



**GREAT BARRIER REEF**  
**MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**

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**GREAT BARRIER REEF**

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MARINE PARK AUTHORITY



**Annual Report**  
**1995 – 1996**



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## **GREAT BARRIER REEF**

**MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**

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26 September 1996

Senator the Hon. Robert Hill  
Minister for the Environment  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

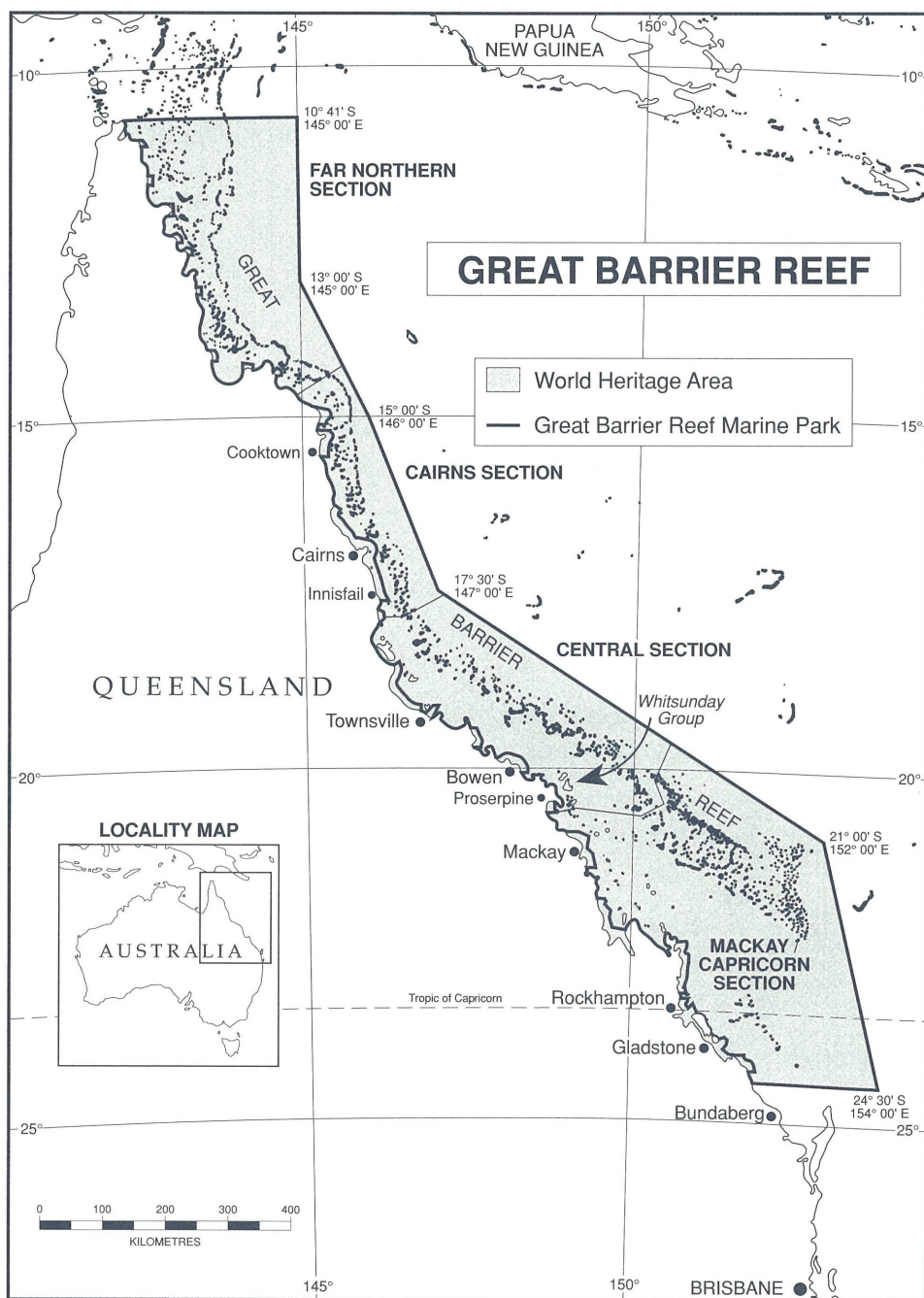
Dear Minister

In accordance with section 63 of the *Audit Act 1901*, I submit the Annual Report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 1996.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ian McPhail', written in a cursive style.

Ian McPhail  
Chairperson



BRA Q188 1994

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area extends from the tip of Cape York to just north of Fraser Island, and from the low water mark on the Queensland coast to beyond the edge of the continental shelf. The World Heritage Area is 348 700 square kilometres in area and includes the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (93% of the World Heritage Area), Queensland waters not in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (2%), and islands (5%). It is important to note that not all the World Heritage Area is in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In some places the coastal boundary of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is five nautical miles from the low water mark.

As specified in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, the Authority is responsible for the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This year, the Authority and other relevant Commonwealth Government agencies signed an agreement formalising the Authority's position as the lead agency for Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area issues.

Report from the Chairperson .....	1
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority .....	4
State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area .....	8
Authority Performance Overview .....	10
Planning and Environmental Management .....	22
Planning and Park Management Policy .....	24
Day-to-day Management Liaison and Indigenous Cultural Liaison .....	28
Impact Assessment and Marine Use Management .....	32
Information Technology Services .....	38
Legal Services .....	40
Education and Aquarium .....	42
Education/Information and Public Affairs .....	44
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium .....	48
Research and Monitoring .....	52
Canberra Office .....	56
External Services .....	58
Corporate Services .....	62
Appendixes .....	65
A Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee .....	65
B Authority Senior Management .....	67
C Publications .....	68
D Staff Papers Published or Presented in 1995–96 .....	72
E Advisory Committees .....	77
F Representation on External Committees .....	78
G Resources .....	79
H Advertising .....	84
I Abbreviations .....	85
J Compliance Index .....	86
K Contact Officer for Further Information .....	87
L Financial Statements .....	88
M Report of the Auditor-General .....	112
Index .....	114



# Report from the Chairperson

When the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority was established in 1975, the Reef was an area known to be of great natural beauty, scientific wonder, and remoteness, accessible to only a relative few.

Although the Great Barrier Reef was well known through the media by the 1970s, the level of use of the Reef and the adjacent coastal area over the last two decades has increased dramatically. This is evident in the rapid expansion of international tourism, increasing coastal residential populations, and a technologically based fishing industry, as well as major agricultural and grazing industries.

The Reef is on the literal and littoral edge of the continent. Major impacts come from the landward side, and it is affected by the vast hemispheric circulation of oceans and weather on its other margins.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a province, not a national park. It extends along 2000 kilometres of the Queensland coastline, contains some 2900 individual reefs and 900 islands. It occupies some 350 000 square kilometres, an area larger than Victoria and Tasmania combined. It supports a tourist industry worth around \$1 billion per annum and a commercial fishing industry earning some \$250 million. A valuable recreational boating and fishing industry operates within the same region. On the land adjoining the region a major grazing industry occupies many of the catchments, while the



cane growing industry produces Australia's second largest export crop. Relatively small urban areas are spaced along the coast, but these are amongst the fastest growing in the country.

