



Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



Queensland
Government



FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ANNUAL

REPORT

S U M M A R Y

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dedicated officers out in the field are essential to protecting the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, which stretches 2300 kilometres along the Queensland coast. With more than 2900 reefs and 1050 islands — home to iconic plants, animals, habitats, and rich cultural heritage — there's plenty of essential field work in this World Heritage Area.

The Australian and Queensland governments' joint Field Management Program operates in the Commonwealth Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Queensland Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park, plus on Commonwealth islands and Queensland island national parks.

The joint program provides a constant, in park presence; delivering practical conservation actions, checking for change, responding to incidents, welcoming people and upholding compliance across the far reaches of the World Heritage Area.

In essence, our field management actions provide the safety net for the Reef to ensure all Australians and international visitors benefit now and into the future.

Patrolling the waters and islands of the World Heritage Area, the joint Field Management Program delivers a range of essential activities. These include monitoring internationally important turtle and seabird breeding islands, eliminating island pests, and developing walking tracks, camping areas and lookouts.

On-water activities include installing reef protection markers and moorings, and surveying reefs to help us understand and manage the impact of cyclones, crown-of-thorns starfish and bleaching on our coral ecosystems.

Field management officers interact regularly with Reef and island stakeholders and the broader community, providing information to park users and ensuring they abide by the rules. Across the World Heritage Area, the joint Field Management Program is helping Traditional Owners manage their land and

sea country and encourages communities and industries to help protect the Reef and islands.

Field management activities are at the heart of Australia's obligation to protect the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. For almost 40 years they have been the essential component of an agreement between the Australian and Queensland governments, which work together for the long term protection of the Reef. There are also longer-term initiatives underway to address external threats, such as climate change and poor water quality from the reef catchment.

This document summarises the joint Field Management Program's 2015–16 achievements and complements the *Field Management Program Annual Report 2015–16*.

The *Field Management Business Strategy 2013 to 2017* introduced a number of approaches to enable field management within available resources. This included a reduction in program-funded staff, a change in service delivery to a larger 'floating base' — the patrol vessel, *Reef Ranger* — with a subsequent reduction in operational bases and vessels to optimise asset use. These strategies progressed in 2015–16 with removal of the Cooktown base, amalgamation of Magnetic Island and Townsville bases, and less staff at Innisfail and Cardwell.

2015–2016 FINANCE SUMMARY

The Australian and Queensland governments provided combined funding appropriations of \$16,744,000 in 2015–16 to manage the 348,000 square-kilometre World Heritage Area. The available funds increased to \$17,574,029 through factors such as carryovers, increased revenue from sale of vessels, permit application assessment fees and insurance payments. Total expenditure was within one per cent of available funds. At the end of 2015–16 the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service holds funds of \$178,618 and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority holds funds of \$1,224,214 on behalf of the Field Management Program (includes previous year's carryovers).

The Field Management Program has five core priorities which aim to maintain the outstanding universal value for which the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is recognised, and enhance the economic, recreational and traditional uses of the Great Barrier Reef.

RANGERS ON PATROL

PROVIDING A REEF SAFETY NET



Reef Ranger vessel spent 244 days at sea travelling 21,975 kilometres, a distance equivalent to half way around the world



DELIVERING PRACTICAL CONSERVATION ACTIONS



SAVING ADULT TURTLES
200 METRES

fenced off at Raine Island to stop NESTING GREEN TURTLES FALLING OVER ROCKY EDGES
40 exhausted nesting turtles rescued and returned to the water

MORE TURTLE HATCHLINGS



80.7% of eggs hatched successfully
HIGHEST SINCE THE 1980s

RESTORING ISLAND HABITATS

240 PISONIA CUTTINGS planted to restore seabird breeding on Mitirinchi Island

HEALTHY ISLANDS

14 PLANNED BURNS

COVERING 4927 HECTARES on islands between Cape York and Curtis Island to maintain ecological function, prevent wildfire and manage pests

