



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



Queensland
Government

REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dedicated field officers are essential for 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 vital field work to do in this World Heritage Area.

The field officers are part of the Australian and Queensland governments' Great Barrier Reef Joint Field Management Program, which operates in the Commonwealth Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the 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 conservation actions, checking for change, responding to incidents, welcoming people and upholding compliance.

Our field management activities combat threats and build reef, island and species resilience, so all Australians and international visitors can enjoy the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area now and into the future.

Patrolling these waters and islands, the Reef Joint Field Management Program delivers a range of crucial activities. These include monitoring and maintaining internationally-important turtle and seabird breeding islands, eliminating island pests, and developing walking tracks, camping areas and lookouts.

In-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 reef ecosystems.

Field officers interact regularly with stakeholders and the broader community, providing information to park users and ensuring they abide by the rules that protect this iconic place. The program works with First Nations People to manage their land and sea country and encourages communities and industries to protect species, coral reefs and islands.

Field management activities are at the heart of Australia's obligation to protect the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. In 2019, the Reef Joint Field Management Program celebrated 40 years of collaboration. Across four decades the program has grown from a small handful of officers just

managing the 12,000 square-kilometre Capricornia section, to 142 officers managing 348,000 square kilometres of marine parks and 470 island national parks and Commonwealth islands.

First agreed in 1979 by the then-Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser and Queensland Premier Joh Bjelke Petersen, the 'Emerald Agreement' established the foundation for joint management of the Great Barrier Reef. The current *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015* cements the Australian and Queensland governments' commitment to long-term protection of the World Heritage Area, as well as the Reef Joint Field Management Program.

The Reef Joint Field Management Program is undergoing a significant expansion and transformation, which commenced in 2017–18 following the Australian and Queensland governments' commitment to additional funding identified in the *Periodic Review Report*. Expansion is being staged to enable considered and sustained growth from a joint base funding commitment of over \$17 million to over \$38 million by 2021–22, with a commensurate increase in staff from 115 to around 186 people. In 2018–19 the program advanced delivery of six of 12 key investment areas identified in the *Periodic Review Report*: maintaining essential field management capabilities; island restoration and supporting reef restoration; enhancing compliance through vessel tracking; enhancing compliance through increased in-park presence, public contact and education; streamlining permissions; and collaborating with First Nations People.

A new style of *Reef Joint Field Management Program Annual Business Plan* was introduced in 2018–19 framed around the five program priorities and inputs, the World Heritage Area's primary values and the threats to these values. This document summarises the Reef Joint Field Management Program's 2018–19 achievements in delivering the Annual Business Plan and complements the *Reef Joint Field Management Program Annual Report 2018–19*.



2018–19 FINANCE SUMMARY

The Australian and Queensland governments allocated combined funds of \$30,222,627 through the Reef Joint Field Management Program Annual Business Plan 2018–19 to manage the 348,000 square-kilometre World Heritage Area. The final available funds increased slightly to \$30,432,419 due to additional revenue received.

The Australian Government provided a base appropriation of \$11,891,000, which included \$2,669,000 in additional funding to enable expansion. The Queensland Government provided a base appropriation of \$13,279,822, which included \$4,058,000 in additional funding to enable expansion – elevated above the Australian Government’s additional funding by matching its 2017–18 increase.

The Australian Government provided an additional discretionary contribution of \$74,000 in 2018–19 towards completion of the new 24-metre vessel *Reef Resilience*, which will replace *Reef Heron*. While delivery of the new vessel has been delayed, it is scheduled to enter service in the southern Great Barrier Reef later in 2019–20, based in Gladstone.

At the start of 2018–19, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority held funds of \$293,660 from the previous year’s carryover and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service held funds of \$4,196,145.

Revenue of \$697,792 was received by the joint program in 2018–19, including \$600,000 from the Authority for additional crown-of-thorns starfish surveys and \$63,762 in permit fees.

Expenditure was within eight per cent of the Annual Business Plan budget allocation, excluding the held-over commitment to 2019–20 towards *Reef Resilience*. This is a decrease from past performance where the program has

been within one per cent of budget allocation for six years. While the 17 per cent funding increase (from 2017–18) was welcomed, expending the additional funds was difficult given the significant recruitment undertaken, the delay in delivery of *Reef Resilience* and the additional Queensland Government funding received to match the Australian Government’s 2017–18 increase.

At the end of 2018–19, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service held funds of \$2,815,423 and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority held funds of \$922,047 on behalf of the Reef Joint Field Management Program.

The program also received funding from other sources that contributed to field delivery in 2018–19, including Queensland Government funding for new moorings and reef protection markers as part of the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program; Queensland and Australian government funding to develop new and improved island visitor facilities in the Whitsundays and assist tourism industry recovery following Cyclone Debbie; corporate sponsorship towards the Raine Island Recovery Project; and offset funding for Queensland and Australian government approvals associated with Curtis Island Liquid Natural Gas projects.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

The Reef Joint Field Management Program has five core priorities that aim to maintain the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and enhance economic, recreational and traditional use of the Great Barrier Reef.

These pins show some of our achievements by location:



DELIVERING CONSERVATION ACTIONS

SAVING TURTLES

5 71 days delivering recovery activities at Raine Island, last remaining 250m of cliff areas fenced to prevent turtles falling off



ERADICATING PESTS

6 African big-headed ants eradicated from Lizard Island and goat eradication close on Orpheus Island

IDENTIFYING KEY PARK VALUES

7 island parks have key values, condition and trend identified



MAINTAINING HEALTHY ISLANDS

47% of island parks within recommended burn prescriptions



PROTECTING HISTORIC HERITAGE

7 celebrating 145 years of the historic Lady Elliot Island Lighthouse



HELPING BOATIES PROTECT CORAL AND SEAGRASS

50 new public moorings and **56** new reef protection markers expand the Reef Protection Program network to **272** public moorings and **270** reef protection markers — protection doubled across 3 years



8 TRIALLING REEF RESTORATION removing macroalgae at Magnetic Island assists reef recovery



PROTECTING ROCK ART

9 fencing and goat control at Hook Island reduces damage to sites



WELCOMING PEOPLE



COMMUNICATING WITH WORLD HERITAGE AREA USERS

2476 contacts with users while on patrol

ENCOURAGING LOCAL STEWARDSHIP

volunteers respond to **54%** of marine turtle strandings and **2** new community groups join the strandings network



