

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Rockhampton
recreational fishing
development strategy

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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priority actions

- Infrastructure**
- Build a new North Rockhampton Boat Ramp Facility in the centre of the City
 - Extend the Littler Cum-Ingham Park Boat Ramp car parking
 - Build a new boat ramp facility in the Port Alma area
 - Create designated land based fishing opportunities across the Region
- Business Development**
- Support fishing related businesses to establish themselves within the Region
 - Bring together businesses to create recreational fishing packages
- Marketing**
- Development of a Strategic Marketing Plan
 - Create an interactive website and social media presence
- Fisheries Management**
- Implement a voluntary Fishing Code of Conduct to protect Barramundi and Threadfin
 - Undertake a greater education and compliance effort to ensure a regulated fishery
- Ecology**
- Monitor the health of fish stocks and their environment
 - Implement Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers to assist with compliance & environment programs

welcome to darumbal country

mayimbugu darumbal nunthi

Mayor’s Message

The Rockhampton Region is more than just the Beef Capital of Australia, we are also the traditional home of Barramundi and King Threadfin.

Since the time of the dreaming, the Darumbal people have called the fish with the large scales the “Bardda Moon Di”, our home is where the name Barramundi was derived. This fish has a significant cultural connection to the Darumbal people and it is easy to see why; it is magnificent, it is tenacious and it never gives up without a fight.

The Fitzroy River is the only place in Australia where recreational fishing can combine with a mighty river in proximity to city amenities, offering a fishing experience with these two iconic species.

To take the next step and be known as the “Home of the Barramundi and Threadfin” the Region needs to have a long term holistic strategy that commits to marine infrastructure building, business development, innovative marketing, sustainable fisheries management and caring for the habitats that our fish call home.

Mayor of Rockhampton
Cr Margaret Strelow

Chair of Infrastructure

The Rockhampton Region has a significant economic opportunity through recreational fishing tourism however the product must meet the expectation of the customer and as the Chair of Infrastructure I understand that our current marine infrastructure does not meet the requirements of fishers.

Landbased fishing opportunities along the Fitzroy River, new boat ramp facilities in North Rockhampton and Port Alma, coupled with car park extensions need to be undertaken so that we can take the step and be the “Home of Barramundi and Threadfin”.

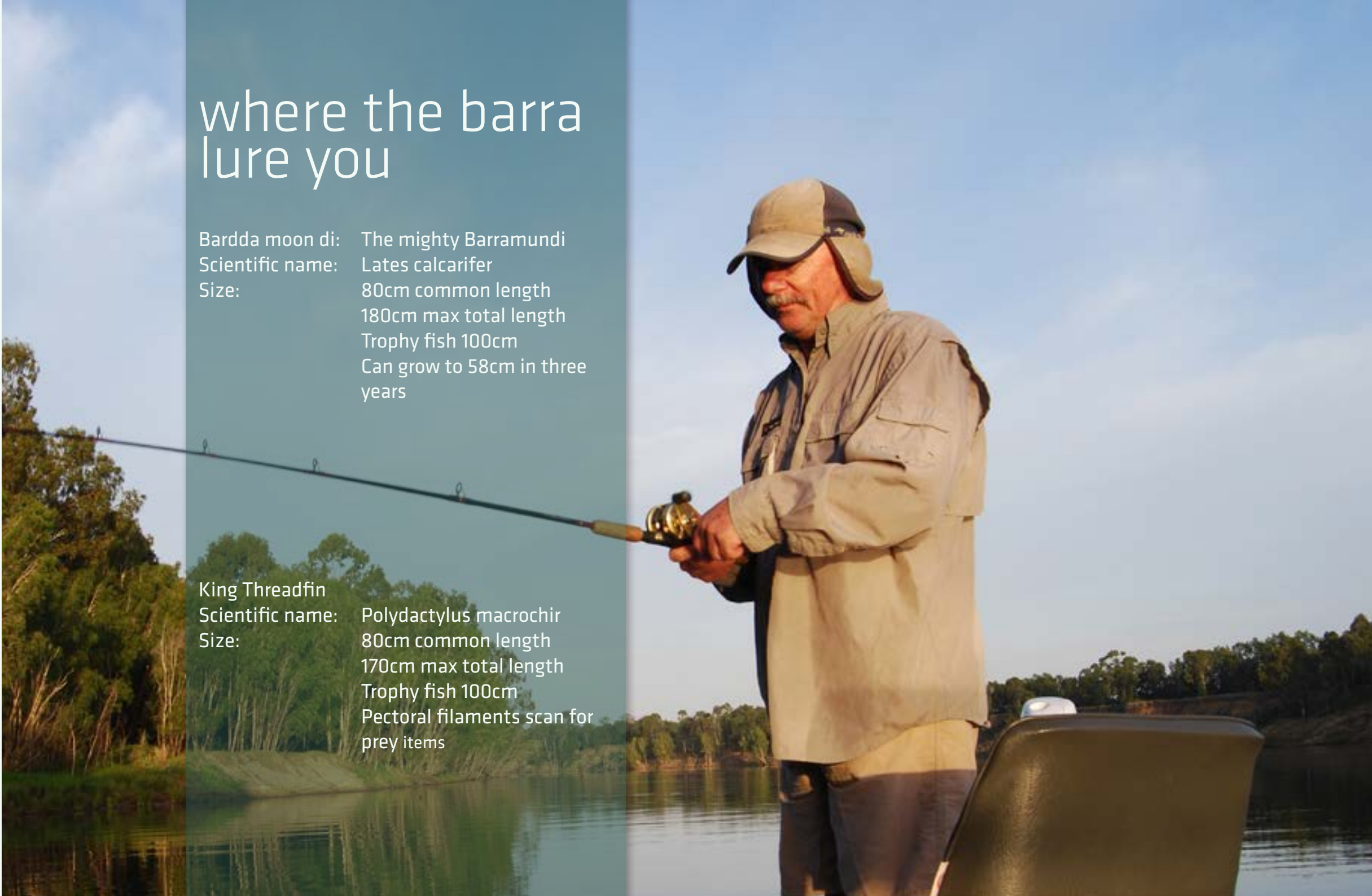
To build the marine infrastructure the region requires Council and the State Government to work together to make this a reality.

