



2020

Working Together for Healthier Waterways

This Management Response Report provides an overview of activities that are underway to improve waterway health in the Townsville Region. This report should be read in conjunction with the 2020 Townsville Dry Tropics Report Card.

The 2020 Report Card reports on the environmental state of our waterways. The Management Response Report outlines

how partners are working together to improve waterway health.

Partnering to improve the values of our catchments and Reef



IMPROVING WATERWAYS

Key initiatives in Townsville

Tackling Fishing Litter

Ozfish and the Tangaroa Blue Foundation are leading the way to reduce fishing litter in local waterways. In 2021, they have launched #Know your Knots Challenge, Rig Recycle, and other initiatives in the North Queensland region.



Orpheus Island



Fantome Island

Palm Island



TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL Reducing Nutrients in the Bohle River

Townsville City Council is piloting an innovative water quality offsets project to reduce nutrients in the Bohle River (which scored poorly in the Townsville Dry Tropics Report Card). The project is also expected to provide other benefits in addition to waterway health improvements. It will also develop and demonstrate a suitable offsets road map that can be used by other Councils.



COASTAL DRY TROPICS LANDCARE INC. Junior Landcare Program

In March 2021, the Coastal Dry Tropics Landcare Inc. began the first Junior Landcare Program in Townsville to deliver hands-on environmental sustainability activities to children at the Bohle Wetlands Bush Regeneration site. The program delivers activities from the Junior Landcare Learning Centre, including facilitated nature play, citizen science and ongoing site maintenance. These aim to build a sense of stewardship and connection with the environment.



Kilometers

0 5 10 20



TANGAROA BLUE FOUNDATION Reef Clean

Reef Clean is a project funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust. Launched in early 2019, the project aims to remove and prevent marine debris along the Great Barrier Reef through to 2023. The project is led by the Tangaroa Blue Foundation and includes many community groups across the Queensland coast. In Townsville, data from the monitored sites will help inform the litter indicator in upcoming report cards to identify trends through time.



Tangaroa Blue



Reef Check Australia



Plastic Free Townsville



Plastic-Free Townsville encourages local businesses to provide plastic alternatives to their customers. Since its inception in 2020, the program has encouraged 36 local businesses to become plastic-free and stopped the use of

284,712 pieces of plastic

MAGNETIC ISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION Creek Restoration on the Island

Magnetic Island Community Development Association, in partnership with Townsville City Council and the state government, is undertaking a year-long project to reduce weeds along major creek systems on the Island. The project uses an innovative process called humification. Humification improves soil quality, which in turn aids nutrient retention and the propagation of native plant species. The project aims to restore the native habitat and reduce nutrients going into local waterways and Cleveland Bay.



Magnetic Island
Community Development
Association

Magnetic
Island



Townsville



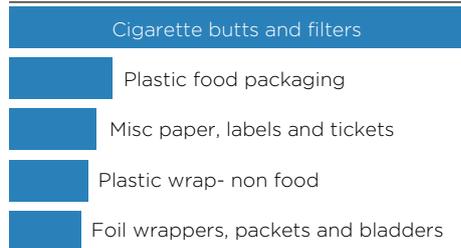
TOWNSVILLE LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE Reducing litter in the CBD

Over the last two years, high abundances of litter have been collected within the Ross Freshwater Basin and Halifax Bay. In addition, the 2019 Monsoon event washed over 550 kg of rubbish into waterways and beaches. In 2020, the Townsville Local Marine Advisory Committee, including Townsville City Council and the Port of Townsville, installed 40 litter pollutant traps in litter hotspots identified by James

Cook University research. Litter traps are emptied every three months, and all data is entered into the Australian Marine Debris Database. Litter trap monitoring will continue throughout 2021.

Litter pieces removed from all litter traps

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000



So far, over
16,000
pieces of litter
have been
prevented from
entering our
waterways.

Top ranking items removed
from litter traps from
November 2020-February 2021

Urban Water Stewardship in Townsville

As the largest city in the Great Barrier Reef region, it is essential to address the impacts of urban development on our waterways.

Improving water quality in our urban areas is an integral part of improving the health of local waterways and the Great Barrier Reef. The Townsville Dry Tropics Report Card shows that urban development frequently impacts the quality of our local waterways.

In February 2021, the Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters hosted the Urban Water Stewardship Framework Workshop. Experts from Townsville City Council, the Department of Environment and Science, and the Urban Development Institute of Australia evaluated management practices using an assessment framework developed by the Office of the Great Barrier Reef.

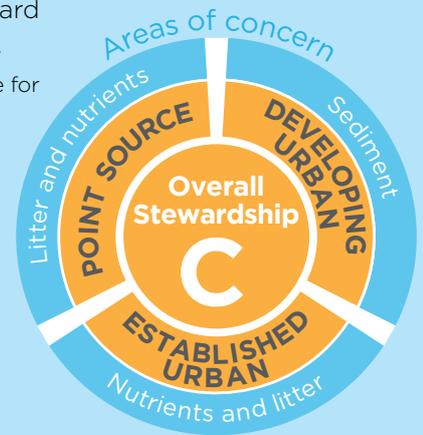
The assessment identified that Townsville has a range of water stewardship practices in place. Some of the leading practices include:

- 100% of biosolids from sewage treatment plants are recycled, including from Magnetic Island.
- Council collaborates with a wide range of organisations and contributes to world-leading research on sewage discharge in the receiving environment.
- Citizen Science monitoring programs and community groups are championed.
- Litter reduction is a priority with numerous projects and campaigns underway.

Overall, Townsville scored a C, meaning that standard practices are being met.

*Note that these ratings were for the 2019-2020 financial year.

- A** Innovative or leading practice
- B** Current industry best practice
- C** Minimum standard
- D** Superseded approaches



Focus areas for Townsville

- Improve the operation and maintenance of sewage and stormwater infrastructure to help improve water quality in the receiving environment
- Improve erosion and sediment control compliance in new urban developments to minimise sediment inputs into waterways.
- Improve collaboration within Council and with other land users to provide better whole of catchment solutions.



For more information on this initiative, see our website at drytropicshealthywaters.org

Acknowledgement of Country

The Partnership acknowledges the Bindal, Wulgurukaba, Nywaigi and Manbarra people as the traditional custodians of land.



About the Partnership

The Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters is a collaboration between community groups, industry, science organisations and government. The Partnership reports on waterway health with the goal of stimulating management actions.

Contact Us

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