

## Appendix 2

### COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

#### Community Stakeholders

The project team at Reef Catchments identified stakeholders from a broad cross section of the regional community. Representatives included those from the [Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Traditional Owner Reference Group \(TORG\)](#), the [Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority](#), local government, local industry groups, non-government organisations, research organisations, community volunteers, local residents and local school students. Below is a list of the community stakeholders engaged.

Jane Rosser	Community representative
Tony Rosser	Community representative
Mark Svaikauskas	Dally Bay Coal Terminal
Agnus Boyd	Gia member of Traditional Owner Reference Group
Charlie Morgan	Great Barrier Reef Foundation
Carolyn Roche	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Luke Clark	Isaac Regional Council
Aunty Sue West	Juru member of Traditional Owner Reference Group
Samarla Deshong	Koinmerburra member of Traditional Owner Reference Group
Jonothon Dykj	Mackay Regional Council
Elly Pratt	Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership
Aunty Carol Prior	Ngaro member of Traditional Owner Reference Group
Luke Galea	North Queensland Bulk Ports and Mackay Recreational Fishers Alliance
Nicole Zahra	Pioneer Catchment Landcare
Tom Crow	Pioneer Catchment Landcare
Tanja Brugmann	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Jessica Sabatino	Reef Catchments
Saskia Von Fahland	Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Authority
Brett Tait	Tangaroa Blue
Heidi Tait	Tangaroa Blue
Sharon Smallwood	Whitsunday Charter Boat Industry Association
Olivia Brodhurst	Whitsunday Climate Hub
Tony Fontes	Whitsunday Local Marine Advisory Committee
Scott Hardy	Whitsunday Regional Council
Sam Dallachy	Widi member of Traditional Owner Reference Group
Denise Aucamp	Youth Ambassador
Hannah Ritchings	Youth Ambassador
Indus Fisher	Youth Ambassador
Megan Sanders	Youth Ambassador
Stuart Reeves	Youth Ambassador
Uncle George Tonga	Yuwibara member of Traditional Owner Reference Group

## Community Engagement Process

The Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region's community can be roughly separated into two groups, largely split between Mackay, Isaac and surrounds and Airlie Beach/Proserpine and surrounds. The Mackay and Isaac area generally relies on mining and agriculture industries as the main contributors to the local economy. In the Whitsundays, the local economy is significantly more reliant on tourism. For this reason, in developing the CAP we have been conscious of engaging and representing the views from all parts of the region.

The first step to community engagement was administering a survey to our key community stakeholders. The survey was administered to 50 Mackay Whitsunday Isaac community members. The purpose of this survey was to:

- Rank which values within the Great Barrier Reef are most important to community members personally;
- Gain an understanding of what actions community members thought that the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac community should be taking right now to protect the reef.

The response rate from the community was excellent, with a rate of 82%. The results from these surveys were used to guide community workshops. Two community-wide workshops were held in October 2020. The first was held with key community stakeholders from the Mackay and Isaac areas. The second was held with key community stakeholders from the Whitsunday area. Traditional Owners and youth (people 25 years and under) were also engaged, with two additional workshops run specifically for the Reef Catchments Youth Ambassadors (2020 - 2021 cohort) and the TORG. The TORG workshop was held last. This was done strategically, as it also allowed the TORG to provide feedback on, and find alignments with, the outcomes of the previous workshops.

Each workshop focussed on refining the priority strategies and developing them into 'roadmaps', which are visual diagrams demonstrating the steps involved in implementing the strategy.

Throughout the CAP workshops and during other community engagement events over recent years, an overarching theme has commonly linked many Reef-focused strategies. This theme is the community's desire for the establishment of 'science hub' located in the region. The community envisage that such a science hub would enable more region-focused Reef research and monitoring to be undertaken, build the capacity of the region's science and broader community and contribute to economic growth in the region. While it is important to the community to highlight this common theme, it was also recognised that the establishment of a science hub was outside the scope of a community-level action plan.

## Results and pressures

The community recognised that pressures on Great Barrier Reef values were well documented in existing strategic documents. Ranking of pressures from a community perspective was not undertaken specifically, however when the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac community identified actions the community should be taking right now to protect the Reef, via the survey, responses could be categorised as addressing four key pressures:

- Climate change
- Land-based run-off
- Litter and marine debris
- Lack of community education and awareness

Interestingly these four pressures are not the same four that are identified as being the main threats at a Reef-wide scale in the Reef 2050 Plan:

- Climate change
- Land-based run-off
- Coastal land use change
- Direct use.

Notably there were no trends in survey responses which related to coastal land use change or the direct use of the marine park.

Two possible explanations for this are that the community:

- a) Don't feel empowered to take action on coastal development or direct-use threatening processes.
- b) Don't believe that coastal development or direct-use are high priority issues in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region.