

Cook Shire Council

REEF GUARDIAN COUNCIL ACTION PLAN


Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority


reef guardian council



Cook Shire
COUNCIL

reef guardian council
*Working Together to
Protect Our Reef*

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 19 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.

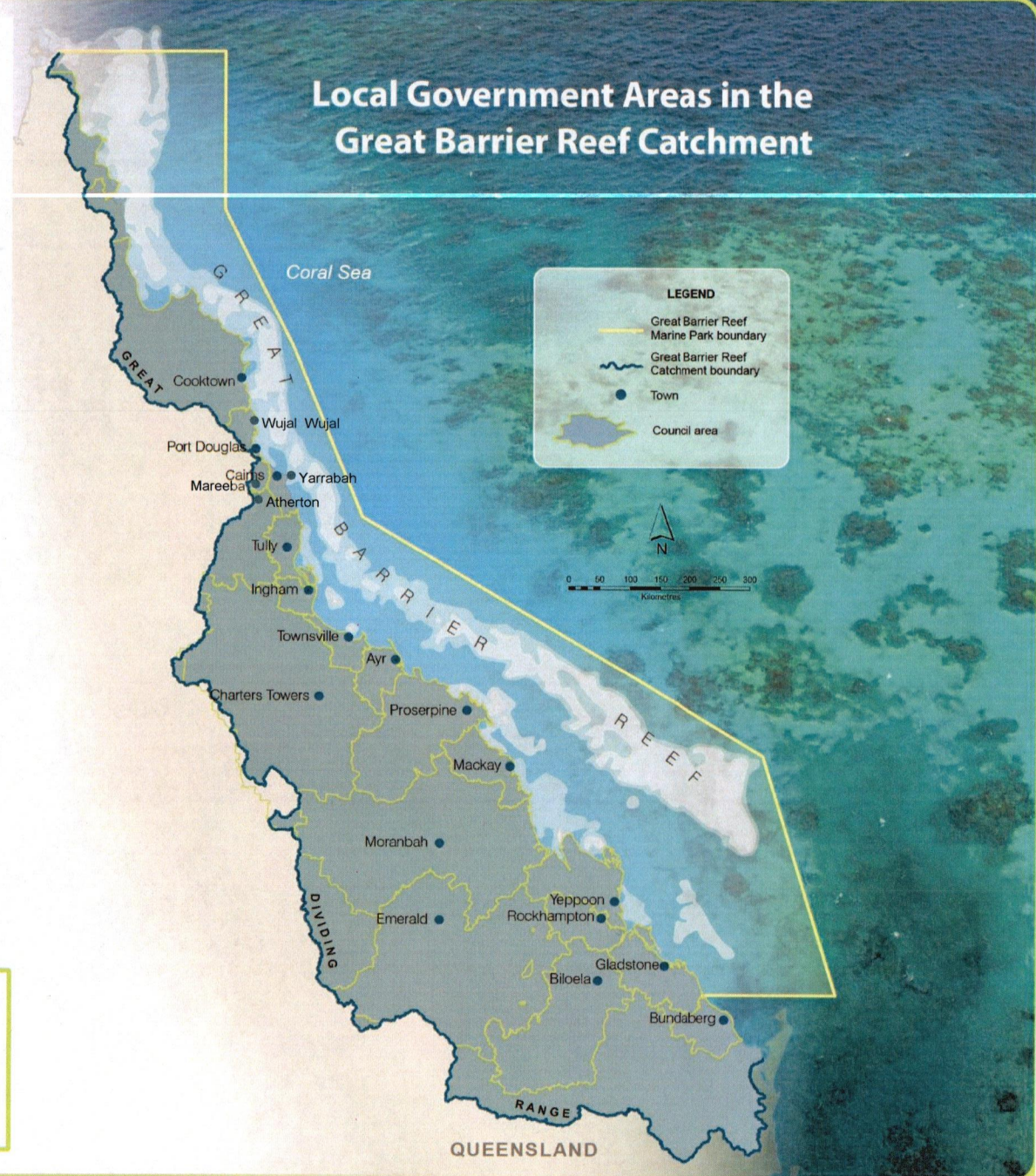
Actions are scalable reflecting each council's financial and technical capacities. To be a member, councils with a population of less than 50,000 residents must commit to at least one action for each item (climate change, coastal development, land-based run-off, direct use, heritage values), while councils 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: 2021 - 2024

