

**CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**MARINE PLANT  
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**Endorsed 03 April 2014**



## REVISION REGISTER

	Date	Reviewers
1	March 2010	Kerry Evans, Environmental Systems Officer, CRC (Original Author – Cairns Regional Council Marine Plant Management Strategy, March 2010 #2425963)
2	April 2014	Alisia Bean, Environmental Systems Officer, CRC Kylie Alderdice, Technical Officer Quality Systems, CRC Louise Johns, Senior Fisheries Scientist, DAFF Kurt Davis, Fisheries Biologist, DAFF Richard Stewart, A/Manager Planning & Assessment, DAFF Samuel Hedge, Fisheries Biologist, Planning & Assessment DAFF

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The following contributors are acknowledged for their operational, technical and local knowledge:

Kevin Colligan, Paul Wallace, Graham Hagney, Jim Foley, Eddie Perez, Brad Amess, Joseph Lamari, Mel Tortike, Nick Bloomfield

This document should be referenced as:

Cairns Regional Council, 2014, Cairns Regional Council Marine Plant Management Strategy, Business Support, Cairns Regional Council, 195pp.

Front Cover: Saltwater Creek – Upstream of Pease Street (Site 13.2.13) 19 Aug 2013 following Hedging.



## ENDORSEMENT



## Queensland Government

Department of  
**Agriculture, Fisheries  
and Forestry**

Our reference: 003/0002841 (#2698433)

3 April 2014



Mr Peter Tabulo  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cairns Regional Council  
PO Box 359  
**Cairns Qld 4655**

Dear Mr Tabulo

### **Endorsement of the Cairns Marine Plant Management Strategy Version 15 dated 2014**

I refer to the letter from Cairns Regional Council dated January 21 2014 seeking endorsement from Fisheries Queensland, a part of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, regarding an updated version of the Cairns Regional Council Marine Plant Management Strategy.

Fisheries Queensland supports and endorses the amended Cairns Regional Council Marine Plant Management Strategy, Operational Plans and Revegetation Plan and the continued effort of Cairns Regional Council in balancing fish habitat requirements, the management of Council assets and community spaces for public benefit.

The following documents provided by Council are endorsed under Section 2.15 of the self assessable code *Minor impact works in a declared Fish Habitat Area or involving the removal, destruction or damage of marine plants* MP06 January 2013 :

- Cairns Regional Council Management Strategy (Docs #3520679-v15)

Maroochy Research Facility  
47 Mayers Road Nambour  
PO Box 5083 SCMC Nambour  
Queensland 4560 Australia  
Customer Service Centre: 13 25 23  
Website: [www.daff.qld.gov.au](http://www.daff.qld.gov.au)  
ABN: 66 934 348 189

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Kurt Davis on telephone 07 4057 3748.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nikki Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Dr Nikki Moore  
Manager  
Impact Assessment and Management  
**Fisheries Queensland**

**Cc:** Mr Robert Russell  
District Officer  
Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol  
PO Box 7453  
**Cairns Qld 4870**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cairns Regional Council Marine Plant Management Strategy, developed jointly with Fisheries Queensland, aims to provide a strategic framework which will guide the management of marine plants in Council managed areas.

The Marine Plant Management Strategy divides the Cairns Regional Council area into catchments. Within each catchment, site based operational plans for smaller waterway management units detail the marine plant management categories - protect, modify, restore, and keep free - applied to achieve the agreed outcomes for each location.

The Marine Plant Management Strategy is designed to:

- Provide a planning framework for public infrastructure maintenance and construction works within or adjacent to fish habitats;
- Ensure fish habitat resources under Council responsibility are managed in an ecologically sustainable manner;
- Develop innovative techniques to protect and restore marine plant communities to achieve long-term protection of fish habitats and meet community requirements for passive recreational use; and
- Reduce administration costs for both Local Government and Fisheries Queensland, a service of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry (DAFF) associated with the integrated development assessment process and fisheries development approvals.

The objectives of the Marine Plant Management Strategy are to:-

- *Achieve a balance between the hydraulic and ecological functions of Cairns' urban waterways;*
- *Preserve recreational, commercial and indigenous opportunities associated with waterways whilst promoting the sustainable use of fisheries resources;*
- *Protect and enhance the value of marine aquatic and terrestrial habitats through retention and promotion of areas of natural marine plant colonisation to offset marine plant loss due to maintenance of public infrastructure; and*
- *Protect marine plant habitat by allowing for adequate buffer zones and setbacks for new development as per Cairns Regional Council's CairnsPlan Vegetation Conservation and Waterways of Significance Code*

The Marine Plant Management Strategy will enable Council to undertake agreed treatments and maintenance works that are outside of the existing Fisheries Queensland self-assessable codes and which would normally require a Fisheries Development Approval. The Marine Plant Management Strategy is an approved document under the Fisheries Queensland self-assessable code (MP06).