As the pressure of use and the volume of users increase, there is a need to unpack the multiple dimensions of the stated goal of the Authority.

This goal 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'.

This excellent statement can, however, allow an interpretation that each component is equal, and that protection is one amongst a range of opportunities. It is clear that the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef is the Authority's primary obligation, and all other activities are dependent on this over-riding responsibility. If ever there is an opportunity to convert the phrase 'sustainable use' from a slogan into practice, it should be through the management regime of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

When the Great Barrier Reef was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981, the listing was really seen to be an award, something to be worn with pride but which would not change the management regime already in place for the Area. The attributes for which the Area was listed were very general and the work that the Marine Park Authority was doing was recognised in the nomination documents and legislation as protecting those attributes. Multiple use, encompassing both notions of environmental protection and permitting environmentally sustainable use, was not only acceptable to the community of the day but was seen to provide a management model for other marine protected areas throughout the world. The Authority has a reputation for excellence. Whilst this reputation for excellence still stands, the application of the multiple-use management model within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area requires great attention to ensure the proper conservation of the natural systems.

Human use has created a number of critical issues which require the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to develop policies and operational approaches to ensure the conservation of the natural systems into the next century.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is an integrated resource manager. It has a quite unusual status, in that in its creation and in its legislation it has been given wide powers, but powers that can be exercised only within complex jurisdictional arrangements. As well, coercive authority is best used rarely. The lesson of the Great Barrier Reef is that individual commitment and stakeholder partnerships are the only effective guarantees. Without this dedication the Great Barrier Reef can die a death of a thousand small decisions. The Great Barrier Reef is still the world's largest and healthiest coral reef system. Australians fortunately accord it icon status; any suggested injury to the Reef immediately becomes national news.

It will take continued hard work to remind the national community that Australia has stewardship of a unique natural wonder and a highly diverse system, and it will require constant vigilance to ensure that this awesome work of nature is available for future generations.

Meeting these ideals can only be described as challenging. In our next corporate plan the critical issues that the Authority must be involved in are identified and strategic directions mapped out. In all cases they will need the closest interaction with stakeholders. Also, proposed developments, activities or policies frequently develop passionate and polarised responses. Genuine and firmly held views require great care in mediation. Often enough it is the staff of the Authority who find themselves in the position of standing under a deluge of opinion. It is a vast credit to the staff of the Authority that they conduct themselves with consistent professionalism in the face of so many fiercely debated issues. I am grateful to them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ian McPhail'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Ian' and last name 'McPhail' clearly distinguishable.

Ian McPhail  
Chairperson



# The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

*The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is the principal adviser to the Commonwealth Government on the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Authority was established under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 as a commonwealth statutory authority.*

On 10 March 1996, Senator the Hon. Robert Hill became the Minister for the Environment, with portfolio responsibilities for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Prior to this, Senator the Hon. John Faulkner was the Commonwealth Minister.

Specific functions of the Authority are defined in sections 7 and 7A of the Act. These include that the Authority perform its functions '... in accordance with any general directions given by the Minister not inconsistent with this Act'. No such directions were given to the Authority during the year.

## Goal and Aims

The Authority's goal 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 Authority's goal is inclusive, encompassing a wide range of opportunities. However, the Authority holds that conservation of the Great Barrier Reef is its primary obligation, and all other activities are dependent on this over-riding responsibility.

The Authority's aims are subordinate to the primary goal and must be read in conjunction with it and with each other.

- To protect the natural qualities of the Great Barrier Reef, while providing for reasonable use of the Reef Region.
- To involve the community meaningfully in the care and development of the Marine Park.

- To achieve competence and fairness in the care and development of the Marine Park through the conduct of research, and the deliberate acquisition, use and dissemination of relevant information from research and other sources.
- To provide for economic development consistent with meeting the goal and other aims of the Authority.
- To achieve integrated management of the Great Barrier Reef through active leadership and through constantly seeking improvements in coordinated management.
- To achieve management of the Marine Park primarily through the community's commitment to the protection of the Great Barrier Reef and its understanding and acceptance of the provisions of zoning, regulations and management practices.
- To provide recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional affiliations and rights in management of the Marine Park.
- To minimise costs of caring for and developing the Marine Park consistent with meeting the goal and other aims of the Authority.
- To minimise regulation of, and interference in, human activities, consistent with meeting the goal and other aims of the Authority.
- To achieve its goal and other aims by employing people of high calibre, assisting them to reach their full potential, providing a rewarding, useful and caring work environment, and encouraging them to pursue relevant training and development opportunities.
- To make the Authority's expertise available nationally and internationally.
- To adapt actively the Marine Park and the operations of the Authority to changing circumstances.

## Membership of the Authority

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority consists of a full-time Chairperson and three part-time members. One of the part-time members is nominated by the Queensland Government. The Act provides for one of the part-time members to be appointed to represent the interests of the Aboriginal communities adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

As at 30 June 1996, the members of the Authority were Dr Ian McPhail and Professor Rhondda Jones. The position of member nominated by Queensland was vacant following the resignation of Dr Craig Emerson on 16 November 1995. As at 30 June 1996, no member had been appointed to represent the interests of Aboriginal communities.

**Dr Ian McPhail** is full-time Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the Authority. Dr McPhail was appointed for a five-year term commencing on 20 December 1994.

**Professor Rhondda Jones** is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Science and Engineering) at James Cook University of North Queensland. Professor Jones' third three-year term commenced 27 February 1995. **Dr Craig Emerson**, former Director-General of the then Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage was appointed as part-time member for three years commencing 7 December 1994. Dr Emerson resigned as member of the Authority on 16 November 1995, after his association with that Department had ceased.



Persons appointed to act as Chairperson or member during the year are listed in note 23 on 'Related Parties' in the Financial Statements.

*Right: Professor Rhondda Jones, member (left), Dr Ian McPhail, Chairperson (centre) and Mr Tom Tollhurst, Acting Director-General of the Queensland Department of Environment (right) who has attended some meetings of the Authority*



*Below: Dr Craig Emerson, member to 16 November 1995*



During 1995–96 the Authority held five meetings.

Date	Location
24 August 1995	Rockhampton
27 September 1995	Townsville
19 October 1995	Cairns
14–15 December 1995	Townsville and Sydney
29 March 1996	Townsville

## Offices of the Authority

The Authority has its principal office in Townsville and a small office in Canberra. The location of the two offices enables the Authority to have its technical resources close to the Reef and also to carry out necessary liaison functions in Canberra.

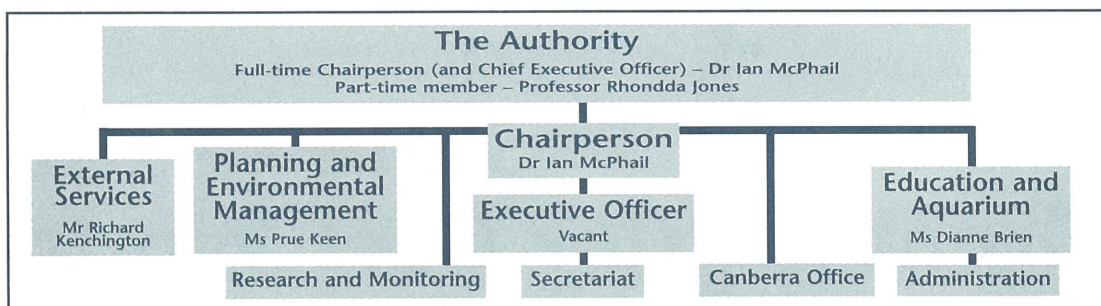
The Townsville office, which includes the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, had 152 (141 full-time equivalent) staff at 30 June 1996. There were 8 (8 FTE) staff working from the Canberra office at 30 June 1996.

