



Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc,

The **WHITSUNDAY TURTLE RESCUE CENTRE** at Eco Barge HQ was established to ensure that sick and injured marine turtles are provided with the help that they need.

Every turtle is taken to the local vet for assessment and then provided appropriate care in one of five quarantine tanks at the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre until fit to be released, or transported to Reef HQ Aquarium Turtle Hospital or Cairns Turtle Rehab Centre if ongoing treatment is required.

If you were interested in volunteering or supporting the Whitsunday Turtle Rescue Centre please contact Eco Barge Clean Seas at

www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au



HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT MARINE TURTLES

The following behaviours can be undertaken to help protect local marine turtles:

- Please ensure that all of your rubbish is disposed of properly to prevent it washing or blowing into the marine environment where it can impact turtles and other marine life
- Reduce your boat speed when travelling over sea grass as turtles are more abundant in these areas and swim just below the surface of the water
- Become a Reef Keeper – remove any discarded fishing line, plastics and other rubbish that you find
- Remember to collect your crab pots
- Use environmentally friendly fishing tackle where possible, such as lead-free sinkers, biodegradable line and non-stainless hooks
- Please donate to Eco Barge via our website to help us continue to provide ongoing care for sick and injured turtles in the Whitsunday and Mackay region. www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au



Email: info@ecobargecleanseas.org.au

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CARING FOR MARINE TURTLES IN THE WHITSUNDAYS



☎ **1300 ANIMAL**
264 625

MARINE TURTLES IN THE WHITSUNDAYS

Six of the world's seven species of marine turtle can be found off the Queensland coast, with five of these species being listed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (the Flatback Turtle is considered data deficient but is also likely to be experiencing population decline).

It is both natural and human induced threats that are impacting marine turtle populations, with turtle strandings being reported along the Queensland coastline in alarming numbers in recent years. It is therefore essential that local communities become involved in protecting these animals.

SIGNS THAT A TURTLE IS IN DISTRESS

Any of the following behaviours may indicate that a turtle is sick or injured:

- Floats or bobs on the surface for an extended period of time or lists to one side
- Weak and lethargic - moves only feebly or to periodically lift its head to breathe
- Any obvious injury such as boat strike
- Thin and malnourished
- The shell is covered in algae with a heavy barnacle load

Please be aware that turtles do sometimes beach themselves to bask in the sun so this is not always an indication that it is in distress

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A TURTLE IN DISTRESS

Please provide as many details as possible to the **RSPCA hotline number 1300 ANIMAL** to help ensure a safe and effective response can be made for a sick or injured marine turtle.

- Take care when approaching as turtles can bite and also cause injury with their strong flippers
- Take notice of your surroundings to direct the responders to your location (GPS if on the water)
- Take note of the size and condition of the turtle including any obvious injury
- Take photos if possible to help the responders assess the health of the turtle and for reporting purposes
- **Phone the RSPCA hotline on 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)**

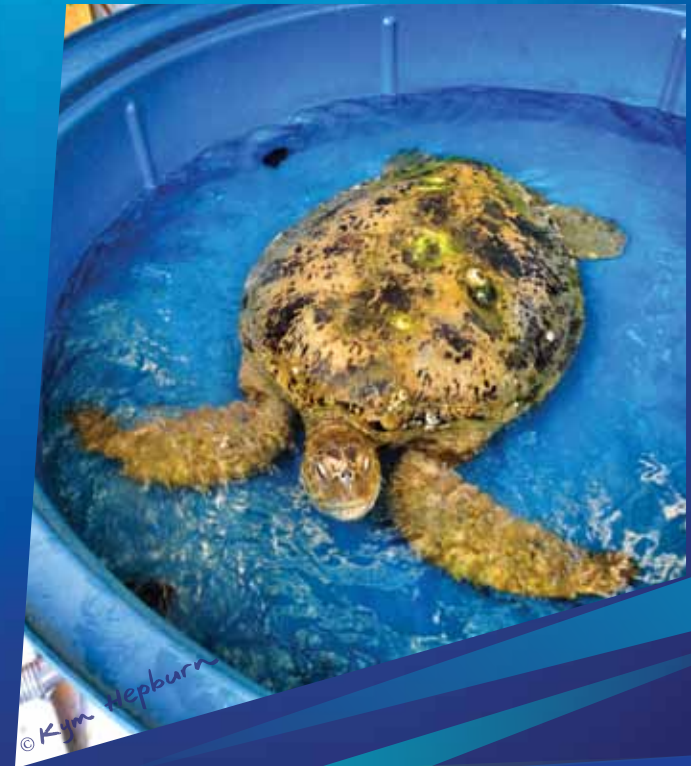


TURTLE RESPONSE TEAM

Eco Barge Clean Seas, in conjunction with our partners and the Friends of Parks grant initiative through Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, have initiated a program that ensures a response to reported turtle stranding events.

A team of volunteers have been trained to safely and effectively respond to stranded turtles, both on land and in the water.

Our Turtle Rescue Team will be notified once a turtle stranding call has been made to 1300 ANIMAL (264 625)



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