# 2024 ReefClean® Public Report



Tackling Marine Debris Pollution on the Great Barrier Reef











Tangaroa Blue Foundation<sup>®</sup> acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the Great Barrier Reef and their strong and continuing connections to Land and Sea Country.



ReefClean<sup>®</sup> is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and is delivered by Tangaroa Blue Foundation<sup>®</sup> in partnership with:

AUSMAP, BehaviourWorks Australia, Clean Up Australia, Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate Aboriginal Corporation (GMYPPBC), Pioneer Catchment Landcare, Reef Check Australia, South Cape York Catchments, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare, Woppaburra TUMRA, Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation







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### **Executive Summary**

**HEIDI TAIT** 

CEO and Founder Tangaroa Blue Foundation®



This report highlights the collaborative and impactful efforts of the ReefClean® community, partner organisations, and team throughout 2024. Through 222 clean-up events (including marine debris monitoring and disaster response clean-ups), 11 educational workshops and new source reduction initiatives, this year's achievements demonstrate a shared commitment to protecting the Great Barrier Reef from the impacts of marine debris.

2024 marks the sixth year of the ReefClean® program, delivered by Tangaroa Blue Foundation® and funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust. This report provides a detailed data snapshot of marine debris across six Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions and the Torres Strait. It includes insights into debris density, common items found, and key indicators of debris sources.

This year's monitoring program also included microplastic sampling, with 38 AUSMAP microplastic surveys conducted across the NRM regions. Findings revealed that microplastics were present in 76% of surveyed sites, highlighting their widespread distribution and the importance of ongoing research and mitigation efforts.

The 2024 Great Barrier Reef Clean-up was our biggest yet, with 1842 volunteers participating in 147 clean-ups across Queensland. Organised in partnership with Clean Up Australia, this event saw communities come together to remove more than 2400 kg of marine debris, making a significant impact on local beaches and marine ecosystems. A huge thank you to all our clean-up coordinators and volunteers —we can't wait to see even more people join us for the 2025 GBR Clean-up!

#### **Key Highlights for 2024**

**Community** 

1370+ volunteers from 185 organisations joined 222 events, including Traditional Owner and school groups.

**Debris Removal** 

Over 11,000 kg of debris was collected and sorted, being recycled or repurposed wherever possible.

**Regional Trends** 

Cape York recorded the highest debris mass (6631 kg), while Burnett Mary had the lowest (431 kg).

**Most Common Debris** 

Hard plastic remnants (58,121) and plastic lids (36,962) were the most frequently found items.

#### About ReefClean<sup>®</sup>



Tackling Marine Debris Pollution on the Great Barrier Reef

Since its launch in 2019, ReefClean<sup>®</sup> has successfully partnered with communities and organisations to remove and prevent marine debris across the Great Barrier Reef region.

In 2023, Tangaroa Blue Foundation<sup>®</sup> secured a \$3.5 million grant from the Australian Government's Reef Trust to extend the program beyond its initial five years. Running from January 2024 to 2027, this funding will support the continued growth of ReefClean<sup>®</sup>, engaging even more communities in protecting the Reef.

Pictured: Volunteers at this year's Snapper Island Clean-up

#### **Program Objectives**

**REDUCE** marine debris in the Great Barrier Reef to protect threatened species like dugongs and turtles.

**EDUCATE** Reef catchment communities on marine debris prevention.

**PREVENT** marine debris through innovative source reduction plans

**EMBRACE** circular economy principles to reduce end-of-life waste.

**CONNECT** stakeholders with scalable solutions and resources to improve Reef health.



### 2024 ReefClean® Results

11

TONNES REMOVED

222

CLEAN-UP EVENTS

40

HECTARES CLEANED-UP

1372

**EVENT VOLUNTEERS** 

11

SOURCE REDUCTION PLANS

32 SCHOOLS

10

TRADITIONAL OWNER GROUPS PARTICIPATED

142

ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATED

П

**EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS** 

- HARD PLASTIC REMNANTS
- 2 PLASTIC LIDS/TOPS
- **5** FOAM INSULATION & PACKAGING
- 4 PLASTIC DRINK BOTTLES
- 5 GLASS, CERAMICS (BROKEN)
- **SYNTHETIC ROPE AND NET SCRAPS < 1M**
- **7** SOFT PLASTIC FILM REMNANTS
- RUBBER FOOTWEAR AND THONGS
- PLASTIC FOOD PACKAGING
- PLASTIC BLEACH AND CLEANER BOTTLES