Endorsed:  27.10.23
Council signatory



Climate change

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
<i>Clean Growth Choices – Communities in Transition</i>	<i>Climate change adaptation and resilience planning including progression of the Making Water Work and Food Futures Business Cases developed as part of a pilot program involving six regional Queensland Council's.</i>	<i>Reliant on External Funding</i>	<i>James Cook University CSIRO Department Environment and Science (DES)</i>	<i>Community, Economy and Innovation Department</i>	<i>In progress – governance groups have been formed and further funding is being sort to support business case progression.</i>
<i>Installation of Solar Power at Council Facilities</i>	<i>Installation of solar power at 5 of Council's top energy consuming facilities: 1. Water Treatment Plant - Annan 2. Sewage Treatment Plant 3. Admin Building 4. Community Events Centre 5. Natures Powerhouse</i>	<i>Reliant on External Funding</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Organisational Business Services</i>	<i>In progress – Funding has been received and project is underway.</i>
<i>Electric Car Charging Stations</i>	<i>Identify options, including the potential to collaborate with local businesses, for the provision of Electric Car Charging Stations in Lakeland and Cooktown</i>	<i>Council Budget</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Community, Economy and Innovation Department</i>	<i>Initial internal discussions have commenced regarding the different option and research is also being conducted.</i>
<i>Zero Net Emissions Strategy</i>	<i>Adoption of a Zero Net Emissions (Carbon Neutral) Strategy for Council and support for community progress towards Queensland's Emissions Reductions Target</i>	<i>Council Budget</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Community, Economy and Innovation Department</i>	<i>Initial planning discussions have commenced in regards to the strategy which will be developed by Council in conjunction with the Reef Guardian working group.</i>

Coastal development

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
Great Barrier Reef Management	This project is identified in the 2020-21 Operational Plan as an initiative to re-establish the Council Reef Guardian working group	Council Budget		Executive Leadership Team	In progress – Reef Guardian working group has been re-established, Council has identified a Reef Guardian Officer responsible for delivery and consultation.
Coastal Hazard Adaption Strategy (CHAS)	<p>The Coastal Hazard Adaption Strategy (CHAS) program has been initiated by LGAQ through the Queensland Local Government Coast Hazard Adaptation Program (QCoast2100). A CHAS is the product of a series of studies that seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify coast hazard areas Understand vulnerabilities and risks to a range of assets Engage with the community to understand their preferred approached to adaptation <p>Determine the costs, priorities and timeframes for their implementation</p>	Council Budget External Funding	Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) Department Environment and Science (DES)	Organisational Business Services	In progress – Strategy is now complete, Grants and Sustainability Officer investigation ways to collect data to commence delivery.
Recycled Water Infrastructure STP	This project is to build the required infrastructure to allow for the use of recycled water at a specific location within Cooktown. The aim is to reduce the amount of treated effluent that goes into the Endeavour River.	Reliant on sourcing external funding	N/A	Infrastructure	Initial internal discussions have commenced and project planning is underway. However the project is reliant on external funding

Land-based run-off

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
<i>Progression of New Cooktown Waste Transfer Facility</i>	<i>The 2018 CSC Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan (WRRP) recognises that a new waste facility for Cooktown is necessary. As well as a new purpose built waste transfer facility, the site also seeks to accommodate suitable facilities for a dog pound, impounded vehicle storage and works crew storage area to greatly improve the current provisions for these functions.</i>	<i>Funding for the subsequent stages of the project, including geotech, design, approvals and construction has yet to be secured.</i>	<i>Department Environment and Science (DES)</i>	<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	<i>In progress - The concept design for the new facility was prepared by AECOM and adopted by Council at its meeting on 22 July 2019.</i>
<i>Rehabilitation of Cooktown Landfill Site</i>	<i>Once a new waste transfer facility is constructed, the current landfill site will require rehabilitation.</i>	<i>External funding</i>	<i>Department Environment and Science (DES)</i>	<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	<i>In progress – preliminary investigations underway.</i>
<i>Oakey Creek Road Project</i>	<i>Erosion control roadworks at 6 segments on Oaky Creek Road. The road segments are in the Annan River Catchment and have been selected as target sites for the works as they are known to be major sources of fine sediment delivered into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon each year.</i>	<i>External funding</i>	<i>South Cape York Catchments</i>	<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	<i>In progress - South Cape York Catchments received funding from the Australian Governments Reef Trust and Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Cook Shire Council have partnered with them to provide in kind support. Roadworks have since commenced.</i>
<i>Stage 2 Oakey Creek Road Project (expansion of concept)</i>	<i>Treatment of native regrowth and invasive plants along the entire length of Oakey Creek Rd and Percy Rd using</i>	<i>Reliant on sourcing external funding</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Organisational Business Services</i>	<i>Initial internal discussions have commenced and project planning is</i>