## Executive Group

The Executive Group of the Authority assists and advises the Chairperson in carrying out the functions of the Authority and provides a forum for discussing and coordinating programs, recommending priorities and direction, and reviewing program performance. The Executive Group consists of the Chairperson; the Executive Officer; the Senior Directors of External Services, Planning and Environmental Management, and Education, Aquarium and Administration; and the Director of Administration. Following the appointment of Dr Wendy Craik, the previous Executive Officer, as Executive Director of the National Farmers' Federation, the position of Executive Officer was filled, on a rotational basis, by the Senior Directors of Planning and Environmental Management; and Education, Aquarium and Administration.

## Executive and Secretariat

The Executive Officer is Secretary to the Marine Park Authority. The staff of the Executive and the Secretariat provide executive support for the Chairperson and the Executive Officer, and secretariats for the Authority, the Executive Group and the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee. Executive and Secretariat staff facilitate communication between other staff and these committees.



*Figure 1. Operational structure and relevant senior management at June 1996*

## Subsidiaries

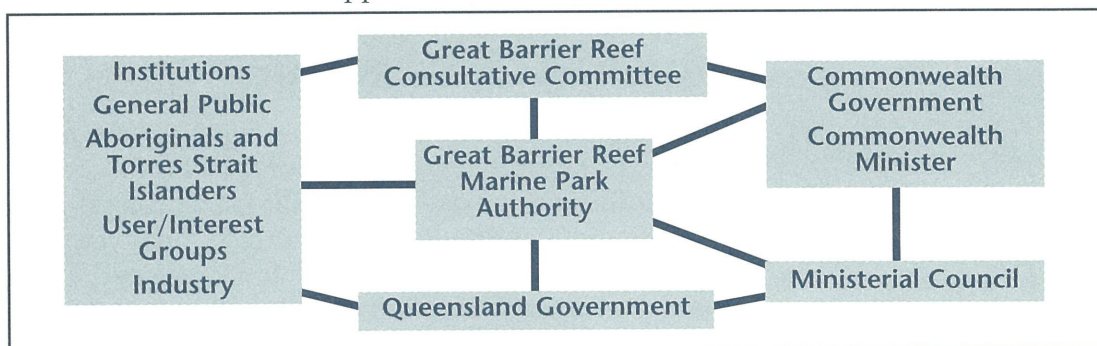
The Authority has no subsidiaries. However, certain functions are carried out in conjunction with other State and Commonwealth organisations including the Queensland Department of Environment, which has the responsibility for day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park subject to the Authority. Certain powers of the Authority have been delegated to positions in other organisations.

## Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council was established in 1979 to coordinate policy on the Reef between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments at Ministerial level. The Council comprises four Ministers, two from each government. Prior to the change during the year of both the Federal and Queensland Governments, the Commonwealth was represented by Senator the Hon. John Faulkner, Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories (and convenor of the Ministerial Council) and the Hon. Michael Lee, MP, Minister for Tourism. Queensland was represented by the Hon. Tom Barton, MLA, Minister for Environment and Heritage and the Hon. Bob Gibbs, MLA, Minister for Primary Industries. The Council met on 15 December 1995 to discuss a number of intergovernmental issues relating to management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park including managing tourism, charges for small boat recreation and changes to Marine Park boundaries.

## Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee

The Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee, established by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, is an independent advisory body for both the Minister and the Authority. Functions, membership and business activities of the Consultative Committee are set out in appendix A.



*Figure 2. External relationships*



# State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

*'State of the environment' reporting is increasingly being seen as an important part of environmental management and is conducted at the national level as well as by several states. Although there have been a number of long-standing and quite comprehensive monitoring and assessment programs on the Great Barrier Reef, the results of many of these programs have never been summarised in a management context, and no overall summary of all of these programs has ever been attempted.*

In November 1995, a technical workshop was held in order to gather information from a variety of researchers and managers on the state of the Great Barrier Reef. The proceedings of this workshop will be published in late 1996. A 'State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report' which incorporates these findings will be published by the Authority in early 1997. This full report will provide managers, policy makers and Reef users with an informative and readable summary of the state of the Reef, an indication of any long-term trends, and an analysis of possible management implications.

Presentations by researchers and managers at the technical workshop demonstrated that we have begun to accumulate important data on status and trends for a variety of attributes of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. However, our need for further detailed and long-term information on all aspects of the Reef was also a recurrent theme.

## Summary of the State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report

The situation looks generally positive for plants and animals associated with reefs. Several of the presentations indicated that while fish and coral populations can fluctuate substantially from year to year, there are no indications of any large-scale degradation as a result of human activity. In several cases, it was acknowledged that there are a number

of important pressures on the reefs which will need to be monitored on an ongoing basis. In particular, reef-fish stocks as well as nutrients and sedimentation and their potential effects on corals and algae require continued vigilance.

Inter-reefal areas (especially the inner lagoon area) are subject to quite heavy pressure from commercial trawling activities. It was agreed that in areas where heavy trawling persists there is likely to be a continued decline in the plants and animals.

Of all the groups examined at the workshop, soft-bottom communities and algae are probably the least studied and so it was difficult to make any firm comments on status or trends for this group. In general only fish and corals are being monitored in a comprehensive manner.

The workshop reported that the status of some of the large animals associated with the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, especially dugongs and some species of sea turtle, is a matter of concern. Dugong numbers in the southern Great Barrier Reef are declining, while several turtle species are subject to pressures which, although no trends have been demonstrated so far, are considered to be unsustainable.

A number of fish, prawn and other crustacean stocks have been examined. In most cases, fish stocks appear to be in stable conditions, but in some cases there appears to be an indication of small declines in stocks. If these declines are a result of over-harvesting rather than natural fluctuations, then this could be rectified through modified management measures. It was stressed there were many challenges facing managers in the coming years. In particular there is a need for effective coordination of management effort between the various agencies involved in fisheries within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

## Use Trends

Tourism is the major commercial use of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Very little is known about long-term trends in the level and type of use of the World Heritage Area. Most use is concentrated in the Cairns and Whitsunday regions. About 65% of all tourism use is located on only 15 reefs. Logbook statistics collected in association with the Environmental Management Charge will provide much needed information in the future. There is the potential for a substantial increase in the level of use in the near future as a result of changes in transport technology and realisation of latent permitted use. Economically, tourism is by far the largest industry in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Per annum, tourism is estimated to be worth four times that of commercial fisheries. Further information is urgently required on levels of recreational and indigenous use.

