

**Whitsunday  
Regional  
Council**

# **REEF GUARDIAN COUNCIL ACTION PLAN**



**Three year Action Plan  
2023-24 to 2025-2026  
Version: Year 1 – 2023-2024**



[www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)



## Reef Guardian Council program

The Reef Guardian Council program (RGC program) is a collaborative stewardship arrangement between local government in the Great Barrier Reef catchment and the Authority, which recognises that local and regional approaches are central to protecting and managing the Reef and the communities it supports.

The RGC program was first launched in 2007 and in 2020 has grown to include 18 member councils covering an area of 300 000 square kilometres and a population of more than one million people.

Whether Reef Guardian Councils and their communities are large or small, they are making continuous improvements to help the Reef.

## Action plans


This Action Plan records the diversity of council actions and projects that contribute to Reef health. It aligns with Queensland and Australian Government objectives to improve the long-term outlook for the Reef.

Actions are scalable reflecting each council's financial and technical capacities. To be a member, councils with a population of less than 50,000 residents must commit to at least one action for each item (climate change, coastal development, land-based run-off, direct use, heritage values), while councils with greater than 50,000 residents must commit to at least three actions per item. 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 partnership and values the contributions made by staff and the community 'working together today for a healthier Reef tomorrow'.

**Period of Action Plan: 2023 - 2024**

**Endorsed:**  26-06-2023  
 ..... /..... /.....

**Council signatory**

## Local Government Areas in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment



# Climate Change

## Reef 2050 Objective

**Communities adapt and respond to a changing climate by taking action to avoid impacts on the Great Barrier Reef and coastal ecosystems.**

### What councils can do

**Help communities to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate:**

- Assess council and community risk and vulnerability due to a changing climate
- Prepare for and respond to climate change through planning and policies
- Introduce sustainability principles to council procurement
- Encourage efficient use of energy by council and community



### Current Projects

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible Department/Position	Project Status	Reef 2050 Actions
Whitsunday Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS)	The CHAS will assess the risk of climate change on existing development and assesses risk for future planning.		NIL	Directorate: Community Services	Completed and now being implemented.	1.3

Onsite Solar Energy Generation and Plant Upgrades – Collinsville WTP and STP	Upgrade equipment and controls at Collinsville WTP and STP and deliver on-site solar array to allow Collinsville WTP and STP to use up to 80% self-generated renewable power. This will turn the expensive to maintain oversized WTP, STP and Reservoir system (compared to population) in Collinsville into an opportunity to significantly transition to self-generated renewable energy. In addition, this project will integrate a diesel back up generator to improve emergency resilience of these essential services.	Whitsunday Water / WRC Project // Building Better Regions / Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities	Building Better Regions Fund (Australian Government)	Directorate: Infrastructure Services and Corporate Services	Grant funding achieved – Preparing Tender documents	1.1
Investigation and Prioritization of Water and Sewage Treatment Plants Suitability for Onsite Solar Energy Generation	Analyze the historic energy demands, and possibly future energy demand profiles for key electricity using assets and ranking the sites in order of suitability for on-site solar energy generation and	Whitsunday Water / WRC Project	NIL	Directorate: Infrastructure Services and Corporate Services	Summary Complete and Second Project being rolled out	1.1
Optimising Pumping Energy Use – Variable Speed Drive Set Points	Council are partnering with local contractors to use a range of variable speed drive set points for dry and wet season pumping, to save total energy consumption (>10% for modified pumps). Additionally, we are working with Instrumentation & Control	Whitsunday Water Project	NIL	Directorate: Infrastructure Services	Continued roll out / optimisation to observed conditions	1.1