	<p>targeted herbicide application rather than grading. In addition, excess silt to be removed using a backhoe rather than grader. This is designed to complement the trials being conducted by South Cape York Catchments and further reduce soil disturbance and associated sediment run-off</p>				<p>underway. However the project is reliant on external funding</p>
<p>High Bio-Mass Grass Management Strategy</p>	<p>Implementation of a catchment wide program to manage the distribution and spread of high bio-mass grasses within the Annan-Endeavour Catchment</p>	<p>Council Budget and External Funding</p>	<p>Biosecurity Queensland, FNQROC</p>	<p>Organisational Business Services</p>	<p>Biosecurity Services are currently treating high bio-mass grasses on roadsides and working with landholders. An annual taskforce is being undertaken to assist with eradication of gamba-grass from private landholdings. Extensive surveys of the catchment are required to identify presence/absence at a 1 km² grid scale.</p>
<p>Mt Tully Gravel Pit Remediation</p>	<p>Assessment and implementation of effective sediment reduction methods to reduce sediment laden run-off from the Mt Tully gravel pit. The project requires detailed mapping of the site in the first year to develop appropriate solutions for sediment control. This will be followed by application of the identified solutions in years 2 and 3. It is intended that this project serve</p>	<p>Reliant on sourcing external funding</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Organisational Business Services</p>	<p>Initial internal discussions have commenced and project planning is underway. However the project is reliant on external funding</p>

	<i>as a pilot program for rehabilitation of additional sites across the Annan-Endeavour Catchment</i>				
<i>Annan and Endeavour River Catchment Road Upgrade Project</i>	<i>The project will include bitumen sealing kerb to kerb on problematic town roads that have unsealed shoulders. During the wet season gravel and debris from the unsealed shoulders, travels into drains and then onto the reef environment.</i>	<i>Reliant on sourcing external funding</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	<i>Project planning is underway however the project is reliant on external funding.</i>
<i>Bio-pass Sewerage Detention Tank Project</i>	<i>The project is to increase the volume of the holding tank at the Cooktown Sewerage Treatment Plant, to reduce the volume of untreated sewage being pumped to the river. During rainfall events, infiltration occurs into the sewerage network. The Cooktown STP has a by-pass valve that opens when the flow is above 45L/sec to redirect water to a holding tank, however the holding tank does not hold much volume and when full will overflow to the effluent pump station which is then pumped to the river.</i>	<i>Reliant on sourcing external funding</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	<i>Project planning is underway however the project is reliant on external funding.</i>

Direct use

Project Name	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
<i>Growing partnerships with affiliated organisations to support Reef health</i>	<i>Investigate and develop new partnerships with community organisations, individuals, and industry and government agencies. This includes Reef Guardian schools, community groups and participation in LMAC meetings. Support GBRMPA in education and awareness activities and encourage both individuals and industry to develop and implement best practice sustainable recreational boating and fishing practices as well as commercial fishing practices.</i>	<i>Council Budget through In-kind support from staff</i>	<i>GBRMPA LMAC members Reef Guardian Schools Commercial fisheries</i>	<i>Community, Economy and Innovation</i>	<i>In progress – support for installation of advertising at Cooktown boat ramp as part of the compliance campaign supporting marine park zoning rules and installation of the Eye on the Reef app.</i>
<i>Starke Toilet Facility</i>	<i>Installation of a public toilet facility nearby the Starke boat ramp and close to camping sites. The facility will provide a sanitary bathroom for people that are fishing and camping in the area and will also help reduce litter of toilet paper and human waste.</i>	<i>External funding</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Organisational Business Services</i>	<i>In progress – Ablution building and materials have been ordered, building plans are being finalised and installation will commence in the 23/24 FY.</i>

Reef heritage and social values

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible department/position	Project Status
<i>Employ a Sustainability Officer</i>	<i>Phase 1 for delivery of the Coastal Hazard Adaption Strategy includes recruitment of a Sustainability Officer.</i>	<i>Reliant on sourcing external funding</i>		<i>Community, Economy and Innovation</i>	<i>Council is currently investigating options and seeking funding for this position.</i>
<i>Reef Guardian Immersion Program</i>	<i>Cook Shire Grants and Sustainability Officer to travel to Douglas Shire Council and shadow their Sustainability Officer on a range of reef related projects.</i>	<i>External Funding</i>	<i>Douglas Shire Council</i>	<i>Community, Economy and Innovation</i>	<i>Immersion dates have been finalised and project will commence in April</i>