MANAGING COUNTRY TOGETHER

Traditional Owners spent **685** person-days on field management vessels: a **23%** increase from 557 days in 2017-18

CREATING NEW VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES

10 Whitsundays opportunities abound with new short walks on Langford and Border islands, an expansion of the Hill Inlet Lookout, and a new walk and lookout at South Whitehaven Beach almost completed



ENABLING SUSTAINABLE USE

decisions made on **369** joint marine parks, **61** state marine park and **64** island national park permit applications



Rangers on patrol providing a reef safety net

1581
SEA

98
AERIAL

9
LAND

DAYS

Reef Ranger vessel spent 293 days at sea, up from 249 days in 2017-18, travelling 26,821km a distance

= 1/2 way round the world
= highest days in 5 years of operation



Number of program staff delivering field activity increased 23%, up from 115 to 142 people



CHECKING FOR CHANGE

REEF HEALTH

1901 in-water surveys across 187 reefs check health



ENSURING EARLY DETECTION

8070 in-water surveys monitor crown-of-thorns starfish: a 38% increase from 5822 surveys in 2017-18



KEEPING TABS ON SEABIRDS

224 bird surveys at 154 locations identify over 100 species

WATCHING ISLANDS

51 surveys of islands, no new invasive pests on high biosecurity islands



IDENTIFYING BIODIVERSITY

2 surveys highlight the diversity of Curtis Island's marine plain, with 7 frog, 20 reptile, 14 mammal, and 97 bird species identified



RECOVERING ISLAND HABITATS

2 10-year study confirms the successful recovery of vegetation and return of native species on Curtis Island's marine plain following removal of cattle



SPOTTING NEW SPECIES

3 a bird found at Raine Island in 2017-18 is confirmed as the first recorded observation of a Phoenix petrel in Australia



FINDING LOST SHIPWRECKS

4 assisting with discovery of the Martha Ridgway shipwreck



UPHOLDING COMPLIANCE

PROTECTING YOUR PATCH

11 3 education campaigns launched at Seaforth, the Whitsundays and Capricorn Coast to encourage reporting of illegal activity



PROTECTING REEF SPECIES

928 dedicated compliance days – 821 vessel, 9 land and 98 aerial

IMPROVING RECREATIONAL FISHING COMPLIANCE

50% of dedicated compliance days undertaken during weekends, school holidays and public holidays, when fishers are in the World Heritage Area, to increase awareness and deter illegal activity



PROMOTING INDUSTRY STEWARDSHIP

vessel tracking of commercial net, line and crab fisheries reduces the threat these fisheries pose to marine parks values



RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS

UNDERSTANDING REEF THREATS

pre-summer workshop assesses the risk of coral bleaching and cyclones with regular updates informing managers and the community



PROTECTING ENVIRONMENTS

mitigating risk associated with 88 vessel events, including 36 groundings and 16 sinkings: a decrease from 101 events in 2017-18



ASSESSING DAMAGE

in-field response to 7 incidents to assess damage to the World Heritage Area

PROTECTING ISLAND SPECIES, LIFE AND PROPERTY

1

responding to 4 wildfires including halting a rapidly moving wildfire on Curtis Island, protecting the South End township, LNG plants and the marine plain



INCREASING RESPONSE CAPACITY



10 program staff receive site assessment of damage training and 10 Gidarjil Indigenous rangers receive incident management and shoreline cleanup training



IMPOSING CONSEQUENCES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HARM

1117 possible offences lead to: 41 court prosecutions, 166 infringement notices, 45 caution notices, 277 advisory letters, 14 warning notices



EXPANDING THE COMPLIANCE NETWORK

training 51 Indigenous rangers as marine parks inspectors

ENCOURAGING COMPLIANCE AWARENESS

engaging with 450+ Indigenous rangers and Traditional Owners to encourage compliance reporting, build strong working relationships and manage land and sea country



MINIMISING ENVIRONMENTAL HARM



site supervising 21 permitted activities within the World Heritage Area

The program removed over 850kg of macroalgae at Magnetic Island in restoration trials

2018–2019 HIGHLIGHTS



DELIVERING CONSERVATION ACTIONS

REEF RESTORATION

The Reef Joint Field Management Program is delivering the *Reef Blueprint's* recommendation for active localised reef restoration. In 2018–19 macroalgae removal trials in Florence Bay on Magnetic Island were upscaled to improve the recovery of fringing coral reef. In the first large-scale removal, over 850 kilograms of macroalgae was removed by around 20 people using a combination of snorkellers and scuba divers. James Cook University is monitoring the effect of macroalgae removal on the fringing coral reef environment.

Two published reports have highlighted positive environmental and social outcomes from restoration activities delivered in 2017–18 by the program at Mantaray Bay on Hook Island, where 400 tonnes of coral bommies that washed ashore during Cyclone Debbie were returned to the water.

The program also enabled reef restoration initiatives led by others and funded through the Queensland and Australian governments Advance Queensland Small Business Innovation and Research Initiative 'Boosting Coral Abundance on the GBR'. This included coral larvae reseeding by Southern Cross University, large scale coral spawn slick harvesting and release by CSIRO, and filling reef bags with unconsolidated coral rubble to provide a substrate for coral recruits by the University of Queensland and BMT Pty Ltd.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Targeted pest management continued in 2018–19 to protect the natural integrity of priority island locations and reduce disturbance and predation of vulnerable species. The program delivered a range of pest plant and animal projects to control pests like pigs, deer, foxes, dogs, ants, cattle, goats, lantana, Siam weed, rubbervine and Guinea grass.

Monitoring indicates African big-headed ants have been removed from Lizard Island and eradication of goats is close on Orpheus Island.

A long-running lantana eradication project on Wuthara Island has reduced the infestation so remaining lantana is no longer impacting native vegetation. Eradication remains on target for 2022. Control of feral animals continues on Curtis Island with three aerial shooting operations and ground control removing cattle, pigs, dogs and foxes, which has aided recovery of the island's endangered yellow chat birds.

An emergency response plan was initiated in response to a reported dead cane toad and new weeds on Whitsunday Island, one of the most popular island visitor destinations in the World Heritage Area. Follow-up surveys suggest the toad arrived dead with imported materials and no other signs of cane toads have been discovered, and the weeds are contained to a disturbed corridor and are being treated.



