

Mackay residents and businesses needed to adopt and love a tackle bin

REEF CATCHMENTS MACKAY // MONDAY 27th February 2018

Reef Catchments is putting the call-out to Mackay residents and businesses to adopt Mackay's very first marine debris tackle bin.

These special bins are designed to prevent birds and other wildlife being injured or killed from stray fishing line and hooks.

There's no cost involved - adoptees simply need to regularly empty the bin and record what is inside on monitoring sheets provided.

Reef Catchments Coasts and Waterways Officer, Cass Hayward, said fishing tackle left loose was a major hazard.

"Marine debris, especially fishing line, is a huge threat to marine life. Tackle bins will reduce the amount of fishing gear that will make its way into the ocean and entangle, or be eaten by, turtles, marine birds and other ocean life," Ms Hayward said.

"Reef Catchments decided it was time to take action and are proud to be installing the region's very first marine debris tackle bin at the Pioneer River boat ramp."

However, Ms Hayward said the bins would not be a success without the help of the community.

"We are calling on the Mackay community to lend a hand! We need to find an adoptee for the Pioneer River boat ramp tackle bin. If you are over 18 and able to regularly check and monitor the bin's contents we would love to hear from you."

Subject to interest from adoptees, further Tackle Bins may also be installed at Mackay Harbour and Victor Creek.

The Mackay bin will be part of the wider Tackle Bin Project as just the second location in Queensland. The state's first tackle bin project, located in the Gold Coast, saw the collection of 25km of fishing line and over 1500 fishing hooks in less than 12 months.

To express your interest, please contact Cass Hayward at Reef Catchments on cass.hayward@reefcatchments.com or (07) 4968 4206.

This Reef Catchments project is funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

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For more information visit <https://www.tacklebinproject.org/>

IMAGES - Click on the link to download high res.

Photo1: Pelican entangled in fishing line. Source, Wild Bird Rescues, Gold Coast.
<http://reefcatchments.com.au/files/2018/02/IMG1-Pelican-Wild-Bird-Rescues.jpg>



Photo2: Tackle Bins. Source, Tackle Bin Project
<http://reefcatchments.com.au/files/2018/02/IMG2-Tackle-Bin-marine-debris.jpg>