ISLAND PEST CONTROL ALLOWED 35 ENDANGERED YELLOW CHAT BIRDS TO BREED SUCCESSFULLY ON CURTIS ISLAND



Checking for change

EARLY DETECTION

Assessments for crown-of-thorns starfish and reef health with

2998 IN-WATER SURVEYS COVERING **537 KILOMETRES**

KEEPING TABS ON SEABIRDS

203 BIRD SURVEYS

147 different bird species

BETTER MARINE HABITAT KNOWLEDGE

8 sampling sites established to trial new subtidal seagrass sampling methods

ISLAND WATCH

70 SURVEYS OF REMOTE ISLANDS



RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS

UNDERSTANDING REEF HEALTH

561 SURVEYS TO ASSESS EXTENT AND SEVERITY OF CORAL BLEACHING

RESTORING BEACHES **38 OFFICERS SPENT**

250 person days finding oil, cleaning up and investigating the Cape Upstart oil spill

PROTECTING ENVIRONMENTS from risk associated with 93 vessel events – 30 groundings, 8 spills and 24 sinkings



WELCOMING PEOPLE



EDUCATING PARK USERS
103,095

ZONING MAPS DISTRIBUTED
3592 ON-WATER PUBLIC CONTACTS

HELPING BOATIES PROTECT CORAL & SEAGRASS

120 PUBLIC MOORINGS AND 136 REEF PROTECTION MARKERS

ENCOURAGING LOCAL STEWARDSHIP

VOLUNTEERS RESPOND TO 57%

of reported stranded marine animals with **110 new volunteers** trained to assist



HELPING MANAGE COUNTRY TRADITIONAL OWNERS

SPENT **574** DAYS ON FIELD MANAGEMENT VESSELS, UP FROM **348** IN 2014 - 2015

UPHOLDING COMPLIANCE

INDUSTRY STEWARDSHIP

8 commercial fishing vessels voluntarily trial monitoring devices



PROTECTING REEF SPECIES

838 dedicated compliance patrol days deterring illegal activity

CONSEQUENCES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HARM

1240 POSSIBLE OFFENCES leading to **60** court prosecutions, **35** infringement notices, **100** caution notices, **421** advisory letters, **50** warning notices

KEY



2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS



MARINE AND ISLAND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

The Field Management Program delivered a range of activities to help maintain and improve the condition of the Reef and islands. These conservation actions contribute to protecting marine and island habitats, vulnerable species and restoring ecosystems to their natural state.

REEF SURVEYS

Field management officers conducted 1982 reef health and impact surveys across 183 reefs in 2015–16. Additionally, 2998 in-water surveys covering approximately 537 kilometres and 31 reefs were completed to detect crown-of-thorns starfish. When combined with regular localised tourism operator surveys and reactive agency surveys, these field management surveys produce a reef-wide picture of the condition of the Great Barrier Reef.

RAINE ISLAND RECOVERY PROJECT

The Field Management Program continued adaptation work with 52 days spent on Raine Island. An additional 200 metres of rock ledge and eroded areas were fenced off around the island to stop nesting green turtles falling over rocky edges, guiding them back towards the beach on a safe path. There is now 1000 metres of fencing, which is estimated to have saved more than 400 adult female turtles from falling off cliffs since 2011. Monitoring of the 15,000 square metres of beach re-profiled in 2014–15 showed 80.7 per cent of eggs successfully hatched — the highest hatching success since the 1980s.

SEABIRD MONITORING STRATEGY

A total of 203 bird surveys in 134 locations were completed in 2015–16 under a new *Coastal Bird Monitoring and Information Strategy 2015-2020*. The World Heritage Area hosted 147 different bird species, including 11 species listed in State or Commonwealth legislation as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered. There were 129 breeding pairs of vulnerable red-tailed tropicbirds on Raine Island — the highest breeding effort recorded.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Targeted conservation management actions continued during 2015–16 to protect the natural integrity of priority island locations. Thirteen conservation priority pest plant and animal projects were delivered for the control of pests such as pigs, foxes, dogs, lantana, rubbervine, rats, deer, sparrows, ants, cattle and goats. The eradication of pigs on Dunk Island and goats on Orpheus, St Bees and High Peak islands is nearly complete. Monitoring of fire ants on Curtis Island confirmed eradication and checks of Tyron Island suggest that African big headed ants were successfully eradicated.

RESTORATION OF MITIRINCHI ISLAND

Mitirinchi Island is one of Australia's few continental islands with pisonia forest (others are coral cays) and is a historically significant seabird breeding island. Black noddy numbers collapsed following a wildfire in 2011 which destroyed most of the pisonia forest used for nesting. Lesser frigatebird numbers followed a similar trend, possibly because they could no longer scavenge food from the noddies. Field management officers planted 240 pisonia cuttings in 2015–16 to restore seabird breeding habitat. Revegetation is challenging due to very thin soil over a rocky substrate and generally dry conditions.