Chair of Infrastructure
Cr Tony Williams

where the barra lure you

Bardda moon di: The mighty Barramundi
Scientific name: Lates calcarifer
Size: 80cm common length
180cm max total length
Trophy fish 100cm
Can grow to 58cm in three years

King Threadfin
Scientific name: Polydactylus macrochir
Size: 80cm common length
170cm max total length
Trophy fish 100cm
Pectoral filaments scan for prey items



rationale for a recreational fishing strategy

The declaration of a Net Free Zone (NFZ) over the lower Fitzroy and Keppel Bay has provided a unique and perhaps once in a generation opportunity to create a new tourism destination product for Central Queensland. Properly developed and managed it can also provide improved lifestyles for local recreational fishers and the community generally.

In 2013 a State-wide Recreational Fishing Survey reported there were 22,000 fishers in the broader region. Elsewhere government agencies report there are 639,000 fishers in Queensland, with 350,000 living in SE Qld. Add to these the 773,000 living in NSW reportedly spending \$1.625bn annually and the opportunity is clear. Rockhampton is only a day's drive from South East Qld and Northern NSW. It is the first truly tropical system heading north hosting iconic sports fish such as the Barramundi and King Threadfin in reliable numbers.

Anglers are regularly travelling much greater distances to Cape York, NT and even the Kimberley to target trophy size fish. While the remote experience may be unique, we can offer the fishing in comfort and within a day's drive or an hour's flight from home. Soon there will be more and bigger fish in the system as a result of the Net Free Zone (NFZ). The business opportunities in accommodating, guiding, feeding, servicing and entertaining these visitors don't stretch the imagination too much.

Internationally adventure tourism is a rapidly growing sector as people confined to large cities seek out more natural, environmentally sustainable and authentic experiences. There are 40 million fishers in the USA, 25 million in Europe and a significant growing audience throughout Asia all sharing diminishing resources. The number of international tourists coming to Australia is growing rapidly. Of the 3 million that came in 2015 the highest rated destinations were the Great Barrier Reef and beaches. It isn't hard to join the opportunity dots among these numbers.

Need we go on.

The possibilities don't end there. Lets get on with it!!



community engagement

Online, hard copy and face to face surveys were completed between 11 January 2016 and 8 February 2016. In total, 410 responses were received and this provides the survey a 95% confidence level +/-4.8% based on a local 22,000 fishing population.

Main messages from participants

- 83% of respondents want to see improvements to marine infrastructure.
- Most boating respondents requested improvements to existing boat ramps.
- Improving land based fishing opportunities is the single most important aspect for local fishers due to current high height of structures / inaccessibility to riverbanks.
- Additional boats ramps requested at North Rockhampton side (Callaghan Park) and then at Port Alma.
- Business development opportunities mentioned by respondents include fishing charters, boat hire, tour guides, targeted accommodation and bait & tackle shops.
- Other ideas included: fishing lodges, eco tours, seafood restaurants, houseboats, BBQ boats, bait farming, additional caravan parks, food & drink vendors and charter|catch|cook operations.
- Social media, TV shows and more fishing tournaments were identified as key aspects to marketing our fishery by respondents.
- Lowering sports fish bag limits, improving compliance, adjusting sports fish size limits were the three main methods fishers indicated to ensuring a sustainable fishery.
- The three main methods fishers believed would improve the local catchment environment included cleaning up the Riverbank/River, keeping pollutants out of the river and increasing policing.

case study

International Adventure Fishing Tourism

There are increasing numbers of international tourists seeking natural experiences rather than the traditional resort or bright lights experience.

