



Reef Guardian  
Council

Mareeba Shire Council

# Reef Guardian Council Action Plan

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Mareeba  
SHIRE COUNCIL

Din Din Barron Falls, Kuranda

## Reef Guardian Council program

The Reef Guardian Council program is a partnership between local government and the Reef Authority which recognises that local and regional approaches are central to protecting and managing the Reef and the communities it supports.

Local governments are key management partners as many of the threats to the Reef and heritage values arise outside of the Marine Park boundaries and the Reef Authority's jurisdiction.

Councils are directly involved in a myriad of both statutory and non-statutory activities that minimise impacts, improve values and support the resilience of the Reef, contributing to the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan and the objectives of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

The Reef Guardian Council program recognises this and celebrates and supports the important role of local government in the protection and management of the Reef catchment region.

## Action plans

This Action Plan records the diversity of council actions and projects that help address the key threats to the Reef. It aligns with Queensland and Australian Government objectives to improve the long-term outlook for the Reef. It may also be used to record potential future priority projects or actions that may benefit the Reef but may only be possible through funding or capacity building.

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 Council partnership and values the contributions made by elected members, staff and

Period of Action Plan: .....

Endorsed: ..... /..... /.....

Council signatory



# Climate change

## (Reef 2050 Work Area 1: Limit the impacts of climate change)

| Action   | Description   | Project Status | Partnerships                     | Financial/Resource Commitment | Responsible department/position                           |
|--|---|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <p>Mareeba Shire spans the wet tropics and monsoonal north natural resource regions. It is recognised that climate change in these regions is projected to result in an increase in average temperatures in all seasons, more hot days, and warm spells, changing rainfall, increased intensity of extreme rainfall events and fewer but more intense cyclone events. It is noted that the natural variability in the climate system on an annual or decadal basis will mask the observation of the climate change trend. Council has implemented the following actions to assist with working towards climate change and reducing its carbon footprint.</p> |   |                |                                  |                               |   |
| Climate Change Resilience Policy   | Managing climate change risks to council services, infrastructure, and operations, and supporting the community.  | Ongoing        | Nil                              | Operational                   | Infrastructure Services<br>Corporate & Community Services |
| Climate resilience   | MSC is on the climate resilience technical committee, and regularly meets to discuss initiatives, training, ideas, and funding opportunities.   | Commenced      | FNQROC and 11 other FNQ Councils | Operational                   | Infrastructure Services                                   |
| Sustainability   | MSC has a sustainability team, from these internal meetings, ideas are put together to engage with the local community and businesses.  | Commenced      | Nil                              | Council budget                | Infrastructure Services<br>Corporate & Community Services |
| Container Recycling Solutions expanded   | <p>February 2024, saw the installation of new 'Containers for Change' public street bins in Kuranda for the recycling of eligible containers. Mareeba and Dimbulah are proposed to be rolled out in 2024/25.</p> <p>There will also be the installation of waste transfer station bulk bins. The initial rollout has been suggested for Mareeba and</p> | Ongoing        | COEX and Cairns Recycling        | Operational                   | Infrastructure Services                                   |

|   |   |           |   |                       |                         |
|---|---|-----------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|
|   | Kuranda, followed by Julatten and potentially other transfer stations across the shire.   |           |   |                       |                         |
| On-site solar                               | Council now has 11 of its facilities generating solar power, this has generated 1,369,174 kwh of power for these facilities over the last three years.  | Ongoing   | Partially funded through Queensland Government (Works for Queensland)   | Council Budget        | Infrastructure Services |
| Addition to Solar System                    | Dimbulah memorial hall, new solar system 39.6kwh with a 302kws inverter.  | Current   | Nil   | Council Budget        | Infrastructure Services |
| Solar powered street signs                  | Installation of solar-powered speed activated messaging signs on Anzac Avenue, Mareeba as part of the Local Area Traffic Management Project (LATM)  | Commenced | Council Budget and engagement through Anzac Avenue LATM Working Group   | Capital               | Infrastructure Services |
| Davies Park Football Field Lighting Upgrade | Replacement of existing inefficient lighting to sporting field with new LED lighting which will save on energy costs and provide better quality and more reliable lighting for sporting groups  | 2024/25   | Council Budget and Queensland Government (Minor Infrastructure Program) | Capital/Grant funding | Infrastructure Services |
| Monitoring of Council's GHG Emissions       | Council continues to update and monitor the GHG emissions inventory.  | Ongoing   | Nil   | Operational           | Infrastructure Services |
| Fire Management                             | Implementation of fire management plans including cool burns to reduce risk of wildfire through organic load management.  | Ongoing   | Council and QFRS  | Operational           | Infrastructure Services |
| Drinking water planning                     | Council will continue to strategically plan and implement upgrades for drinking water schemes including water security, treatment, and reticulation for climate resilience.   | Ongoing   | FNQROC Australian and State Governments                                 | Capital/Operational   | Infrastructure Services |
| Parks and Open Spaces Strategy              | MSC has developed this strategy for the parks and open spaces in the Shire which features actions to provide aesthetic appeal, connection to nature, green corridors, climate change resilience and improve environmentally healthy outcomes for the community. | Ongoing   | Council Budget and Gant Funding   | Capital/Operational   | Infrastructure Services |

