

Working together today for a healthier Reef tomorrow

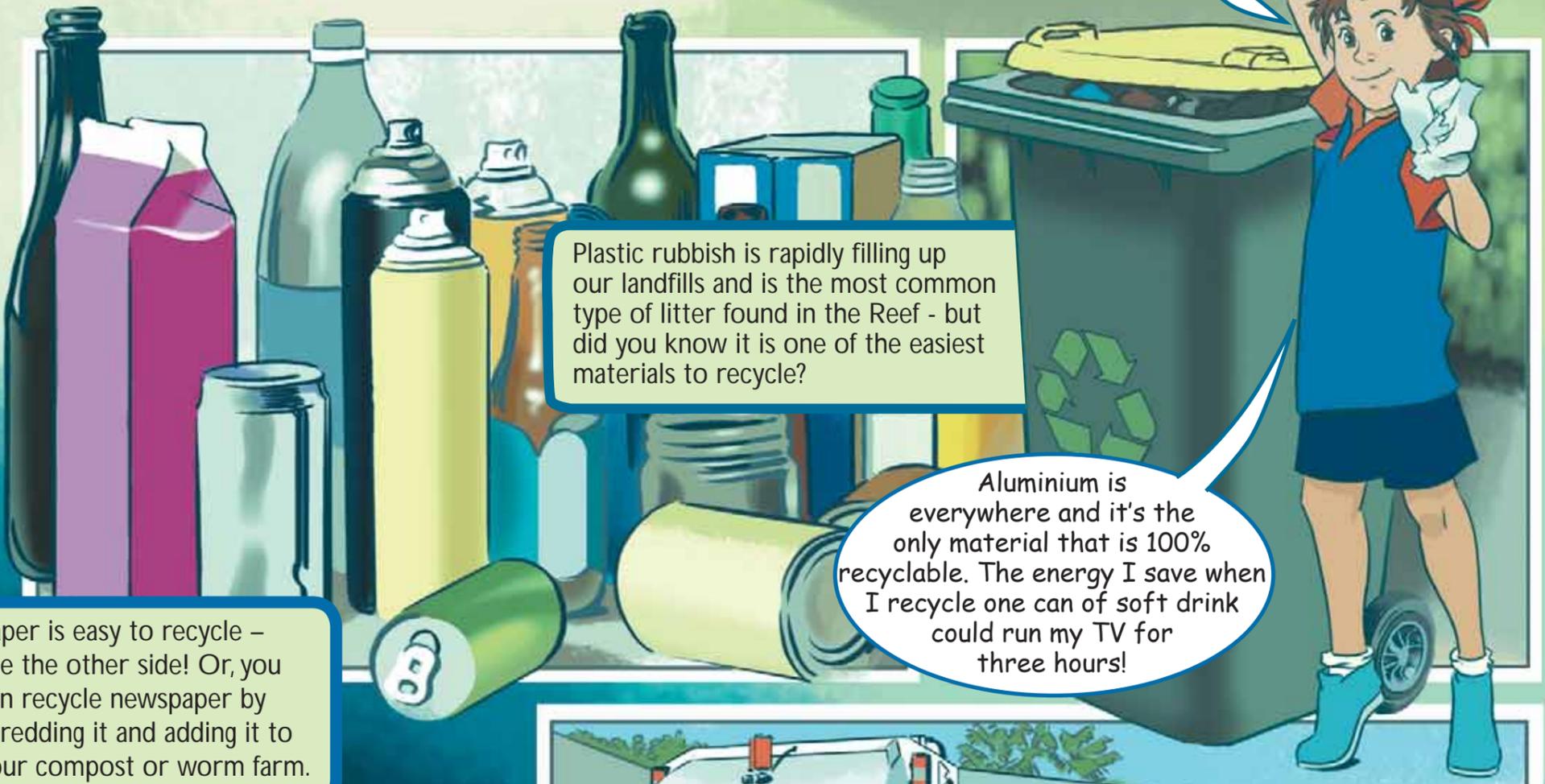
# WASTE WATCHERS

Litter discarded in streets, playgrounds and school yards gets washed into stormwater drains and ends up in marine environments. By making sure waste is reduced, reused and recycled you can help keep the Great Barrier Reef clean.