In the year ending June 2015, nearly 3 million international tourists came to Australia, a 5% increase on 2014. They were surveyed to reveal their favourite experiences. The highest rated attractions were the Great Barrier Reef, the beaches and wildlife.

As an indication of the potential for sport fishing tourism, in 2013, there were reportedly 40 million anglers in the USA and 25 million in Europe.

The adventure tourism industry is growing strongly in both places. Sport fishing tourism meets the criteria to be described as adventure tourism.

UK Salmon and Trout Association have calculated that to catch one salmon on the River Spey an adventure tourist pays 500 pounds. That same fish is worth 20 pound at the fish monger. Fishing on this one river generates 11.8 million pound per annum and supports 367 full time local jobs. There is similar analysis available for the relative worth of the recreational fishery for many other locations.

While the experience of catching a large barramundi is different, if well managed it can be just as memorable and more reliable.



Ski Gardens Boat Ramp Facility

1 boat lane
20 car & trailer parks
landing structure
(FRESHWATER)



WANDAL

Huish Drive Fishing Jettys

ROCKHAMPTON CITY

Upgrade City Jetty

Little Cum-Ingham Boat Ramp & Fishing Platform

4 boat lanes
45 car & trailer parks
2 pontoons & separate fishing platform area



THE RANGE

ALLENSTOWN

Larcombe Street Boat Ramp Facility

1 boat lane
30 car & trailer parks
landing structure
(FRESHWATER)



PARK AVENUE

BERSERKER

DEPOT HILL

Wharf Street Fishing Platform



Gavial Creek Fishing Platform



infrastructure requirements

Reaney Street Boat/Charter Lease

KOONGAL

Proposed

Existing

North Rockhampton Boat Ramp Facility

2 Boat Lanes
45 car & trailer parks
Pontoon



Lakes Creek Fishing Platform



LAKES CREEK

North Rockhampton Fishing Platform



THE COMMON

Port Alma Boat Ramp Facility (48km)

4 boat lanes
90 car & trailer parks
Pontoons



1. Marine infrastructure plan

There is already a shortfall in the standard and capacity of infrastructure to service the existing trailer boat fleet in the region. Increased local participation and sports fishing tourism visitation numbers will exacerbate this and ultimately threaten the economic and lifestyle benefits now possible. This plan identifies new infrastructure or augmentations of existing structures required in response to the current and forecast increased demand.

2. Business development and support plan

Local businesses will need to be made aware of the opportunity before them. They must be informed, encouraged and supported to develop in a way that takes maximum advantage. The on land experience must match the quality of fishing. All standards of accommodation, small boat sales and servicing, fast food and dining and importantly new fishing tour operations will be required. With extended stays there will also be a flow on economic benefit to many other sectors.

Government regulation and red tape needs to be managed to ensure development is not impeded unnecessarily.

3. Marketing and promotions plan

Local participation will increase organically through word of mouth and social media. Social media will also generate some additional visitation interest. However to fully realise the potential benefits of the Net Free Zone (NFZ) a comprehensive and well-timed marketing and promotions strategy will be required. Part of this will be to develop new events or augment existing ones to celebrate and showcase this exciting experience. It will ultimately have international appeal in the growing adventure tourism market. In particular as population pressures and poor fisheries management elsewhere depletes their wild fish stocks.

4. Fisheries management plan

It will be critically important that this new opportunity is not squandered due to poor management of fishers. All levels of government and the community have a major role in protecting the fishery. From catchment health to the community respecting the extraordinary asset they now have will require targeted efforts.

To manage and protect the brand established to market this experience it will be necessary to monitor and forecast sport fishing outcomes by season. This will allow marketing strategies to respond to the natural ebb and flow of fish stocks.

5. Freshwater and Estuary Ecology Plan

Ensuring a healthy freshwater and estuary environment is the responsibility of all levels of Government, the community and potential fishing related businesses. Having a healthy freshwater and estuary system is necessary to assist a healthy fishery. Upstream catchment health will need to be prioritised.



recreational fishing strategy

focus areas

marine infrastructure plan

Creating an infrastructure plan to meet local demand and support economic development requires;

1. Maintaining appropriate and timely levels of investment.
2. Maintaining and managing exposure of the Fitzroy River ecology.
3. Ensuring the fishing experience meets expectations.
4. Testing the carrying capacity of the Fitzroy delta.
5. Infrastructure funding to support 270 trailer loaded vessels for the Fitzroy delta and 90 trailer loaded vessels for the far southern areas of Keppel Bay.

As the quality of the fishery in the river and delta grows it is reasonable to assume that the local catchment for small boat access (<5m) should include the Rockhampton Regional Council, Livingstone Shire Council and to a lesser extent Central Highlands Regional Council. Many of the boats registered on the Central Highlands are either stored for use locally or regularly trailed to the coast for use.