An additional 250m of fencing was installed on Raine Island to protect nesting turtles

RAINE ISLAND RECOVERY PROJECT

Species recovery work continued on Raine Island, with 71 days spent delivering recovery activities with Wuthathi and Kemerker Meriam Nation (Ugar, Mer, Erub) Traditional Owners. An additional 250 metres of fencing was installed to stop nesting vulnerable green turtles falling over rocky cliff edges. There is now 1750 metres of fencing, with all cliff areas fenced and turtles guided back towards the beach on a safe path.

Following successful beach reprofiling exercises in 2014 and 2017 to improve turtle nesting and hatching, planning commenced for a third exercise to be delivered in September 2019 — the fifth and final year of the BHP sponsorship through the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. Monitoring confirmed that the height of the reprofiled areas remain relatively stable. One third of turtle egg clutches laid in 2018–19 were in the area reprofiled in 2017–18, where five times more hatchlings are being produced than before intervention.

Turtle monitoring revealed an extremely low number of nesting turtles in 2018–19 (part of a natural breeding cycle), which combined with extreme inundation of the nesting beach in February and March, resulted in extremely low hatchling production.

Egg infertility has been ruled out as the potential cause of low hatching rates on the island, with further research into the cause ongoing. While there has been a significant increase in field management activity on Raine island across the past four years, monitoring indicates that there has not been a negative impact on the island's seabird population.

The involvement of First Nations People is crucial to the success of the Raine Island Recovery Project. In 2018–19 Traditional Owners were employed as rangers on all seven trips undertaken, with 205 person-days delivered in the field and a further 20 days where Traditional Owners participated in the World Science Festival, the Sea Turtle Symposium and attended training. The *Caring for Raine Island Country and Culture – A Strategic Plan for the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management of the Raine Island Group* was prepared by the Wuthathi and Kemerker Meriam Nation (Ugar, Mer, Erub) Traditional Owners to guide further activity on the island.

These achievements would not have been possible without the partnership and additional funding from BHP through the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.



There are now 272 public moorings and 270 reef protection markers (pictured) across the World Heritage Area

REEF PROTECTION PROGRAM

The program was responsible for installing 50 new public moorings and 56 new reef protection markers in 2018–19 to protect coral and seagrass habitats from anchor damage and provide safe, sustainable visitor use. Across a three-year timeframe the program has doubled the reef protection program, installing 153 new public moorings and 121 new reef protection markers. There are now 272 public moorings and 270 reef protection markers spread across the World Heritage Area. These important marine facilities were serviced to a high standard, with 100 per cent of public moorings inspected every four months and 98 per cent of reef protection markers inspected annually. The program also provided assistance to the Department of Environment and Science by maintaining five moorings at the Yongala shipwreck, which provide secure vessel access for permitted visitors and protect the wreck from anchor damage. This significant expansion of the Reef Protection Program would not have been possible without additional funding received through the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program, Reef Trust offsets and Gladstone Ports Corporation.

VALUES-BASED MANAGEMENT

Implementation of the values-based management framework for protected areas progressed with further assessment workshops, assessment reports and the development of thematic strategies in 2018–19. Following 2017–18 assessment workshops for Whitsunday, Gloucester, Molle, Lindeman and Repulse islands, and Frankland Group and Barnard Island Group national parks and the surrounding marine park intertidal area; further workshops were undertaken to complete assessment reports.

Two assessment reports are approved and five await approval. An assessment workshop was also undertaken for Broad Sound Islands National Park and the assessment report is in preparation. Work commenced on identifying the values for Possession Island National Park and Wuthara Island National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land), which will continue in 2019–20.

Thematic strategies are designed to provide more detail around on-ground delivery for protected areas and are to be considered together with values assessment reports, management plans and statements. Fire thematic strategies were developed, approved and recorded in the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's electronic FLAME system for Molle, Goold and Keppel Bay island national parks. Draft strategies were also prepared for South Cumberland, Flinders and Whitsunday island national parks.

Pest thematic strategies were developed, approved and recorded for Hinchinbrook, Magnetic, Whitsunday, and Fitzroy island national parks; with draft strategies prepared for Gloucester, Lindeman, Molle, and Curtis island national parks and Keppel Bay Island and Capricornia Cays national parks and national parks scientific. Monitoring and research thematic strategies are also well advanced for Capricornia Cays National Park and National Park Scientific, and Curtis and Whitsunday island national parks and will be completed in 2019–20.

The Curtis Island National Park Management Statement 2019 was gazetted and thematic strategies for engagement with First Nations People and cultural heritage are in preparation.



This grounded vessel was removed at Boulton Reef



RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS

Field management officers respond to incidents to minimise harm to the World Heritage Area's outstanding universal value, including ship and smaller vessel groundings and sinkings, pollution spills, wildfires, pest incursions, stranded marine animals and severe weather events, such as flooding.

MARITIME INCIDENTS

In 2018–19, the Reef Joint Field Management Program assessed the risks associated with 88 vessel events in the World Heritage Area — down from 101 in 2017–18. These events had the potential to cause environmental damage and included nine spills, 36 groundings and 16 sinkings. Assessment resulted in three official Order to Remove notices, six directions to remove and seven site assessments of damage. Together with Gidarjil Indigenous rangers, the program removed a wreck from Wistari Reef to prevent any further damage to the reef.

The program is growing the network of incident responders ready and willing to assist. A further 10 field management officers received site assessment of damage training to enable more rapid in-field response and assessment of damage following incidents, bringing the total to 16 trained officers. Gidarjil Indigenous rangers received training in incident management and shoreline cleanup.

Funding from Reef Trust offsets supports the program's response to maritime incidents.

REEF HEALTH AWARENESS

An annual pre-summer workshop was held to assess climate-related risks to the Great Barrier Reef and the potential for coral bleaching in 2018–19. Reef conditions were monitored closely, with regular checks of weather conditions, forecasts, modelling, and reef health reports. This improved situational awareness of reef health, particularly during the high-risk summer months between November and April (spanning the wet season), and enabled the program to keep the Authority, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, partners and the public informed through weekly updates. Outside this high-risk period monthly updates were provided.

The 2018–19 Queensland summer was the fourth warmest on record in terms of mean temperatures. While sea surface temperatures were above average for most of summer, cooler regional weather associated with the monsoon trough and cyclones reduced the threat of mass coral bleaching. Overall there was only minor bleaching and coral disease reported across the World Heritage Area.

While above average rainfall caused major flooding with extensive flood plumes between Bowen and Cooktown, surveys of seagrass and inshore reefs indicate little noticeable change. Five tropical cyclones affected the Great Barrier Reef Region in 2018–19 – Owen in December, Penny in January, Oma in February, Trevor in March and Ann in May – assessments of damage are pending.