Would you like your home filled with rubbish?

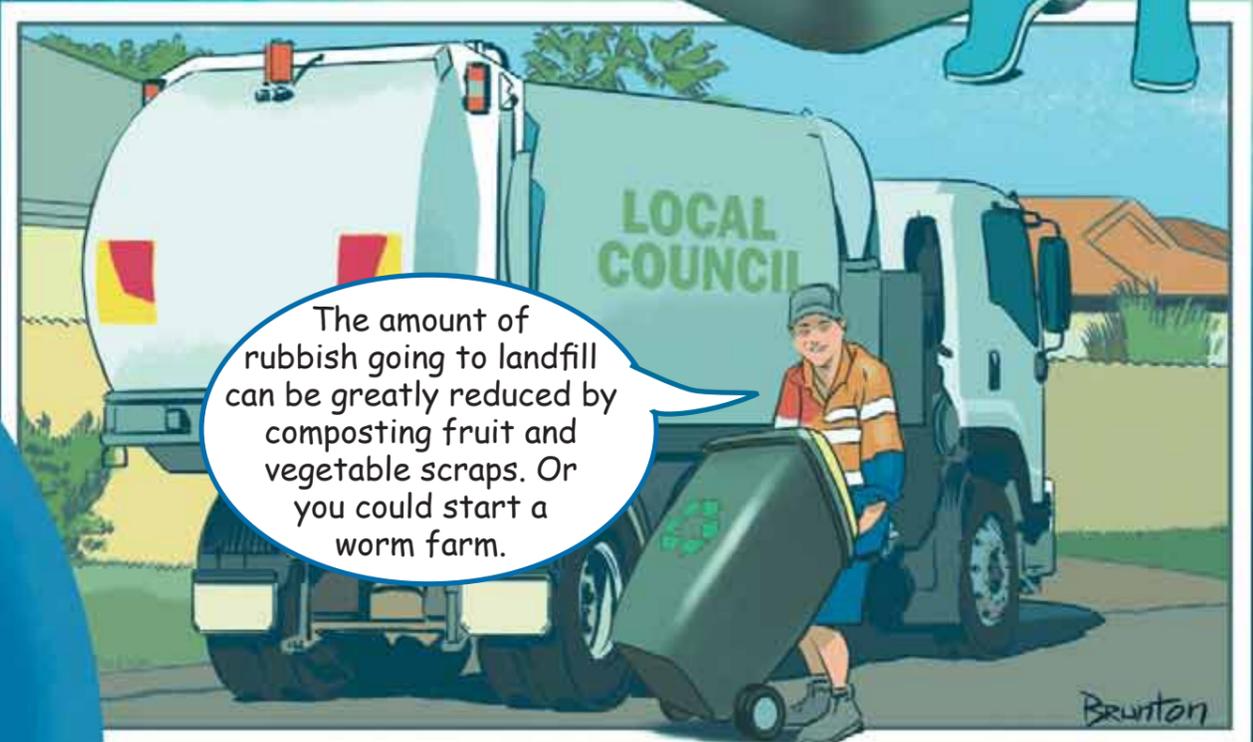
It all starts with me!



Plastic rubbish is rapidly filling up our landfills and is the most common type of litter found in the Reef - but did you know it is one of the easiest materials to recycle?

Aluminium is everywhere and it's the only material that is 100% recyclable. The energy I save when I recycle one can of soft drink could run my TV for three hours!

Paper is easy to recycle - use the other side! Or, you can recycle newspaper by shredding it and adding it to your compost or worm farm.