There are 8,054 boats < 5m registered in these areas as at 31 October, 2015. Of these 4,116 are in Rockhampton, 3,112 in Livingstone and 1,652 in the Central Highlands. The Rockhampton Region cannot as it stands support these types of fleets due to limited infrastructure. Promote the region as a fishing tourism destination requires demand driver infrastructure investment.

STAKEHOLDERS

- DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT & MAIN ROADS
- GLADSTONE PORTS CORPORATION
- ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
- BOATING & FISHING COMMUNITY

What do we have and what do we need?

Rockhampton Region is currently restrained with only nine saltwater designated boat lanes including the Nerimbera facility. Access between the saltwater and freshwater sides of the Fitzroy River is hindered by the barrage. It estimated 60 car and trailer parks are available across all boat ramp areas.

As of October 2015 the Rockhampton Regional Council area had 5,189 registered vessels with approximately 4,825 of these vessels trailer loaded. Forecasts for registered vessels are in the range 2% to 4% per year until 2030.

Based on average demand (14% of the trailer fleet), the Rockhampton Region requires 17 boat lanes and approximately 380 car parks.

In terms of land based fishing the Rockhampton Region has a number of static jetties and various makeshift fishing locations along the river. Functional land based fishing opportunities are required at accessible locations across the Region.

future water based infrastructure

such as boat ramps

This strategy is focused on realising the economic benefit to be gained from the introduction of the NFZ and to improve local amenity. The standard of infrastructure must therefore be in keeping with the expectations of locals and visiting fishers.

The following projects are identified for further consultation with the community and as a basis for infrastructure planning by governments.

| KEY PROJECTS | NEEDS | SOLUTION | |
|--|--|---|-----------|
| New North Rockhampton Boat Ramp Facility | <ul style="list-style-type: none">A modern boat launching facility within the City limits for residents and tourists.To alleviate the under supply of boat lanes for the local community, particularly on the northern side of the river. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provision of a new two lane boat ramp in the centre of the City with a pontoon system and a 45 car and trailer unit car park.Provision of toilets, drinking water, fish cleaning area. | Very High |
| Littler Cum-Ingham Car and Trailer Parking Extension | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional trailer parking to optimise the Littler Cum-Ingham Boat Ramp facility at Quay St. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Plan to increase the parking at this facility to 45 car and trailer parks. | Very High |
| New Port Alma Boat Ramp | <ul style="list-style-type: none">A modern boat launching facility at Port Alma for residents and tourists.Better amenities at the Port Alma facility. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">New two lane boat ramp and pontoon located appropriately at Port Alma.Provision of toilets, drinking water and fish cleaning area. | Very High |
| Improve facilities at the Larcombe Street Boat Ramp | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved boat ramp, parking and associated facilities upstream of the barrage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provision of a formalised 30 car and trailer unit car park.Investigate options for a pontoon / landing area.Widen the boat ramp lanes to allow for the launching / retrieval of two boats at a time. Currently only boat launch is possible.Provision of toilets, drinking water and lighting. | Low |
| Ski Gardens Boat Ramp | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved boat ramp, parking and associated facilities upstream of the barrage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provision of a new two lane boat ramp on the freshwater side of the barrage with a pontoon system and approx 25-30 car and trailer unit car park. | Medium |
| Fitzroy River Navigation Markers | <ul style="list-style-type: none">To direct vessel traffic along a safe route within the river. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide Navigational markers along the river's main channel. | Medium |

Priority Actions & Milestones:

1. Survey current and model future infrastructure demand across the region.
2. CBD Redevelopment Framework to also consider infrastructure to support this strategy.
3. Undertake community and stakeholder consultation on the water based and land based infrastructure plan.
4. Council endorsement of the infrastructure priority list.
5. Submit priority projects for funding through various Federal and State Government programs.



land based infrastructure

such as fishing platforms

Fishing platforms and land based fishing areas are as important as boat ramps for locals and visitors. Many younger residents are unable to afford access to water based opportunities and therefore land based fishing is how they first learn how to fish.

