



Reef Catchments to lead the community with marine and coastal health plan

MACKAY // TUESDAY 14th July 2020

Reef Catchments has been chosen to lead the way in the region's future marine and coastal conservation efforts, in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

The Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Reef Community Action Plan will work to integrate local coastal and marine activities with other reef protection endeavours to increase their collective impact, contribute to informing decisions about reef management and drive positive change.

The Community Action Plan will create shared goals for community reef protection, identify critical projects and develop a practical plan that further strengthens and accelerates community reef protection outcomes specific to our area.

The aim is for the community to become more actively involved in planning, implementing, monitoring and celebrating reef resilience actions through this program to identify critical community reef protection local actions which address our regional priorities.

Reef Catchments CEO, Katrina Dent, said: "Reef Catchments is excited to be leading this process with the region's community stakeholders.

"Bringing the community together to protect the reef is what we are all about, our company byword is 'resilient ecosystems, engaged community' so this action plan is a great way to put it into practice."

Great Barrier Reef Foundation Managing Director Anna Marsden said the Great Barrier Reef is an irreplaceable ecosystem that can and must be saved for future generations.

"Our Reef is facing a growing combination of threats, with climate change and increasing water temperatures affecting coral health. That means we have to step up our response. We're already making an impact, but there is a lot more to be done to save our Reef and its marine life," Ms Marsden said.

"Regional communities are at the forefront of on-ground and in-water efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef and these Plans will enable them to accelerate local Reef protection actions and strengthen connections with Reef science and management.

"Together with the community, we are the action station for the Reef, bringing together people and science to deliver the world's largest coral reefs program and more than 60 Reef-saving projects."



The Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Community Action Plan project is funded by the partnership with the Australian Government's Reef Trust.

For more information, please contact Emma Maxwell at Reef Catchments on emma.maxwell@reefcatchments.com or 0439 308 179.

ENDS