The amount of rubbish going to landfill can be greatly reduced by composting fruit and vegetable scraps. Or you could start a worm farm.

**CASE STUDY:** Yeppoon State School was recognised as a Waste Watching leader after taking the lead in a number of initiatives to reduce the amount of rubbish going into the Great Barrier Reef or landfill.



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# HABITAT HEROES

Habitats are the natural environments that plants and animals live in. With growing communities, some natural habitats have declined. You can help out a local habitat by adopting it and keeping it healthy.

We're also planting native dutchman's pipe especially for the butterflies!

The Cairns Birdwing butterfly's rainforest habitat has declined. We're planting native species to help the rainforest.

WOW! Look at all of these bugs!

This is a good sign that the water is clean - let's check down stream!

My classmates and I helped protect the vulnerable beach-stone curlew by encouraging 4WDs to stay off their nesting grounds.

Seabirds play a crucial role in coastal habitats. Their droppings can enrich the soil which helps plants grow on coral cays.

**CASE STUDY:** Hermit Park State School has created a bush curlew habitat in their school as well as planting native dutchman's pipe for the Cairns Birdwing butterfly.



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# WATER WISE

As part of a changing climate our water resources have become less reliable. But we can all use less water. From turning the tap off properly and having shorter showers to watering our gardens responsibly and planting water wise plants. We can all be water wise.



**CASE STUDY:** Stuart State School conserves water in their school and has worked on stormwater and local creek restoration projects.



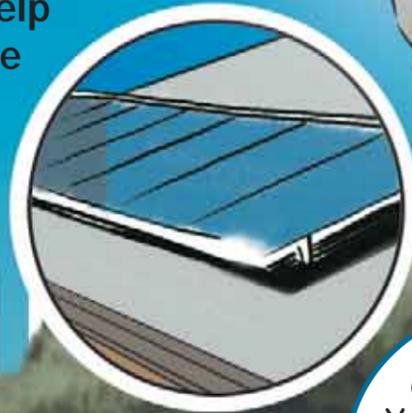
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# ENERGY SMART

Excess energy use contributes to climate change. Impacts from a changing climate are putting pressure on the Great Barrier Reef and its supporting ecosystems by increasing temperatures and weather events. We can all do something to help reduce these pressures and protect the Reef for the future – it could be as simple as flicking a switch!



Let's be energy smart! You can use solar power and other sustainable energy options in your school.



Oh no! We're using way too much energy - how can we be more like that school?



We've halved our energy use in one year!

It's nice and cool out here.

**CASE STUDY:** Townsville State High School reduces power use by ensuring energy conservation starts in classrooms. The school also uses renewable energy such as solar pyramids and wind turbines on school grounds.



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# WETLAND WARRIORS

Wetlands help to remove pollutants and sediments from water before it flows into the Great Barrier Reef. Wetlands have been under pressure in recent years, but your school can make a difference by restoring and rejuvenating your local wetland and helping to keep the natural process on track!

Houses, roads, buildings and towns have taken away many natural wetlands - the "kidneys" of the Great Barrier Reef.

By keeping storm drains clean we can help improve wetlands.

By rejuvenating local wetlands you can help get the natural process of improving water quality back on its feet.

Healthy wetlands can reduce the sediments and nutrients that are harmful to the Reef...

What do you do to look after your wetland?

By keeping rivers, creeks, mangroves and saltwater wetlands connected, fish will be able to migrate between them to spawn.

**CASE STUDY:** Miriam Vale State School was awarded the *Action in the Field* award for work in their local wetland area. The school organised a Wetland Weeding Day, and investigated organic waste, composting and water wise activities.



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I've fenced my wetlands so my stock don't trample the plants. This also stops my cattle eroding the river banks.

# FARMING - GRAZING

We all love our food and can't live without it. Farmers and graziers provide us with the food we eat, but how they manage their land affects what runs off it. Runoff from land that is not well managed can enter waterways and cause impacts to the Great Barrier Reef. Our farmers and graziers have been working hard to manage their land well and improve water quality.

