



**MACKAY  
WHITSUNDAY  
ISAAC**

**REEF COMMUNITY  
ACTION PLAN**



# STAKEHOLDER SUMMARY

August 2022



National  
Landcare  
Program



JURU

ARTWORK BY NGARO / GIA TRADITIONAL  
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- Bidju Designs

AIRLIE BEACH

NGARO

GIA

WIRI YUWIBURRA MACKAY

BARADA BARNA

KOINMERBURRA

## Acknowledgement of Country

Reef Catchments would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners past and present. We acknowledge their spiritual and cultural connection and their responsibility as Traditional Owners to maintain and care for Country.

Reef Catchments recognises the important role Traditional Owners play in natural resource management, in particular the unique connection and understanding they have to land, sea and waters. Traditional knowledge in land, sea and water management practices will direct future pathways in maintaining and enhancing sustainable landscapes (MWI Traditional Owner Strategic Plan 2017-2027).

REEF  
CATCHMENTS



## **INTRODUCTION**

The Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Reef Community Action Plan (CAP) has been developed with key community stakeholders and captures the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac community's collective priorities in relation to protecting the Great Barrier Reef. This stakeholder summary outlines the priority values of the community and the 10 strategies for community-led action.

## **THE MACKAY WHITSUNDAY ISAAC REGION AND COMMUNITY**

In the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region, the Reef is intrinsically linked to local economy and culture. The Traditional Owners of the Land, Sea and Waters of the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region include the Yuwi, Koinmerburra, Ngaro, Gia, Juru, Barada Barna and Wiri peoples. Our region has a population of more than 152,000 people, but this often swells further with domestic and international tourists.

## **THE VALUES AND PRIORITIES OF THE MACKAY WHITSUNDAY ISAAC REGION COMMUNITY**

The values and priorities of the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac community were assessed through a survey of community stakeholders, and interactive community workshops held with key community stakeholders including the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Traditional Owner Reference Group (TORG) and Reef Catchment's Youth Ambassador group of 2020-2021. These values and priorities are summarised below and provided a starting point for the development of the 10 CAP strategies and subsequent visual roadmaps.

### **TOP 3 REEF VALUES OF THE MACKAY WHITSUNDAY ISAAC COMMUNITY**

**1. CORAL REEFS    2. CATCHMENTS AND ESTUARIES    3. MANGROVES**

#### **4 KEY AREAS OF INTEREST EMERGED FROM THE SURVEYS & WORKSHOPS:**

1. CLIMATE CHANGE & LOCAL CARBON FOOTPRINTS
2. LITTER & WASTE
3. REVEGETATION
4. WATER QUALITY

#### **TOP 4 REEF PRESSURES OUR COMMUNITY WANT TO ADDRESS:**

1. CLIMATE CHANGE
2. LAND-BASED RUNOFF
3. LITTER & MARINE DERBIS
4. LACK OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION & AWARENESS

## 10 STRATEGIES DEVELOPED BY THE COMMUNITY



Helping local families, schools, businesses and visitors reduce their carbon footprint by reducing food waste.

Increasing soil carbon on grazing properties.



Working with schools to reduce litter and waste.

Coordinating citizen science to protect reef communities.



Expanding multi-stakeholder revegetation events.

Helping individuals reduce their carbon footprint.



Traditional Owner led protection of foreshore vegetation and turtles.

Increasing youth involvement in local volunteer groups.



Expanding water quality monitoring through citizen science in the tourism industry.

Improving community understanding and involvement in water quality issues.



## **MACKAY WHITSUNDAY ISSAC: TOP 3 PRIORITY STRATEGIES**

Following the development of the 10 strategies into visual roadmaps, a final prioritisation process was undertaken to select the most feasible and high impact community-led strategies. These three projects were then developed further into a project prospectus, available for immediate funding.

Summary of the 3 strategies prioritised for implementation:

### **Project 1. Helping local families, schools, businesses and visitors reduce their carbon footprint by reducing food waste**

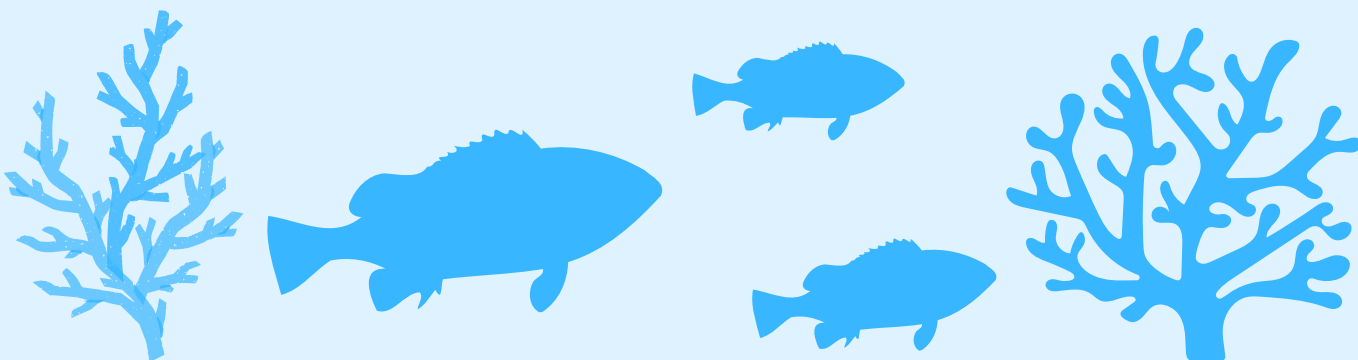
In this strategy, council and key local organisations work together to identify a key behaviour relating to food waste and work with a local hero to identify and overcome barriers to behaviour change. This would be piloted before the program is rolled out to other families leading to reduced food waste in the Whitsundays.

### **Project 2. Working with schools to reduce litter and waste**

In this strategy, local school students with their tuck shop to swap common plastic items for more sustainable options, while simultaneously establishing their own self-funding scheme through the containers for change program. This strategy would be piloted at one school before it is promoted and rolled out to other schools.

### **Project 3. Coordinating citizen science to protect Reef communities**

This strategy would enable the region-wide coordination of citizen science by establishing a citizen science coordinator. The citizen science coordinator would assist existing regional citizen science groups to address key barriers that would enable an increase in their capacity and therefore participation in citizen science.



# CONTACT

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For more information about the CAP or how you can be involved:

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