



PARTNER PLEDGES 2018 International Year of the Reef



In April this year, the **Australian Government** announced \$500 million in funding for the Great Barrier Reef – the Australian Government’s largest ever single investment in reef protection.



The **Mackay office of Conservation Volunteers Australia** pledges to reduce its use of single use plastics and coffee cups, and we have committed to using reusable coffee cups and reusable shopping bags. So far, we have saved more than 100 coffee cups entering landfill!



Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT) will be:

Increasing recycling on site; and

Increasing employee awareness of waste impacts through education and participation in beach clean-up programs.



Mackay Recreational Fishers Alliance (MRFA) - Show good stewardship for the St Helens to Cape Hillsborough Net Free Zone by continuing to monitor fish sizes, quantities and species being caught within the zone, thereby quantifying its effectiveness.



Reef Catchments will:

Offset its paper use annually by planting an equivalent number of trees at a priority location - we will be planting one tree for every 17 reams of paper used.

Commit to setting the office air conditioners to 25 degrees during summer months.

Investigate energy efficiency options for our premises i.e. installation of solar panels.

Aim to use reusable cups and disposable Bio wood plates and cutlery for events.

In 2018, Reef Catchments will engage more than 200 farmers in the Mackay Whitsunday region to help them work towards improved farming methods that decrease pollutants to waterways and the Reef.

In 2018 Reef Catchments will hold more than 20 events (including landholder field days) to raise awareness of issues affecting water quality amongst the community.

Reef Catchments will recognise the efforts of its stakeholders, partners and staff by nominating and celebrating a rising Reef Star.



BHP - We pledge to continue our work with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to support adaptation at Raine Island, one of the most important green turtle rookeries in the world – we are proud to be the largest corporate donor to Great Barrier Reef protection in the country.

We pledge to continue our support for the Raine Island Recovery Project and Reef Resilience Framework – a five-year collaboration to protect and restore the island’s critical habitat. It is much more than just a financial investment. Our participation creates greater value through corporate leadership, employee engagement and promoting the involvement of Indigenous groups.

We pledge to collaborate with community, Traditional Owners, farmers and fishers, industry, science, tourism and government to protect the Great Barrier Reef through the Mackay-Whitsunday Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership and the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health.

We pledge to engage our local community to improve the Hay Point foreshore through native vegetation planting activities and community conservation days as part of our Hay Point Foreshore Revegetation Project, delivered in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia.



Mackay Regional Council pledge to:

Continue to install Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT’s) to reduce the amount of litter and plastics entering our waterways and local receiving environment.

Support our Recreational Fishing Strategy by installing fishways that increase fish habitat and recreational fish populations.

Continue to work toward recommended actions stated in council’s Urban Stormwater Quality Management Plan.

Continue to facilitate and participate in regional litter clean up events such as the Great Northern Clean Up.

Continue to implement regional water quality projects administered through council’s Voluntary Mechanism for Stormwater Quality Management.



Regional Development Australia (RDA) Mackay will be:

Reducing electricity use.

Reducing single-use plastic use.

Promoting Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) as a potential funding source to potential applicants.



Catchment Solutions, through Project Catalyst, will work with over 100 cane growers across north Queensland to improve water quality outcomes through reduced nutrient and pesticide application and improved farm management practices.

Catchment Solutions will work with Councils, government and local interest groups to improve waterway connectivity and habitats for fish population improvements.

Catchment Solutions will investigate with aim to install solar panels onto the Mackay Office. This will increase our usage of renewable energies.



The Office of the Great Barrier Reef has taken the Plastic Free July pledge for the second year in a row.

Being a large office based team of about 50 people (in SEQ) with access to (and a large appetite for) take away coffees and food we know that we can do a better job of refusing single use plastic containers, cups and cutlery.

Last year’s efforts saw a big uptake of keep cups and acceptance by some of our closest food outlets of filling peoples own containers.

This year, we are also being encouraged to go a step further by picking up litter - and sharing stories with the hashtag **#take3forthesea**

With a concerted effort this July we’ll see our recycle and waste bins emptied and new habits formed that we will take with us wherever we go to show other people how easy it is to **#choosetorefuse**



Queensland Resources Council will:

Support the principles of ecologically sustainable development within Reef catchments and more broadly.

Promote leading environmental management and continuous improvement in environmental performance within Reef catchments and more broadly.

Promote Reef awareness internally and externally, including the science behind the state of the Reef, collaborative actions across governments and industry for a healthy and resilient Reef, and everyday steps to minimise our impact on the Reef.



CANEGROWERS Mackay will work with growers in the Sandy Creek region to actively monitor and improve water quality and farm management practices.

Facilitate engagement in the sugar industry’s voluntary world-class Best Management Practice program - Smartcane BMP.

Roll out a new irrigation efficiency audit program to maximise opportunities for growers to transition to renewable energy and implement whole of farm irrigation efficiencies.

Proactively work with stakeholders to ensure growers interests are represented while achieving positive environmental and sustainability outcomes.

Lead by example in our office by recycling ink/toner cartridges, replacing lights to LED for energy efficiency and reducing our use of single use plastic.



