



Position Statement on Indigenous Participation in Tourism and its Management

- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have connections to 'sea country' in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- Tourism is the major economic activity in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- Tourism is, and has the potential to become, an increasingly important industry for Indigenous communities adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef.
- The goal of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is to provide for the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- The GBRMPA has an important role in managing tourism in the Marine Park, especially through tourism program permits, planning arrangements, zoning and encouraging best practices.
- Greater participation by Indigenous communities in tourism and its management can contribute to the care and development of the Marine Park.

Joint Vision

As joint partners, Tourism Queensland, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the GBRMPA are working with Indigenous groups plus other government agencies and tourism operators to enhance Indigenous participation in tourism and its management in the Great Barrier Reef.

The joint long-term vision is:

- Indigenous people owning, operating and being involved in tourism operations in the Marine Park and
- Indigenous participation in the way tourism is managed.

The different expertise, perspectives and responsibilities of each of the groups and government agencies involved will be very important in collectively achieving this vision. Each group and agency involved has a different role to play.

GBRMPA's Role

The GBRMPA's role in achieving the joint vision is to:

- Ensure that Marine Park regulatory and other arrangements are appropriate for any emerging initiatives in Indigenous tourism, including the allocation of specific Indigenous permits
- Work with traditional owners and Land Councils to improve Indigenous input into Marine Parks permitting and management, including native title notification and assessments of cultural and heritage values
- Encourage marine tourism operators to be involved in fostering Indigenous participation in marine tourism
- Work with other key agencies, Indigenous groups and the tourism industry to coordinate and facilitate a better understanding of Indigenous community and tourism industry perspectives and aspirations regarding Indigenous participation in marine tourism.

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