Public art and reef recovery to improve Whitsundays tourism  
5 June 2019

Public Consultation and Public Information Package indicates support

There have been three separate but linked public consultation processes for the Public Art component of this project;

- 12 months of consultation and co-design meetings with stakeholders (580 events involving 2265 people),
- social survey of tourists views of art research at Langford Reef (446 people); and
- a Public Information Package and Frequently Asked Questions (7 responses).

Our consultation suggest a majority (71-100%) of people have strongly supported underwater sculptures at degraded GBR sites to assist tourism, reef restoration and education.

Public Art Update

Five of the six major sculptures have been completed and several are on public display. Turtle Dream (pictured top right and below left) (artist Col Henry) and Maori Wrasse (artist Adriaan Vanderlugt) are on display at the Bowen Information Centre. Manta Ray (Bottom right) (artist Adriaan Vanderlugt) is on display at Proserpine Airport. Bywa (picture bottom right) and Migration of the Manta (artist Brian Robinson) are close to completion and Anthozoa (Arts Based Collective) is progressing. We have collaborated with Whitsunday Regional Council and Bowen Tourism & Business Visitor Information Centre to place the sculptures temporarily and designs education signs about the reef, underwater sculptures and education.

Whitsunday Mayor Andrew Willcox with artists Adriaan Vanderlugt and Col Henry at Bowen Information
Indigenous Involvement in Public Art Development

Two of the sculptors are collaborating with local indigenous artist Nicky Bidju Prior and one of the sculptors has collaborated with Arthur Gaby. As part of our consultation we have rediscovered a research article from 1936 that includes some Traditional Ngaro language names for marine species including Munguna (Manta Ray), Maeyila (Hawksbill turtle) and Guilmula (Coral trout).

Permit and planned installation dates in August

We are working closely with government and the tourism industry on permit processes and Environmental Management Plan. We are working in partnership with local dive and salvage business to develop an Installation Plan for the underwater sculptures and associated moorings. We plan to install the sculptures in mid to late July for a launch date in early August to coincide with the Whitsunday Reef Restival.

Project in the media

This project has received widespread coverage throughout the media over the past few months highlighting the excitement and enthusiasm the project is creating in the community and beyond.

- Sculptures a work of art
- Whitsundays artists work to help restore reef
- Marine art to heal and restore the reef
- Reef recovery artwork on display at Big Mango
- Art on show at Big Mango
- Reef education big focus for the Whitsundays Big Mango
- Reef restoration project showing positive signs
- Can reef restoration help save our coral?

![Manta ray sculpture to aid reef](image)
Reef Restoration
In April and May we had the pleasure of outplanting our first nursery reared corals onto the Reef. This is an exciting step representing a crucial stage in the recovery of these locations. We outplanted 88 coral colonies at Blue Pearl Bay and 100 coral colonies at Manta Ray Bay in 25m² quadrats. Twenty percent of the colonies have been marked with small tags for continued monitoring (Pictured below left and below right). Simultaneously we propagated our rope nurseries with an additional 180 coral colonies in Blue Pearl Bay and 210 coral colonies in Manta Ray Bay. This work was made possible with fantastic support from the local community, like local champion Tony Fontes (pictured centre below). Overall survival for all coral colonies propagated remains high at 80% across all locations and methods which is a very positive result.

How you can help the reef
1. Volunteer with Reef Ecologic to assist with reef restoration (nathan.cook@reefecoogic.org or phone 0437 318802)
2. Share this communiqué with your social media and business networks
3. Take a friend snorkelling on the reef
4. Reduce your environmental footprint and take a specific action such as buy local food produce

Upcoming activities
Proposed activities and milestones in June-August 2019
- Artwork installation at Horseshoe Bay, Blue Pearl Bay and Manta Ray Bay (pending permit approval)
- Reef restoration monitoring and maintenance at Blue Pearl and Manta Ray Bay
- 1-4 August: Whitsunday Reef Festival artist talks and tours (pending permit decisions)
Six educational signs share knowledge about the Whitsunday reef project (you can view several of the completed sculptures (before they are installed underwater) and read about the project at Bowen Information Centre and Proserpine Airport).

Indicative Project Timeline

Artwork criteria and Call for artists
Initial consultation

Reef restoration Phase I

Reef restoration initial monitoring

Reef restoration Phase II-Outplanting and re-propagating

Art Installations

Reef restoration Phase III

2018

May

Jun

Sep

Dec

Completed activities

Artists contracted

Site assessments and permit application

2019

Jun

Jul

Sep

Dec

We are here

Monthly consultation

Thank you for your support

Australian Government
Tourism Whitsundays
Explore Whitsundays
Whitsunday Reef Festival
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Whitsunday Moorings & Marine Constructions
G Adventures

Queensland Government
David Edge Barges
Aquadive Airlie Beach
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Explore Whitsundays
Coral Coast Oceaneering
Planeterra Foundation

Thank you for your support
For more information please contact Reef Ecologic at adam.smith@reefecologic.org or see www.reefecologic.org