There should be a variety of locations throughout the Region to provide opportunities for locals to stroll down and throw a line in the water. The provision of functional platforms on the outer reaches will create a sense of adventure, but must always remain safe for family use. The following projects are identified for further investigation, community consultation and detailed planning.

| KEY PROJECTS | NEEDS | SOLUTION | PRIORITY |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|-----------|
| North Rockhampton Fishing Platforms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of multiple land based fishing opportunities close to the centre of the City.• Provision of drinking water, fish cleaning area etc... | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide three additional designated fishing platforms in North Rockhampton. Sites for investigation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Queens Park• Lakes Creek• The Common (Close to the Cyril-Connell-Fields) | Very High |
| South Rockhampton Fishing Platforms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of multiple land based fishing opportunities close to the centre of the City.• Provision of drinking water, fish cleaning area etc... | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide four additional designated fishing platforms in South Rockhampton. Sites for investigation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Littler Cum-Ingham Park• Under the Neville Hewitt Bridge• Wharf Street (Depot Hill)• Gavial Creek | Very High |
| Outer Reaches Fishing Platforms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of land based fishing opportunities outside of the City. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide four additional designated fishing platforms in areas outside Rockhampton City. Sites for investigation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• River Road (Midgee)• Six Mile Reserve• Mount Morgan Dam No.7• Woolwash | High |
| Rockhampton City Jetty Upgrade | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of a jetty that allows easy access to the river. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a floating jetty with a setback walkway landing that can adjust itself with the movements of the tides. | High |



business development and support plan

Many areas will need to undertake a structured approach to recreational fishing opportunities. Realising the full benefits from these opportunities will require hospitality and service businesses to adapt and some new business start-ups. The following projects are identified for further investigation, community consultation and planning.

key projects

| Key Projects | Needs | Solution | Priority |
|--|---|--|-----------|
| Fishing Tourism Industry Partnership Program (FTIPP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strong collaboration and support for business start-ups and adaptation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilitation of FTIPP including linkages with government agencies and tourism bodies. | Very High |
| Business planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sound business planning and managementTourism skills development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage 'Economic Gardening' for small business operators.Council's Regional Business Development Officer to provide service support. | Very High |
| Market Research | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Adequate research required into behaviours and drivers of target markets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Undertake market research on fishing tourism. | High |
| Business Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide ongoing training, skills development and support to assist developing businesses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Form a Reference Committee sub group of business and interest group representatives. | Very High |
| Economic modelling | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Major infrastructure business planning guided by economic modelling. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Commission CQUniversity to develop a business model that informs small business and infrastructure decisions. | High |
| Tourism Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tourism product development to support integrated and packaged marketing activity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop seamless packaged tourism experiences that appeal to identified target markets. | High |

STAKEHOLDERS

- BUSINESS COMMUNITY
- CAPRICORN ENTERPRISE
- DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES
- DHARUMBAL PEOPLE
- ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

Priority Actions & Milestones:

- Support the establishment of fishing guide businesses.
- Begin discussions between the Council and the State Government about a dedicated charter and boat hire and charter boat centre (Reaney Street Boat Ramp and surrounds have been identified as a possibility).
- Identify and bring together businesses that may be interested in forming the Fishing Tourism Industry Partnership Program.
- Establish the Fishing Tourism Industry Partnership Program.
- Identify barriers to viable fishing tourism operators.



marketing and promotions plan

This Region has all the ingredients to become one of Australia’s most important adventure tourism destinations for domestic and international markets.

There is no other area in Australia that is able to legitimately claim the name of Barramundi. Added to this credibility is the ease of access to the river, proximity between accommodation, airport and roads to fishing spots and at a number of price points. This positions the Region with the potential for significant tourism growth.

An international tourist could land at the Rockhampton Airport, check in at a local hotel and then meet a fishing charter and potentially have their first catch within an hour of landing on the tarmac. Not too many places can offer that. There is an opportunity to promote the area to the 350,000 fishers in the South East corner and to the 773,000 in New South Wales. This can ultimately extend to the 40 million fishers in the USA, 25 million in Europe and a growing Asian middle class.

| KEY PROJECTS | ACTIONS | PRIORITY |
|--|--|-----------|
| Strategic Marketing Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strategic marketing plan workshop identifying key target markets for fishing tourism and points of differenceStakeholder agreement on brand storyKey branded messages timed to coincide with product development | Very High |
| Preliminary digital campaign | <ul style="list-style-type: none">An interim social media campaign based on target marketsPresence on existing fishing digital platformsIntegration with existing marketing platforms including ‘OSCAR’ | Very High |
| Rockhampton Region Barramundi website | <ul style="list-style-type: none">A tailored website that is readily accessibleSocial media feeds to appeal to fishers | Very High |
| Rockhampton Region Barramundi / Threadfin marketing campaign | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prepare for a significant marketing campaign in 2017 tailored to markets according to product developmentFuture marketing (2018 onwards) effort based on fish stocksA marketing plan that positions Rockhampton as the key fishing tourism destination in Queensland for Barramundi and ThreadfinTo continually provide information, images and stories of fishing in the Rockhampton RegionCreate the Bardda moon di statue with the Dharumbal people | High |
| Fitzroy River Fishing Tournaments | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Leverage off the success of the “Barra Bounty” and the “Women That Fish” and create additional ecologically responsible fishing tournaments.Identify new fishing tournaments for the Fitzroy RiverPromote a sustainability approach for any new competitions proposed for the river.Extend the Barra Bounty to provide opportunities for a broader section of the fishing community to participate | High |