# TOP 5 MARINE DEBRIS ITEMS FOUND 2019 - 2024

|  |   | 2024                           | 2023                                 | 2022                                 | 2021                           | 2020                                 | 2019                                 |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  | 1 | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants    | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants          | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants          | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants    | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants          | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants          |
|  | 2 | Plastic<br>lids/tops           | Plastic<br>lids/tops                 | Plastic<br>lids/tops                 | Plastic<br>lids/tops           | Plastic<br>lids/tops                 | Plastic<br>lids/tops                 |
| A STATE OF THE STA | 3 | Foam insulation & packaging    | Plastic<br>drink<br>bottles          | Plastic<br>drink<br>bottles          | Foam insulation & packaging    | Soft plastic<br>film<br>remnants     | Foam<br>insulation<br>&<br>packaging |
|  | 4 | Plastic<br>drink<br>bottles    | Foam<br>insulation<br>&<br>packaging | Rubber<br>footwear &<br>thongs       | Plastic<br>drink<br>bottles    | Rope & net<br>scraps<br>(<1m)        | Soft plastic<br>film<br>remnants     |
|  | 5 | Glass,<br>Ceramics<br>(broken) | Soft plastic<br>film<br>remnants     | Foam<br>insulation<br>&<br>packaging | Rubber<br>footwear &<br>thongs | Foam<br>insulation<br>&<br>packaging | Rope & net<br>scraps<br>(<1m)        |

\*Foam insulation & packaging (includes whole & remnants)

#### What is the Land Sea Source Index (LSSI)?

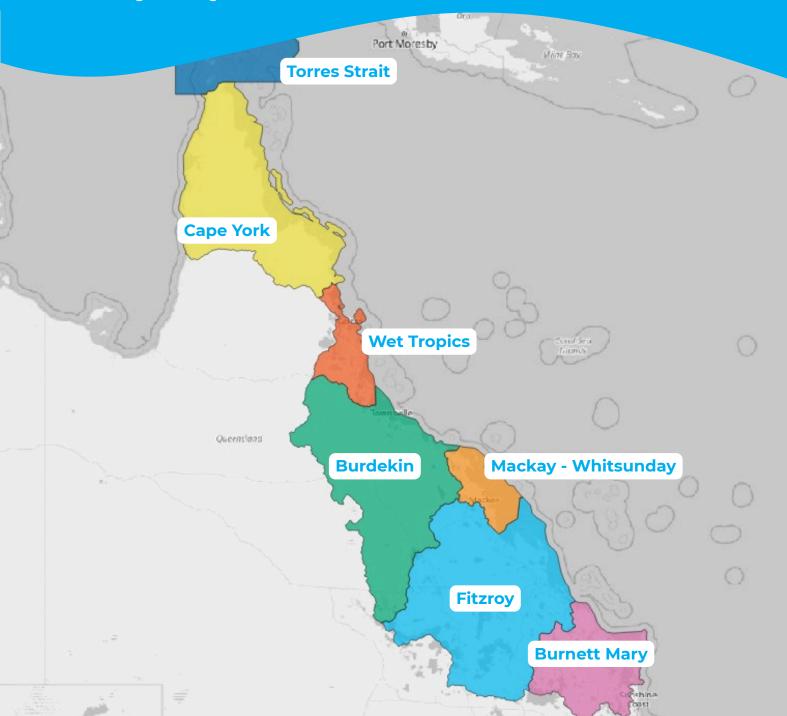
Throughout this report, you will see LSSI ratios available for each region. The Land Sea Source Index (LSSI) is a tool used to estimate the proportion of marine debris originating from local (land-based) versus offshore sources and helps us understand sources and pathways of marine debris.

2019 - 2024

#### **NRM Region Breakdown**

The Australian Government has divided the GBR region into <u>6 NRM</u> regions known as Reef regions: Cape York, Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay - Whitsunday, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary. For this report, we have also included the Torres Strait as a reef region and further divided each region into northern, central and southern 'zones'. Run-off from these NRM regions, along with 35 catchments in the area, drains into the neighbouring ocean and reef.

