



THE AUTHORITY:

- recommends areas of the Great Barrier Reef Region for declaration as marine park
- prepares zoning and management plans for these areas
- arranges and undertakes research and investigation relevant to the marine park

SEASONAL CLOSURE: FAIRFAX ISLANDS REEF

By agreement between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, the reef around Fairfax Islands will be closed to visitors between 1 October 1982 and 1 March 1983 inclusive, to protect important seabird and turtle nesting sites from the effects of human disturbance during the breeding season.

The area to be closed is that within an imaginary line drawn 100 metres seaward from the reef edge of Fairfax Islands Reef, but excluding the islands that form part of Queensland and are not owned by the Commonwealth.

Fairfax Islands support the principal breeding colony of Brown Booby (Sula leucogaster) in Queensland.

The objective of the Seasonal Closure Area is to protect important bird and turtle nesting areas from human intrusion.

Use or entry to the Seasonal Closure Area is generally restricted during the relevant period except for some specific purposes, including:

- scientific research conducted with the permission of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, being research that cannot be carried out in any other Zone;
- saving human life or avoiding the risk of injury to a human being;
- locating, or securing the safety of, an aircraft, hovercraft or vessel which is, or may be, endangered by stress of weather or by navigational or operational hazards;
- government geodetic survey, reconnaissance, surveillance, or law enforcement (including enforcement of the Act and Regulations made under it);
- dealing with an emergency involving a serious threat to the environment.

The operation of aircraft at an altitude of less than 1000 feet above ground or water within the Seasonal Closure Area is prohibited except with the permission of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority or its delegate.