



Local knowledge is local power

Development of the Townsville Community Action Plan brought a diversity of people together from across the Townsville region to discuss key issues and practical ideas for the local marine and coastal environment.

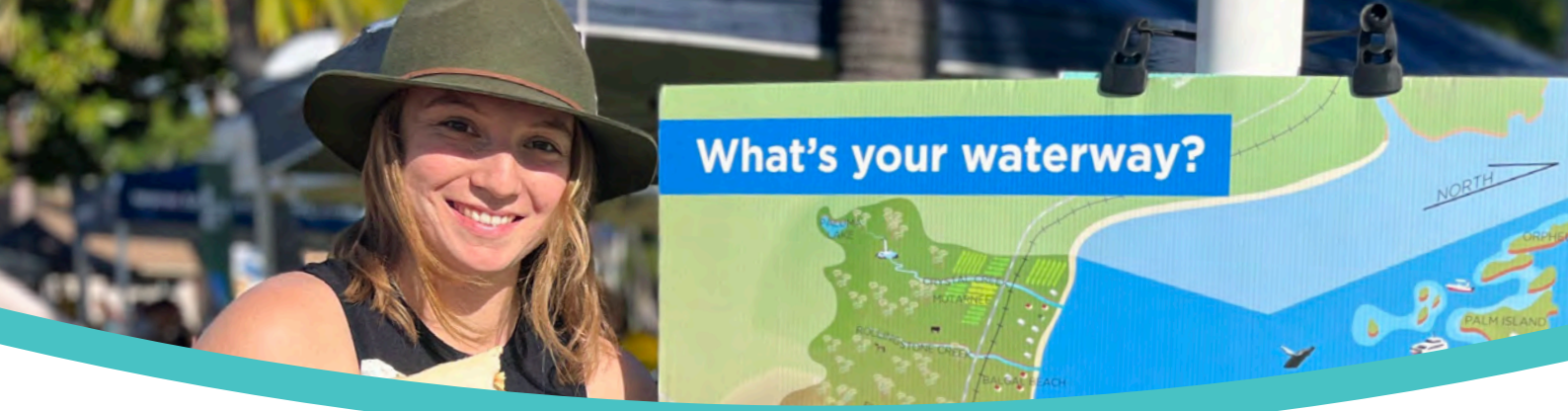
The community showed it is increasingly conscious of the potential collective impact it can have on local waterways and the Great Barrier Reef, and the Action Plan articulates its shared priorities and goals.

As the longest-connected peoples to Townsville's landscapes, local Traditional Owners of Land and Sea Country play a key role in stewarding the future of our regional rivers and reefs. Their engagement has been actively sought and appreciated throughout Townsville's Community Action Plan journey.

Whose voices built the Townsville Community Action Plan?

- Community groups
- Local businesses
- Scientists and environmental specialists
- Waterways and land managers
- Students and youth groups
- Traditional Owners

“The vision for our Community Action Plan is to unite partners across the region for more cohesive and impactful action, by building stronger connections with our youth and Traditional Owners.”



HOW WE GOT HERE

Townsville's planning timeline

1

2022

Townsville identified for CAP

In 2020, a Burdekin Dry Tropics Coastal Community Action Plan (CAP) was developed under the leadership of Reef Ecologic and NQ Dry Tropics. The Burdekin CAP identified four priority projects across a broad region, from Rollingstone, north of Townsville, to Bowen in the south.

As the major city within the Burdekin region, Townsville was identified in 2022 as likely to benefit from a locally focused CAP.



2

September 2022

Townsville CAP survey

An online survey was used to identify issues of community priority within the Townsville CAP region. Members of the Townsville community of all ages and backgrounds responded to the survey, with the outcomes used to identify the two priority themes for CAP projects.



3

November 2022 Community workshop

The outcomes identified in the CAP survey formed the basis of discussion for development of roadmaps at the Townsville CAP workshop. Several community groups and organisations within the region were represented at the workshop, and continual consultation led to the publication of five final roadmaps (available online).



4

November 2022 Youth workshop

Students from around the nation reviewed the draft project roadmaps at the Youth Response Forum held at James Cook University by Pimlico State High School.

In total the Youth Response Forum engaged over 101 students from 14 different schools and 25 industry experts attended representing 14 external organisations from the Townsville region.