STAKEHOLDERS

- DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
- ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
- TOURISM EVENTS QUEENSLAND
- CAPRICORN ENTERPRISE
- THE DHARUMBAL PEOPLE

Priority Actions & Milestones:

1. In consultation with recreational fishing and other stakeholder groups establish new branding for all associated promotions, events and social media messaging.
2. Seek funding from Council and State Government to assist with social media, website and marketing campaign.
3. Establish social media presence, website and marketing campaign
4. Consider other events and experiences that can grow and evolve with the brand.
5. Create the Bardda moon di statue with the Dharumbal people and install with a formal ceremony.

fisheries management plan

We need to be proactive in monitoring and maintaining the local fishery so that generations to come can enjoy this natural resource.

Council is proposing that independent monitoring currently completed by the locally accredited organisation InfoFish continues and is further developed. Marketing and promotions can be adapted in response to forecast changes.

There is a risk that some recreational fishers may take advantage of the change to illegally poach the increased stocks. The net result may be a re-allocation of a significant portion of the commercial catch to the black market. Public awareness and increased policing will be necessary to prevent this, particularly in the early years.

A voluntary Code of Practice should be developed and heavily promoted with the local community.

Fisheries management in the NFZ should shift to focus on a year round adventure and eco-friendly tourism experience. This will also be necessary to sustain viable charter, guide and service businesses. Reduced bag limits and greater access across the year needs to be considered.

Care for the whole Fitzroy River catchment and major coastal catchments must be a priority for all levels of government. In particular upstream industry must be properly monitored and releases controlled to minimise impacts.

Consideration should be given to establishing a hatchery locally for re-stocking and as another tourist attraction built around these iconic fish.

Pest reduction strategies and the Operation: Take out Tilapia is another key pillar in managing the local fishery.

STAKEHOLDERS

- DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES
- ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
- RECREATIONAL FISHING GROUPS
- THE DARUMBAL PEOPLE
- FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION
- THE ROCKHAMPTON COMMUNITY
- BOATING & FISHING COMMUNITY

Priority Actions & Milestones:

1. In consultation with recreational fishing groups and the community establish a NFZ Fishing Industry Code of Practice.
2. Seek funding from Council, State Government and Federal Government for independent monitoring of fish stocks.
3. Initiate “Operation: Take out Tilapia”.
4. Prepare submission to State Fisheries Management on additional compliance management and other measures to safeguard fish stocks and provide confidence for fishing tourism start-up businessess.
5. Long term, develop a Capricornia NFZ Fisheries Management Plan that consolidates all these measures into one instrument.

key projects

| Key Projects | Needs | Solution | Priority |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|-----------|
| Voluntary Code of Practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Actively promote responsible community respect for the fishery resource.Bag and size limits support a sustainable and commercially viable sports fishing tourism industry while protecting local fishers’ right to keep a feed of fish. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">A voluntary Code of Practice for the Recreational Fishing sector.A code specific to the local area with a strong local relevance. | Very High |
| Fisheries Management Rule Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Catch and release access through the current closed season for barra. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">State Fisheries consider a change to regulations allowing catch and release in the NFZ during closed season away from spawning areas.Fisheries regulations for target species are reviewed annually to ensure ecological and economic sustainability. | Very High |
| Compliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">An adequate compliance program to safeguard fish stocks employed in the Fitzroy River.A community program to assist with compliance that could be implemented in a way similar to Neighbourhood Watch or other community programs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Raise community awareness of the need to report illegal activities.Improve the Fishwatch program to better respond to community reporting.Increase compliance efforts in the early years to discourage black marketingInvestigate the potential assistance of the Indigenous Land and Sea program. | Very High |
| Independent Monitoring of Fish Stocks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Independent assessment of Barramundi, Threadfin and other main species within the Fitzroy River and Port Alma catchment area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Enable the independent agency InfoFish to monitor these species on regular basis using the Crystal BowlUse data to tailor marketing and management year on year | Very High |
| Operation: Take out Tilapia | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eliminate the fish pest Tilapia from the Fitzroy and Port Alma waterways. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with Fitzroy Basin Association on managing TilapiaUse restocking of Barramundi above the Barrage to assist with Tilapia control | Very High |
| Education program | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Educate the community on the reasons for a voluntary Code of Practice, catchment sustainability and the importance of the fishery. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with local schools, at community events with FBA, DAF and InfoFish to educate the broader community. | High |
| Fisheries Management Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">In the longer term need a formal evergreen Management Plan specific to the Capricorn NFZ. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider formal regulatory changes more consistent with the Code of Practice as community understanding grows. | High |
| Restocking Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Restocking to be based on overall assessment of the status of stocks in the river. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Work with the Fitzroy River Fish Stocking Group on restocking above the Barrage.Continue to monitor new technologies to improve fish movement past man made barriers on the Fitzroy River.Implement restocking from locally collected / genetically suitable species if required. | High |



freshwater & estuary ecology plan

Ensuring a healthy estuary and marine environment is the responsibility of all levels of Government, the community and potential fishing related businesses.
Having a healthy freshwater & estuary system is necessary to assist a healthy fishery.