	contractors for advanced system optimisation and efficiency.					
Optimising Water and Sewerage Treatment Chemical Consumption	Council has internally reviewed and optimised the use of chemicals in our water and sewerage processes and has reduced chemical usage by ~5%, reducing chemical production and transport GHGs.	Whitsunday Water (Council) Project	NIL	Directorate: Infrastructure Services	Underway	1.1
Sustainable Destination Accreditation	Work towards the attainment of a Sustainable Destination Accreditation			Directorate: Community Services,	Underway	1.1 and 1.4
Internal Climate Change and Sustainability Committee within Council	Working Group to discuss and review Climate Change and Sustainability initiatives across Council.	Within council budget	Internal	Directorate: Community Services,	Underway	1.3
Carbon and Biodiversity Offset Investigation	Review and implement the actions from the WRC carbon offset investigation project.	WRC	Internal	Directorate: Community Services,		1.1

Developing Councils Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan	To develop a plan to reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 20,000 tonnes/yr. by 2030	Council		Directorate: Community Services	Completed	1.1
Expanding Councils solar farms	Identifying council facilities and their potential to house solar panels	Council		Directorate – Corporate services	Underway	1.1
Review of Council Nature Based Solution for coastal protection	A project to collate Council's past coastal management projects, including the nature based solutions projects into a portfolio of works. This will be used to inform the implementation of the CHAS.	Council		Directorate: Community Services	Underway	5.2

Decarbonising the Tourism Sector	Engage the tourism sector in measuring their carbon footprints and decarbonization.	Council	Reef Trust	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	1.1
----------------------------------	---	---------	------------	---------------------------------	----------	-----

## Ongoing Activities

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible Department/Position	Reef 2050 Actions
Whitsunday Planning Scheme Amendments	Description	Council Budget / External Funding	Nil	Directorate: Development Services	1.4.

## Future Projects Wish List

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Requirements	Reef 2050 Actions
Critical and Sensitive Areas Study	To review, grade and map areas of local significance and to protect these areas from future development.	Within Council budget	1.4.
Implement the Recommendations of the CHAS by Creating an Implementation Schedule	The CHAS is nearly completed and it is expected that a number of actions to implement the findings will result from the final report.	Funding required	1.4
Communities Emissions Profile	Complete an emissions profile of the Whitsundays. This will enable targeted work on the highest emitting industries/areas.	Funding required	1.1
Shoreline bench marking investigation	Urban shorelines are surveyed using LIDAR and drones to develop a 2023 urban shoreline to monitor coastal erosion.	WRC	1.4
Investigating the possible use of artificial reefs to mitigate the impacts of coastal storms on coastal erosion in urban areas.	A feasibility and cost- benefit analysis of artificial reefs off Airlie Beach and Queens Beach. Investigate co-benefits of the artificial reefs.	WRC	1.4
Implement the WRC Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan	To Implement the actions identified in the WRC Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan	WRC	1.1
Implement landfill gas flaring	To install the necessary pipe work and infrastructure to capture landfill gas, measure	WRC	1.1

	quantities and flare to reduce WRC greenhouse gas emissions.		
Implement Whitsunday Street tree Program	This will involve the purchase of street trees to increase shade in urban areas.	WRC	1.2
Expand WRC solar facilities	The installation of additional solar power on public facilities in a prioritised manner	WRC	1.1 and 1.2
EV strategy for Whitsunday region	To work with the State government and other stakeholders to develop a strategy to implement EV facilities across the region and how this will be funded	WRC	1.1 and 1.2
EV charging station and area at Whitsunday airport	To seek the installation of an EV charging station at the Whitsunday airport (Stage 1 – site establishment)	WRC	1.1 and 1.2
Measuring the impact of feral pig impacts on two coastal wetlands and their impact on greenhouse gas emissions (UQ partnership)	working with UQ to measure the greenhouse gas emission from feral pig activities in two coastal wetlands	External	5.3

# Land Management

## Reef 2050 Objective

Education and on-ground actions target the source of marine debris and reduce the volume of debris entering the Great Barrier Reef.