Simultaneously, some regions receive offshore debris and this has been demonstrated using the LSSI analysis. Understanding debris in these regions is important because data shows there are regional differences in the mass, number of items and density of debris accumulating; analysing data on too large a scale can miss local differences in the marine debris signature.



# **Spotlight on**Torres Strait

Pictured: Volunteers at the Mer Island GBRCU 2023 event

| Year                  | 2024 | 2023 | 2022  | 2021  | 2020  | 2019  |
|-----------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Events                | N/A  | 1    | 1     | 1     | 4     | 3     |
| Volunteers            | N/A  | 27   | 34    | 17    | 136   | 126   |
| Volunteer Hours       | N/A  | 216  | 136   | 51    | 342   | 252   |
| Weight (Kgs)          | N/A  | 939  | 70    | 101   | 375   | 251   |
| Debris Density        | N/A  | 0.01 | 0.03  | 0.09  | 0.06  | 0.05  |
| Land Sea Source Index | N/A  | 3:97 | 53:47 | 21:79 | 46:54 | 67:33 |

|   | 2024 | 2023                        | 2022                           | 2021                           | 2020   | 2019                            |       |
|---|------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | N/A  | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants | Plastic<br>drink<br>bottles    | Rubber<br>footwear &<br>thongs | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants  | Cigarette<br>butts &<br>filters |       |
| 2 | N/A  | Plastic<br>lids/tops        | Fishing<br>line (rec)          | Plastic<br>lids/tops           | Glass,<br>Ceramics<br>(broken)   | Glass,<br>Ceramics<br>(broken)  | lok . |
| 3 | N/A  | Plastic<br>drink<br>bottles | Glass,<br>Ceramics<br>(broken) | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants    | Soft plastic<br>film<br>remnants   | Plastic<br>food<br>packaging    |       |
|   |      |                             |                                |                                |  |                                 |       |
|   |      | मुंद्र हर                   | Reef                           | (ean                           |  |                                 |       |
|   |      | www.                        | Reer Educate • Reduce          | o r g                          | ReefClea<br>Programme Annual Control of the Control o |                                 |       |

# Spotlight on Cape York

Pictured: One Mile Beach Clean-up with the Lama Lama Rangers

| Year                  | 2024  | 2023   | 2022   | 2021   | 2020  | 2019   |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| Events                | 23    | 25     | 26     | 34     | 48    | 37     |
| Volunteers            | 267   | 320    | 275    | 319    | 430   | 362    |
| Volunteer Hours       | 1711  | 2182   | 3431   | 5026   | 2745  | 2844   |
| Weight (Kgs)          | 6,631 | 15,434 | 10,231 | 10,313 | 9,413 | 10,598 |
| Debris Density        | 0.33  | 0.30   | 0.17   | 0.22   | 0.07  | 0.127  |
| Land Sea Source Index | 11:89 | 9:91   | 13:87  | 13:87  | 15:85 | 14:86  |

|   | 2024                        | 2023                        | 2022                           | 2021                           | 2020                                | 2019                                |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Hard                        | Hard                        | Hard                           | Hard                           | Hard                                | Hard                                |
|   | plastic                     | plastic                     | plastic                        | plastic                        | plastic                             | plastic                             |
|   | remnants                    | remnants                    | remnants                       | remnants                       | remnants                            | remnants                            |
| 2 | Plastic                     | Plastic                     | Plastic                        | Plastic                        | Plastic                             | Plastic                             |
|   | lids/tops                   | lids/tops                   | lids/tops                      | lids/tops                      | lids/tops                           | lids/tops                           |
| 3 | Plastic<br>drink<br>bottles | Plastic<br>drink<br>bottles | Rubber<br>footwear &<br>thongs | Rubber<br>footwear &<br>thongs | Synthetic<br>rope & net<br>remnants | Soft<br>plastic<br>film<br>remnants |