## Implications for Management

While Australia is regarded as a world leader in the management of large marine protected areas, and has implemented innovative procedures and mechanisms, there is a continuing obligation to find even more effective ways to monitor and manage this enormous region. A more integrated and consistent Reef-wide approach to zoning the entire Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is being adopted. The Authority must plan for and manage increases in tourism and coastal development and maintain traditional day-to-day management activities such as surveillance and enforcement in order to meet the major challenges.



# Authority Performance Overview

## Description

*The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority was established over 20 years ago to protect the outstanding natural beauty and important ecological and cultural features of the Great Barrier Reef. During the past two decades, the work of the Authority, as the lead agency in managing the Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, has become increasingly complex. The Authority's approach to managing the Marine Park has changed over time in response to increased use of the Reef and improved understanding of the ecological, cultural and social impacts of that use.*

The Authority's work program is based on government priorities and a number of legislative and strategic documents, including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, the Authority's goal and aims, the 25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the Authority's Corporate Plan.

The Great Barrier Reef is facing major pressures from a large and growing Reef-based tourism industry; commercial and recreational fishing; shipping; rapidly growing coastal urban areas; continued demand for integrated coastal and island-based tourist developments; and the downstream effects of land use from some of Australia's important agricultural and pastoral industries. The cumulative impacts of these trends on the Reef ecosystems underline the continued requirement for positive and constructive management.

Increasing focus on the importance of world heritage values has broadened the Authority's role and responsibilities. In addition, there is now substantially greater public involvement in the Reef's management, as well as increased expectation by government for agencies such as the Authority to meet their objectives within limited budgets.

An obligation of increasing importance to the Authority is to incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander awareness of their cultural heritage into Reef management. In addition to the potential environmental impacts of use, the Authority has a

growing commitment to the consideration of social and economic aspects of use in Marine Park decision making.

## Strategic Direction

To ensure that the natural and cultural values of the Marine Park and World Heritage Area are adequately maintained the Authority's primary obligation is, and will remain, conservation. In recent times there has been a strong demand from some sectors of the community for world heritage values for the Area to be clarified and for the Authority's planning procedures to be examined to ensure that management practices protect the identified values.

In January 1996, the 'Inter-agency Co-operative Arrangements for the Management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Property' was signed by the Commonwealth agencies involved in management of the World Heritage Area. The document formalised the Authority's position as the lead agency for Great Barrier Reef World Heritage issues.

The zoning process developed by the Authority to manage activities in the Marine Park has a strong reputation and is now used as a basis for planning marine protected areas in a number of locations worldwide. In the past, the Authority has relied on zoning plans and individual permits as its major tools in managing the Marine Park. This approach of developing and then reviewing each of the four Marine Park Section zoning plans was essential in the establishment phase of the Marine Park but it is now constraining the Authority's ability to deal with Reef-wide issues in a more timely and strategic manner.

To meet new management challenges, the Authority is developing a more strategic, issues-based approach to Reef management. This critical issues approach will allow the needs of Marine Park management to be addressed through a range of more responsive planning and management tools, and a correspondingly more efficient permits system. Integral to this new approach is the development of Reef-wide policies and zoning provisions.

## Achievements

Significant achievements of the Authority for 1995–96 included:

- review of the Authority's Marine Park planning processes, based on a critical issues rather than a functional tools approach
- increased involvement of the community in Marine Park management issues through Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees
- a successful change to issues-based corporate planning
- development of the first stage of the 'State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report'
- development of an inter-agency agreement giving the Authority lead responsibility for consideration of proposals and activities with potential to impact on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- marked decrease in time taken by the Authority to process Marine Park permits
- development of the Marine Park tourism operator training manual and courses



- completion by External Services of the Tropical Marine Ecosystem Project (TROMES) and extension of training programs with Egypt, Kenya and Mauritius
- early detection, through focused research programs, of a possible large-scale crown-of-thorns starfish outbreak in the Cairns Section of the Marine Park
- effective links with the CRC Reef Research Centre and other reef-related organisations
- Aboriginal Community Rangers appointed as inspectors under Great Barrier Reef Marine Park legislation for the first time
- development of a new logo and corporate identity for the Authority
- celebrations marking the twentieth anniversary of the Marine Park and the Authority.

## Performance Analysis

### Management of the Marine Park and World Heritage Area

During 1995–96, the Authority undertook a major corporate planning exercise to clarify and consolidate a number of issues which are considered critical for the wellbeing of the Marine Park and the World Heritage Area. The current status of the management of these critical issues is summarised below.

#### World heritage status

The role and responsibilities of the Authority in relation to management of the World Heritage Area have recently been extended to management of areas outside the Marine Park, but inside or adjacent to the World Heritage Area, for example some coastal strips.

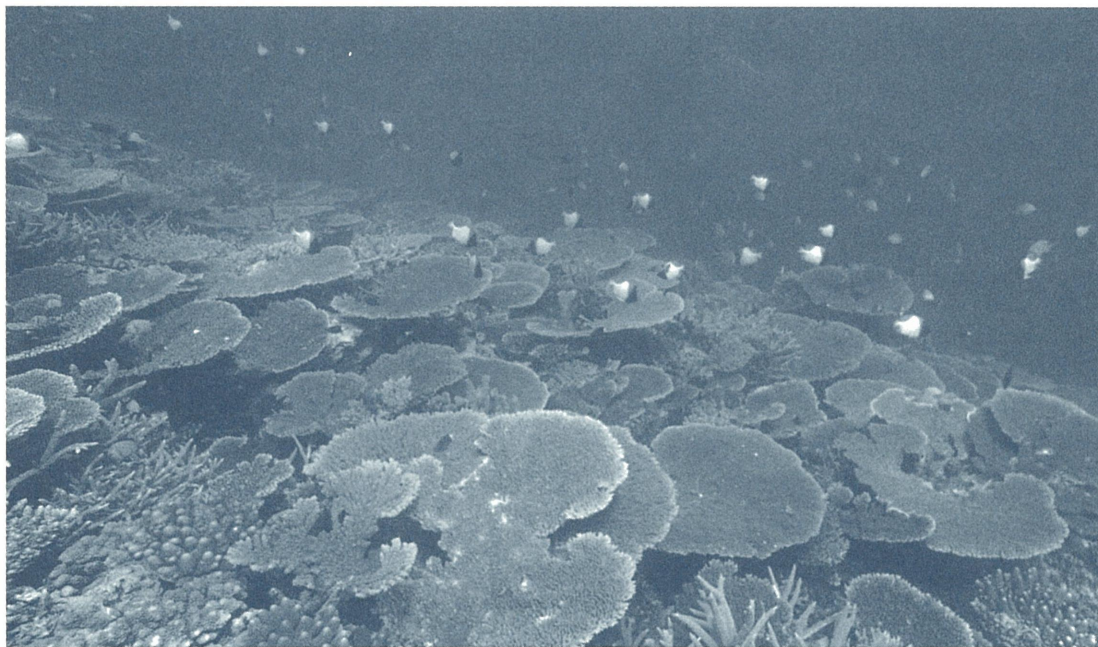
In the past year, an independent consultancy has prepared a draft report for the Authority identifying and clarifying the world heritage values of the Reef. The report will also recommend ways in which the Authority and other stakeholders can better consider world heritage values in decision making and management of the Great Barrier Reef.