## What councils can do

### Help to restore catchments - For example:

- Incorporate environmental mapping and priorities in planning schemes and development decisions
- Help to restore landscape and waterway connections and functions
- Use best practices in council and industry developments
- Manage weeds and pests and restore disturbed council land
- Establish beach management plans



## Current Projects

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible Department/Position	Project Status	Reef 2050 Actions
Implement WRC Bushfire Plan and Policy	Implement plan to improve bushfire hazard and manage vegetation	Within Council allocated budget	QFES	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	5.3
Develop and Implement Community Bushfire Management Plans	Develop Community Bushfire Plans for rural residential areas;	Within Council allocated budget	QFES	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	1.4 and 5.3



Open Space Strategy	Identify underutilized Council land for re-vegetation to offset maintenance costs and promote ecological outcomes. Refining design criteria for conservation areas and drainage corridors provided through development, to reduce maintenance costs and promote re-vegetation where possible. Drainage corridors will be linked to Councils Stormwater Quality Guideline.	Additional funds required.	Nil	Directorate: Development Services	Underway	5.3
Revegetation of Twin Creek, Cannonvale	The revegetation of 2ha of riparian area along Twin Creek and Waite creeks	Grant and Council budget	Landcare	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	5.3
Whitsunday Yellow Crazy Ant Management Plan	Implement the Yellow Crazy Ant Action Plan	WRC	Nil	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	5.1
Improving Rural Roadside Stormwater Management to Reduce Roadside Erosion	Rural roads and drains are a major contributor to sediments reaching the GBR. This project aims at finding ways to reduce the erosion along rural roadside stormwater drains.	Within Council budget	Nil	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	5.3

Frog Rock Foreshore Management Plan	Implement the Frog Rock foreshore Plan	Within Council Budget	Nil	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	5.3 and 2.3
Review the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan	The Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan is due for review. The Biosecurity Plan outlining how invasive feral animals and weeds will be managed.	Within Council Budget	Nil	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	5.1
Whitsunday Weed Washdown Strategy	Installing automatic washdown bay at Lake Proserpine to prevent the spread of weeds.	Council		Directorate: Community Services	Underway	5.1
Cannonvale Lake Aquatic ecosystem study and Management Plan	To implement the Cannonvale Lake Management Plan	Council		Directorate: Community Services	Underway	5.3
Matters of Local Environmental Significance	A project to identify and map MLES for possible inclusion into the Council planning scheme. This may lead to the development of an environmental offset plan where developers could contribute funds towards local MLES rehabilitation sites.	Within Council budget		Directorate: Community Services	Underway	5.3

## Ongoing Activities

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Responsible Department/Position	Reef 2050 Actions
Feral Pig Program	Aerial shooting and 1080 baiting for feral pig management	Within Council allocated budget	Directorate: Community Services	5.1
Herbicide Rebate Scheme	Landholders with a Council approved Property Management Plan are eligible for a 50% rebate on the cost of approved herbicide		Directorate: Community Services	5.1
Develop a Pest Management Committee with Community Stakeholders	The development of a Whitsunday Biosecurity Committee to steer the implementation of the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan		Directorate: Community Services	5.1
Whitsunday Yellow Crazy Ant (YCA) Program	The management and treatment of YCA at Shute Harbour, Hamilton island, Funnel Bay and Woodwark		Directorate: Community Services	5.1
Develop and Implement Rehabilitation and Restoration Projects of High Priority Terrestrial Ecosystems	Work in partnership with regional NRM groups to develop and implement projects which rehabilitate ecosystems – eg. Beach shrubs	External funds to assist	Directorate: Community Services	2.3 and 5.3

## Future Projects Wish List

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Requirements	Reef 2050 Actions
Mullers Lagoon Management Plan	Investigate a strategy to improve water quality in Mullers lagoon and improve environment and amenity.	TBA	2.3
Significant Tree Asset Register on Council Land	Identification of significant tree on council land which should be granted protection status. This would include a valuation of significant trees.	TBA	1.1