Reef health and impact surveys help to produce a Reef-wide picture of the Reef's condition



CHECKING FOR CHANGE

The joint program checks for change on islands and in the water to monitor reef and island condition and the extent of existing or emerging threats. Checking for change identifies impacts from the main threats to the World Heritage Area and enables appropriate management actions to be implemented.

REEF SURVEYS

Field management officers conducted 1901 reef health and impact surveys across 187 reefs in 2018–19.

They also completed 8070 in-water surveys to detect crown-of-thorns starfish across 106 reefs and approximately 1577 kilometres of reef-margin across the Great Barrier Reef. This is a 38 per cent increase in crown-of-thorns starfish surveys from 2017–18. When combined with regular localised tourism operator surveys and reactive agency surveys, these field management surveys produce a reef-wide picture of the Great Barrier Reef's condition. They also support the *Reef Blueprint's* recommendation to ramp up crown-of-thorns starfish control, including improved surveillance and reporting.

Severe active outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish continue in the northern and central Reef, as well as in the southern Swains Reef. The program collected 115 tissue samples from crown-of-thorns starfish across 22 reefs to support genetic research projects being undertaken by the Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University and the University of Queensland.

Funding from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control Program enabled the further increase in crown-of-thorns starfish survey effort.

Subtidal seagrass monitoring was also undertaken at four target sites – Newry, Hinchinbrook and Flinders islands and Tongue Bay on Whitsunday Island. These surveys expand the Marine Monitoring Program's geographic assessment of seagrass condition. Surveys scheduled for Lloyd and Bathurst bays were postponed to 2019–20 due to bad weather.

SHIPWRECK DISCOVERY

The joint program also provides assistance to other government agencies with responsibilities for management of World Heritage Area values, including shipwrecks. Field management staff provided vessel and staff assistance for in-water and drone surveys in the Far North of the Great Barrier Reef, which led to discovery of the historic *Martha Ridgeway* shipwreck.



Training exercises (pictured) teach staff how to identify and record information on seabirds and shorebirds. In 2018-19 more than 100 different species were identified in the World Heritage Area

SEABIRD AND SHOREBIRD MONITORING

The Reef Joint Field Management Program undertook 224 bird surveys across 154 locations in 2018–19, the fourth full year of monitoring under the *Coastal Bird Monitoring and Information Strategy (Seabirds 2015–2020)*. These surveys identified more than 100 different species of seabirds and shorebirds, of which 19 species were breeding: the same number as last year.

To improve understanding of the migration movements of endangered Herald petrels, 13 geolocators were recovered and the information is being analysed. A sighting of a phoenix petrel at Raine Island in 2017–18 was confirmed as the first recorded observation of the endangered species in Australia.

The program is working with James Cook University to identify key seabird foraging sites within the World Heritage Area, with identification to be completed in 2019–20. This will enable an assessment of the adequacy of protection and management of these sites.

CURTIS ISLAND BIODIVERSITY

Following the discovery of a new species of ‘monster’ invertebrate in 2017–18 — a cricket-like insect that is yet to be classified — an intensive fauna survey of the marine plain has highlighted the biodiversity of the area, with seven frog, 20 reptile, 14 mammal and 97 bird species identified. A 10-year exclusion study into the impacts of cattle and feral pigs on the marine plain confirmed the condition of the marine plain has improved significantly. The height and extent of vegetation on the marine plain had declined significantly due to impacts from grazing cattle and pigs. Since removal of cattle in 2014 and ongoing feral cattle and pig control, the vegetation has recovered to its natural height and extent, and new native species have established.

The endangered yellow chat bird population on the marine plain is stable with 40 birds observed despite less than favorable conditions in 2018–19 with low rainfall and saltwater intrusion. Investigations into climatic trends, sea level rise, and the associated habitat changes and implications for yellow chats is underway.

Vulnerable nesting flatback turtles continue to nest safely on Curtis Island with no observed nest predation from pests such as foxes, pigs or dogs in 2018–19.

Offset funding from the Curtis Island Environmental Management Precinct and Queensland and Australian government approvals associated with the Liquid Natural Gas plants made these checking for change activities possible.



Multi-partner compliance and education Protect Your Patch campaign launch at Airlie Beach

UPHOLDING COMPLIANCE

Illegal fishing is one of the highest direct risks to the World Heritage Area. During 2018–19 the Reef Joint Field Management Program continued to step up its enforcement operations with support from partner agencies, including Maritime Border Command, Australian Federal Police, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and Queensland Police.

COMPLIANCE PATROLS

In 2018–19, there were 928 days dedicated to compliance patrols — 821 days on vessels, nine land-based days and 98 days of chartered flights — to encourage user compliance and maintain the integrity of the zoning plan and World Heritage Area values. This is in addition to surveillance flights undertaken by Maritime Border Command. For a second consecutive year, the number of dedicated days remains above 900 days, more than 20 per cent higher than the 755 days delivered in 2016–17, prior to the program receiving additional funding.

Fifty per cent of the program's dedicated compliance days were undertaken during high-risk illegal recreational fishing periods, such as weekends, public holidays and school holidays, when fishers are more likely to be in the World Heritage Area — a significant increase from 30 per cent in 2017–18.

The program has an established Field Operations Team in Cairns that delivers compliance patrols across the World Heritage Area. In 2018–19, the program established a second Field Operations Team in Gladstone, increasing compliance capacity in the southern Great Barrier Reef. This expansion enabled a 33 per cent increase in the number of dedicated compliance patrol days delivered by the Field Operations Team, up from 233 days in 2017–18 to 310 days in 2018–19.

CONSEQUENCES FOR ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

There were 1117 possible offences reported in 2018–19. Illegal recreational fishing comprised 56 per cent of these offences, similar to the preceding two years. These reported offences resulted in 166 infringement notices (\$334,013 in fines), 45 caution notices, 277 advisory letters, 14 warning notices and 41 court prosecutions (\$95,40 in fines) to provide an effective deterrent to further illegal activity.

PROTECT YOUR PATCH

To combat recreational fishing complacency and negligence, the program continued with a third year of communication and education strategies targeted at improving recreational fishing compliance. In 2018–19 three campaigns — at Seaforth over Christmas, in the Whitsundays during Easter, and in the Capricorn Coast across the June school holidays — were focused around Protect Your Patch messaging to encourage marine parks users to follow zoning rules and report illegal activity. Media releases associated with the campaigns resulted in 35 news items reaching more than 400,000 people.