#### Conservation

Conservation of the natural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is the Authority's primary obligation. Consequently, most of the Authority's programs focus on measures to ensure use of the Marine Park is ecologically sustainable. In addition to use-oriented planning, the Authority's conservation program has focused on the development of strategies to address the decline in dugong populations in the southern Great Barrier Reef and the establishment of a program to review the adequacy of the existing system of highly protected representative areas.

#### Tourism and recreation

Tourism is the main commercial use of the Marine Park, valued at over one billion dollars to the Australian economy each year and bringing over 1.5 million visitors into the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. In the past year, a draft Tourism Use Management Program has been developed, which coordinates and integrates existing planning, policy, education, research and public participation processes.



*Above: A typical reef scene showing plate and branching corals. Conservation of the Great Barrier Reef is the Authority's primary obligation.*

Outcomes of the new approach will include improved liaison with the Marine Park tourism industry, more effective and efficient management of the impacts of tourism use and a reduction in impacts on the natural and aesthetic values of the Reef.

Another important outcome is to ensure the maintenance of both a diverse range of opportunities for visitors to experience and a range of settings for tourism use from intensively used areas to the infrequently used areas.

## Fishing

The Authority, in collaboration with fisheries management agencies, is working to gain a better understanding of fishing activities and their impacts on the Reef to ensure ecologically sustainable fishing and the protection of critical habitats and rare and endangered species, consistent with world heritage obligations.

The Authority's Effects of Fishing Program focuses on the impacts of three fisheries: the commercial prawn trawl; the commercial and recreational Reef fishery; and the inshore commercial gill net fishery. Strategies being used to address the impacts of fishing include research into the effects of fishing, monitoring fishing catch and effort, identifying major or critical habitats and actively supporting improved technology to reduce fishing by-catch. The Authority is involved in the development of fisheries management plans and policies, ensuring that Marine Park and fisheries management are complementary. Improved education and surveillance mechanisms aim to increase compliance with Marine Park zoning.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests

All major Marine Park planning exercises have developed processes for involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. During the past year, seven Native



Title claims over areas of the Marine Park were accepted by the National Native Title Tribunal. The Authority has become a party to all claims and has participated in mediation on three claims.

The Authority has continued to work with Councils of Elders to develop better approaches to managing traditional hunting. Although traditional hunting of dugong has not been the cause of the recent decline in numbers, several indigenous groups have elected to cease hunting, until dugong populations have recovered to ecologically sustainable levels.

Nine Community Rangers in contract employment funded by the Authority and the Australian Nature Conservation Agency continued their involvement in remote area natural resource management and surveillance.

## Coastal development and ports

The use of coastal areas adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef can have an important effect on the health of the marine area. Land uses of particular concern are integrated resort developments; grazing; crop production involving large nutrient input; and urban development, including ports. The Authority is involved in an inter-agency approach to managing coastal development. This coordinated approach focuses on gaining a better understanding of the impacts of coastal land use and developing appropriate management strategies. The Authority works jointly with the Queensland Government and local government to improve the processes for managing coastal development in order to minimise impacts on the World Heritage Area.

## Water quality

Results of water quality research are being analysed to give an overall impression of the state of water quality in the region and an assessment of the threats to the Reef's long-term health from pollutant discharge.

In most respects water quality in the Great Barrier Reef appears to be in excellent condition. There is no evidence of concentrations of pollutants above natural levels in the open water of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon and no upward trends in pollutant levels over the last 20 years. This satisfactory position is marred somewhat by evidence that inputs of sediment and nutrients from the mainland have increased fourfold over the last 150 years. The potential long-term effects of this large increase are not yet understood.

The Authority's water quality rural extension staff have established close interaction with farm groups, catchment management groups and farm industry associations in order to promote the potential problems of agricultural run-off and gain feedback from the farming sector.

## Shipping and maritime pollution response

The Shipping and Maritime Pollution Response program focuses on both reducing the likelihood of a major oil spill on or near the Great Barrier Reef, and increasing oil spill response capabilities.

Authority staff were closely involved in both national and Queensland oil spill response committees aiming to lessen the potential environmental threat of shipping in the Great Barrier Reef. Arrangements were finalised for the Authority to participate

in a study into the use of bioremediation techniques for dealing with oil spills in the tropics.

Authority staff also played a role in foreshore pollution assessment and oiled wildlife response following the *Iron Baron* incident in Tasmania in July 1995. Valuable lessons learned from the *Iron Baron* incident will be incorporated into oil pollution response planning in the Great Barrier Reef.

## Management of the Authority

### Staff and resource management

During the past year, the management of the Authority has placed greater emphasis on closer consultation with staff in dealing with the internal operations of the organisation. Issues discussed included corporate planning, occupational health and safety, accommodation and implementation of the Authority's Agency Bargain. The Joint Consultative Committee, a consultation mechanism between the Authority and unions, has become a valuable part of organisational management.

### Social justice and equity

In line with the Authority's aim to involve the community meaningfully in the care and development of the Marine Park, the Authority provides stakeholders with opportunities to access Authority programs and participate in decision making. Public participation programs for the Far Northern Section management review and planning for the Cairns and Whitsunday areas have provided opportunities for public input into major planning exercises. In addition, proposals for major developments in the Marine Park and World Heritage Area are advertised to provide opportunity for public comment.

Stakeholder groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, are encouraged to participate in the operation of the Authority through formal advisory groups such as the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee and Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees.

The Authority has continued to provide for greater recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional affiliations and rights in management of the Marine Park. Cross-cultural training has been provided to Authority staff who deal with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ensure that Authority programs are delivered in culturally appropriate ways. Products such as the *Sea Country* newsletter and *Voices from the Cape* video were developed in the past year to provide greater access to the Authority's programs by Aboriginal peoples adjacent to the Far Northern Section of the Marine Park.

Details of the Authority's implementation of its *Equal Employment Opportunity Program 1994–1997* are reported in appendix G.

### Internal and external scrutiny

Townsville-based accountancy firm, C. E. Smith & Co are internal auditors to the Authority. All areas of the Authority are regularly evaluated for compliance and operational efficiency.

In 1995–96, the internal auditors conducted the general financial review as well as reviewing the separate accounting arrangements for projects funded by the CRC Reef



Research Centre, the security of the financial information computer system, cash handling procedures and the operational and functional aspects of the Authority's External Services section.

The external audit of the Authority's 1995-96 Financial Statements was undertaken by Coopers & Lybrand, Townsville, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office. This is the third year of this arrangement and the ability to liaise with locally based audit staff has facilitated the completion of audited statements.

Audit Report No. 13, 1995-96, which was tabled in the House of Representatives on 30 November 1995 (see table 1), noted that following the receipt of a consultancy report on management options for the continued operation of the Aquarium, arrangements have been made with the Department of Finance to ensure the ongoing operation of the Aquarium. These arrangements included provision of ongoing funding of \$700 000 in the 1995-96 Commonwealth Budget to ensure that the Aquarium is able to maintain its role as Australia's National Coral Reef Education Centre.