Cutting sugar cane green keeps a thick leafy mulch on the soil surface. This conserves water, stops soil erosion and limits weed growth - ultimately improving water quality and reducing runoff.



I rotate crops each season. This protects my crops from pests and keeps the soil rich and fertile.



I've got grass growing between my rows, which reduces soil loss and nutrient runoff.



Recyclable banana ripening bags.

By installing trickle irrigation and fertigation, I'll improve water quality and reduce my runoff.



Farmers and graziers have rejuvenated lost wetlands and habitats around their farms.

**CASE STUDY:** Schools in the Burdekin have been working with farmers to rejuvenate local wetlands and improve water quality and biodiversity.



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# REEF Beat 6

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## FISHING

Fishing on the Great Barrier Reef is an important pastime and a source of income for both Queensland coastal communities and the Queensland seafood industry. Commercial fishing industries depend on a healthy ecosystem just as Queenslanders rely on a healthy reef ecosystem for recreation and as a source of local seafood.

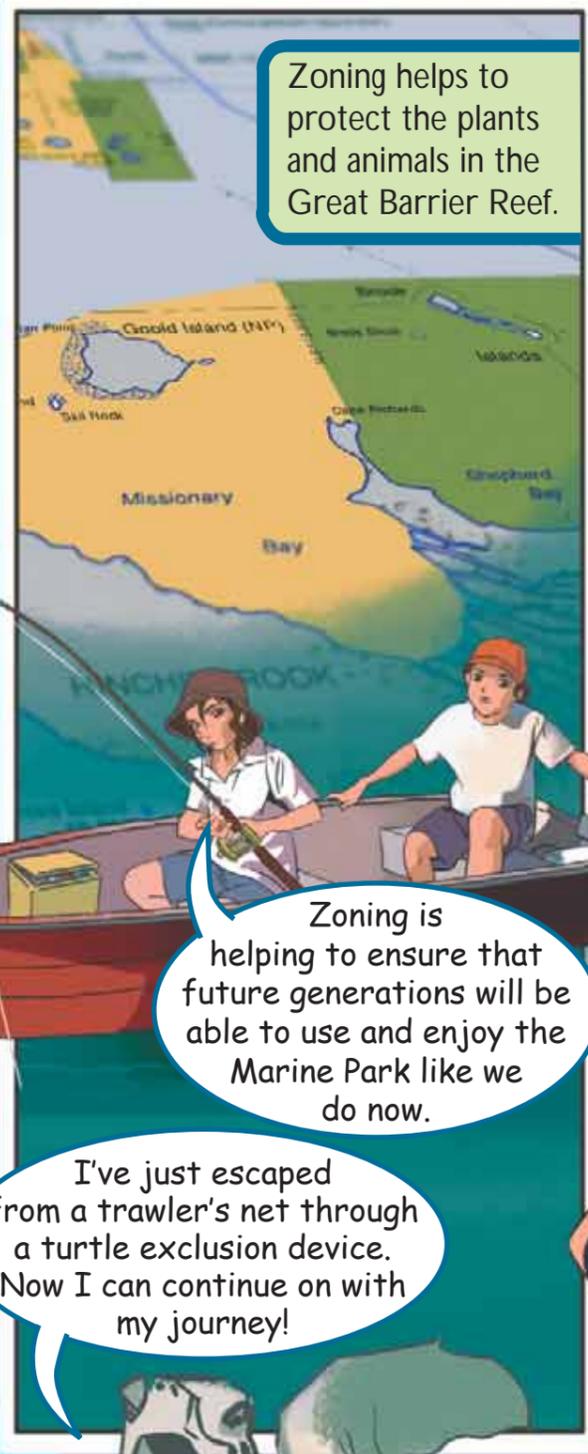


I report sightings of marine life. This helps to find solutions for minimising interactions with species such as dolphins and dugong.