Expand WRC feral animal control aerial shooting Program	This will build on the WRC base feral animal control program. Seeking funding to fund additional aerial control flights around wetlands and waterways both with WRC and also adjacent Councils.	External	5.1
Implement Whitsunday Street tree Program	This will involve the purchase of street trees to increase shade in urban areas.	Internal WRC and External	1.1
Expand the treatment and monitoring of Whitsunday YCA populations	Fund the treatment of YCA and conduct detailed infestation surveys.	External	5.1
Whitsunday Yellow Crazy Ant infestation detailed survey	To organize and fund personnel to conduct a detailed YCA survey	External	5.1
Implement the Leucaena urban management Program to improve urban coastal and waterway ecosystems	This project involves the engagement of contractors to reduce infestations along waterways and urban areas.	Internal WRC and External	5.3 and 5.1
Urban waterway revegetation and restoration program	The aim of this project is to revegetate up to 3ha over the next three years in the Cannonvale, Bowen and Collinsville urban areas.	WRC and external	5.3
Implement a weed washdown facility at Merinda, Bowen	The installation of an automatic weed washdown facility at Merinda	WRC and external	5.3
Implement a weed washdown facility at Guthalungra, Bowen	The installation of an automatic weed washdown facility at Merinda	WRC and external	5.3
Whitsunday Planning Scheme Major Amendment	Climate Change Land Management Water Management Waste Management Community	Council Budget	1.3 and 1.4
Economic and Population Study	Updating EPS and extending projections out to year 2071	Council Budget	1.3 and 1.4
Land Supply Analysis (LSA)	Analysis of the current urban zoned land and calculates the required land release and zone mix for the life of the Planning Scheme (25 years)	Council Budget	1.3 and 1.4

Local Government Infrastructure Plan (V2)	Plans for future trunk Water and Waste infrastructure	Council Budget	1.3 and 1.4
MLES Planning Scheme Amendment	Introduces Matters of Local Environmental Significance	Council Budget	5.3, A1, 1.3 and 1.4
Flood Hazard Overlay Planning Scheme Amendment	Updated flood mapping, including water and land management	Council Budget	1.3 and 1.4
Industrial and Commercial Land Supply Planning Scheme Amendment	In response to the LSA, amend the urban boundary for Commercial and Industrial land supply	Funding required	1.3 and 1.4
Housing Affordability (Package 2) Planning Scheme Amendment	In response to the LSA, amend the urban boundary for residential land, including higher density land use investigations.	Funding required	1.3 and 1.4
Local Government Infrastructure Plan (V3)	Inclusion of Stormwater Infrastructure and response to LSA and consequential land releases.	Funding required	1.3 and 1.4
Greater Airlie Beach Area Masterplan	Future Airlie Creek rainforest walk	Funding required	5.3 and A1

# Water Management

## Reef 2050 Objective

The quality of water from all sources including industrial, urban waste and storm water sources has no detrimental impact on the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

### What councils can do

Continuously improve the quality of water entering the reef from wastewater and storm water sources through urban water cycle initiatives:

- Promote water sensitive urban design in new developments
- Adopt best practice storm water management
- Monitor and if necessary upgrade sewerage treatment plants
- Provide collection facilities for chemicals, waste oil and other pollutants
- Protect and rehabilitate waterways



### Current Projects

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible Department/Position	Project Status	Reef 2050 Actions
Implement WRC Erosion and Sediment Control Program	This project will implement the Council's current ESC program	Within Council allocated budget	Nil	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	2.1

Mackay Whitsunday Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership	The Healthy Rivers to Reef Program is a partnership project to collate water quality data and develop a water quality report card – to continue being a member	Within Council allocated budget	Nil	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	2.1 and 3.3
Mackay – Whitsunday Urban Stormwater Stewardship Project	Participate in the Mackay – Whitsunday Urban Stormwater Stewardship Project	Within Council allocated budget	Nil	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	3.3.