*Table 1. Reports concerning the Authority tabled by Parliamentary Committees and the Auditor-General during 1995-96*

1. The Auditor-General Audit Report No. 13, 1995-96 : Results of 1994-95 Financial Statements Audits of Commonwealth Entities, AGPS, Canberra
2. Report on the Review of Annual Reports : 1994-95 Annual Reports Tabled in the Senate to 31 October 1995, Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra

The Authority is participating in a 'Review of Grant Payments in the Department and Portfolio Statutory Authorities' which was commenced by the Program Evaluation and Audit Unit of the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories.

There were no decisions by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) or comments by the Ombudsman relating to any decisions of the Authority in 1995-96. One permit decision of the Authority was appealed to the AAT. The applicant in that case withdrew from the appeal after the AAT directed them to provide certain documents and material to the AAT.

### Day-to-day management review

A review of funding for day-to-day management of the Marine Park was conducted in late 1995 by a working group comprising staff of the Authority, the then Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage and the Commonwealth Department of Finance. A representative of the Queensland Treasury Department was also involved but to a lesser extent.

The working group looked at the nature of the day-to-day management program and the issues that impact on its effectiveness. The draft report of the working group focuses on matters not only relating to funding inadequacies but also to administrative and organisational constraints all of which restrict the effectiveness and efficiency of day-to-day management. The draft report was forwarded to a

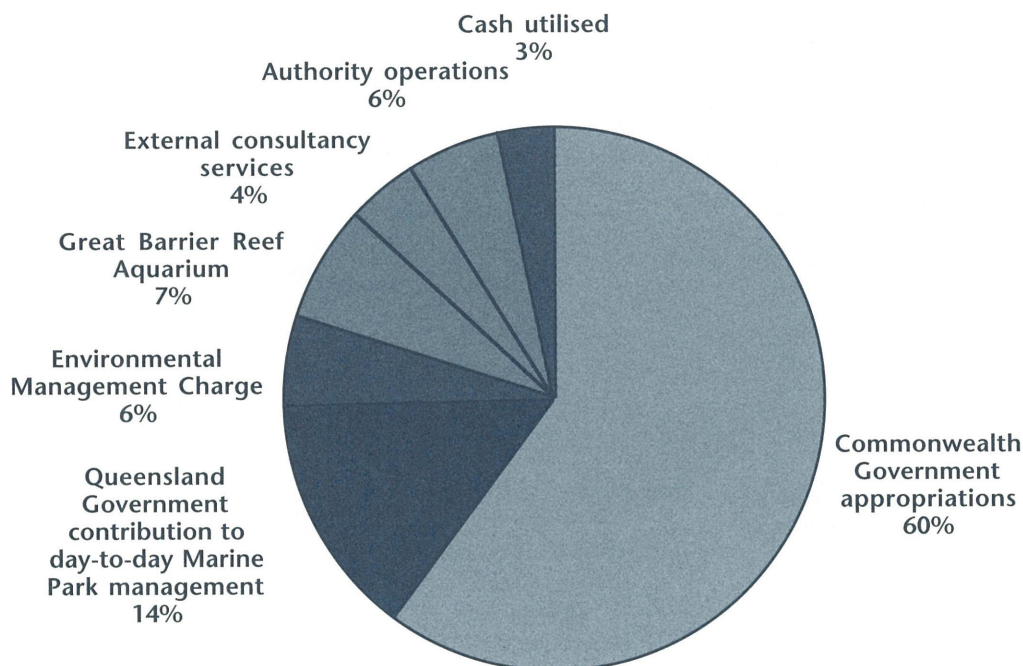
steering committee in February 1996. As a result of the change of Commonwealth and Queensland governments, the committee has not yet completed its consideration of the report.

## Financial Report Summary

The following summary gives an overview of the Authority's financial operations during 1995-96. As the format of this summary is cash based the figures do not reconcile with the Financial Statements at appendix L which are presented in accrual format.

*Table 2. Source of funds*

Source of Funds	Amount \$('000)
Commonwealth Government appropriations	16 586
Queensland Government contribution to day-to-day Marine Park management	3 953
Environmental Management Charge	1 526
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	1 875
External consultancy services	1 213
Authority operations	1 651
Cash utilised	773
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 577</b>



*Figure 3. Source of funds*



Table 3. Application of funds

Application of Funds	Amount \$('000)
Marine Park Authority and Executive	805
Planning and environmental management	4 124
Education and information services	1 959
Research and monitoring	4 323
Administration	563
Corporate overheads	3 384
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	2 321
External consultancy services	1 485
Day-to-day Marine Park management - Queensland Department of Environment	8 613
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 577</b>

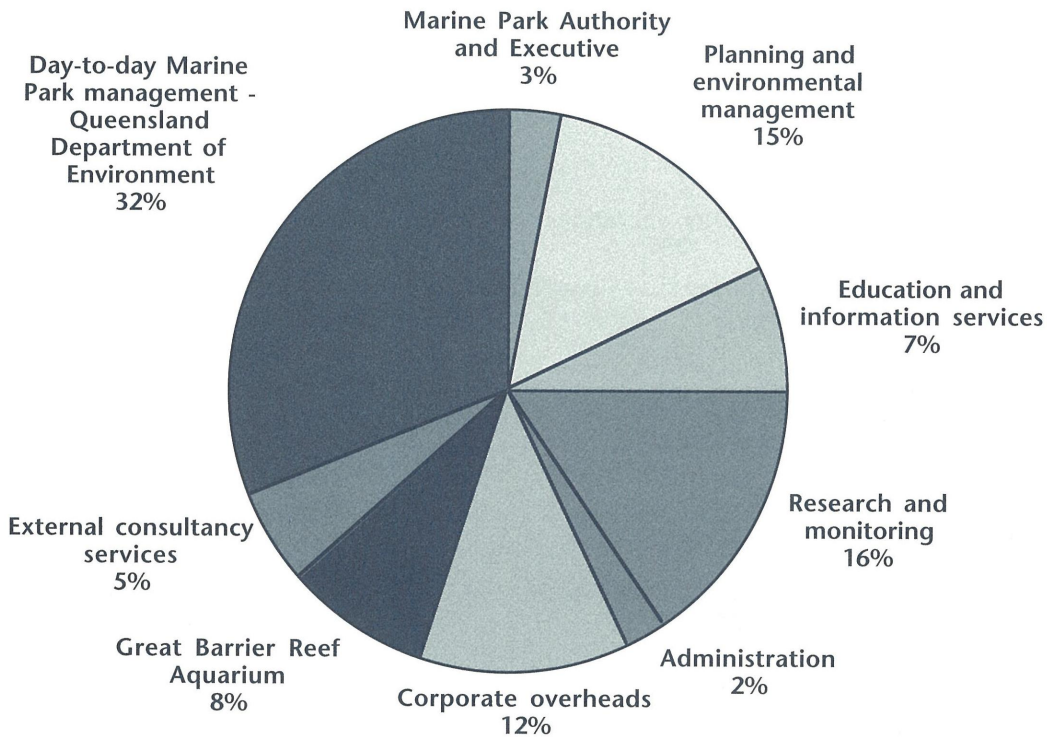


Figure 4. Application of funds

## Source of funds

### *Commonwealth Government appropriations*

The Authority's appropriation from the Commonwealth Government has three components.

Funding for the general operation of the Authority was \$11 307 000 from Appropriation Act No. 1.

