



**MAGNETIC
ISLAND
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION**



OUR WORLD HERITAGE ISLAND: MAGNETIC ISLAND (YUNBENUN)

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday 12th February 2024

\$595,350 grant assists climate change action towards a net zero Magnetic Island (Yunbenun)

Magnetic Island Community Development Association (MICDA) is pleased to announce that it has obtained a grant of \$595,350 from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF). The Community Climate Action Grant for Magnetic Island (Yunbenun) is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

The goal of this grant is to accelerate community climate action projects for Magnetic Island, which in turn creates climate change action for the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef. These projects will run for just under two years and are due for completion by October 2025.

MICDA is working with stakeholders such as Townsville City Council, Boomerang Alliance, Ergon and APC Waste Consultants (APC) to help achieve progress on community climate action projects on our beautiful island home.

The backbone of the projects will be members and stakeholders of our Magnetic Island (Yunbenun) community-based Working Groups, Totally Renewable Magnetic (TRM) and Zero Waste Magnetic Island. The climate action projects will also employ three part-time staff (a coordinator and one for each of Energy and Zero Waste). The projects will focus on:

- Creating a zero waste strategy for Magnetic Island.
- Expanding the Island's existing organic waste conversion to [Humisoil](#) and XLR8 liquid soil conditioner trials.
- Commissioning a feasibility study for a microgrid, including community battery storage, for a village on Magnetic Island.
- Helping a selection of tourism businesses become zero waste and 100% renewable energy powered; and
- Improve the capacity of visitors and residents to reduce their carbon emissions.

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It is anticipated that these projects may also lead to more local jobs and business opportunities for Magnetic Island residents. GBRF will work closely with MICDA as these projects develop to explore and build further investment and job opportunities.

“The zero waste strategy will be developed by conducting a waste audit to determine both the composition and amount of what is being discarded, and to then look at ways to avoid, reduce, reuse, and recycle these components. Extensive engagement with all sectors of the community will be undertaken to gather qualitative information to guide the strategies. The strategy will include a roadmap of actions with timelines and budget estimates to achieve our agreed targets,” said Anne Prince, a veteran of island waste management plans.

Townsville City Council will contribute both financial and in-kind support to the Magnetic Island waste audit activity and further support MICDA in their community engagement activities for this project.

Joe Niven TRM coordinator says that “A feasibility study for a microgrid, including a community battery, would be a very important next step in ensuring more of the electricity on Magnetic Island is from renewable sources. It will also be an important step in creating an even more robust and reliable electricity system on Magnetic Island.”

“Plastic Free Places program works in communities to directly reduce single-use plastic items, and to empower the community to make lasting changes towards a circular economy. The program is a partnership between Boomerang Alliance and the Australian Packaging Covenant (APCO). We implement our program in any community in Australia, in partnership with Council and local stakeholders.” said Diana Condylas Plastic Free Townsville.

The Island is home to passionate and active community members with deep knowledge of the Island. The Wulgurukuba custodians will also be involved in these projects which are designed to involve other local community groups building on their existing capacity, commitment, and love for our beautiful Island home.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the richest and most complex natural ecosystems on the planet, but climate change is its biggest threat. There is a clear and urgent imperative to create solutions to help develop a sustainable future for Magnetic Island, which includes urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Addressing these issues helps preserve, remediate, restore, and enhance Magnetic Island’s World Heritage Values and those of the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef.

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About MICDA:

MICDA acknowledges and is grateful for support from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation for the Community Action project which was completed in December 2023. This is a further grant to enable MICDA's role as the Community Action Plan leader for Magnetic Island, to continue with community created climate change.

MICDA is a not-for-profit association which has operated (under various names) on Magnetic Island for over 50 years. MICDA has conducted many groundbreaking projects and events on Magnetic Island, such as the Solar Cities program, the Decarbonisation Report 2020, and Community Action Plans, all of which aim to protect and enhance our World Heritage Island over the last decades. For more information visit: <https://www.micda.com.au>

About APC:

APC Waste Consultants (APC) are a waste management and resource recovery consultancy with a proven track record delivering world best practice waste management strategies and resource recovery solutions throughout Australia. For over 26 years, APC has delivered over 1000 projects including a portfolio of island work including: Lord Howe Island (NSW), Kangaroo Island (SA), Rottnest Island (WA), Groote Eylandt (NT), Hamilton Island (QLD), the entire Torres Straits Island group (QLD), King Island (TAS), Norfolk Island (Qld), Scotland and Dangar Islands (NSW). For more information visit: <https://www.aprince.org.au>

About Zero Waste Magnetic Island:

The Zero Waste Magnetic Island working group has been operating for over 5 years with around 15 active and passionate community members and a mailing list of over 100. It works with Townsville Council, Boomerang Alliance, and other stakeholders. For more information visit: <https://www.zerowastemi.org.au/>

About Totally Renewable Magnetic:

Totally Renewable Magnetic has been operating for just over a year with around 8 active members and works with key stakeholders such as Townsville Council and Ergon. For more information visit: <https://www.micda.com.au/energy>

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