

Summary of the Cairns Area Plan of Management Amendments 2008

The following information is a summary of the amendments to the *Cairns Area Plan of Management 1998* (including *Amendment 2008 (No.1)*) (the Plan) that came into force on 18 December 2008.

Consultation on the amendments was conducted in February-March 2007 and all submissions received were considered in the preparation of the amended Plan. Further information can be accessed through the GBRMPA website (www.gbrmpa.gov.au) or by contacting (07) 4750 0700

Summary of amendments:

Core amendments

- *Increased opportunity for some Regional Tour Operators.*
Operators that are 365 day operators (Regional Tourism Operators) who conduct single day fishing charters can apply to have daily access to the General Use Zone, Habitat Protection Zone, and Conservation Park Zone (other than that part of the Conservation Park Zone that is included in a Public Appreciation Special Management Area).
- *Allocation of 20 new permissions for installation of moorings.*
These new permissions are subject to site plans being prepared. Please refer to the Plan for further details. An allocation process will apply.
- *Allowance for existing mooring operators to install a northerly mooring* (in addition to the capped moorings already provided for in the Plan). These moorings are for use in northerly weather conditions following impact assessment. Please refer to the Plan for further details.
- *Provision for installation of a heli-pontoon in the Ribbon Reefs Sector.*
An allocation process will apply.
- *Increase in group size limits at Flynn and Pellowe Reefs.*
Flynn and Pellowe Reefs are now included in the list (Schedule 6A) of Moderate Use Locations where vessels can carry up to 100 people (instead of the standard maximum group size of 60), if operating to a mooring.

Editorial and technical amendments

- Part 1 has been re-written to more clearly explain the intent of the Plan and update or remove out-of-date information. The Foreword has been re-drafted to link review and subsequent amendment of the Plan to the five-yearly *Outlook Report*. The intent of the Plan is now clearer, out-of-date information has been updated or removed where no longer relevant, and there is greater consistency between this Plan, the *Whitsundays Plan of Management 1998* and the *Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004*.
- Cruise ship anchorages for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park have been removed from the Plan and are now listed in the Regulations.
- Group size limits have been clarified, with children under four no longer included in group size limits.
- All enforcement provisions that relate to whales have been removed from the Plan and are now located in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*.
- Clause 2.16 of the Plan that referred to fishing and collecting in Mermaid Cove, Lizard Island, has now been replaced with a Natural Resources

Conservation Special Management Area in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*.

- East Hope Island became a Group B Sensitive Location in the 2002 Amendments, when the grandfathering provisions were introduced. With the removal of the grandfathering provisions, East Hope Island is now a Group A Sensitive Location.
- Consistency with *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* and the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* has been maintained.
- The datum for the Plan has been changed from AGD66 to GDA94 in line with Commonwealth requirements.
- 365 day Cruise Ship Operators only have to book to anchorages, not to the Planning Area.
- Providing their passengers have a valid camping permit, operators can now provide a camper drop-off service to islands adjacent to both Locations and Sensitive Locations without using one of their 50 days or having to book to the Location.