INCIDENT RESPONSE

Field management officers respond quickly to environmental incidents such as oil or pollution spills, grounded vessels, stranded marine animals, wildfire, coral bleaching, pest species invasions, and cyclone and flood damage to ecosystems and infrastructure.

In 2015–16 there were 93 vessel events in the World Heritage Area of interest to the Field Management Program. These events had the potential to cause environmental damage and included eight spills, 30 groundings and 24 sinkings. Assessment resulted in six official Order to Remove notices and field response to 17 incidents, which included five site assessments of damage. Sixteen of the 93 events involved vessels over 50 metres in length.

CORAL BLEACHING

The 2016 mass coral bleaching event is considered to be the most serious to impact the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. As part of the Incident Management Team, the Field Management Program played a key role in the coral bleaching response. Of the 17 vessel-based surveys completed, nine were on field management vessels. Field management officers conducted 561 of the 1070 reef health and impact surveys undertaken to assess the extent and severity of bleaching.

CAPE UPSTART OIL SPILL

Field management officers responded to a 10–15 tonne fuel oil spill that occurred near Cape Upstart on 17 July 2015. Involvement in the Incident Management Team and clean-up activities during July and August totalled around 2000 hours of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority officers' time.

The multi-agency response, led by Maritime Safety Queensland, had field management officers involved in locating the oil slick and then clean-up activities when the oil washed ashore on Hinchinbrook Island, the Palm Island Group and the mainland. The Field Management Program is leading an investigation of the incident for consideration as a criminal prosecution.



CURTIS ISLAND OFFSETS FUNDING

Field management activity on Curtis Island included enhanced pest management, habitat restoration, fire management, visitor infrastructure, management planning, and ranger presence.

The first sighting of juvenile endangered yellow chat birds indicates successful breeding on the marine plain habitat, which is recovering from 150 years of cattle grazing. The high number of yellow chat bird breeding pairs recorded in 2014–15 was maintained. Enhanced control of feral pigs, dogs and foxes allowed vulnerable flatback turtles to safely nest on Curtis Island beaches — just one nest was disturbed by animals in 2015–16.

A draft Curtis Island Management Statement and visitor, fire and pest management thematic strategies were developed to guide future management. The planning documents are the first developed for Great Barrier Reef islands under a new values-based planning framework.

Curtis Island residents and visitors will appreciate the new 12 kilometre road, which provides enhanced day use opportunities with access to the popular fishing spot of Graham Creek and spectacular views from Ship Hill lookout.

These field management activities were made possible by offset funding from Queensland Government approvals.



CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

The Field Management Program manages cultural and Indigenous heritage on island national parks and Commonwealth islands. This includes developing heritage management plans to protect significant sites and active maintenance and restoration at some locations.

A draft Low Island Heritage Management Plan has been prepared in conjunction with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority for the heritage-listed island.

The Raine Island stone beacon is considered one of the most important historical monuments in the World Heritage Area. It was constructed in 1844 under order of the British Admiralty as an aid to shipping, but was never lit. Three-dimensional imaging was undertaken in 2015–16 to allow future conservation and education. A prioritised scope of works was developed to retain structural integrity.



RECREATION AND TOURISM FACILITIES

The Field Management Program provides visitor facilities that support a vibrant tourism industry and a broad range of recreational users, while minimising visitor impacts. Ensuring visitor facilities are regularly inspected and appropriately maintained is a priority.

In 2015–16, marine facilities were serviced to a high standard, with 98 per cent of 123 public moorings and 94 per cent of 144 reef protection markers operational in the World Heritage Area to protect coral and seagrass habitats from anchor damage and facilitate visitor use.

Queensland Government funds allowed the enhancement of island visitor facilities with approximately \$330,000 spent on Fitzroy Island (Cairns), Henning Island (Whitsundays), and Magnetic Island (Townsville).

The Lady Elliot Island lease was renewed for a further 10 years until 2025, allowing continued tourism use while protecting and enhancing the island's natural and cultural values.

Implementation of the draft Lady Elliot Island Ecosystem Resilience Plan started with collaborative annual vegetation monitoring. The resort also established a nursery to cultivate thousands of pisonia and other native cay species, which volunteers are planting and seabirds will use for future nesting.