## Future project opportunities

| Project Name   | Description   | Financial / Resource Requirements |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Energy efficient lighting to Sports Fields, Parks, and Community Buildings | To expand on the already installed solar systems installed, this includes LED and/or solar lighting upgrades facilities and parks to reduce the reliance on electricity.  | Grant funding/Capital             |
| Mareeba Water Treatment Plant upgrades                                     | Upgrade wastewater supernatant recycle pump station, and PAC systems and the construction of a new oxidization tank. Construct new Clearwater Reservoir at Mareeba Water Treatment Plant to increase drinking water storage capacity. | Grant funding/Capital             |
| Kuranda Water Treatment Plant upgrades                                     | Barron River embankment reinstatement and upgrade of the raw water intake infrastructure to improve resilience of water supply for Kuranda.   | Grant funding/Capital             |
| Recycling  | 20ft container required at Kuranda landfill to store the E-waste.   | Grant funding/Capital             |

## Coastal development (including head water catchments)

(Reef 2050 Work Area 2: Reduce the impacts from land-based activities and Work Area 5: Protect, rehabilitate and restore)

| Action   | Description   | Project Status | Partnerships  | Financial/Resource Commitment | Responsible department/position |
|--|---|----------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Council continues to actively support the catchment of the Barron River, with an emphasis on community engagement. |   |                |   |                               |                                 |
| Cleaner road run-off.  | Assisting with the information for the cleaner road run-off project.  | 2024           | LGAQ (cleaner road runoff project)  | Nil                           | Infrastructure Services         |
| Recycling right campaign   | Educational videos and facts for the community.   | Ongoing        | JJ Richards   | Council Budget                | Corporate & Community Services  |
| Cyclone Jasper Clean up  | Removing debris from the inland waterways, including the Barron River catchment area, to assist in preventing pollution to both the inland and coastal waterways as well as the Reef.                           | 2024-2026      | Australian and State Government (Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements DRFA) | DRFA Category D Funding       | Infrastructure Services         |
| Bicentennial Lakes   | Continue with future upgrades to the Lakes through upgrading the Northern Lakes Precinct to a passive recreation space, including waterway improvements   | 2024-2026      | Australian Government (Growing Regions)                                       |                               | Infrastructure Services         |
| Gully Betterment   | Improvement for the resilience of roads to assist with preventing erosion and sediment entering water ways, which includes upgrades to causeways and drainage, and the addition of box culverts. Roads include. | 2024-2026      | Queensland Government (Queensland Reconstruction Authority)                   | Funding                       | Infrastructure Services         |

## Future project opportunities

| Project Name                                 | Description  | Financial / Resource Requirements            |
|--|--|--|
| Road network                                 | Minor upgrades to roads, with the aim of reducing the impact of land-based runoff from soil erosion. | Capital/Grant funding                        |
| Barron River Esplanade – River Walk, Kuranda | Reinstatement and resilience upgrades to footpaths, seating and signage following Cyclone Jasper     | Subject to DRFA Category D Funding (pending) |

## Land-based run-off

(Reef 2050 Work Area 2: Reduce the impacts from land-based activities and Work Area 5: Protect, rehabilitate and restore)

| Action  | Description   | Project Status | Partnerships                                 | Financial/Resource Commitment | Responsible department/position |
|---|---|----------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mareeba Council works with internal and external stakeholders for a cost-effective approach to manage wastewater treatment, water reuse and recycled water schemes. |   |                |  |                               |                                 |
| Waste Management  | Environmentally sustainable and responsible waste and wastewater management. Council will pursue cost effective strategies to minimise waste, realise circular economy opportunities and reduce littering and illegal dumping through the implementation of its Waste Management Services Strategy 2018 - 2027.     | Ongoing        | FNQROC - Regional Waste Strategic Framework. | Capital Works                 | Infrastructure Services         |
|   | Upgrades for leachate systems.  | Annual program | Nil  | Capital Works                 | Infrastructure Services         |
| Wastewater Management   | Mareeba Shire Council provides wastewater treatment services to the townships of Mareeba and Kuranda to prevent public health issues and to protect the health of our waterways.<br><br>Council is currently upgrading the Barron River Catchment sewerage infrastructure by remediating up to 1000 sewer manholes. | 2024-2027      | Reef Guardian Council's Program              | Capital/Grant funding         | Infrastructure Services         |
|   | Minor wastewater pump station, efficiency improvements through parts renewals.  | 2024-2025      | Nil  | Capital Works                 | Infrastructure Services         |
|   | Kuranda WWTP, efficiency improvements through parts renewals.   | 2024-2025      | Nil  | Capital Works                 | Infrastructure Services         |



