

## **Building capacity in Local Government and communities to manage oil in the catchment of the Great Barrier Reef.**

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Industrial discharges and urban run-off account for the majority of anthropogenic hydrocarbon pollution entering the world's marine environment. The Great Barrier Reef (Reef) catchment contains numerous urban and industrial centres that may potentially contribute hydrocarbon pollution to Reef waters. As hydrocarbon pollutants pass from freshwater systems through the coastal zone and into the marine environment, they can have a chronic effect on aquatic and coastal marine life. Used engine oil comprises a significant proportion of the hydrocarbons in urban run-off and is known to have important human health and environmental implications. As urbanisation and industrialisation within the Reef catchment are occurring at a rapid rate, there is a critical need to prevent pollutants entering the Reef via land-based run-off.

Many of the facilities to manage waste hydrocarbon streams within the Reef catchment are managed by Local Government. These include structural stormwater management measures such as swale drains to remove pollutants from oily road run-off; non-structural measures such as education programs as well as used engine oil collection facilities at landfill and waste transfer sites. Under the Queensland *Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000*, Local Government is obligated to collect used engine oil at designated sites for recycling.

This project looks at the main waste engine oil streams in Local Government involved in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Council program and reviews the potential impacts from used engine oil within the Great Barrier Reef catchment. Through the Australian Government's Product Stewardship for Oil program, assistance was provided to a number of Local Governments to help with managing waste engine oil through the provision of waste engine oil collection and recycling infrastructure.