PLANNING AND PERMITS

The Field Management Program contributes to complementary planning and permitting across marine park and national park jurisdictions. The established and respected joint assessment and permit framework is a critical component of successful complementary permitting.

There were 327 Commonwealth and Queensland marine parks permits, 44 Queensland marine park permits, 18 national park permits and five commercial activity agreements assessed and decided in 2015–16 to enable sustainable use of the World Heritage Area.

The Field Management Program site supervised a range of permitted works and events to minimise potential environmental harm, including mooring and pontoon installations, jetty repairs, construction of island resort buildings, movie productions and adventure races.

Permit compliance is an important part of the joint permitting framework to ensure permitted use is sustainable. Checking that activities are taking place as permitted minimises environmental harm and impacts on other park users. The Field Management Program contributed to permit compliance by undertaking vessel and aerial compliance patrols, encouraging voluntary compliance, targeting charter and game fishing vessels, multi-agency field audits, and taking appropriate action to deal with unpermitted activities.



INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

There are more than 70 Traditional Owner groups with connections to sea country between Bundaberg and the eastern Torres Strait Islands. The Field Management Program focuses on getting Traditional Owners back on country and engaged in land and sea country management.

In 2015–16, seven per cent of Field Management Program positions were Indigenous-identified and held by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. Traditional Owners spent 574 days on field management vessels in 2015–16; a significant increase from 348 days in 2014–15 and 143 days in 2013–14. Activities included examination of cultural sites, compliance, pest control, fire management, seabird training, infrastructure maintenance, monitoring, and management planning.

The Field Management Program collaborated with Traditional Owners on all of the five Raine Island trips for 2015–16 with Traditional Owners employed for 92 days to assist with recovery actions.

Following a successful trial in 2014–15, Girringun Land and Sea Rangers were contracted under a works and services agreement to do field management activities in the Girringun Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement Area. Together, Girringun Land and Sea Rangers and field management rangers spent 137 days working to deliver fire and pest programs, install reef protection markers, maintain visitor infrastructure, contribute to development of an island management plan, undertake compliance, and assist with the Cape Upstart oil spill and coral bleaching incident response.



COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

For many users, the public face of the Australian and Queensland governments' management of the Great Barrier Reef is the field management officers they meet when out using the Reef and islands.

Marine animal stranding training has now been delivered to almost 430 volunteers in 17 locations, including 110 volunteers trained in 2015–16. Volunteers responded to 57 per cent of reported marine strandings in 2015–16. This was supported by the distribution of strandings newsletters to engage volunteers and share information. An online training program for marine animal strandings was developed to facilitate future training and enable people to readily obtain skills.

Communication and education of park users is a vital part of encouraging voluntary compliance and maintaining Reef health. The Field Management Program recorded 3592 public contact moments while on patrol and distributed more than 103,095 zoning maps. Field management activities have also been promoted on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Queensland National Parks Facebook pages, reaching thousands of people.

Pest plants and animals pose a significant threat to the health of the World Heritage Area's islands. The Field Management Program is working with resort, research station, and barge and air transport providers to protect Lizard Island from pest invasions with the implementation of new biosecurity procedures. 'Be pest-free' messaging has also been included on the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing website to educate visitors how to help keep our islands amongst the most pest free in the world.



COMPLIANCE

Illegal fishing is one of the highest direct risks to the World Heritage Area. During 2015–16, the Field Management Program continued to step up its enforcement operations against illegal fishing. One strategy being used is to communicate successful court prosecutions with strong enforcement messaging to encourage voluntary compliance.

There were 735 days dedicated to compliance patrols on vessels, 13 land-based days and 90 days of chartered flights to encourage user compliance and maintain the integrity of the zoning plan and World Heritage Area values.

There were 1240 possible offences reported in 2015–16, which is the highest number ever recorded — resulting in 35 infringement notices (\$34,011 in fines), 100 caution notices, 421 advisory letters, 50 warning notices and 60 court prosecutions (\$100,900 in fines). The first enforceable direction to restrict access to Marine National Park Zones was issued on a recidivist commercial fisher to prevent further illegal activity.

Illegal recreational fishing represents a growing non-compliance problem. The rate of incident detection has increased since 2012. In 2015–16 illegal recreational fishing comprised 43 per cent of the 1240 possible offences reported. Analysis of intelligence has resulted in targeting hot spots such as shoals and wrecks during high risk periods to deter illegal activity.

