



# WATER QUALITY AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT REEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

22 May 2000 – Townsville

## SUMMARY DOCUMENT

A summary document is prepared after each meeting of the Reef Advisory Committee to inform other advisory committees serving the Authority, and persons generally (including the public) of business of the RAC. The documents form part of the records of the meeting and so its content is limited to matters raised in the meeting, and, where necessary, background details given to the meeting. Any inquiries should be referred to the Authority's Secretariat, or to the appropriate member.

### WHOLE OF CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

The Committee noted presentations discussing:

- The role of integrated management;
- Queensland's Natural Resource Management groups and the area they cover;
- Steps taken in developing the Natural Resource Strategies; and
- An outline of the status of the Water Resource Planning Process.

The Committee identified the following issues as important to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA):

- ♦ GBRMPA should be involved in the development of catchment strategies and action plans and the development of monitoring strategies.
- ♦ Connectivity between plans (catchment, regional, local authority, etc) is required at different levels of management.
- ♦ Prioritisation within plans – how can the GBRMPA assist in that process?
- ♦ Development of action plans and implementation of plans.
- ♦ Communication – strategic involvement.
- ♦ Opportunities with new legislation and obligations.

- ♦ Ensure there is proper assessment of existing catchment plans for the Great Barrier Reef to ensure that the reef issues are covered and assess the GBRMPA involvement in implementation.

### RURAL RUNOFF

The Committee heard three separate presentations that covered aspects of Rural Runoff. These were:

- Water quality issues facing the management of the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon.
- Research activities at AIMS and the CRC Reef Research Centre, related to Great Barrier Reef water quality issues.
- Water quality pressures and status in sugar catchments.

From discussion, the following issues were identified:

- ♦ Where is the Research and Development funding coming from? Who makes the decisions on priorities? Is there a need to conduct a stocktake of knowledge?
- ♦ Need to consolidate and integrate information in catchments pertinent to the Great Barrier Reef, with focus on clarifying sources of threatening

processes and best practice to improving quality. Need to identify what are real health indicators and monitor performance.

- ◆ Need to communicate what is known now to those who require that knowledge.
- ◆ Good accessibility of data is essential and must be in a useable format. Someone needs to take the responsibility of translating the findings of post science research.
- ◆ There may be benefits in capturing international information.

A group that will be known as the Catchment Impacts Planning Group will be formed. This group will provide information on processes that will help identify priorities for action; monitor changes and analyse performance of programs to ensure that positive changes as well as negative change is assessed.

## **ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT**

The Committee heard an overview of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. The presentation discussed how the Act will affect Great Barrier Reef Marine Park management and what may need to be done to achieve consistency between the EPBC and Great Barrier Reef Management.

The Committee requested that they be kept abreast of issues that develop as implementation proceeds.

## **LAND AND WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (LWRRDC) SOURCE TO SEA WORKSHOP**

The Committee was informed of the upcoming LWRRDC Source to Sea

Workshop to be held on 7 June 2000 in Rockhampton.

The LWRRDC is aimed to interact with Natural Resource Management stakeholders in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Catchment and Fitzroy region. The workshop aimed to identify the key regional Natural Resource Management issues and challenges, the current knowledge base, the dimensions of integration and how integrated approaches can address the identified challenges. The workshop attendance included the LWRRDC Directors, managers, coordinators, agency and research personnel and community representatives. A report will be presented at the next meeting of this committee that will identify issues that need to be addressed.

## **KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AT NEXT MEETING**

The following issues will be addressed:

- Identify actions to improve the GBRMPA's involvement in catchment and other regional planning activities – particularly action planning and implementation.
- Review actions to improve Research and Development integration and integrate existing knowledge into action plans.
- Develop actions to improve monitoring of performance in Reef water quality.
- What part the GBRMPA should play in implementation of current Commonwealth and State legislation.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is proposed for 31 August and 1 September 2000.