# Spotlight on Wet Tropics

Pictured: Top: Coconuts Beach. Below: Snapper Island Clean-up

| Year                  | 2024  | 2023  | 2022  | 2021  | 2020  | 2019  |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Events                | 44    | 44    | 64    | 80    | 70    | 43    |
| Volunteers            | 286   | 548   | 4511  | 711   | 472   | 457   |
| Volunteer Hours       | 1023  | 2803  | 3128  | 2564  | 1956  | 1394  |
| Weight (Kgs)          | 2344  | 1532  | 4127  | 5535  | 4368  | 3426  |
| Debris Density        | 0.02  | 0.02  | 0.03  | 0.02  | 0.02  | 0.03  |
| Land Sea Source Index | 28:72 | 25:75 | 24:76 | 27:73 | 25:75 | 27:73 |

|     | 2024                             | 2023                             | 2022                             | 2021                             | 2020                             | 2019   |
|-----|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1   | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants      | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants      | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants      | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants      | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants      | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants                  |
| 2   | Plastic<br>lids/tops             | Plastic<br>lids/tops             | Plastic<br>lids/tops             | Plastic<br>lids/tops             | Plastic<br>lids/tops             | Foam insulation/ packaging (whole/ remnants) |
| 3   | Foam<br>insulation/<br>packaging | Foam<br>insulation/<br>packaging | Foam<br>insulation/<br>packaging | Foam<br>insulation/<br>packaging | Foam<br>insulation/<br>packaging | Cigarette<br>butts &<br>filters              |
| The |                                  |                                  | A                                |                                  |                                  |  |

# Spotlight on Burdekin

Pictured: Top: Taking debris off Goolboddi (Orpheus) Island. Below: Secret Beach Clean-up team

| Year                  | 2024  | 2023  | 2022  | 2021  | 2020  | 2019  |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Events                | 43    | 64    | 44    | 58    | 34    | 35    |
| Volunteers            | 248   | 523   | 694   | 443   | 342   | 795   |
| Volunteer Hours       | 423   | 1532  | 2143  | 1339  | 1212  | 2149  |
| Weight (Kgs)          | 367   | 320   | 1769  | 2381  | 1857  | 6937  |
| Debris Density        | 0.04  | 0.07  | 0.02  | 0.03  | 0.02  | 0.04  |
| Land Sea Source Index | 38:62 | 41:59 | 45:55 | 51:49 | 40:60 | 20:80 |

|   | 2024         | 2023      | 2022      | 2021      | 2020      | 2019         |
|---|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | Hard         | Hard      | Hard      | Hard      | Hard      | Hard         |
|   | plastic      | plastic   | plastic   | plastic   | plastic   | plastic      |
|   | remnants     | remnants  | remnants  | remnants  | remnants  | remnants     |
| 2 | Plastic      | Plastic   | Plastic   | Plastic   | Plastic   | Plastic      |
|   | lids/tops    | lids/tops | lids/tops | lids/tops | lids/tops | lids/tops    |
| 3 | Soft plastic | Glass,    | Plastic   | Glass,    | Glass,    | Soft plastic |
|   | film         | Ceramics  | food      | Ceramics  | Ceramics  | film         |
|   | remnants     | (broken)  | packaging | (broken)  | (broken)  | remnants     |



### Spotlight on

Mackay -Whitsunday

> Pictured: Half Tide Beach Clean-up with the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal team

| Year                  | 2024  | 2023  | 2022  | 2021  | 2020  | 2019  |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Events                | 33    | 43    | 55    | 51    | 49    | 37    |
| Volunteers            | 234   | 379   | 469   | 315   | 192   | 299   |
| Volunteer Hours       | 506   | 1248  | 1607  | 1240  | 639   | 1258  |
| Weight (Kgs)          | 921   | 939   | 3017  | 4805  | 1901  | 2367  |
| Debris Density        | 0.05  | 0.12  | 0.04  | 0.04  | 0.03  | 0.06  |
| Land Sea Source Index | 19:81 | 17:83 | 17:83 | 16:84 | 23:77 | 18:82 |

|   | 2024       | 2023         | 2022         | 2021       | 2020         | 2019         |
|---|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Hard       | Hard         | Hard         | Hard       | Hard         | Hard         |
|   | plastic    | plastic      | plastic      | plastic    | plastic      | plastic      |
|   | remnants   | remnants     | remnants     | remnants   | remnants     | remnants     |
| 2 | Plastic    | Plastic      | Plastic      | Plastic    | Plastic      | Plastic      |
|   | lids/tops  | lids/tops    | lids/tops    | lids/tops  | lids/tops    | lids/tops    |
| 3 | Synthetic  | Soft plastic | Soft plastic | Synthetic  | Soft plastic | Soft plastic |
|   | rope & net | film         | film         | rope & net | film         | film         |
|   | remnants   | remnants     | remnants     | remnants   | remnants     | remnants     |