Funding for day-to-day management of the Marine Park and World Heritage Area was \$3 779 000 from Appropriation Acts No. 2 and No. 4. These funds were combined with the Queensland Government contribution.

Special Appropriation was \$1 500 000. The enabling legislation for the Environmental Management Charge on commercial operations requires that the money collected by the Authority be paid into the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund. It is then returned to the Authority via the Special Appropriation and used to fund the Authority's primary contribution of \$810 000 in 1995–96 to the Cooperative Research Centre for Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef (CRC Reef Research Centre) and tourism related activities.

### *Queensland Government contribution to day-to-day Marine Park management*

Funding from the Queensland Government totalling \$3 953 000 was 'matched' with that from Appropriation Act No. 2 and allocated to the Queensland Department of Environment for the implementation of an agreed Marine Park management program.

### *Revenue from the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium (see pages 48–51)*

The Aquarium operates as a Trading Activity. Revenue from entrance fees, fees for educational activities, income from special fundraising activities, and commercial ventures such as the Aquarium Shop and venue hire totalled \$1 875 000 in 1995–96.

### *Revenue from external consultancy services (see pages 58–61)*

The Authority is a recognised world leader in marine park and coral reef management. The professional services of a wide range of staff are contracted out nationally and internationally on a cost-recovery basis, generating an income of \$1 213 000.

### *Revenue from operations*

Projects funded by other organisations, Permit Assessment Fees, sale of publications and other income totalled \$1 651 000.

### *Cash utilised*

The Authority utilised \$773 000 net from cash reserves during 1995–96. Most of this amount relates to capital funds held for payments for day-to-day Marine Park management and money previously paid to the Authority for special projects and research.



## Application of funds

### *Marine Park Authority and Executive* (see pages 4–7)

Expenditure totalling \$805 000 was used to support formal Authority meetings, activities of the Consultative Committee, the Authority's Chairperson (CEO) and Executive Officer, and the Secretariat.

### *Planning and environmental management* (see pages 22–41)

Expenditure totalling \$4 124 000 supported planning and environmental management programs including Planning, Park Management Policy, Day-to-day Management Liaison, Indigenous Cultural Liaison, Impact Assessment, Marine Use Management, Information Technology Services and Legal Services.

### *Education and information services* (see pages 44–47)

Expenditure of \$1 959 000 related to Extension, Library, Production, Public Affairs and Information Support services.

### *Research and monitoring* (see pages 52–55)

The Authority spent \$4 323 000 on research and associated monitoring activities. In its role as a research broker the Authority contracts out research projects to the CRC Reef Research Centre, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University of North Queensland and individual researchers.

### *Administration* (see pages 62–64)

Expenditure of \$563 000 was used for services relating to Finance and Accounting, Human Resource Management, and Occupational Health and Safety.

### *Corporate overheads*

The Authority aggregates major expenditure relating to rental of accommodation, communications, plant and equipment, insurance and general support. This outlay of \$1 884 000 is distributable across the Authority. Also included is \$1 500 000 for payment of Environmental Management Charge receipts to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

### *Great Barrier Reef Aquarium* (see pages 48–51)

In addition to the income generated by the Aquarium an annual government appropriation of \$490 000 towards operating costs enabled a total expenditure of \$2 321 000.

### *External consultancy services* (see pages 58–61)

The External Services section operates as a Trading Activity and the \$1 485 000 expenditure represents the cost of its operation. The Authority is reimbursed when other Authority staff are assigned to projects.

### *Day-to-day Marine Park management* (see pages 28–31)

The \$8 613 000 is funded from Commonwealth and Queensland government contributions toward day-to-day management of the Marine Park and the utilisation of cash reserves.

*Table 4. Financial and staffing resources summary*

	Actual 1994-95 \$('000)	Actual 1995-96 \$('000)
<b>BUDGETARY (CASH) BASIS</b>		
<b>Operational &amp; Program Expenditure</b>		
Authority Operations	16 098	16 643
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	2 422	2 321
Day-to-day Management	8 119	8 613
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>26 639</b>	<b>27 577</b>
less Revenue variation in cash on hand	10 522 (1 007)	10 218 (773)
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>15 110</b>	<b>16 586</b>
less adjustments	1 560	1 500
<b>Total Outlays</b>	<b>13 550</b>	<b>15 086</b>
<b>ACCRUAL BASIS</b>		
Net Cost of Service Delivery	17 142	18 088
Revenues from Commonwealth Government	15 990	17 280
Deficit of net cost of services over revenues from Commonwealth Government	1 152	808
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>10 783</b>	<b>9 647</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>4 597</b>	<b>4 269</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>6 186</b>	<b>5 378</b>
<b>STAFFING</b>		
Staff years (including Aquarium)	148.0	148.78

Note to table 4.

The Authority's Financial Statements, included at appendix L, are prepared on an accrual accounting basis. Reasons for variations between cash and accrual based figures include payments to the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund of receipts collected from the Environmental Management Charge, the inclusion of unfunded charges and superannuation contributions in the Operating Statement, an abnormal item as revenue from the Commonwealth in the 1994-95 Operating Statement, the accrual of revenue items and expenditure on assets being capitalised in the Statement of Financial Position.



# Planning and Environmental Management

## Overview

*Over the past year, the Planning and Environmental Management branch has been restructured. The restructuring has further flattened the reporting lines and given section and unit managers full responsibility for their areas. A new section has also been added with responsibility for coordinating Marine Park management policy.*

The branch includes the following eight sections and units reporting directly to the Senior Director:

- Planning
- Park Management Policy
- Day-to-day Management Liaison
- Indigenous Cultural Liaison
- Impact Assessment
- Marine Use Management
- Information Technology Services
- Legal Services.

## Branch Performance Overview

A major branch task during the year was an examination of the existing strategic policy framework for park management. This review was strongly based upon the framework of the 25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and previous corporate plans. It has resulted in priorities being set for implementation of issues outlined in the Strategic Plan and provided broad direction for corporate planning.

Two outcomes of the policy review will significantly impact on branch operations. Firstly, actions necessary to address the critical issues recognised in relation to the management of the

Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area will require some re-focusing of the Authority's current work program.

Secondly, the need for a new planning approach was recognised in order to manage activities in the high-use areas of Cairns and Whitsunday. In these two areas, rapid growth in tourism and recreation use has now reached a level at which their impacts on the reefs and on other uses must be intensively managed. New plans for these areas will define limits to visitation on a site-by-site basis and set strategic direction for use of these areas into the future.



*Above: Reef-based tourism at Low Isles in the Cairns Section of the Marine Park*



# Planning and Park Management Policy

## Description

*The Planning section develops and reviews zoning and management plans and other related management strategies. This work is carried out in close consultation with the recently created Park Management Policy section, which undertakes development and review of policy on Marine Park management. As well as managing specific policy projects, the Park Management Policy section currently provides corporate planning services.*

Greater emphasis on world heritage values and pressures to deal more explicitly with their implications within and outside the Marine Park have created a need for clarification of these values for the Great Barrier Reef. An associated need is the refinement of the mechanisms for joint policy development for the World Heritage Area with the Queensland Department of Environment. The Native Title legislation and associated negotiations may further influence the shape of policy and planning programs.

