

Bulletin

January 1996

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK CAIRNS SECTION LIZARD ISLAND

On 22 January 1996, a Special Management Area (SMA) was designated over an area around the north-western side of Lizard Island. The purpose of the SMA is to protect unique coral, flora and fauna communities from the effects of vessel anchoring. Additionally, fishing within 150 metres of the coastline in this area has the potential to detrimentally affect ongoing research projects. The southern boundary of the SMA is marked by two alignment markers on the island, to the south of Turtle Beach. The area extends from that southern boundary seaward out to the coastal 1500 metre line (approximately 0.82 nautical miles) and follows that 1500 metre line generally north and then east, around to a point where it turns due south back into the coastline in the vicinity of North Point. The map overleaf describes the boundaries of the Special Management Area in general terms. A full description of the SMA boundaries can be found in the Schedule of the Notice of Designation published in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette (Government Notices) issued on 10 January 1996. The decision to designate the Lizard Island SMA was made following public consultation.

PROVISIONS FOR THE USE OF AND ENTRY INTO THE LIZARD ISLAND SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

In addition to the provisions described in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Cairns Section Zoning Plan, the following provisions apply to the use of and entry into the Special Management Area at Lizard Island.

- A person must not anchor a vessel or aircraft of greater than 7 metres in length within the Special Management Area.
- A person must not allow the anchor chain of a vessel or aircraft of greater than 7 metres in length to lie within the Special Management Area.
- A person must not, within the Special Management Area, anchor a vessel of 7 metres or less in length except where the anchor and anchor chain of the vessel do not lie on or damage coral (class Anthozoa).
- A person must not moor a vessel or aircraft to a public mooring in the Special Management Area for more than 4 hours in any period of 24 hours.
- A person must not fish inshore of the 'coastal 150 metre line'.

For the purposes of the above description the term 'coastal 150 metre line' means the line within the SMA every point of which is at a distance of 150 metres seaward from the nearest point of the coastline at low water of Lizard Island.

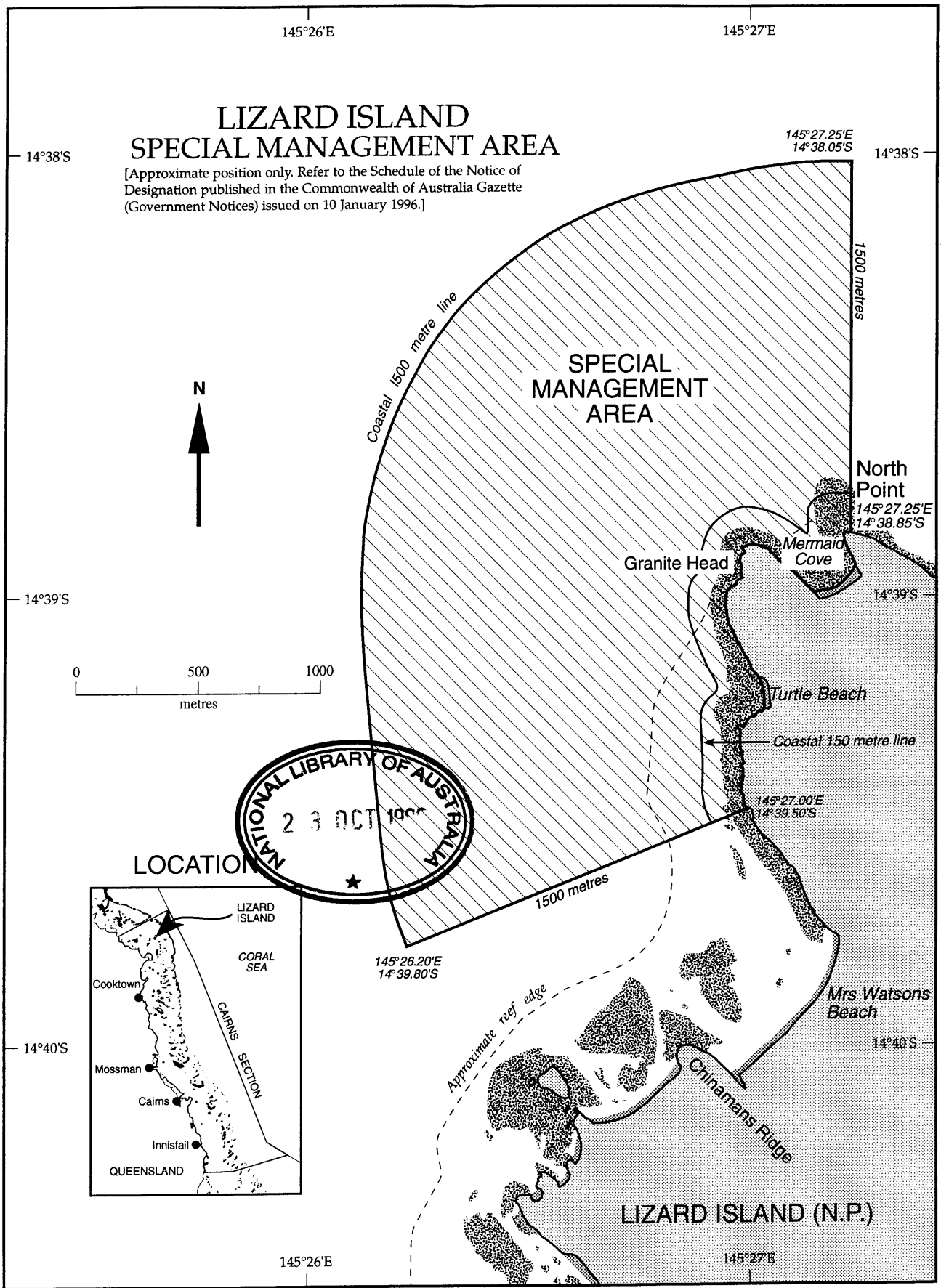
Persons holding Marine Park permissions which allow access to Lizard Island must also comply with the special management provisions in addition to any conditions imposed by the Marine Park permission.

The Special Management Area will remain in force until 31 December 2001 unless otherwise extended or revoked.

Offences are subject to penalties. As at the date of this bulletin the penalties are fines of up to \$20 000 for individuals or \$100 000 for corporations.

Two public moorings have been installed in the Mermaid Cove area, one of which must always be available for non-commercial use. Users of the public moorings should familiarise themselves with the limits placed upon the moorings in respect of length of vessel and wind strength. Information on the use of public moorings is also available from the Department of Environment and Heritage. It is an offence to misuse or damage a public mooring. Damaged or missing public moorings should be reported to the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage.

The main vessel anchorage is landward to the south of the SMA boundary near Mrs Watsons Beach and remains available for anchoring.



Further information may be obtained from:
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
 PO Box 1379
 TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
 Telephone: (077) 81 8811

Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage
 PO Box 2066
 CAIRNS QLD 4870
 Telephone: (070) 52 3043