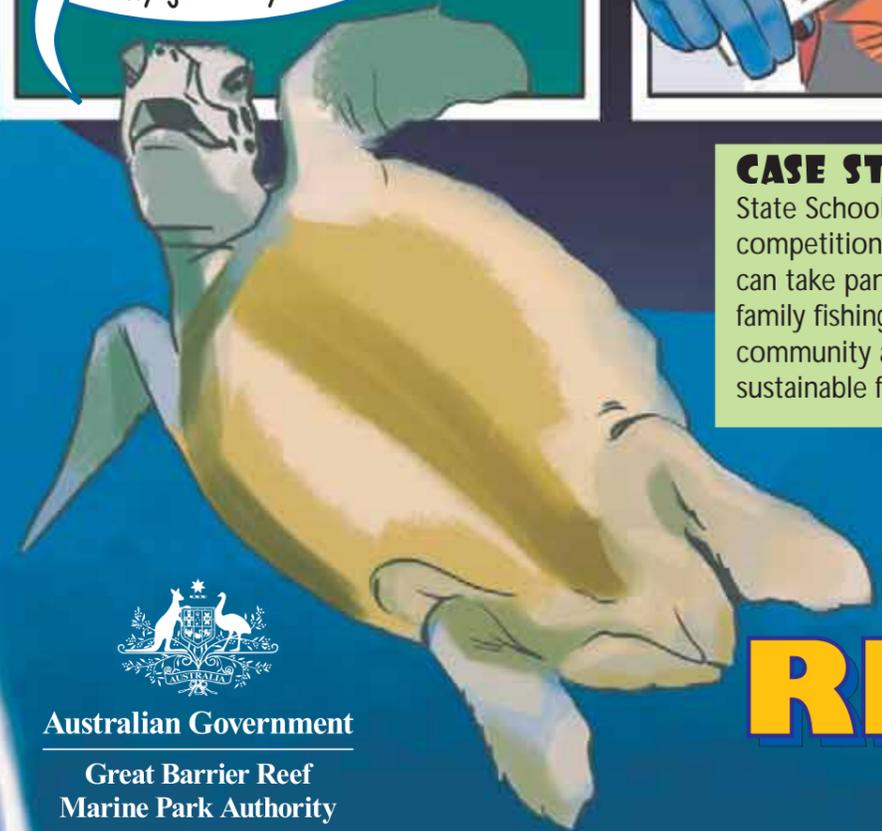
Our livelihood depends on the health of the Reef, we want it to be sustainable too.

I'm reducing my carbon footprint by minimising fuel use. This helps my business and the Reef.

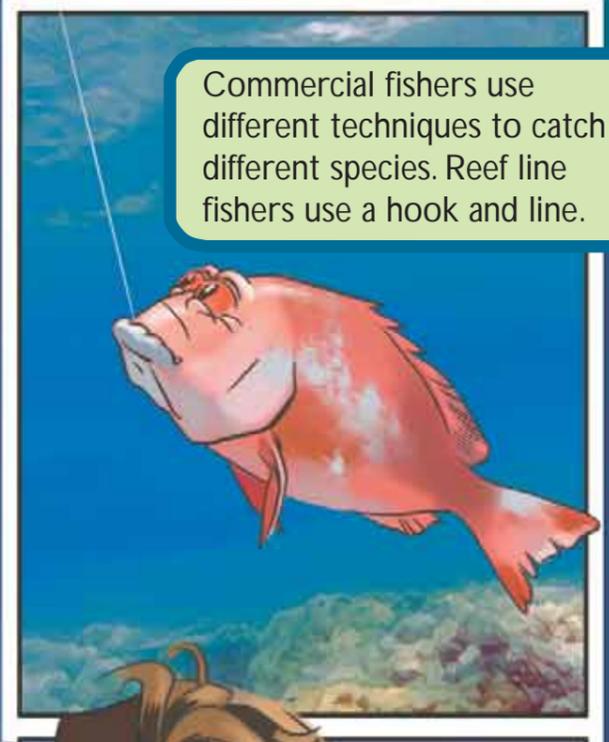


Zoning helps to protect the plants and animals in the Great Barrier Reef.