Indigenous rangers did hands-on training at Mungalla Station in May 2019

INDIGENOUS RANGER TRAINING

The Authority entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in February 2018 to train at least 40 Indigenous rangers in Certificate IV in Government Investigations by June 2020. Training is well advanced with 51 Indigenous rangers receiving training in 2018–19. Twenty-one of the rangers graduated in March 2019 and a further 24 rangers are on track to graduate in 2019–20.

Eyes and Ears compliance training was also provided to 234 Traditional Owners and Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers to raise awareness and encourage reporting of offences. First Nations People are an important part of the joint program's compliance network, with over 450 Indigenous rangers and Traditional Owners providing compliance reporting and talking with the program's Indigenous Compliance Team about management of their respective sea country.

In 2018–19, seven per cent of the program's dedicated compliance days were delivered with Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers and Reef Joint Field Management Program rangers working side-by-side.

Funding provided through the Australian Government's Capacity Building for Indigenous Rangers Strategy made this training possible.

TRACKING COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS

Under the *Queensland Sustainable Fishing Strategy 2017–2027*, vessel tracking of priority commercial fisheries in the World Heritage Area – net, line and crab – commenced on 1 January 2019. The joint program has supported the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries with this initiative, including funding of \$2.2 million in previous years towards the industry rebate scheme assisting fishers with the purchase and installation of vessel tracking units. A Vessel Monitoring Team has been established within the program's Field Management Compliance Unit to ensure the best use of vessel tracking data in enhancing compliance and supporting the Reef's resilience. Regular assessments of the compliance threat for commercial fisheries are undertaken quarterly and the threat for these three fisheries has already reduced since vessel tracking commenced.

PERMISSIONS COMPLIANCE

Permit compliance is an important part of the joint permitting framework and ensures permitted use is sustainable. Checking that activities are taking place as permitted minimises environmental harm and impacts on other park users. Field management officers undertook 21 field inspections of proposed or permitted activities during 2018–19. Of these, 15 were directed at the supervision of permitted works and events to minimise potential environmental harm, including removal of the Green Island underwater observatory, underwater art installations and coral nurseries in the Whitsundays and the Clump Point Boating Infrastructure Project.



Hill Inlet lookout has been significantly expanded



WELCOMING PEOPLE

The joint program welcomes people to appreciate, respect and enjoy the World Heritage Area by improving community understanding of values and threats, and providing visitor facilities to enable ecologically sustainable use. The program welcomes the involvement of industry and the broader community in field delivery, and partners with First Nations People to expand our shared capacity to protect and recover reef, islands and species.

WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS VISITOR FACILITIES

Cyclone Debbie crossed the Queensland coast near Airlie Beach on Tuesday 28 March 2017 significantly impacting the Whitsundays, one of Queensland's most significant tourism areas. To assist recovery and provide alternative island experiences to snorkelling and diving, the program is delivering a considerable expansion and improvement of island visitor facilities.

Whitehaven Beach is the most visited tourism site within the World Heritage Area. To support the high number of visitors to this site the South Whitehaven Beach campground and day visitor site has been rebuilt with new shelters, tables, camping nodes, and interpretive signs. Revegetation of the site was also undertaken to assist recovery of the coastal vegetation, with around 2500 trees planted. A new lookout with views that rival Hill Inlet was constructed at South Whitehaven Beach and was opened in July 2019 once the associated walking track was completed.

The iconic Hill Inlet lookout is the second most visited site within the World Heritage Area. To alleviate congestion at the popular site and improve visitor experience the lookout has been significantly expanded. Visitors now have three separate viewing platforms from which to appreciate the beauty of Hill Inlet and Whitehaven Beach. Improvements and an expansion of the walking tracks leading to the lookout are also underway to cater for the constant flow of visitors — these will be completed in 2019–20. Coral and live rock has been relocated to provide vessels with a clear defined path to the beach, improving tidal access to the popular lookout.

A second short walk was completed at Border Island following construction of a short walk at Langford Spit in 2017–18. Planning for a new multi-day Whitsunday Island walking track between Tongue Point and South Whitehaven Beach is well advanced and will be completed in 2019–20, along with a third short walk at Chalkies Beach on Haslewood Island.

Funding from the Reef Joint Field Management Program, together with additional Queensland and Australian government funding, made these new Whitsundays facilities possible.

ASSESSMENTS AND PERMITS

The program helped to improve the established joint marine parks assessment and permit framework with new staff employed to facilitate streamlined assessment and decision making of the increasing number of reef restoration applications, and to enable a risk-based approach to permissions. These improvements will deliver a more efficient, effective and risk-based joint permit system. Ninety-seven per cent of applications are now being received online and the average processing timeframes continue to improve with average low-risk decision timeframes down to 17 business days.

In 2018–19, the joint program assessed and made decisions on 369 Commonwealth and Queensland marine parks, 61 Queensland marine park and 64 national park permit applications, and four commercial activity agreements, to enable sustainable use of the World Heritage Area. The total number of marine parks permits in effect at the end of 2018–19 was 1312 permits, comprising 4202 permissions, with the majority (65 per cent) lower risk routine or tailored permits, such as tourist programs, charter or barge vessels and aircraft permits.



The program recorded 2476 public contact moments in 2018–19, including ensuring marine parks visitors had zoning information

COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

For many World Heritage Area users, field management officers are the public face of the Australian and Queensland governments' management of the Great Barrier Reef. Communication with park users is a vital part of encouraging voluntary compliance and maintaining Reef health.

The Authority's Eye on Reef app now includes marine parks zoning layers, providing an easy-to-use option for visitors to quickly check what zone they are in. However, printed zoning maps are still important and 60,000 maps were printed for distribution.

The Reef Joint Field Management program recorded 2476 public contact moments in 2018–19 — these are moments where field officers talk directly with park users while on patrol in the World Heritage Area. Part of these discussions include checking that park users know the rules and have access to zoning information — 69 per cent of users already had maps available in either print or electronic form, the remaining 31 percent were provided with a printed zoning map or shown how to download and use the Eye on the Reef app.