Vessel tracking of all commercial fisheries that operate in the World Heritage Area would significantly enhance compliance capability and support Reef resilience. In 2015–16 vessel monitoring devices were fitted on eight commercial fishing vessels (three primary vessels and five tenders) as a voluntary trial with some progressive commercial fishers.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

Delivery of field management activities relies on a skilled workforce, operational and appropriately located management infrastructure, a fit-for-purpose and well-maintained vessel fleet, and good systems.

Field management vessels spent 1406 days at sea during 2015–16 conducting a range of priority and foundational activities. The 24-metre primary open ocean vessel *Reef Ranger* spent 244 days at sea in its second year of operation. The quick transit times and multi-tasking capacity of *Reef Ranger* enabled on-board officers to work on priorities such as Raine Island recovery, coral bleaching response, crown-of-thorns starfish response, and compliance; in addition to foundational activities such as visitor facility management, natural resource management (fire and pest), reef monitoring, and communication and education of park users.

The Field Management Program took delivery of two new mid shelf vessels — *Karamea* in Gladstone and *Jakarta* in Cairns — in 2015–16. The vessels have significantly improved service delivery capacity, allowing longer trips in a wider range of weather conditions and effective patrolling of the World Heritage Area.

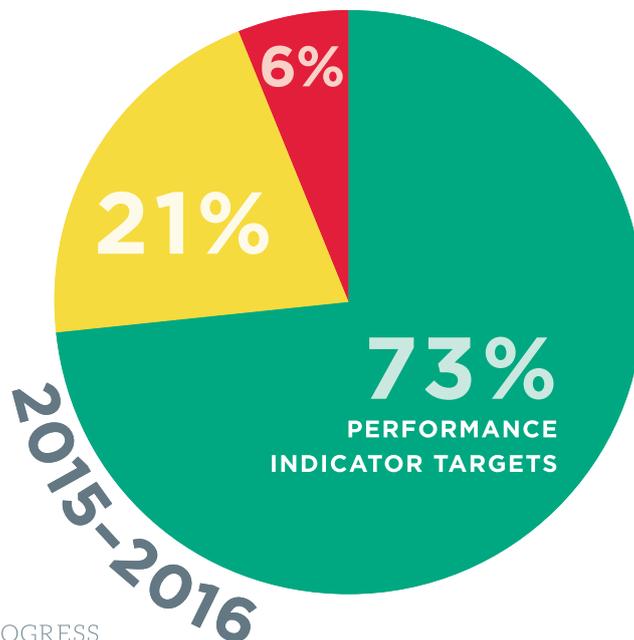
The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) was trialled as part of the Raine Island Recovery Project to determine their suitability for counting seabirds and turtles, plus island mapping. Results were very encouraging with drones capable of capturing data efficiently, without significant disturbance to seabirds. The use of drones and other technology to enable efficient and effective field management will continue to be explored.



RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators highlight Field Management Program achievements against nine high level strategies derived from the Field Management Annual Business Plan, jointly approved by the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

In 2015–16, 25 performance indicator targets (73 per cent) were achieved, seven performance indicator targets (21 per cent) were not achieved but demonstrated significant progress, and two performance indicator targets (six per cent) were not achieved, or had no significant progress.



KEY

- TARGET ACHIEVED
- SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET
- TARGET NOT ACHIEVED + NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESULTS 2015-16	
MARINE AND ISLAND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT	620 REEF HEALTH AND IMPACT SURVEYS COMPLETED	1982 reef health and impact surveys completed	■
	40 PER CENT OF FIELD MANAGEMENT OFFICERS DELIVERED REEF HEALTH AND IMPACT SURVEYS	45 per cent of officers delivered reef health and impact surveys	■
	100 PER CENT OF SCHEDULED SEABIRD MONITORING OCCURRED AT IDENTIFIED PRIORITY SITES	74 per cent of essential sites were surveyed in the first year of monitoring under the new <i>Coastal bird monitoring and information strategy 2015-2020</i> 203 surveys completed at 134 locations, including 93 essential, 24 significant and 86 incidental and extra surveys	■
	90 PER CENT OF CONSERVATION PRIORITY PEST PROJECTS MET PRESCRIBED MILESTONES TOWARDS STATED PROJECT OUTCOMES	90 per cent of prescribed milestones met Eradication of some pest animals is close	■
	NO NEW PEST INFESTATIONS ESTABLISHED ON HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE ISLANDS	No new pest infestations established on high conservation value islands	■
	90 PER CENT OF PROTECTION AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION ZONE PLANNED BURNS ACHIEVED TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY	80 per cent of planned burns successfully completed (four of five burns)	■
	80 PER CENT OF PLANNED CONSERVATION BURNS ACHIEVED TO PROTECT LIFE, PROPERTY AND BIODIVERSITY	75 per cent of planned burns successfully completed (12 of 16 burns)	■