Bowen Sewerage Treatment Plant (BSTP) Upgrade	Delivering a major upgrade to the BSTP with a major effluent reuse scheme to significantly reduce nutrients discharged to the Bowen Harbour and Great Barrier Reef Lagoon and GHG by replacing potable water pumped from 70km away with fit for purpose recycled water.	Whitsunday Water (Council) / Building Our Regions / Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities	Building Better Regions Fund (Australian Government)	Directorate: Infrastructure Services	Commissioning underway (100% complete) Expansion of irrigation areas extending reuse underway	2.3
Greening and Growing Bowen	Bowen Recycled water network to public space, sporting facilities and potentially industrial and other users. Aims to reuse most Bowen STP's effluent on large scale water demands to reduce potable water demand whilst enhancing the economy and liveability of Bowen. Also aims to reduce the very high potable water use volumes on Public Parks in Bowen and replace it with a local fit for purpose water.	Whitsunday Water (Council) / Building Our Regions / DLGIP	Building our Regions Fund (Queensland Government)	Directorate: Infrastructure Services and Community Services	Underway	5.3
Bowen Water Treatment Plant (BWTP) Intake Energy	Design and deliver optimised intake arrangement at BWTP to further reduce energy consumption and move water	Whitsunday Water (Council) Project (Stage 1 funded)	Building Better Regions Fund (Australian Government)	Directorate: Infrastructure Services	Underway	1.1

Optimisation	production to times where solar generation is available. Being delivered in stages to carefully manage ratepayers cashflow.					
Proserpine Recycled Water Pipeline and Treatment Plant Upgrade	Council is delivering a solids handling upgrade at the Proserpine Sewer Treatment Plant and a recycled water pipeline to reuse our compliant effluent for irrigation instead of discharging dry weather flows to the Proserpine River.	Building our Regions and Council Whitsunday Water Project	Building our Regions Fund (Queensland Government)	Directorate: Infrastructure Services and Community Services	Infrastructure Delivery Complete. Recycled Water Management Plans being finalised	1.1

Stormwater Management Plan	Development of stormwater guidelines to inform future network management and identification of areas in the network that require upgrade	Council budget	NIL	Directorate: Infrastructure Services	Underway	2.3
Floodplain Management Plan	Development of management Plan for the identified floodplains resulting in better disaster response and guidelines for managing floodplain	Possible grant or Council funding	Nil		Underway	2.3

## Ongoing Activities

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Responsible Department/Position	Reef 2050 Actions
Implementation of WRC Stormwater Quality Guideline	The guideline clearly articulate WRC's requirements for new development and redevelopment with respect to how storm water quality is managed. Council is working with industry to implement this guideline	Within Council budget	Directorate: Community Services	2.3



Delivery of 400kW Solar Array at Bowen Water Treatment Plant (BWTP)	Council will deliver a 400kW Solar Array at the BWTP that will produce an estimated 664MWh of power equivalent to 538.1t of GHG p.a. and will operate the BWTP using all of the self-generated energy as a Climate Change mitigation activity.	Council have implemented an hourly set point operating system to allow for the first level of optimisation and continue to refine this optimisation	Directorate: Infrastructure Services	1.1
Back Up Diesel Generation at Bowen Water Treatment Plant (BWTP)	Council will deliver 450kVA of permanent diesel backup generation as a climate change mitigation activity at the critical infrastructure asset Bowen Water Treatment Plant (BWTP).	Upgrade occurring in line with Whitsunday Critical Asset Resilience Program (CARP) which will install a single 500 KVA genset with larger external fuel storage and re-deploy the smaller parallel operating generator sets at Collinsville and other sites.	Directorate: Infrastructure Services	1.1
Water Efficiency and Non-revenue Water Reduction	Council have been targeting leaks and losses and encouraging water efficiency, leading to a direct reduction in energy and chemical consumption and GHG production.	Non-revenue water (NRW) has reduced by 50% (on a per connection basis) from 340 L/c/d to 160 L/c/d) with the two northern towns still recording the most NRW	Directorate: Infrastructure Services	1.1
Work with Local Electricity Distribution Authority in Load Shedding (using generators for emergency resilience)	Leverage the emergency generation capacity for Water and Sewage Treatment Plants to support the wider energy system if needed and improve resilience to the wider community.	Minimal, working with Ergon to leverage this and other opportunities.	Directorate: Infrastructure Services	1.1