# Spotlight on Fitzroy

Pictured: Top: Curtis Island Clean-up crew. Below: Sorting debris on Facing Island.

| Year                  | 2024  | 2023  | 2022  | 2021  | 2020  | 2019  |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Events                | 46    | 47    | 55    | 48    | 51    | 54    |
| Volunteers            | 240   | 530   | 1254  | 535   | 564   | 889   |
| Volunteer Hours       | 964   | 1684  | 2395  | 2372  | 1557  | 3536  |
| Weight (Kgs)          | 2009  | 2663  | 3719  | 3399  | 2225  | 4245  |
| Debris Density        | 0.06  | 0.07  | 0.01  | 0.01  | 0.02  | 0.02  |
| Land Sea Source Index | 36:64 | 23:77 | 31:69 | 29:71 | 16:84 | 32:68 |

|     |   | 2024                           | 2023                                | 2022                                | 2021                         | 2020                                | 2019                            |    |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|
|     | 1 | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants    | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants         | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants         | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants  | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants         | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants     |    |
| AZI | 2 | Plastic<br>lids/tops           | Plastic<br>lids/tops                | Plastic<br>lids/tops                | Plastic<br>lids/tops         | Plastic<br>lids/tops                | Plastic<br>lids/tops            |    |
|     | 3 | Glass,<br>Ceramics<br>(broken) | Synthetic<br>rope & net<br>remnants | Synthetic<br>rope & net<br>remnants | Plastic<br>food<br>packaging | Synthetic<br>rope & net<br>remnants | Cigarette<br>butts &<br>filters |    |
|     |   |                                |                                     |                                     | Eller                        |                                     |                                 |    |
|     |   |                                |                                     |                                     |                              |                                     |                                 | 14 |

### Spotlight on Burnett Mary

2024

2023

Pictured: Top: Microplastic monitoring at Norval Park. Below: Bustard Bay Community Clean-up.

| Year                  | 2024  | 2023  | 2022  | 2021  | 2020  | 2019  |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Events                | 33    | 27    | 28    | 29    | 28    | 31    |
| Volunteers            | 97    | 195   | 156   | 191   | 144   | 304   |
| Volunteer Hours       | 196   | 440   | 549   | 493   | 299   | 898   |
| Weight (Kgs)          | 431   | 373   | 779   | 819   | 258   | 579   |
| Debris Density        | 0.03  | 0.04  | 0.01  | 0.01  | 0.01  | 0.02  |
| Land Sea Source Index | 33:67 | 44:56 | 55:45 | 54:46 | 56:44 | 51:49 |

2022

2021

2020

2019

|       | 1 | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants      | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants      | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants     | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants      | Hard<br>plastic<br>remnants     |  |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| HOUSE | 2 | Plastic<br>lids/tops        | Plastic<br>lids/tops             | Cigarette<br>butts &<br>filters  | Cigarette<br>butts &<br>filters | Soft plastic<br>film<br>remnants | Cigarette<br>butts &<br>filters |  |
|       | 3 | Plastic<br>drink<br>bottles | Soft plastic<br>film<br>remnants | Soft plastic<br>film<br>remnants | Plastic<br>lids/tops            | Cigarette<br>butts &<br>filters  | Glass,<br>Ceramics<br>(broken)  |  |
|       |   |                             |                                  |                                  |                                 |                                  |                                 |  |
|       |   |                             |                                  | a. J                             |                                 | IRI PE                           |                                 |  |



Repurposing marine debris to track and remove ghost nets in the GBR

ReCon

With Satlink and industry partners, Tangaroa Blue Foundation® reconditions lost smart buoys and uses their "tag and track" abilities to recover Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), otherwise known as "Ghost Gear" from the ocean.

In 2024, we recovered 39 GPS buoys, which have either been repurposed or recycled through the program.



### 3 Tonnes of Ghost Gear Removed in the Gulf of Carpentaria

Between December 2023 and April 2024, Tangaroa Blue, alongside the Australian Border Force, Nanum Wungthim Land and Sea Rangers and Carpentaria Contracting, removed 3 tonnes of ghost gear in the first deployment of a ReCon buoy in the Gulf of Carpentaria.



Rig Recycle

Collecting and diverting recreational fishing gear from landfill through an innovative repair, reuse, and recycling system.

Tangaroa Blue's Rig Recycle program originated in Queensland in 2021 and has since expanded across New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.