	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESULTS 2015-16	
INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT	100 PER CENT OF SPILLS RISK ASSESSED	100 per cent of reported spills risk assessed (eight spills)	■
	FIELD MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO 100 PER CENT OF SPILL INCIDENTS WHERE THE INCIDENT CONTROL AGENCY REQUIRES THE FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM'S SUPPORT	100 per cent response Field management response to the Cape Upstart oil spill incident saw 38 field management officers assisting. No other spills required support	■
	100 PER CENT OF VESSEL GROUNDINGS OR SINKINGS NOTIFIED TO THE FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM RISK ASSESSED	100 per cent of reported vessel groundings or sinkings risk assessed (30 groundings and 24 sinkings)	■
	FIELD MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO 100 PER CENT OF VESSEL GROUNDINGS OR SINKINGS WHERE THE INCIDENT CONTROL AGENCY REQUIRES THE FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM'S SUPPORT	100 per cent response to requests The Field Management Program was incident controller for 30 groundings and 24 sinkings and responded to 17 incidents where five site assessments of damage were done	■
	MINIMUM OF 90 PER CENT OF REMOVAL ORDERS EFFECTED AT NO COST TO THE AGENCIES	100 per cent of removal orders effected at no cost (six issued)	■
RECREATION + TOURISM FACILITIES	95 PER CENT OF PUBLIC MOORINGS AND REEF PROTECTION MARKERS IN OPERATION AT ALL TIMES	98 per cent of 123 public moorings operational 94 per cent of 144 reef protection markers operational	■
	100 PER CENT OF CRITICAL AND STATUTORY INSPECTIONS ON VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE OCCURRED WITHIN SCHEDULED TIMEFRAMES	100 per cent of infrastructure inspections completed (128 statutory, 100 park obligation, 48 critical infrastructure)	■
	90 PER CENT OF FUNDED, HIGH PRIORITY INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE TASKS DELIVERED ANNUALLY	100 per cent of infrastructure maintenance tasks delivered (seven high safety building, 11 high building condition audit, 35 high risk)	■
	MINIMUM OF 90 PER CENT OF VISITOR FACILITIES CAPITAL WORKS PROJECT FUNDING EXPENDED	100 per cent of visitor facilities capital funding expended (\$2,191,549 on seven projects – \$1,823,449 offset funding, \$35,500 Field Management Program funding, \$332,600 Queensland capital works funding)	■
INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT	NUMBER OF DAYS TRADITIONAL OWNERS SPENT ON FIELD MANAGEMENT VESSEL TRIPS AND LAND BASED PATROLS MAINTAINED OR INCREASED	Traditional Owners spent 574 person days on field management vessels. A significant increase from 348 days in 2014-15 and 143 days in 2013-14	■
	GREATER THAN FIVE PER CENT OF FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WORKFORCE IDENTIFY AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE	Seven per cent of positions are Indigenous-identified and held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (eight of 115 positions)	■
	100 PER CENT OF REQUIRED MEETINGS WITH LAND TRUSTS FOR JOINTLY MANAGED NATIONAL PARKS (CAPE YORK PENINSULA ABORIGINAL LAND) ATTENDED	100 per cent of Lama Lama Land Trust and Cape Melville, Flinders and Howick Group Aboriginal Corporation joint management and fire planning meetings attended Three Kuuku Ya'u Corporation joint management meetings not attended	■