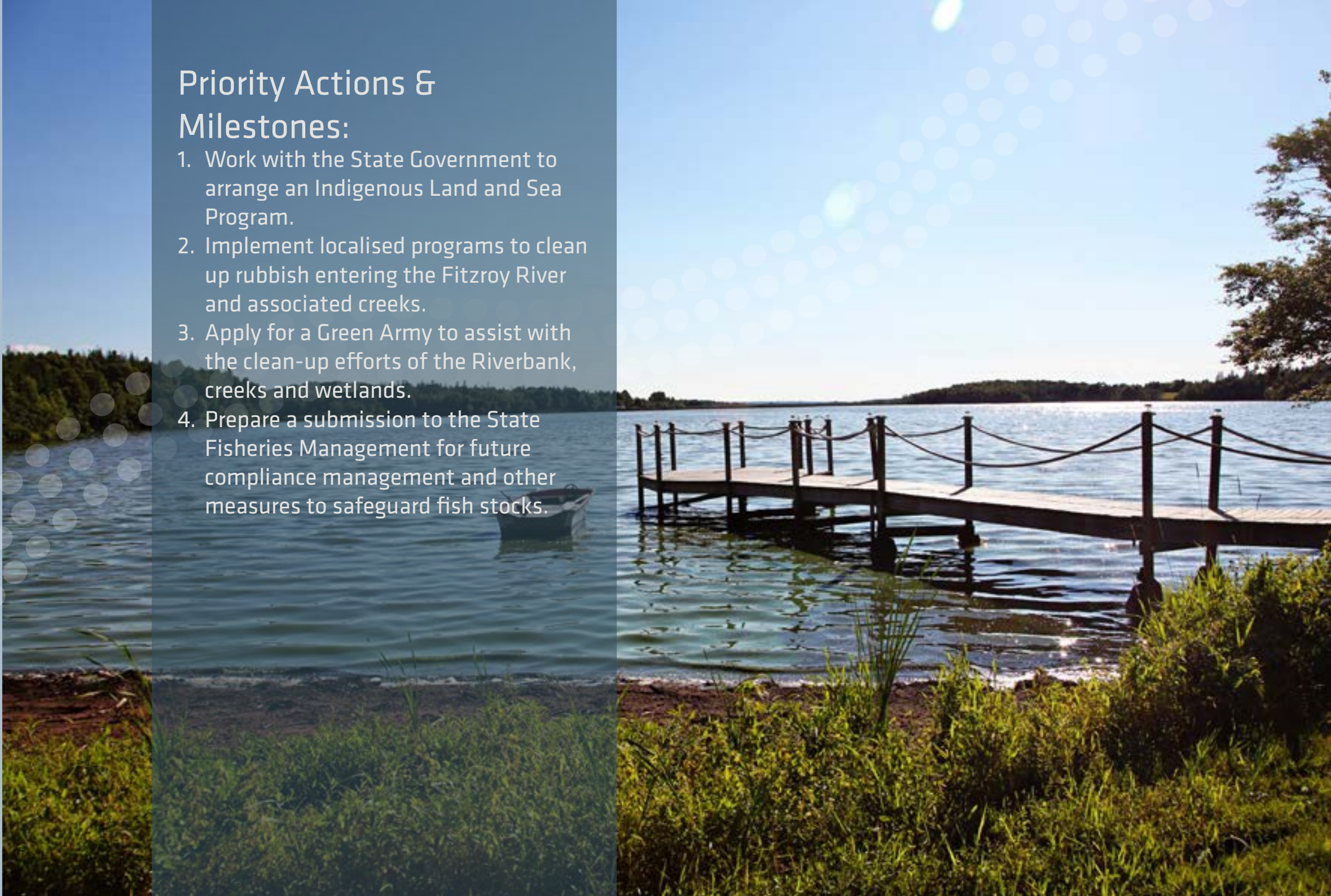
STAKEHOLDERS

- CQUNIVERSITY
- DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES
- DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE PROTECTION
- FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION
- ROCKHAMPTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
- RECREATIONAL FISHING GROUPS

