

CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY AND WORLD HERITAGE REEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10th Meeting 20 and 21 March 2003 – Townsville SUMMARY DOCUMENT

The Conservation RAC Chair opened the meeting by congratulating members on their appointment.

REPORT ON GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY (GBRMPA) ACTIVITIES

The GBRMPA Chair reported on recent activities, including:

Update on Representative Areas Program

- The RAP Taskforce would be presenting a draft zoning plan to the Marine Park Authority Board prior to the second round of public consultation, scheduled to commence in early June 2003.
- The revised zoning plan is expected to be prepared by November 2003.
- The draft Communication Plan outlined the campaign aim and objectives, with a series of television segments – “Reef Champions” – to be aired on television.
- Members have been asked to provide comments on the RAP Information Sheet topics.

Tourism and Recreation

- The draft policy on Latency, Allocation and Tenure has been submitted to the Queensland Inter-Departmental Committee and had received positive feedback. The policy will be released for public comment.

Fisheries

- Queensland Fisheries Service will release the draft Reefline Plan by 1 July 2003.

Coral Bleaching

- There has not been a major bleaching event in the Great Barrier Reef this year.

MANAGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL HUNTING

Members were given a presentation on “An Integrated Framework for the Conservation of Dugongs and Dugong Hunting Cultures in Northern Australia”, which addresses ecological, legal, social and management contexts.

Members agreed that management initiatives at national, regional and local scales are necessary to ensure the objectives of protection of dugong whilst recognising the culture of dugong hunting, and will recommend that the GBRMPA propose that an integrated national management approach to the use of dugongs and sea turtles for Indigenous cultural heritage purposes be developed by the Environment Protection and Heritage Ministerial Council.

TRADITIONAL HUNTING IN THE GBRMP

The Manager of the GBRMPA's Indigenous Policy Liaison Unit briefed members on the development of a reef-wide traditional hunting framework.

DRAFT KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR EVALUATING MANAGEMENT

Members were asked to comment on the draft Key Performance Indicators that are being developed, and will discuss in more detail at a future meeting, when further briefings have been provided by GBRMPA staff.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is proposed for August 2003.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

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| Mr Doug Baird | Tourism and Recreation |
| Ms Kate Davey | NGO, Conservation |
| Mr Jon Day | GBRMPA |
| Dr Pat Hutchings | NGO, Ecologist |
| Mr Bruce Leaver | Environment Australia |
| Mr Duncan Souter | Fisheries |
| Prof Helene Marsh | Scientific Community |
| Ms Melissa Nursey-Bray | NGO, Conservation |
| Mr Peter Ogilvie | QPWS |
| Assoc Prof Stephan Schnierer | Indigenous Issues |
| Mr Tim Smith | Water Quality, Coastal Issues |
| Mr Peter Valentine | World Heritage, Protected Area Management |
| Mr Simon Woodley | Independent Chair |
| Ms Imogen Zethoven | NGO, Conservation |