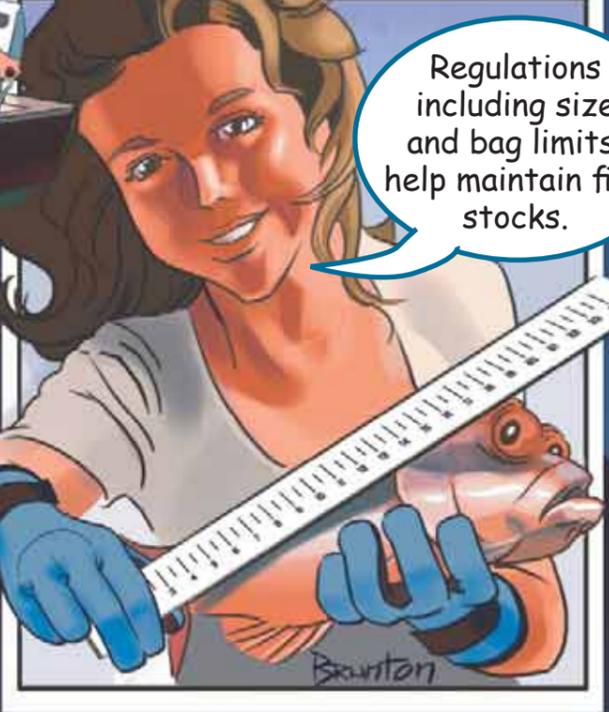
Zoning is helping to ensure that future generations will be able to use and enjoy the Marine Park like we do now.



I've just escaped from a trawler's net through a turtle exclusion device. Now I can continue on with my journey!



Commercial fishers use different techniques to catch different species. Reef line fishers use a hook and line.



Regulations including size and bag limits, help maintain fish stocks.

**CASE STUDY:** Belgian Gardens State School has an annual fishing competition. The whole community can take part in a fun catch and release family fishing day. This helps teach the community about keeping the Reef sustainable for the future!



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# REEF Beat 7

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There's so much to do! We need more helping hands...

# OUR HABITAT

What can one person do to protect the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef and its supporting habitats? One action from you can lead to community action. You can be the start of something big! If communities work together they can achieve great outcomes for the environment.



**CASE STUDY:** Gordonvale State School won the *Reef Guardian Champions* award for a raft of sustainability initiatives, including the school's efforts in rehabilitating O'Leary's Creek. The school focused on a whole community approach to sustainability, particularly with regards to catchment care.



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# CLIMATE CHANGE

A changing climate is the greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef. By making the Reef as healthy and resilient as possible we can give the Reef the best chance to recover from the impacts of a changing climate.

Hmmm . . .  
The sand temperature  
is heating up.

That means there  
is likely to be more  
female hatchlings.

Coral bleaching  
means that corals  
cannot support all of  
the animals that rely  
on them.

The ocean is  
getting more acidic  
too. This will affect  
coral in the  
future.

Warmer waters  
are changing fish  
migration and  
aggregation  
patterns. This  
means less food  
for our seabirds  
and their chicks.

By riding to  
work I am reducing  
greenhouse gas emissions -  
and it's good exercise!

I do my bit to keep  
the Reef sustainable  
and healthy so it can cope  
with a changing  
climate.

All of us  
can do something  
to help!

My farm has  
minimal impact on  
the environment.

It's up to  
all of us,  
what do you  
do?

**CASE STUDY:** The Burdekin Christian College is actively involved in the Burdekin Shire Council's low carbon diet program. The school is also involved in other initiatives to help deliver sustainability education to the community.



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