Zoning maps and other material produced by the program, such as Protect Your Patch collateral, is distributed by program staff and the Authority's Regional Engagement team to community access points and at community and major

events such as fishing and boating shows, BCF Club Nights, fishing competitions and other key community events. Field management activities have also been promoted on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. By using a combination of face-to-face contact, print and social media, the program is reaching many thousands of people to encourage stewardship, including improving their understanding of the World Heritage Area, what's allowed and what they can do to protect it.

The program has a network of over 500 trained marine animal stranding volunteers, including community groups, individuals and Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers. These volunteers responded to 54 per cent of reported marine strandings in 2018–19. It's important for volunteers to be appropriately trained before responding to strandings, with the program providing online training to 226 people (40 per cent completed the training) and face-to-face training for 66 people.



Gidarjil rangers are working with program rangers to redevelop North West Island campground and protect nesting seabirds

WORKING WITH FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

The program acknowledges the continuing land and sea country management and custodianship of the World Heritage Area by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Nations People. Wherever possible the program works with First Nations People to manage land and sea country together, such as at Raine Island where recovery activities are delivered with Wuthathi and Kemerkermer Meriam Nation (Ugar, Mer, Erub) Traditional Owners. The program focuses on getting Traditional Owners back on country and engaged in land and sea country management. First Nations People and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service jointly manage a number of national parks (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land).

In 2018–19, 13 per cent of vessel trips included First Nations People, who spent 685 person-days on field management vessels undertaking activities including examining cultural sites, compliance, pest control, fire management, seabird monitoring, and infrastructure maintenance.

The program supported Gidarjil Development Corporation in their development of a *Sea Country Business Strategy 2019–25*, which will provide strategic direction for future land and sea country management. Reef Trust offset funding enables the program's agreement with Gidarjil Development Corporation for the delivery of field management activities.

Girringun Land and Sea Rangers successfully delivered field activities in their fifth year of a works and services agreement with the program and the annual agreement has now transitioned to a three-year agreement. The rangers delivered activities such as pest control, infrastructure maintenance, fire management, bird surveys, island health checks, and compliance. While aboard program vessels the Girringun Rangers secured sea time necessary to attain their coxswains certificates.

Cultural awareness protocols are being established and documented with First Nations People under Indigenous Management Agreements for National Parks (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land). These protocols will ensure program staff are aware of and respect First Nations Peoples' traditions and customs when within their respective land and sea country.



Using technology is a key focus for the program

PROGRAM INPUTS

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, technological advances, good systems and strong governance.

VESSEL FLEET

Field management vessels spent 1581 days at sea during 2018–19. Expansion of the program has enabled the number of vessel days to increase from the 1481 days in 2016–17 to above 1580 days for two consecutive years. The 24-metre vessel *Reef Ranger* spent 80 per cent of the year at sea in its fifth and busiest year of operation with rangers, other reef managers and researchers undertaking a range of field activities across 293 days. The quick transit times and multi-tasking capacity of *Reef Ranger* enabled rangers to work on a broad scope of activities such as Raine Island recovery, crown-of-thorns starfish response, reef and seabird monitoring, fire and pest management, visitor facility management and educating park users. *Reef Heron* spent 72 days at sea in its twenty-second and final year of operation with the program.

Planning and construction of new vessels for the program's fleet has seen the new 24-metre vessel *Reef Resilience* take shape. While delivery of the new vessel has been delayed it will enter service in 2019–20 with a full schedule. Two new tender vessels have been constructed ready for use with *Reef Resilience*. Concept designs have been commissioned for a new 16-metre patrol vessel to replace *Tamoya* in the Whitsundays and a new 18-metre barge to be based in the northern Great Barrier Reef. Construction of the new 16-metre vessel will commence in 2019–20 and extend into 2020–21. Construction is also underway to replace *Darter II*, the rigid-hulled inflatable boat used to deliver compliance patrols from *Reef Ranger*.

WORKFORCE

Expansion of the program in 2018–19 has seen a 23 per cent increase in the number of field management funded staff, up from 115 to 142 staff. To support the increase in staff, work bases at Magnetic Island, Gladstone and Cairns have been expanded.

Well-trained staff members are essential to the delivery of an effective, efficient and safe Reef Joint Field Management Program. Field management staff received training across 44 different courses in 2018–19, including two iterations of the highly successful Field Management Foundation course. The foundation course was specifically designed to unify staff awareness and understanding of the challenges facing Reef management and of the importance of the Reef to coastal communities and industries. It has now been delivered to 166 participants through nine courses held since 2014, with around 78 per cent of field management-funded staff having completed the training.

TECHNOLOGY

The joint program continues to explore and deliver technology improvements to enable more efficient and effective monitoring and reporting. The electronic Field Reporting System is used by field staff to record details of field management program trips. During 2018–19 there were 1035 trips, 2224 activities and 3655 events recorded.

The program now has a fully-functioning commercial drone operation capable of conducting effective over-water marine protected area surveillance. The use and value of drones for monitoring is increasing with trials monitoring turtles and seabirds, yellow chat birds and island vegetation indicating drones provide an efficient and reliable monitoring method. A drone was trialled to inform a site assessment of damage following a marine vessel incident. The program also collaborated with the Queensland University of Technology to trial an underwater 'Rangerbot' drone.

RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance indicators highlight the program's achievements against the Reef Joint Field Management Program Annual Business Plan 2018–19, which the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Science and the Chief Executive Officer of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority jointly approved.

With the introduction of a new style of Annual Business Plan in 2018–19, the program refined and improved how success will be evaluated through the use of performance indicators. The program has a high standard of performance and — in acknowledging the need to increase field delivery across the World Heritage Area — set challenging targets for delivery in 2018–19.

In 2018–19, the program had 35 challenging performance indicator targets of which 18 (52 per cent) were achieved; 12 (34 per cent) were not achieved, but demonstrated significant progress; and five (14 per cent) were not achieved or had no significant progress. See Figure 1.

While annual performance is at the lower range of the program's performance across the past seven years (See Figure 2), the program has elevated the performance standard expected and delivered a significant expansion of the program including delivery of six key investment areas. The main observed shift in performance is from achieving delivery, to instead achieving significant progress towards the target. Background on why individual performance indicator targets have not been fully achieved is provided in the following table. Performance is expected to improve in 2019–20.