| KEY PROJECTS | NEEDS | SOLUTION | PRIORITY |
|------------------------------------|---|---|-----------|
| Improving ecosystem health | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure actions are taken to improve water quality, ecosystem health and connectivity in the Fitzroy River, associated waterways and wetland areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support FBA to deliver:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• improved practice projects• wetland health improvement projects• fish passage projects• application for funds to complete waterway improvement and infrastructure projects• implementation of the Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) | Very High |
| Ecosystem Health Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To report on the health of the Fitzroy catchment and receiving waters with regards to water quality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health to continue their monitoring and reporting on water quality. | High |
| Indigenous Sea Rangers | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure that constant monitoring and compliance activities are completed across the Rockhampton NFZ area.• Assist with communicating the significance of the system with a blend of culture and history. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with State and Federal Government to acquire an Indigenous Sea Ranger.• Where possible, organise work placements for Dharumbal and Gungalu/ Ghangula and Woopaburra people. | High |
| Protecting important habitat areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and protect important fish habitats through policies and management plans. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure Planning Scheme identifies and protects important riparian and aquatic habitats.• Support the Fish Habitat Area extension proposed by State government.• Support voluntary code of Practice to cease fishing efforts in known spawning areas (seasonally). | High |
| Urban Waterway Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure urban waterways provide ecosystem services and opportunities for the community to engage with their fishery. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support projects/programs that provide opportunities for the community to participate in improving urban waterway health (e.g. removing rubbish). | High |
| Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve community understanding and value they place on local ecosystems. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support projects/programs that engage the community in understanding their local ecosystems, the services they provide and what actions they can take to ensure they are sustainable. | High |

Priority Actions & Milestones:

1. Work with the State Government to arrange an Indigenous Land and Sea Program.
2. Implement localised programs to clean up rubbish entering the Fitzroy River and associated creeks.
3. Apply for a Green Army to assist with the clean-up efforts of the Riverbank, creeks and wetlands.
4. Prepare a submission to the State Fisheries Management for future compliance management and other measures to safeguard fish stocks.



where to from here

Marine Infrastructure Plan

| | FY 16 17 | FY 17 18 | FY 18 19 | FY 19 20 | Beyond 2020 |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| NORTH ROCKHAMPTON BOAT RAMP FACILITY | Submit preliminary project proposal to State for proposed Nth Rockhampton Boat Ramp facility. | Develop prelim design and cost estimates and submit proposal to State for proposed Nth Rockhampton Boat Ramp facility. | Detail Design and construction of proposed improved access to existing land based fishing platforms (subject to funding approvals). | | |
| PORT ALMA BOAT RAMP FACILITY | Develop prelim design and cost estimates and submit project proposal to State for the proposed new Port Alma facility. | Detail Design and construction of the new Port Alma facility (subject to funding approvals). | | | |
| LARCOMBE ST BOAT RAMP FACILITY | | Submit preliminary project approval to State for proposed upgrade to Larcombe St Boat Ramp facility. | | Develop prelim design and cost estimates and submit project proposal to State for the proposed upgrade to Larcombe St Boat Ramp facility | Detail Design and construction of the proposed upgrade to Larcombe St Boat Ramp facility (subject to funding approvals). |
| LITTLER CUM-INGHAM CTU PARKING (QUAY ST) | Develop prelim design and cost estimates for the extension of the Littler Cum-Ingham CTU parking facility. | Detail Design and construction of proposed upgrade (subject to funding approvals). | | | |
| LAND BASED FISHING PLATFORMS | Identify opportunities for improved access to existing land based natural and constructed fishing platforms. | Develop prelim design and cost estimates for improved access to existing land based fishing platforms. | Detail Design and construction of proposed improved access to existing land based fishing platforms (subject to funding approvals) and identify opportunies for new land based fishing platforms. | Develop prelim design and cost estimates for new land based natural and constructed fishing platforms. | FlaDetail Design and construction of the new land based fishing platforms (subject to funding approvals). |
| SKI GARDENS BOAT RAMP | Develop prelim design and cost estimates for the upgrade. | Detail Design and construction of the proposed upgrade (subject to funding approvals). | | | |

Additional Actions to be undertaken from FY 16|17

- | | |
|---|--|
| BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish the Fishing Tourism Industry Partnership Program• Resource and economic modelling program• Enhanced support for business start ups and charter/tourism products• Fishing and boating business development• Indigenous business development |
| MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish ‘We are the home of Barramundi’ website, social media presence and marketing campaign• Create the Bardda moon di statue with the Dharumbal people |
| FISHERIES MANAGEMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish recreational fishing voluntary Code of Practice• Operation: Take out Tilapia• Independent monitoring of fish stocks in the Fitzroy and Port Alma |
| FRESHWATER AND ESTUARY ECOLOGY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fishing, boating and economic surveys / study• Indigenous land and sea rangers |

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- Capricorn Conservation Council
- Capricorn Tag and Release Sportfishing Club
- Central Queensland Amateur Angling Association
- Central Queensland Boat Ramp Action Group
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
- Fitzroy River Fish Stocking Association
- Gladstone Ports Corporation
- Infofish Australia
- Livingstone Shire Council
- Professional fishers
- Rockhampton Motor Boat Club
- Rockhampton Regional Council
- The Dharumbal people



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