementation of a strategy aimed at reducing the occurrence and impact of littering and illegal dumping within the Shire.	Utility Services/ Regulatory Services	NQROC					Started
Sustainable Events	Develop sustainable event procedures relating to Council events and venues, including investigating the ramifications associated with the introduction of an internal single-use plastic ban.	Community and Development Services/ Utility Services	Local community					Not started
Public bins and signage	Review current public bin infrastructure to ensure a holistic and strategic approach aimed at encouraging the use of the bin system within the public domain.	Infrastructure Assets Services/ Utility Services/ Community and Development Services	NA					Started
Hydrology and connectivity in the coastal realm	Review and investigate opportunities for improvement of hydrology and connectivity of mangroves and coastal wetlands.	Public Space and Biosecurity Services						Not started
Feral pig management	Continue delivery of local feral pig management program to reduce predation on sea turtle eggs.	Public Spaces and Biosecurity Services						Ongoing

Land-based run-off

Action	Description	Responsible department/ Support	Partnerships	Delivery Year				Project Status
				1	2	3	4	
Waste Support Programs	Provide increased waste infrastructure within the community at identified times of the year when there's increased waste generation (such as Christmas, Easter and pre-disaster season) to cater for this influx and reduce potential littering and illegal dumping incidents.	Utility Services	NA					Ongoing
Littering campaigns, audits and clean-up events	Roll-out of anti-littering campaigns. Organise, and/or support, litter clean up events within the local areas.	Utility Services/ Community and Development Services	Tangaroa Blue Local community					Ongoing
Landfill Environmental Monitoring Program	Ensure no impact to surrounding environment from leachate generated within Council's landfill network (closed and active).	Utility Services	NA					Ongoing
Landfill capping	Capping of Stage 1 at Warrens Hill landfill to reduce rainfall infiltration and leachate generation.	Utility Services	NA					Started
Illegal Dumping Hotspot Project	Identify and map hotspots for illegal dumping within the Shire.	Utility Services	NA					Started
Sewerage Treatment operations	Review current site-based management plans for Council's sewerage treatment plants to ensure ongoing compliance and best practice management.	Utility Services	NA					Not started
Stormwater Drains	Investigate potential usage of litter baskets within stormwater drainage.	Infrastructure Operations Services						Not started
Palm Creek Restoration	Reduce erosion and sediment within the riparian area by planting 14,000 native trees in unviable farmland.	Public Spaces and Biosecurity Services in partnership with Greening Australia						Started

Direct use

Action	Description	Responsible department/ Support	Partnerships	Delivery Year				Project Status
				1	2	3	4	
Zero-waste Tourism and Recreational Fishing Strategy	Develop and implement a local action plan aimed at targeting waste generated by the tourism and recreational fisher sections.	Utility Services/ Community and Development Services	Local community groups					Not started
Promote "#dontwastehinchinbrook"	Develop and promote a campaign aimed at the local community and tourism sector to make conscious waste decisions while visiting Hinchinbrook region	Utility Services/ Community and Development Services	Local community Tourism operators Tourists					Ongoing
Clean- up of marine debris	Where possible, provide support to local groups conducting marine debris clean-ups	Utility Services	Applicable not-for-profits					Ongoing

Reef heritage and social values

Action	Description	Responsible department/ Support	Partnerships	Delivery Year				Project Status
				1	2	3	4	
Interpretive signage	Investigate opportunities to include cultural heritage information within strategically place interpretive signage.	Community and Development Services						Ongoing

Monitoring, Reporting and Reviewing

This is a living, dynamic document, designed to be reviewed and updated as the needs and priorities of the environment changes, or when opportunities arise.

Progress of identified projects against the Plan will be reviewed on the following schedule:

- Six months into the financial year,
- Nine months into the financial year, and
- At the end of the financial year.

At the end of each financial year, progress will be reported back to the Authority and actions identified for the following financial year reviewed and updated as required.