## Future Projects Wish List

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Requirements	Reef 2050 Actions
Urban Stormwater Quality Catchment Management Plans	The plans will quantify water quality quantity and values of targeted urban catchments and create geo-specific and fit for purpose intervention plan to offset development pressures and improve water quality in the Great Barrier Reef.	TBA	2.3
Review of Council's Stormwater Quality Guideline	Review of Council's stormwater quality guideline which assist developers to comply with SPP Policy.	TBA	2.3
Bowen Utility Resilience Program	Improve flood immunity for the Up-River Rd crossing of Six Mile Creek to ensure reasonable flood immunity to the Bowen WTP	Design Complete, seeking resilience funding / co-funding to deliver	1.4
Foxdale Bores - Solar	Behind the meter solar to support the operation of the Foxdale bores and water supply to Cannonvale Airlie	Taking up of unallocated state land and money	1.1
Proserpine WTP - Solar	Behind the meter solar energy supply to support Proserpine WTP operation	Roof top solar enhanced with additional north facing roof on the high lift PS	1.1
Coastal WTP - Solar	Behind the meter solar energy supply to support Coastal WTP operation	Roof top solar enhanced with additional land given the high lift PS	1.1
To JW Membrane Replacement	Facilitates capacity upgrade without high embodied energy works	Within Council allocated budget	1.1
To JW Collinsville WTP Process Optimisation	Optimise mechanical and piping assets to recover two water qualities, a high quality potable water and a fit for purpose irrigation supply that could benefit a nearby business or livability	Within Council allocated budget	1.1
Collaboration and Data Sharing on Reef Water Quality	Data sharing and collaboration on diffuse nutrient pollution between community groups and Whitsunday Water to inform future offset opportunities	Within Council allocated budget	1.4
Floodplain Management Plan	Development of management plan for the identified floodplains resulting in better disaster response and guidelines for managing floodplain	Applied for funding. Possible Council funding in the future.	2.3

Implement the WRC urban water quality monitoring Program	There are 12 monitoring sites in the Town of Whitsunday	Consider external sources and internal sources	2.3
Develop and implement a dugong and marine turtle monitoring Program for Pioneer bay using drones.	There is a lack of dugong and marine turtle monitoring in Pioneer bay. This project will aim to use drones to survey the population of dugongs and marine turtles.	WRC and external	2.3. 5.2
Installation of signage at Pioneer Bay to promote “Go Slow for those Below” marine slow zone	Signage to advertise the Pioneer bay Go Slow zone to reduce impact on dugong and marine turtles.	External	2.3 and 5.2
Installation of aerator/fountain in Mullers lagoon to improve water quality	The installation of a water foundation and/or aerator in Mullers lagoon will improve water quality and reduce the likelihood of fish kills.	External	5.3
Installation of aerator/fountain in Cannonvale lake to improve water quality	The installation of a water foundation and/or aerator in Cannonvale Lake will improve water quality and reduce the likelihood of fish kills.	External	5.3
Conduct a training workshop in Water Sensitive Urban Design to improve uptake and implementation of these concepts	To engage a consultant to run two workshops on WSUD – Airlie Beach and Bowen.	External	5.3.
Ammonia/Nitrate optimisation	To make adjustments to the STP process to reduce ammonia and Nitrate levels in effluent	External	5.3
Cannonvale STP Membrane Renewal	To replace the Cannonvale STP membrane to improve water quality in effluent	External	5.3
Emerging contaminants WIM alliance study	To liaise with industry experts to maintain knowledge currency on emerging contaminants such as PFAS and micro-plastics	External and internal	5.3
Conduct development industry training on erosion and sediment control	To hold at least annual 1 day workshops on Erosion and Sediment Control	External	5.3

# Waste Management

## Reef 2050 Objective

Education and on-ground actions target the source of marine debris and reduce the volume of debris entering the Great Barrier Reef.