The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s (GBRMPA) approach for the year is to encourage every individual to make a pledge via a small environmental action that will benefit the Reef, such as:

- Saying NO to single use plastic items
- Exploring renewable energy in the home and office
- Reducing the use of motorised transport where possible – alternatively - car pooling, using public transport or riding bicycles

Staff groups have made pledges which we have shared on our social media pages and our Chairman, Russell Reichelt has pledged to install solar panels at the National Educational Centre – Reef HQ. There is a pledge wall at Reef HQ as well, where visitors can write and submit their pledge that will **#lovethereef**



North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBP) pledge to:

Invest in and meaningfully contribute to Great Barrier Reef ecosystem science and research. Video link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-hDTt2daNA>

This video shows Dr Michael Rasheed from James Cook University in the field and discussing his long partnership with NQBP and the advances he has made in seagrass research over this time.



CQUniversity (Mackay campus) will promote sustainable water management of the Mackay Whitsunday region by raising students’ awareness of the issues affecting waterway and reef health and encouraging them to pledge actions to reduce their impact.



Pioneer Catchment Landcare assists Mackay Regional Council staff in the Mackay Natural Environment Centre plant nursery to grow & distribute trees to local Landcarers for the purposes of:

Involving our local community volunteers in projects that care for our local environments.

Growing ‘Gardens for Wildlife’ – trees, garden beds and ground covers around the home to create habitat.

Planting habitat corridors through cleared landscapes.

Stabilising hills and creek banks with native plants.

We pledge to:

Recycle what we can - eg, plastics, paper, batteries and mobile phones.

Feed the MNEC worm farm.

Use reusable shopping bags rather than plastic bags.

Participate in community clean-up days.

Use printer paper that is 100% recycled from post-consumer waste and is 100% carbon neutral.

Re-use office paper –promote double sided printing and copying.

Think about what documents are printed – utilise electronic publishing where possible.

Take our own coffee mug instead of using disposable cups.

Switch off lights when we’re not in the office.

Have computer monitors set to sleep when not in use.

Sort rubbish into recycling and landfill.

When out & about we take our rubbish home with us.

If we see rubbish, we pick it up and recycle or dispose of it thoughtfully.

Promote installation of fencing to exclude stock from waterways.

Promote regenerative farming methods with local farmers that reduce runoff.



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North Queensland Dry Tropics (NQDT) pledge to:

Participate and support local community in waterways and beach clean-up events.

Minimise food waste by using a worm farm/compost bin, to turn food scraps into nutrient-rich fertiliser for staff to take home for their gardens.

Use carbon neutral paper and recycled stationery items when available.

Restore ecological functioning of coastal wetlands, which provide important habitat for many recreational fish species.

Work with landholders to reduce sediment and nutrients entering the GBR lagoon.



Our region's Traditional Owner Reference Group (TORG) will:

Make a concerted effort to communicate stories about sea country management and culture to increase broader community appreciation and awareness of sea country.

Take 3 for the Sea - During each On-Country site visit, the TORG will remove at least 3 pieces of litter to reduce marine pollution.



Sarina Catchment Landcare will reduce waste, particularly single use plastic, as our support for International Year of the Reef.



Tourism Whitsundays pledge to:

Continue to educate all visitors who visit the Great Barrier Reef in the Whitsundays' GBR Marine Park on its diversity and importance, through our member operators.

Support our member operators with information, collateral and tools to enable them to educate visitors about the reef, the coral and marine life.

Support our members in their efforts to gain Eco Tourism Certification, through education and workshops.

Assist Whitsundays organisations that are making a difference to the local environment, such as Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc, through exposure and support on Tourism Whitsundays digital assets.

Create a section on the Tourism Whitsundays website that curates regional information from a variety of sources about ways to reduce our environmental footprint. This information can be referred to by member operators and visitors.

Continue to bring media and trade groups to region, with the aim of educating them about the Great Barrier Reef, its diversity and importance, to not only Australia but also the world.

Encourage our member operators to become Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef and spread the message in region and further afield.

Encourage our member operators to eradicate plastic straws from their operations and join the "Last Straw" campaign.



Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL) - our pledges:

Continue to undertake revegetation projects that reduce erosion, increase habitat connectivity and enhance the natural environment.

Not use single use plastic water bottles at our volunteer & community events- encourage participants to bring their own water bottles & provide a water refill station.

WCL sells & uses reusable shopping bags & promotes these at all our community events.

Purchase products with minimal or recyclable packaging for catering at events.

Encourage car-pooling to our volunteer events.

Continue to provide reusable cups & utensils at our volunteer mornings at our community nursery.

Use funding from DAF to install a water treatment train at our Community nursery to filter nutrients from irrigation water drainage issuing from the site.

Request that all purchasers of WCL native tube stock return pots & trays to WCL for re-use.

Share the office facilities with another 2 organisations.

Staff pledge to personally use reusable cups, plates etc.

Recycle our waste paper.

Keep our airconditioning set at 25 degrees.



Whitsunday Regional Council pledges:

The development of a Climate Mitigation Plan and setting of CO2 reduction targets.

Installation of Water Quality Devices to mitigate Marine Debris entering the GBR lagoon from Airlie Beach Main Street.

Council to investigate the development of an Erosion and Sediment Control Policy for development sites and Council work sites.

Implement actions in the Reef Guardian Action Plan.

Council review of internal processes and procedures for development application assessment to ensure more effective Erosion and Sediment Control plans are approved for development sites.

Council to develop internal processes to improve Erosion and Sediment Control on Council work sites.

Council to hold community meetings to discuss Erosion and Sediment Control best practice.