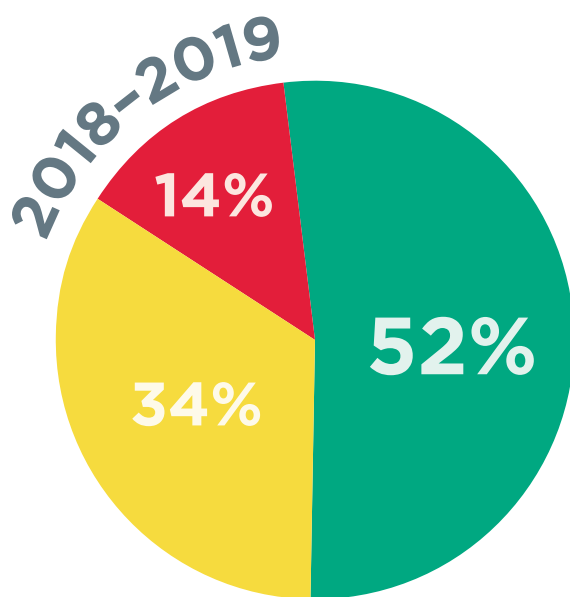


Figure 1: Percentage of performance against indicator targets 2018–19.

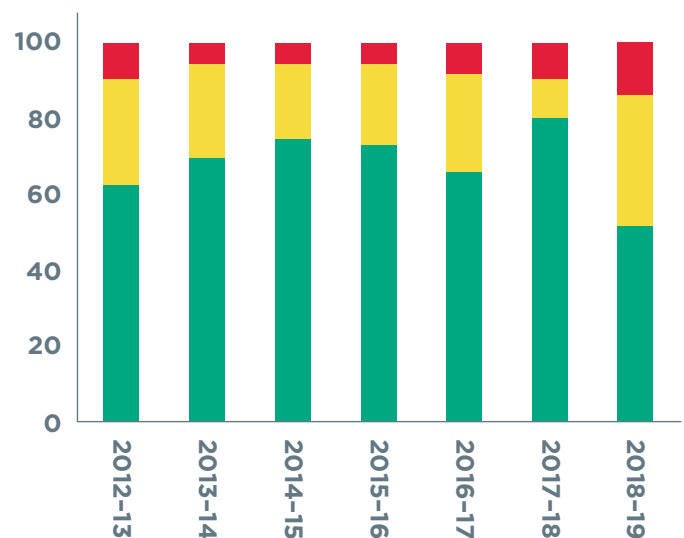


Figure 2: Program performance over seven years.









KEY

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

	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESULTS 2018-19	
DELIVERING CONSERVATION ACTIONS	90 PER CENT OF THE REGIONAL PRIORITY BURN PROGRAM DELIVERED	100 per cent of regional priority burns delivered. Three of four conservation burns achieved the burn objectives, however none of the protection burns achieved the objectives – due to insufficient fuel or the vegetation not being dry enough. Protection burns are a priority for 2019–20.	
	90 PER CENT OF THE STRATEGIC PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM DELIVERED	88 per cent of strategic pest projects delivered (seven of eight projects) with eradication of mice from North West Island postponed due to delays with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority off label permit process.	
	84 FIELD DAYS SPENT DELIVERING RAINE ISLAND RECOVERY PROJECT ACTIVITIES WITH TRADITIONAL OWNERS	71 field days were spent delivering recovery activities with Traditional Owners. Bad weather resulted in the duration of some trips being reduced. However, despite the lower number of days, all necessary activities were completed, with the exception of turtle counts at Sandbanks 7 and 8, which were postponed to 2019–20 due to low turtle numbers.	
	COMPLETE VALUE AND LEVEL OF SERVICE ASSESSMENTS FOR EIGHT ISLAND NATIONAL PARKS OR COMMONWEALTH ISLANDS	Following assessment workshops in 2017–18 for seven island national parks (Whitsunday, Gloucester, Molle, Lindeman and Repulse islands, Frankland Group and Barnard Island Group) and the surrounding marine park intertidal areas, further workshops were undertaken to complete assessment reports. Two are approved (Frankland and Barnard) and five awaiting approval. An assessment workshop was also undertaken for Broad Sound Islands National Park with the assessment report in preparation for completion in 2019–20.	
	EXPANSION OF THE REEF PROTECTION PROGRAM COMPLETED	Expansion is complete. 153 public moorings and 121 reef protection markers were installed across three years (2016–19), doubling the Reef Protection Program.	
	100 PER CENT OF MOORINGS AND REEF PROTECTION MARKERS (RPMS) ARE INSPECTED AND REGULARLY MAINTAINED – MOORINGS AT FOUR MONTHLY INTERVALS AND RPMS ANNUALLY	100 per cent of moorings and 98 per cent of RPMS were inspected at the required intervals. The two RPMS requiring inspection at the Haven near Hinchinbrook Island are scheduled to be inspected in July 2019 during very low tides, to reduce the risk of interaction with crocodiles.	
	REPORT ON THE ADEQUACY OF PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF SEABIRD BREEDING SITES COMPLETED	Key seabird breeding sites have been identified and the adequacy of their protection has been assessed. A report is being prepared and will be finalised in 2019–20.	
	HISTORIC HERITAGE INSPECTIONS UNDERTAKEN OF COMMONWEALTH ISLANDS (DENT AND LADY ELLIOT ISLANDS AND LOW ISLES) AND ISLAND NATIONAL PARKS (MAGNETIC, PERCY AND CURTIS ISLANDS)	Inspections completed on Commonwealth islands (Dent and Lady Elliot islands and Low Isles) and island national parks (Magnetic, Percy and Raine islands and Cape Capricorn on Curtis Island) to check the condition of historic heritage. The inspection undertaken on Magnetic Island has led to successful funding in 2019–20 to improve safety at the Forts buildings.	

