

## **GUIDED TOUR OPERATORS (vessel less than 6 metres)**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) released the Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004 (the Plan) on 15 April 2004. The Plan is designed to protect the outstanding natural values of the Hinchinbrook region and to provide for the long-term sustainable use of this world famous area.

The Plan applies only to Commonwealth waters, which do not include the Hinchinbrook Channel. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is currently finalising a complementary management plan that will cover waters within the State Marine Park such as the Hinchinbrook Channel and intertidal waters.

This Information Sheet provides a brief overview of the concepts and strategies contained in the Plan, relating to Guided Interpretive Tour Operations. You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with the relevant aspects of the Plan that relate to your activities or style of operation. This may be done by referring to the Plan or one of the specific Information Sheets listed below:

- AIRCRAFT OPERATORS (RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL PILOTS)
- CRUISE SHIP OPERATORS
- BOUTIQUE CRUISE OPERATORS
- BAREBOAT AND HIRE OPERATORS
- PASSENGER TRANSPORT AND SUPPORT SERVICE OPERATORS
- GENERAL TOUR OPERATORS
- MOTORISED WATER SPORTS
- HINCHINBROOK MAPS

### ***New tourism opportunity***

Tour operators wishing to conduct guided interpretive tours (such as bird watching or guided fishing tours) in the Hinchinbrook Planning Area will now be able to do so on a daily basis. These types of operations will also be exempt from having to book to Sensitive Locations.

This style of operation is well suited to the unique environment the Hinchinbrook Planning Area offers. In order to obtain one of these permits, your operation must:

- be conducted with a vessel less than 6 metres in length;
- be conducted from a base that is on land (i.e. not a mother vessel); and
- include an interpretive component centred upon the natural and/or cultural heritage of the area.

Commercial access to National Parks adjacent to the Hinchinbrook Planning Area (eg Lumholtz National Park) requires a Commercial Activity Permit from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Fishing guides are encouraged to apply "Best Environmental Practices" and develop a code of practice in conjunction with management agencies.

### ***Further Information***

The Plan and Information Sheets can be downloaded free from the GBRMPA web site at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au). Alternatively, you may obtain a copy of the Plan (\$10 charge will apply) or any Information Sheet (no charge) by contacting the GBRMPA or the Rainforest and Reef Information Centre in Cardwell (07 4066 8601).

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