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR		RESULTS 2015-16	
CULTURAL HERITAGE	100 PER CENT OF COMMONWEALTH ISLANDS WITH LEASES HAD ANNUAL INSPECTIONS TO ENSURE TENANTS MET OBLIGATIONS TO PROTECT CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES	100 per cent of annual inspections completed for the three Commonwealth islands with Commonwealth heritage-listed buildings (Lady Elliot Island, Dent Island, Low Isles)	
	INCREASED NUMBER OF FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE FOR TRADITIONAL OWNER INVOLVEMENT IN CULTURAL SITE PROTECTION	In addition to progressing cultural site protection measures within existing joint management, and Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements, new agreements and collaborative work programs were developed or well progressed with Indigenous groups including Giringun; Yirrganydji; the Wuthathi and Meriam Le, Erubam Le and Ugarem Le people for Raine Island; and the Gunggandji people for islands and marine park waters offshore from Cairns	
	MANAGEMENT DIRECTION DETERMINED FOR 10 PRIORITY CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSETS	Management direction determined for 10 priority cultural heritage assets (those listed on the Queensland Heritage Register)	
PLANNING + PERMITS	OVER 300 APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT MARINE PARKS PERMITS ASSESSED AND DECIDED JOINTLY	327 joint marine parks permits assessed and decided	
	OVER 100 STATE-ONLY MARINE PARK, ISLAND PROTECTED AREA AND GREEN ISLAND RECREATION AREA APPLICATIONS (FOR RELEVANT AUTHORITIES) DECIDED WITHIN STATUTORY OR AGREED TIMEFRAMES	67 applications were received and decided (44 Queensland-only Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park permits, 18 island national park permits and five commercial activity agreements)	
COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION	SIX INFORMATION BULLETINS PRODUCED FOR USE BY RANGERS TO INFORM USERS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE AREA OF CONTEMPORARY MANAGEMENT ISSUES	No information bulletins/fact files were produced	
	80 PER CENT ATTENDANCE BY QUEENSLAND PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AT LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS	63 per cent attendance at Local Marine Advisory Committee meetings (35 of 56 meetings)	
	STEADY OR INCREASING NUMBER OF FACE-TO-FACE, ON-WATER CONTACTS BETWEEN FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OFFICERS AND PARK USERS	3592 public contact moments were recorded while on patrol with the Field Reporting System. This is the first year of data and forms the baseline for future comparison	

	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESULTS 2015-16	
COMPLIANCE	800 DEDICATED COMPLIANCE VESSEL PATROL DAYS FUNDED OR PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UNDERTAKEN IN THE WORLD HERITAGE AREA	735 dedicated compliance patrol vessel days were completed (92 per cent)	■
	AT LEAST 70 PER CENT OF TARGETED SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN THE WORLD HERITAGE AREA HAD MULTI-AGENCY PARTICIPATION	81 per cent of the 32 special operations conducted had multi-agency participation	■
	100 PER CENT OF INCIDENT REPORTS, WHICH ALLEGE OFFENCES WITHIN THE MARINE PARKS, RECORDED ON THE FIELD MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE UNIT INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND ASSESSED AGAINST THE CONSISTENT FRAMEWORK CONTAINED WITHIN THE PRIORITY/COMPLEXITY MODEL	752 incident and 273 information reports were received that resulted in the recording of 1240 offences that were assessed and allocated in accordance with Compliance Management and Investigations Procedures	■
PROGRAM SUPPORT	DECREASED TREND IN LOST TIME INJURIES YEAR-ON-YEAR	Slight increase in trend from 2014-15 Four lost time injuries were recorded in 2015-16, compared with three in 2014-15, five in 2013-14 and 11 in 2012-13	■
	EXPENDITURE WITHIN 1 PER CENT OF BUDGET AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH LABOUR, OPERATING AND CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS	Total expenditure was within 1 per cent of available funds	■
	DOWNTIME OF THE FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM'S TWO OFFSHORE VESSELS (EXCLUDING SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE) LESS THAN 10 PER CENT OF DAYS AT SEA	Total combined downtime for the two offshore vessels was 8.5 per cent (34 days out of 400 days) <i>Reef Ranger</i> recorded 26 unscheduled outage days out of 270 scheduled days at sea due to a gearbox failure <i>Reef Heron</i> recorded eight unscheduled outage days out of 130 scheduled days at sea	■
	MORE THAN 1500 DAYS AT SEA DELIVERED BY THE FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	A total of 1406 vessel days at sea were delivered (94 per cent), down from 1467 days (98 per cent) in 2014-15	■



Further information
about the Field
Management Program

✉ info@gbrrmpa.gov.au
🌐 www.gbrrmpa.gov.au



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