The program, which helps keep recreational fishing gear out of the ocean and landfill, continues to grow each year. In 2024, fishers in Queensland have collected more than 230 kgs of unwanted fishing gear through Rig Recycle stations across the state.



### In Queensland alone, Rig Recycle has collected over 20,000+ items and counting!

Since it began, Rig Recycle has collected more than 5000 spools, 51,000 metres of braided fishing line and 155,000 metres of monofilament from Queensland communities and the GBR Reef catchment.

## Microplastic Sampling

Australian Microplastic Assessment Project (AUSMAP) samples were taken during clean-up activities at coastal monitoring sites along the Great Barrier Reef as part of the ReefClean<sup>®</sup> project.

38 microplastic surveys across six NRM regions (Figure 1) were completed. Microplastics were detected at 29 of the 38 sites, demonstrating their widespread distribution in coastal areas. Despite this, the overall level of contamination remained low, with most surveys reporting <10 microplastics per square meter (Table 1).

More information on microplastics, AUSMAP national microplastic hotspots and sampling methodology can be found at <u>www.ausmap.org</u>.

Pictured: Microplastic sampling at

Norval Park (pages 16 and 17).

#### **Working with AUSMAP**

By translating data into vivid maps of plastic pollution hotspots all over Australia with the help of citizen scientists, the Australian Microplastic Assessment Project makes it easy for everyone to see the scale and nature of the growing microplastic problem.





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|--|--|--|----------------------|---|------------------------------|----|
|  | Region (average<br>measured in<br>mp/m2)   | Site & Microplast<br>Level   | ic                   | Region (average<br>measured in<br>mp/m2)    | Site & Microplastic<br>Level |    |
|  | Cape York:   | Fly Point (Sept)   | 23                   | Mackay -                                    | Conway Beach<br>(June)       | 7  |
|  |  | Quintell Beach<br>(June)   | 8                    | <b>Whitsunday:</b><br>6 surveys<br>3 sites  | Conway Beach<br>(Sept)       | 50 |
| 100  | 6 surveys<br>4 sites   | Quintell Beach<br>(Sept)   | 1                    | NRM survey average = <b>30</b> Average from | Harbour<br>Beach (June)      | 0  |
|  | NRM survey<br>average = <mark>12</mark>  | Walker Bay<br>(Sept)   | 14                   |   | Harbour Beach<br>(Sept)      | 2  |
|  |  | Walker Bay<br>(Dec)  | 8                    | surveys where plastic was found             | Half Tide<br>Beach (June)    | 55 |
|  |  | Chilli Beach<br>(July)   | 17                   | = 36  | Half Tide<br>Beach (Sept)    | 68 |
| -  | Wet Tropics:   | Four Mile Beach<br>(June)  | 0                    |   | Farnborough<br>Beach (June)  | 1  |
| The Party of the P | 7 surveys 4 sites NRM survey average = 7 Average from surveys where plastic was found = 9.9  | Four Mile Beach<br>(Sept)  | 2                    |   | Farnborough<br>Beach (Sept)  | 17 |
|  |  | Flying Fish Point<br>(June)  | 4                    | 6 surveys 3 sites NRM survey average = 4.5  | Barney Point<br>(June)       | 3  |
| 100000   |  | Flying Fish Point<br>(Sept)  | 1                    |   | Barney Point<br>(Sept)       | 1  |
|  |  | Googarra Beach<br>(June)   | 0                    |   | Canoe Point<br>(June)        | 4  |
|  |  | Googarra Beach<br>(Sept)   | 5                    |   | Canoe Point<br>(Sept)        | 1  |
|  |  | Jilgi Beach (July)   | 37                   |   |                              |    |
|  |  | Shelly Cove<br>(June)  | 0                    |   | Surf Beach (June)            | 8  |
|  |  | Shelly Cove (Sept)   | 0                    |   | Surf Beach (Sept)            | 1  |
| Apply Assessment   | Burdekin:  | Alva Beach<br>(June)   | 0                    | Burnett Mary:                               | Norval Park<br>Beach (June)  | 1  |
| 6 surveys<br>3 sites   | Alva Beach<br>(Sept)   | 0  | 7 surveys<br>4 sites | Norval Park<br>Beach (Sept)                 | 14                           |    |
| 100 M  | NRM survey<br>average = 0  | Queens Beach<br>(June)   | 0                    | NRM survey<br>average = 7                   | Nielson Beach<br>(June)      | 8  |
| 2  |  | Queens Beach   |                      |   | Nielson Beach<br>(Sept)      | 14 |
|  |  | (Sept)   | 0                    |   | Endeavour Park<br>(Sept)     | 3  |

### Community Engagement

Providing knowledge & tools to combat marine debris.