5

Ongoing: Listening to Traditional Owners

Wulgurukaba Traditional Owners were engaged in the development of the Townsville CAP and provided valuable insights into the priorities for Indigenous people to care for their land and sea Country in the region. The 'Working with Wulgurukaba to Care for Country' roadmap reflects this dialogue, and aims to encourage all First Nations people in the region to engage with on-ground projects to protect cultural and natural values.



ABOUT CAPS

Queensland communities for the Reef

The Townsville Community Action Plan is part of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Community Action Plan (CAP) Program.

Six regional communities along the length of the Great Barrier Reef have created and are delivering similar CAP's turbo-charging the positive impact that community action has for the Reef and for people.

CAPs connect community aspirations with regional and reef-wide priorities to help design better ways to work together to deliver change. They seek to connect community work with existing plans and knowledge, and are focused on integrating citizen science programs, community-led on-ground activities, and broader community initiatives.

The CAP process brings together people from science, management, business, community, youth groups, and Traditional Owner partners to develop a tangible plan to strengthen and accelerate community Reef protection outcomes for regional priorities.

“The scale and urgency of action required to forge a better path for the future health of the Reef prompts new approaches for working together to make change happen.”

Great Barrier Reef Foundation



ABOUT CAPS

The Community Action Plan (CAP) process

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation's CAP Program is grounded in the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation and Collective Impact theory.

Conservation Standards

The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (or 'Conservation Standards') are a widely adopted set of principles and practices that bring together common concepts, approaches, and terminology for conservation project design, management, and monitoring. They involve continually cycling through the steps of assessing, planning, implementing, analysing, adapting, and sharing.

Collective Impact

The CAP Program is also informed by Collective Impact theory, which helps to solve complex social issues through collaboration across different sectors in local communities, continually learning and adapting. Collective Impact involves having a common agenda, mutually reinforcing activities, shared measurement, and continuous communication.

As an adaptive management tool, CAPs are designed to be revisited and updated regularly and as new information becomes available.

How will Townsville track its impact?

The 2023 Townsville Dry Tropics Waterways Report Card provides our community with an annual snapshot of the state of the region's waterways and stands as an independent reference point against which Townsville can track measurable change to its river and reef environments – including its Community Action Plan.

Informing a bigger picture

The Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters and the CAP Program are uniquely aligned for mutual benefit. While the Partnership collates information on the health of local waterways to inform community and management action, CAP projects are well positioned to further build networks and knowledge sharing, and to help fill data gaps for future Waterways Report Cards in the Townsville region.



WHO WE ARE

Community Action Plan Leaders

The Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters and Reef Ecologic are co-leaders of the 2023 Townsville Community Action Plan, and our teams are on-hand to see community participants set up for success.

With guidance from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, and making reference to the frameworks of the CAP Program, as CAP Leaders our role is to serve as the backbone for collective impact in our regions, and to guide.

We are in place to support and enable our community to progress successful projects with tangible outcomes. It is also our role to support future CAP grant recipients in securing investment and partnerships to realise their project ambitions.

Questions about Townsville's Community Action Plan can be sent to:

- Kara-Mae Coulter-Atkins, Executive Officer: eo@drytropicshealthywaters.org
- Adam Smith, CEO, Reef Ecologic: adam.smith@reefecologic.org



The Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters is a collaboration between community, industry, science, research, and government partners. Together we support the production of the annual Townsville Dry Tropics Waterways Report Card, keeping an independent and collective watch on the state of our local rivers, creeks, and coastal waters.

The Waterways Report Card not only educates our community about the interconnectedness of rivers and reefs, but also informs the Reef Report Card, the Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan, and the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan. Projects of the Townsville CAP help anchor these strategic visions in local impact.



The Reef Ecologic team has over 40 years of experience creating a better planet through our people and passion.

We pride ourselves in delivering innovative and sustainable solutions for coral reef management throughout the world. We work with businesses, government, and communities to co-design solutions and help people, agencies, and organisations achieve goals and exceed expectations.

We've implemented major projects in all the coral reef regions of the world, including extensive work with coral reef managers, communities and businesses in the Great Barrier Reef, Caribbean, Pacific, Southeast Asia, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean. We are united by our love of coral reefs and a conviction that the considerations, decisions, and actions we take can make a meaningful and enduring difference to the future of coral reefs.