	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESULTS 2018-19	
CHECKING FOR CHANGE	620 REEF HEALTH AND IMPACT SURVEYS (RHIS) DELIVERED	1901 Reef Health Impact Surveys were completed – elevated above the target by 1356 crown-of-thorns starfish related RHIS.	
	100 REEFS SURVEYED FOR CROWN-OF-THORNS STARFISH	106 reefs were surveyed.	
	FIVE NATIONAL PARK OR COMMONWEALTH ISLANDS WITH COMPLETED VALUE ASSESSMENTS HAVE HEALTH CHECKS UNDERTAKEN	Health checks were undertaken for Hinchinbrook, Whitsunday and Molle island national parks. Further health checks were delayed pending completion of value assessments and monitoring and research thematic strategies for parks.	
	90 PER CENT OF THE SEABIRD AND SHOREBIRD MONITORING PROGRAM IS DELIVERED	60 per cent of essential sites (33 of 55 sites) were fully surveyed in the fourth year of monitoring, a decline from 98 per cent in 2017-18 and 80 per cent in 2016-17. 60 per cent of shorebird sites (three of five sites) were surveyed. Poor weather including cyclones and flooding impeded delivery of surveys.	
	40 ISLAND WATCH SURVEYS COMPLETED	51 Island Watch surveys completed, including 15 islands not previously surveyed.	
WELCOMING PEOPLE	MEET SERVICE LEVEL STANDARDS FOR ROUTINE AND TAILORED JOINT MARINE PARK PERMISSIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERMISSION SERVICE CHARTER – 25 BUSINESS DAYS FOR ROUTINE ASSESSMENTS AND 50 BUSINESS DAYS FOR TAILORED ASSESSMENTS AFTER RECEIVING ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION	Service level standards were met in accordance with the Permission Service Charter. The average time for decisions was 18 business days for routine assessments and 41 business days for tailored assessments.	
	60 PER CENT OF MARINE STRANDINGS REQUIRING RESPONSE ARE ATTENDED TO BY TRAINED COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS, ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE	54 per cent of strandings (109 of 201) reported were attended by trained community volunteers, Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islander people.	
	FIVE PER CENT OF VESSEL TRIPS INCLUDE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE	13 per cent of vessel trips included a Traditional Owner or Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger.	
	100 PER CENT OF NATIONAL PARK (CAPE YORK PENINSULA ABORIGINAL LAND) MEETINGS ATTENDED	100 per cent of meetings attended (16 meetings).	
	2500 PUBLIC CONTACT EVENTS WHERE FIELD STAFF ARE TALKING DIRECTLY WITH WHA USERS	2476 events (comprising 2115 public contact, 99 permit checks, 225 incidents, and 37 caution notices events) were recorded where field staff were talking directly with World Heritage Area users.	
	100 PER CENT OF PROGRAMMED CRITICAL AND STATUTORY INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE TASKS COMPLETED	100 per cent of programmed critical and statutory infrastructure maintenance tasks completed.	

	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESULTS 2018-19	
UPHOLDING COMPLIANCE	870 DEDICATED COMPLIANCE DAYS	928 dedicated compliance days delivered (821 vessel, nine land-based and 98 aerial), six per cent above the 870 day target.	
	50 PER CENT OF DEDICATED COMPLIANCE DAYS UNDERTAKEN DURING HIGH RISK ILLEGAL RECREATIONAL FISHING PERIODS	50 per cent of dedicated compliance days undertaken on weekends, public holidays and school holidays which are high-risk periods. 2019-20 reporting will also include good weather periods (< 10 knots).	
	FIVE PER CENT OF DEDICATED COMPLIANCE DAYS INCLUDE INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA RANGERS	Seven per cent of dedicated compliance days (63 of 928 days) were delivered with Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers.	
	FIVE PER CENT OF COMPLIANCE REPORTS SUBMITTED BY INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA RANGERS	Three per cent of compliance reports (24 of 789 reports) were reported by or originated from Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger groups. This is an increase from two reports in 2016-17 and 15 in 2017-18. This is in addition to many other incident and activity reports submitted by Indigenous rangers which may not result in a compliance report, for instance 37 per cent (50 of 136) of Indigenous Activity Reports were submitted by Indigenous rangers who have received training from the Indigenous Compliance Team.	
	60 PER CENT OF ON WATER VISITORS HAVE ZONING MAPS AVAILABLE (PRINT OR ELECTRONIC)	31 per cent of public contact events recorded in the program's Field Reporting System (FRS) indicate a zoning map was provided, which suggests that for the remaining 69 per cent of events visitors had maps available. Improvements to FRS have been made to better record this indicator in 2019-20.	
RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS	15 PER CENT OF PROGRAM STAFF HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN SITE ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE WITHIN THE PAST THREE YEARS	11 per cent of program staff (16 of 139 staff) have been trained within the past three years. The program was on target, however eight staff had to withdraw from scheduled training in May 2019 due to other emerging priorities. Training will continue in 2019-20.	
	100 PER CENT OF MARITIME INCIDENTS THAT OCCUR ARE RISK ASSESSED AND RESPONDED TO ACCORDINGLY	100 per cent of 88 events reported to the program were assessed and responded to accordingly.	
	80 PER CENT OF MARITIME INCIDENTS REQUIRING A SITE ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE ARE UNDERTAKEN	88 per cent of incidents (seven of eight) requiring a site assessment of damage had assessments undertaken.	

	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	RESULTS 2018-19	
PROGRAM INPUTS	INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PROGRAM FUNDED STAFF FROM 115 TO OVER 138	The program is funding 142 staff (35 Authority, one Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, and 106 Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff).	
	DEVELOP A THREE YEAR TRAINING PROGRAM THAT IS REVIEWED ANNUALLY	Development of the three-year training program for program staff is in preparation and will be completed in 2019-20.	
	NO LOST TIME INJURIES	There were 11 lost time injuries (LTI) with a total of 101 days lost time (four Authority staff with 84 days lost time and seven QPWS staff with 17 days lost time). This is a noticeable increase from four LTI with 41 days lost time in 2017-18, and five LTI with 69 days lost time in 2016-17. Promoting a safe work culture remains a high priority for the program.	
	NEW 24-METRE VESSEL REEF RESILIENCE ENTERS SERVICE	Construction of the new vessel has been delayed by the contractor. The new vessel will enter service later in 2019-20.	
	REVIEW THE FIVE YEAR VESSEL REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	Vessel replacement program reviewed and updates incorporated into the <i>Reef Joint Field Management Program Business Strategy 2019 to 2023</i> .	
	1450 TOTAL DAYS AT SEA	1581 total days at sea delivered aboard program vessels, nine per cent above the 1450-day target.	
	INVESTIGATE AND DECIDE ON A NEW INTEGRATED COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	An agreement has been negotiated with an external contractor to review current and future needs in 2019-20 and make recommendations on the purchase of a new system.	
	EXPENDITURE IS WITHIN ONE PER CENT OF BUDGET ALLOCATION	Expenditure was within eight per cent of budget allocation when commitments towards construction of <i>Reef Resilience</i> are excluded. The program was challenged to hold expenditure within one per cent of budget allocation with the expansion of the program. Improving performance to return the program to being within one per cent of available funds is a priority for 2019-20.	

Further information about the Reef Joint Field Management Program

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