## What councils can do

### Minimise waste entering the Reef from land-based sources:

- Control litter coming from landfills and public bins
- Introduce waste minimisation programs for Council and community
- Introduce littering and illegal dumping penalties
- Encourage community clean-ups before the wet season
- Install pollution traps on urban waterways

### Current Projects

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible Department/Position	Project Status	Reef 2050 Actions
Biosolids Reuse Project (Methane Generation Reduction) and Reduce the Need for Chemical Fertiliser in the region	Investigation, de-risking and long-term trial to re-use biosolids from STPs on a small number of sugar Cane and grazing properties as fertilizer, soil ameliorant and micronutrient blend. Prevents anerobic digestion of biosolids within landfill creating methane.	Whitsunday Water / WRC Project	Sugar Services Proserpine	Directorate: Infrastructure Services and Community Services	Final risk assessments underway and approval of storage site granted. Project currently un-funded	3.9
Develop new Waste Management Plan	The review of waste issues and development of the new Waste Plan	WRC		Directorate: Infrastructure Services and Community Services	Underway	2.1, 2.3 3.9

## Ongoing Activities

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Responsible Department/Position	Reef 2050 Actions
Recycling Stations at Landfills	Continuation of recycling facilities	Within Council allocated budget	Directorate: Infrastructure Services and Whitsunday Water	3.9
Recycling / Resource recovery at Landfills and Supervised Waste Transfer Stations	Continue provision of resource recovery and recycling services and seek further opportunities to support a circular economy.	Within Council allocated budget	Directorate: Infrastructure Services and Whitsunday Water	3.9

## Future Projects Wish List

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Requirements	Reef 2050 Actions
Monitor Kerbside Recycling	The monitoring of the success of the recycling bin program to residents	Within Council allocated budget	3.9
Educate and Promote Recycling	Hire a Recycling Education Officer / Waste Education Officer	Within Council allocated budget	3.9
Extend Kerbside Recycling to un-serviced residential properties where possible.	The monitoring of the success of the recycling bin program to residents to develop targeted approach to development of a Waste Education Program	Within Council allocated budget	3.9
Implement Landfill gas flaring at Kelsey Creek landfill and Bowen landfill	The installation of pipework and infrastructure at Kelsey Creek landfill and Bowen landfill to harness and flare and monitor landfill gas.	WRC and external	1.2 and 3.9
Develop a Litter Management Strategy	WRC to develop a new Litter Management Strategy which will include reduce litter in stormwater and installation of strategi gross pollution traps and litter monitoring devices in stormwater system	WRC and external	2.3 and 5.3
Implement Plastic minimisation Programs with businesses	Work with external organisations to encourage the reduction and phase out of single use plastics in businesses.	WRC and external	2.3 and 5.3
Implement FOGO in a staged manner for WRC	The development of a FOGO strategy and its implementation	WRC and external	2.3. and 1.2 and 5.3

Plastic trickle tape and pipe raw materials study.	The support the development of a business to recycle cropping irrigation tape	External	3.9
Landfill groundwater monitoring bores	To continue to monitor landfill bores and maintain them where necessary	External	5.3
Phytocapping Landfills	To commence the process of installing vegetation as a phytocap on the Kelsey Creek and Bowen landfills	External and internal	5.3