ReefClean®raises awareness in Reef catchment communities about marine debris and equips people with practical actions to prevent litter from entering local waterways.

To support these efforts, ReefClean<sup>®</sup> delivers educational presentations, school activities, and source reduction workshops, along with comprehensive training modules to enhance monitoring methods for community partners. In 2024, ReefClean<sup>®</sup> worked with local communities across all 6 NRM regions

Pictured below: Volunteers sorting debris at a remote clean-up at Chilli Beach.

Community engagement is at the heart of our program. Through our events, we've built strong connections with passionate community groups along the coastline, all dedicated to protecting their local environment.

Pictured: Facing Island Community Clean-up





# Community Engagement Spotlight: Milbi Festival, Bundaberg

We brought ReefClean<sup>®</sup> to Bundaberg's Milbi Festival, a week-long event that explores the region's arts, culture, and natural beauty.

We got the chance to engage a new audience with the marine debris issue and gave visitors the opportunity to get involved with a clean-up at Bargara Turtle Park, with Tangaroa Blue Foundation Ambassador Elijah Richardson and students from St Joseph's School taking the lead!



#### **Engaging Schools**

With Marine Debris Prevention

Our ReefClean® team worked with 32 brilliant schools and 630 student participants in 2024, helping the students learn about how they can help reduce and prevent marine debris - which often includes taking the students for a beach clean-up!

Pieces of marine debris were collected by Trinity Anglican School students!

46 Kgs of marine debris were removed by Miallo State School!

Students and teachers joined the St Patrick's College Clean-up!





# Community Engagement Spotlight: Training with the GMYPPBC

In July 2024, the ReefClean® team travelled to Jilgi Beach, south of Yarrabah, to train with the Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Peoples Prescribed Body Corporate Aboriginal Corporation (GMYPPBC) Indigenous Rangers in marine debris monitoring processes. This training will support the Rangers in tracking and preventing debris along their coastline for the long term.

A key focus was learning how to record marine debris data in the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDI) Database. Using the free AMDI app, rangers, volunteers, and AMDI network partners can easily upload accurate debris data anytime,



Between July and December, we continued working alongside the Rangers across multiple beaches and monitoring sites (removing 64 kg of debris). It's been a privilege to support their efforts in caring for their land and sea Country. In August, the Rangers hosted us at Giangurra/Bessie Point for a clean-up with students from Trinity Anglican School, who embraced the opportunity to help protect the Reef and coastline from marine debris.

Pictured: The GMY Rangers removing marine debris from Jilji Beach.





GREAT BARRIER REEF CLEAN-UP 2024

2402
KGS
REMOVED

147
CLEAN-UP
EVENTS

1842

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

40
LOCATIONS

97,000

MARINE DEBRIS
ITEMS REMOVED

13.5K

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

50
PARTNERS

8.7

MILLION ESTIMATED NEWS REACH









#### Contributing **Organisations**

- 1770 Larc Tours
- **Aboriginals and Torres Strait** Islanders in Marine Science (ATSIMS) JCU
- Absolute North Charters
- AGE Consultants
- Agile Project
- **Apudthama Rangers (NPARC)**
- **Ausfield Services**
- **AUSMAP**
- Australian Government Reef Trust
- Australian Institute of Marine
- Australian Marine Conservation
- Australian Native Bee Association
- Belgian Gardens State School
- Bio Fouling Technology
- Birdlife Northern Queensland
- Boyne Tannum Hookup Volunteer Committee
- Bundaberg Regional Council
- C&R Consulting
- CAFNEC
- Cairns Regional Council
- Cairns Turtle Rehab Centre
- Capricorn Coast Eco Warriors
- Capricorn Coast Landcare Group
- Capricorn Conservation Council
- Cassowary Coast Regional CouncilChristine Holden Art
- Citizens of the GBR
- Clean Up Australia
- Cleanco
- Coastal Dry Tropics Landcare Inc.
- Community Foods
- Concentis
- Conocophillips
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Cooloola Coastcare Association Inc
- Coral Sea Marina
- CoralWatch
- CQ Offroad Club
- CQG consulting