|   |  |           |                  |               |                         |
|---|--|-----------|------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Mareeba Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades | Upgrades include Telemetry/SCADA   | 2025-2026 | Nil              | Capital Works | Infrastructure Services |
| Water Main Reticulation                     | A/C Annual water main replacement  | 2024-2028 | Partially funded | Capital Works | Infrastructure Services |
| Mareeba Aquatic Centre Pool                 | Expansion joints in the 50m pool require replacement. Preventing chlorinated water leaching into environment through leakage.  | 2024-2025 | Nil              | Capital Works | Infrastructure Services |
| Statutory Compliance                        | Mareeba Shire Council endeavours to comply with all environmental protection statutory approvals including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Authority issued for the Council activities of Water and Waste Treatment,</li> <li>• Protected Flora Permits and Vegetation Management Permits, Wet Tropics Infrastructure Maintenance Permit.</li> </ul> | Ongoing   | Nil              | Operational   | Infrastructure Services |

### Future project opportunities

| Project Name           | Description  | Financial / Resource Requirements |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Mareeba Waste Strategy | Possible future projects, Recycled Water Pump Station from Mareeba WWTP to the Landfill and use of organics. | Grant funding                     |
| Wastewater Treatment   | Constance Street Rising Main (subject to suitable grant funding)   | Capital/Grant funding             |
|                        | MBA Atherton St Pressure Main  | Capital/Grant funding             |
|                        | MBA Prestige Gardens Pressure Main   | Capital/Grant funding             |

## Impacts from water-based activities

(Reef 2050 Work Area 3: Reduce the impacts from water-based activities)

| Action   | Description                               | Project Status | Partnerships   | Financial/Resource Commitment | Responsible department/position |
|--|---|----------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Council continues to work with Biosecurity Queensland, FNQROC, the local Indigenous People, local businesses, and the wider community to monitor the Shire's waterways for invasive aquatic weeds. |   |                |  |                               |                                 |
| Aquatic weed management  | Removal and monitoring of Amazon Frogbit. | Ongoing        | MSC Land protection, FNQROC and Djabaguy Aboriginal Corporations | Operational                   | Infrastructure Services         |

### Future project opportunities

| Project Name            | Description  | Financial / Resource Requirements |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Aquatic weed management | Aquatic weeds are on the increase, especially Amazon Frogbit, MSC will need extra resources to assist in the removal and monitoring of Amazon Frogbit and other Aquatic weeds. | Grant funding.                    |

## Conserve historic and cultural heritage

(Reef 2050 Work Area 5: Protect, rehabilitate, and restore and Enabler A: Collaboration and partnerships)

| Action   | Description   | Project Status | Partnerships   | Financial/Resource Commitment | Responsible department/position |
|--|---|----------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| The health of the inland waterways has environmental, economic, cultural, and recreational values to the local community and support aquatic and ecological biodiversity. It is important that a collaborative approach between key stakeholders and community organisations are implemented for the long-term protection for the waterways. |   |                |  |                               |                                 |
| Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC)  | PMAC is a consultative committee to Council with the aim of sharing information and ideas between MSC and representatives of local business, landholders, and other agencies regarding pest management.   | Ongoing        | State and Local Government Agencies, Aboriginal Corporations, Independent Agencies                     | Operational                   | Infrastructure Services         |
| FNQROC - Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC)   | The FNQROC NAMAC, is a collaboration of FNQ Councils, FNQROC, Biosecurity QLD, NRM teams, land care groups, and various other topic specialists including local Indigenous groups, to discuss, weed and pest management in the local and surrounding areas. | Ongoing        | Various external agencies.   | Operational                   | Infrastructure Services         |
| Pest management  | Implementation of the Mareeba Shire Community Biosecurity Plan.   | Ongoing        | NRM bodies, Indigenous corporations, landholders, state government, FNQROC, and neighbouring Council's | Operational                   | Infrastructure Services         |

|                                  |   |           |     |             |                         |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------|-----|-------------|-------------------------|
| Environmental Awareness Training | Integrating the consideration of environmental protection into Council activities through raising awareness with employees. | On- going | Nil | Operational | Infrastructure Services |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------|-----|-------------|-------------------------|

**Future project opportunities**

| Project Name    | Description         | Financial / Resource Requirements |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pest management | Management of weeds | Grant funding                     |