# Community

## Reef 2050 Objective

**Local, regional and reef-wide community benefits are understood, and the community is actively engaged in managing reef activities**

## What councils can do

**Celebrate community connections to the Reef and encourage stewardship:**

- Introduce education campaigns to reduce impacts on the Reef
- Build community capacity to tackle threats to the Reef
- Form partnerships to achieve ongoing improvements to Reef health



## Current Projects

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Partnerships	Responsible Department/Position	Project Status	Reef 2050 Actions
Partnership with Whitsunday Landcare	Develop a MOU between Whitsunday Regional Council and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare to explore partnership projects (Renew).	Within Council allocated budget	Whitsunday Catchment Landcare	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	A2, 3.3.
Development and implementation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs).	ILUA's and Cultural Heritage requirements will be adhered to	Within Council allocated budget	Various traditional Owner groups	Directorate: Community Services	Underway	B2

## Ongoing Activities

Action	Description	Financial/Resource Commitment	Responsible Department/Position	Reef 2050 Actions
Whitsunday Reef Festival	Council provides financial support to the Whitsunday Reef Festival	Within Council allocated budget	Directorate: Community Services	1.4, 3.3. A1
Council Partnership with Whitsunday Local Marine Advisory Committee (WLMAC)	A Councilor is to be allocated to participate on the WLMAC	Within Council allocated budget	Directorate: Community Services	A1, A2, B2, 1.4
Council participation to the Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Committee (WCLC)	A Councilor is to be allocated to participate on the WCLC	Within Council allocated budget	Directorate: Community Services	A1, A2, B2, 1.4

## Future Projects Wish List

Project Name	Description	Financial / Resource Requirements	Reef 2050 Actions
Collaboration and data sharing on reef water quality	Data sharing and collaboration on diffuse nutrient pollution between community groups and Whitsunday Water to inform of future offset policies.	Within Council allocated budget	A1, A2, B2, 1.4
Construction of an improved coastal midden enclosure and interpretation at the Whitsunday foreshore reserve, Bowen	A coastal midden is located on the public foreshore at Whitsunday Paradise. The existing enclosure is in poor condition and there is no interpretative signage. This project will improve the enclosure and signage and make it a feature of the foreshore and a place where the Juru people can visit.	External	B2



## APPENDIX 1: List of possible projects to implement via Reef Guardian Council Commonwealth grant

No.	Project	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Reef Plan 2050 Action
1	Feral Animal aerial shooting Program	√	√	√	5.1
2	Whitsunday Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program	√	√	√	5.1
3	Erosion and Sediment Control training (Council and Community)		√		B2
4	Merinda Weed Washdown Facility		√		5.1
5	Urban waterway riparian restoration project (2ha)	√	√	√	5.3
6	Whitsunday Yellow Crazy Ant infestation detailed survey	√			5.1
7	Conduct a dugong and marine turtle population monitoring survey Program for Pioneer Bay using drones.	√	√	√	3.3
8	Kelsey Creek landfill gas flaring				
9	Whitsunday urban water quality monitoring – sample analysis in lab	√	√	√	2.1.
10	EV charging station and area at Whitsunday airport – stage 1 (site establishment)	√			1.1
11	The removal of Leucaena in environmentally sensitive urban areas	√	√	√	5.1
12	Installation of aerator/fountain in Mullers lagoon to improve water quality	√			5.3
13	Installation of aerator/fountain in Cannonvale lake to improve water quality		√		5.3
14	Installation of signage at Pioneer Bay to promote “Go Slow for those Below” marine slow zone		√		B3 and 3.3.
15	Conduct a training workshop in Water Sensitive Urban Design to improve uptake and implementation of these concepts		√		B2
16	Measuring the impact of feral pig impacts on two coastal wetlands and their impact on greenhouse gas emissions (UQ partnership)			√	5.3
17	Construction of an improved coastal midden enclosure and interpretation at the Whitsunday foreshore reserve, Bowen			√	B2