

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is implementing the Representative Areas Program to help ensure better protection of the Marine Park's biodiversity. This will involve a review of the existing zoning throughout the Marine Park. This information sheet is part of a package of materials that help explain various technical elements of the Representative Areas Program and the zoning review.

New coastal areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

In January 1999, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage announced that certain coastal areas previously excluded from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park would now be included. When the Marine Park was first declared in the late 1970s, these areas were excluded because of concerns about their potential for industrial or port developments, as well as a limited understanding of their ecological significance.

The addition of the new coastal areas to the Marine Park has occurred in a staged process, with areas being proclaimed as new Sections at different times (see Table and Map for more details).

The first series of additions to the Marine Park included areas with low human use, high natural values, and with limited coastal developments, infrastructure or modifications. The final series included more complex areas, with many adjacent to existing ports.

Under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, it is a statutory requirement that zoning plans be prepared for the new coastal areas as soon as practicable after their proclamation as sections of the Marine Park. This will be done in parallel with the Representative Areas Program. The GBRMPA's *Notice of Intent to Prepare a Zoning Plan* for the Representative Areas Program will ask for additional public input into the zoning and management of these areas.

Note that some small coastal areas (adjacent to ports and major urban centres) are still excluded from the Marine Park.

Until a new zoning plan is in effect, the new areas remain 'unzoned areas' of the Marine Park. Under Section 38F of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* there are certain activities prohibited in unzoned areas unless permission is granted by the GBRMPA. Examples include:

- building or constructing major structures;
- carrying out works such as reclamation and beach protection; and
- demolition or removal of structures.

For full details on prohibitions in unzoned areas, consult Section 38F of the *Act* or contact the GBRMPA. For more information about the legislation, go to:

www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_gbrmpa/legislation_regulations.html

Recreational and commercial fishing activities and general use of the Marine Park are still permitted in unzoned areas.

| New Areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park | | |
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| Area | Section Name | Date of Gazette |
| Sharp Point to Sadding Point | Shadwell Section | 2 August 2000 |
| Captain Billy Landing | Heathlands Section | 2 August 2000 |
| Margaret Bay | Margaret Bay Section | 2 August 2000 |
| South of Cape Grenville | Indian Bay Section | 2 August 2000 |
| 1st Stony Point | Fair Cape Section | 2 August 2000 |
| Portland Roads | Weymouth Section | 13 December 2000 |
| Bobardt Point | Night Island Section | 2 August 2000 |

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Port Stewart | Claremont Section | 2 August 2000 |
| Bathurst Head | Bathurst Head Section | 13 December 2000 |
| Barrow Point | Ninian Bay Section | 2 August 2000 |
| Cape Flattery | Cape Flattery Section | 4 July 2001 |
| Cooktown | Cooktown Section | 22 December 2000 |
| Daintree to Mourilyan | Wet Tropics Coast Section | 4 July 2001 |
| Clump Point | Clump Point Section | 22 December 2000 |
| Mission Beach | Mission Beach Section | 2 August 2000 |
| Lucinda Point to Bohle River | Halifax Bay Section | 4 July 2001 |
| Cleveland Bay | Cleveland Bay Section | 4 July 2001 |
| Burdekin | Burdekin Section | 2 August 2000 |
| Abbot Point | Edgecumbe Section | 4 July 2001 |
| Pioneer Bay | Airlie Beach | 4 July 2001 |
| Western Repulse Bay | Repulse Bay Section | 2 August 2000 |
| Mackay | Sandringham Section | 4 July 2001 |
| Broad Sound | Broad Sound Section | 22 December 2000 |
| Yeppoon Coast | Farnborough Section | 4 July 2001 |
| Keppel Bay | Keppel Bay Section | 4 July 2001 |
| Connor Bluff to North Point | Curtis Island Section | 22 December 2000 |
| South of Port Curtis | Boyne Section | 4 July 2001 |
| Bustard Head to Rocky Point | Bustard Bay Section | 2 August 2000 |

Tidal lands and tidal waters within these new unzoned areas are **not** part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and may still be subject to existing Queensland zoning provisions and state legislation.

If you have any comments or suggestions about the zoning and management of the new coastal areas of the Marine Park, send them to the GBRMPA via either the Submissions Brochure or preferably by completing the Detailed Maps that are available from the GBRMPA.

For more information, please, contact:

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