



National Environmental
Research Program

TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS *hub*



Australian Government

Department of the Environment

NERP TE Hub Conference 2014

5th-7th November 2014
Pullman Reef Hotel Casino,
Wharf Street, Cairns

Conference Schedule



Wednesday 5th November

MICHAELMAS CAY BALLROOM

8:30 Registration

9:00 Opening

9:10 Welcome to Country

9:30 Keynote Address

10:15 Science Leader

10:30-11:00 Morning Tea

MICHAELMAS CAY BALLROOM

Historical and current condition of the GBR

Convener – Fergus Molloy (GBRMPA)

Dating coral mortality and characterizing drivers in the GBR

Ecological responses to environmental change on the GBR

27-year decline of coral cover on the GBR

Down and staying down? – signs of recovery in GBR corals

REEF ROOM

Key habitats of the Torres Strait land and sea

Convener – Damian Miley (TSRA)

Mangrove and freshwater habitat status of Torres Strait islands

Monitoring the health of Torres Strait coral reefs

Hazard assessment for water quality threats to Torres Strait marine waters and ecosystems

12:30-13:30 Lunch

Decision support systems for GBR managers

Convener – Randall Owens (GBRMPA)

Decision support for a vulnerable GBR under environmental change

Local people influencing regional coastal management: decision support tools and experiences through case studies

Decision support for prioritising management actions on GBR islands

Using Bayesian networks for assessing cumulative impacts: a case study on the GBR zone

Resilient Torres Strait communities

Convener – Vic McGrath (TSRA)

Building resilient communities for Torres Strait futures

Improved disease detection and prevention of spread in Torres Strait

Torres Strait eAtlas

15:00-15:30 Afternoon Tea

Socio-economic value of the GBR

Convener – Col McKenzie (AMPTO)

Social and Economic Long-Term Monitoring Programme (SELTMP)

Socio-economic systems and reef resilience

GBR eAtlas: making environmental research data accessible

Managing turtle and dugong populations

Convener – Damian Miley (TSRA)

Dugongs and turtles in Torres Strait and the GBR: The big picture

Turtles and dugongs in Torres Strait and the GBR: Insights for each animal

17:00 End of Day 1

17:30-19:30 Evening Event: Indigenous Focus (**Urchins Room & Arlington Bar**, Level 2)

Thursday 6th November

9:00 Start

MICHAELMAS CAY BALLROOM

Movements and habitat use by mobile predators

Convener – Darren Cameron (GBRMPA)

Maximising the benefits of mobile predators to GBR ecosystems: The importance of movement, habitat and environment

Drivers of juvenile shark biodiversity and abundance in inshore ecosystems of the GBR

Critical seabird foraging locations and trophic relationships for the GBR

REEF ROOM

Patterns of rainforest biodiversity

Convener – Steve Goosem (WTMA)

Rainforest biodiversity

What is at risk? Identifying rainforest refugia and hotspots of plant genetic diversity in the Wet Tropics and Cape York Peninsula

The importance of peripheral areas of the Wet Tropics for conservation of biodiversity

Climate change and the impacts of extreme climatic events on Australia's Wet Tropics biodiversity

10:30-11:00 Morning Tea

Effectiveness of spatial management on the GBR

Convener – David Wachenfeld (GBRMPA)

Some effects of protection from fishing on offshore reefs of the GBRWHA

Do green zones work? Assessing the ecological effects of management zoning on inshore reefs of the GBR Marine Park

Do green zone networks work? Seascape connectivity among coral trout populations on the GBR

Maintaining rainforest values

Convener – Travis Sydes (FNQROC)

Monitoring of key vertebrate species

Fire and rainforests

Invasive species risks and responses in the Wet Tropics

Harnessing natural regeneration for cost-effective rainforest restoration

12:30-13:30 Lunch

Water quality of the GBR: Priority pollutants and threatening processes

Convener – John Bennett (EHP)

The effects of river discharge on regional turbidity in the GBR

The chronic effects of pesticides and their persistence in tropical waters

Experimental and field investigations of combined water quality and climate effects on corals and other reef organisms

Vulnerability of seagrasses to flood plumes

People and rainforests

Convener – Jeff Sayer (JCU)

Towards co-governance with Rainforest Aboriginal peoples: delivering biodiversity conservation and multiple co-benefits in our tropical forests

Relative social and economic values of residents and tourists in the WTWHA

Governance, planning and effective adaptation of ecosystem service markets to climate adaptation and landscape resilience

15:00-15:30 Afternoon Tea

Water quality of the GBR: Policy responses

Convener – John Bennett (EHP)

Research user speakers

Wet Tropics rainforests: Where to from here?

Convener – Andrew Maclean (WTMA)

17:00 End of Day 2

17:30-19:00 Poster Session with refreshments (**Urchins Room & Arlington Bar**, Level 2)

19:00-Late Evening Event: stand up finger food and drinks (**Coral Lounge**, Pool Deck Level 4)

Friday 7th November

9:00 Start

MICHAELMAS CAY BALLROOM

**Crown-of-thorns starfish:
Where to from here?**

Convener – Steve Moon (AMPTO)

**Knowledge brokering across the landscape:
Where to from here?**

Convener – Carole Sweatman
(Terrain NRM)

REEF ROOM

**Indigenous:
Where to from here?**

Convener – Melissa George

**Marine and terrestrial tourism:
Where to from here?**

Convener – John Courtenay
(Alliance for Sustainable Tourism)

11:00-11:30 Morning Tea

MICHAELMAS CAY BALLROOM

Concluding session

Convener – Di Tarte
(Tropical Ecosystems Hub Steering Committee Chair)
plus IG Chairs

13:00 Conference Close with Lunch