- Curtis Ferry Services
  Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal
  Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry
- Department of Resources
- Douglas Shire Council
- Eco Barge Clean Seas
- EcoMarines Foundation

- EcoTourism Australia
- Entrada Travel Group Frankland Islands
- Envite Environment
- Fitzroy Fourbies 4wd Club
- Gladstone Healthy Harbour **Partnership**
- Gimuy Rangers
- Girringun Aboriginal Rangers
- Gladstone Ports Corporation
- Gladstone Regional Council
- Gladstone Rotaract
- Great Barrier Reef Foundation
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)
- Green Island Resort
- Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji **Peoples Prescribed Body** Corporation RNTBC (GMYPPBC)
- Healthy Rivers to Reef
- Healthy Waters Partnership for the **Dry Tropics**
- Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation
- James Cook University
- JCU TropWATER
- Jet Zero Australia
- Kuranda Envirocare
- Kuranda Skyrail
- Kuuku Ya'u Land Trust Rangers
- Lady Musgrave Island
- Lama Lama Aboriginal RangersLama Lama Land Trust
- Livingstone Shire Council
- Mackay Conservation Group
- Madjandji Aboriginal Corporation
- Magnetic Island Community Development Association (MICDA)
  Mamu Aboriginal Corporation
- Mamu Aboriginal Corporation **RNTBC**
- Mandingalbay Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation (MYAC)
- Mandubarra Land and Sea Rangers
- Mangrove Watch
- Manta Tours
- Mossman Boating Fishing Club
- Mossman Youth Services
- Mulgrave Landcare
- National Electric Ant Eradication **Program**
- North Marine
- North Queensland Bulk Ports

#### Contributing **Organisations**

- North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC)
- **North Wind Environmental Services**
- **NQ Dry Tropics**
- Opposite Lock Automotive
- Ornatas
- Orpheus Island Research Station
- OzHarvest
- Permaculture Cairns
- Pioneer Catchment Landcare Group
- Plastic Free Plastics CQ
- Plastic Free Townsville
- PLOYS
- Port of Townsville Limited
- Prizm Engineering Pty Ltd
- Project Booyah MackayQCB Third Party Team
- QLD Department of Corrections Queensland Government
- Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service
- Queensland Waters and Land Carers
- Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre
- Reef Catchments
- Reef Check Australia (RCA)
- Reef Distillers
- Reef Ecologic

- Santos
- Sea Turtle Foundation
- Shell QGC
- South Cape York Catchments
- Sustainable Clean Fishing (SCF)
- Sustainable Fishing Australia
- **Tablelands Regional Council**
- Tangaroa Blue Foundation
- Team Turtle CQTIDY Up Townsville
- Townsville City Council
- **Trinity Motors**
- University of New South WalesVisionary Ocean Warriors
- Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji **Aboriginal Corporation**
- Wavelength Reef Cruises
- Weigh Auto Group
- Wet Tropics Management AuthorityWhales of the Whitsundays
- Whitsundays Catchment & Landcare
- Wildlife Surrounds
- Woppaburra TUMRA Aboriginal Corporation
- Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation
- Yeppoon SeagullsYeppoon Swans
- Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

#### **Contributing Schools**

- Ayr State High School
- Bowen State High School
- Bwgcolman Community School
- Clinton State High School
- Cooktown State School
- Gilroy Santa Maria College
- Heatley Secondary College
- Holy Spirit College Manoora
- Home Hill Secondary CollegeIndie School Townsville
- Ingham State High SchoolInnisfail State School
- Kirwan State High School
- Miallo State School
- Northern Beaches State High School
- Ryan Catholic College
- Silkwood State School P&C

- St Benedict's Catholic School
- St. Brendan's Catholic Primary **School**
- St Joseph's Catholic School, Mundingburra
- St Josephs School Bundaberg
- St Margaret Mary's College
- St Michael's Catholic School
- St Patricks College Townsville
- St Teresa's College, Abergowrie
- The Cathedral School
- **Thuringowa State High School**
- Townsville Grammar School
- Townsville State High School
- Trinity Anglican School, Cairns
- Trinity College Gladstone
- William Ross State High School















We would like to thank all partnering organisations of ReefClean® for helping us to deliver a better future for our Reef.



