## Strategic Direction

The objectives of the Planning section are to develop plans that are necessary to maintain the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area in its natural state; protect the cultural and heritage qualities of the World Heritage Area; recognise and accommodate the special relationships of indigenous peoples to the World Heritage Area; and make provision for ecologically sustainable use.

To achieve these objectives, a new strategic approach to planning has been adopted. The focus has been shifted from reviewing zoning plans on a Section by Section basis to developing plans which address the critical issues on a Park-wide basis using the full range of planning tools available. Increased emphasis has been placed on management planning for high-use areas or particularly sensitive locations.

The full scope of activities to be undertaken by the newly formed Park Management Policy section is still being formulated. Staff are currently focused on determination of key policy issues and priorities, and coordination and support for development of park management policy throughout the Authority.

## Achievements

Significant achievements in Planning for 1995–96 included:

- more effective interaction with indigenous groups in the process of reviewing the zoning plan and in developing management plans in the Far Northern Section
- assessment of marine wilderness values for the Marine Park
- establishment of a program for review of the adequacy of representation of ecological communities in the current system of highly protected areas
- drafting of plans for the intensively used Cairns and Whitsunday areas
- the first phase of a public participation program on the draft dugong recovery plan for Shoalwater Bay
- a declaration report to the Minister for incorporation of the Shoalwater Bay area into the Marine Park
- the first round of public consultation to amend zoning plans to allow for the Effects of Line Fishing Experiment.

Significant achievements in Park Management Policy for 1995–96 included:

- coordination of the development of the new issues-based Corporate Plan
- progress in the review of previous decisions of the Authority relating to Marine Park management policy
- significant progress in development of Reef-wide policy for site allocation and management of moorings.

## Performance Analysis

Performance in both sections was measured in terms of products completed in a timely fashion. Five plans were under development by the Planning section. The initial public consultation was completed and drafting has commenced for dugong management and the high-use Whitsunday and Cairns areas management plans. Moratoriums on the grant of permits for moorings and some types of tourism programs were introduced. These moratoriums were introduced so that the planning process would not be compromised. Planning approaches, such as the zoning amendments for line fishing research, have been modified to support the new issues-based management focus.

The Park Management Policy section produced the draft Corporate Plan for 1996–2000 and undertook specific projects such as developing draft policy on site allocation and moorings.

The work in progress by the Park Management Policy section to put policy in place pro-actively rather than reactively will improve organisational effectiveness. The review of existing Marine Park management policy and previous Authority decisions



**Right:** Whitehaven Beach,  
Whitsunday Island, during  
Race Week

**Right below:** Hill Inlet,  
Whitsunday Island—unique  
conservation and cultural values

*The management plan for the  
Whitsunday area will implement  
different use settings, ranging from  
sites which can sustain intensive  
use to sites where access will be  
strictly limited to protect unique  
conservation and/or cultural  
values.*



will make these decisions readily available and interpreted. Future policy will be developed in a consistent framework which will allow staff to work more efficiently within agreed policy guidelines and provide stakeholders with a more accessible and transparent policy framework. Further, clarification of Marine Park management policy will assist delegates to reach timely decisions, and the section will also facilitate policy approval processes.

Increased efficiency of the Planning section can be seen through its current program aimed at developing five plans with only a small increase in the level of resources

that were previously used to undertake two similar exercises. This achievement has been assisted by a greater ability to access, analyse and present information through a more efficient information system. This computerised system was networked within the Authority and provided data which effectively supported planning processes. Better information exchange with the Research and Monitoring section and the CRC Reef Research Centre has resulted in databases that are more useful.

Improvement in planning was also facilitated by better consultation with key stakeholder groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, the tourism industry and conservation groups. In particular, the use of Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees to run community workshops was extremely effective.

The Planning section was funded from the corporate budget, the CRC Reef Research Centre and through collaborative work with the Australian Heritage Commission, the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and the Queensland Department of Environment. The Park Management Policy section was funded from the corporate budget, the Environmental Management Charge and by the CRC Reef Research Centre.



# Day-to-day Management Liaison and Indigenous Cultural Liaison

## Description

*The Day-to-day Management Liaison unit is the principal link between the Authority and the Queensland Department of Environment's Marine Parks section which carries out many of the Authority's day-to-day management programs. Also included in this unit is the Shipping and Maritime Pollution Response program which coordinates activities concerning prevention, management and research of pollution from shipping and ports.*

*The Indigenous Cultural Liaison unit aims to more effectively deal with the developing relationship between the Authority and indigenous peoples in and adjacent to the Marine Park.*

Accountability and delivery are expected to improve following a review of the day-to-day management program. Greater government concern about marine pollution and growing community awareness of the impact of shipping accidents will influence future activities.

The Indigenous Cultural Liaison unit provides advisory, networking, coordination and training services to facilitate planning, permits and extension work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, agencies and communities.

The work of the Indigenous Cultural Liaison unit has increased with greater involvement by indigenous peoples in Marine Park planning and management. Outcomes of Native Title mediation and planning processes in the Far Northern Section and the Cairns area will lead to indigenous management arrangements for some areas.

## Strategic Direction

The objective of the Day-to-day Management Liaison unit is to develop and implement programs for field management of the Marine Park. To achieve this objective, the unit facilitates communication between day-to-day management staff and the Authority. Improvements in surveillance and enforcement have also been targeted.

The objective of the Shipping and Maritime Pollution Response program is to reduce the risk of pollution from shipping-related activities, whilst maintaining

an effective response capability to deal with ship-sourced pollution. Staff have worked with government and industry bodies in policy development and research. Preventative management within the shipping industry has also been encouraged.

The objective of the Indigenous Cultural Liaison unit is to facilitate recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional affiliations and rights in Marine Park management. Indigenous needs are being addressed as one of the major critical issues for the Authority.

## Achievements

Significant achievements in Day-to-day Management Liaison for 1995–96 included:

- review of day-to-day management funding
- implementation of new aerial surveillance program
- further revision of day-to-day management programming in line with corporate planning
- completion of REEFPLAN review—REEFPLAN is a contingency plan for oil spill response in the Great Barrier Reef
- development of internal contingency and draft monitoring plans for oil spills
- assistance in the response and clean-up operations associated with the *Iron Baron* oil spill
- development of the Ships and Sewage Discharge Regulations
- start of bioremediation research project.

Significant achievements in Indigenous Cultural Liaison for 1995–96 included:

- development of a system for direct involvement of indigenous peoples in the planning process
- establishment of a two-way communication process for information gathering and sharing
- production of the *Voices from the Cape* video and *Sea Country* newsletters
- involvement in Native Title process
- identification of traditional culture and values in the Far Northern, Cairns, Whitsunday and Shoalwater Bay plans
- cross-cultural training for approximately 60% of Authority staff
- participation by Authority staff in Reconciliation Week through a range of activities and displays.

## Performance Analysis

In day-to-day management programming and reporting, a staff member dedicated to liaison and negotiation of the annual and three-year rolling programs for day-to-day management was appointed. This position will ensure that the work undertaken by field management officers is more focused and cost effective. The liaison position incorporates new duties to improve the efficiency of enforcement operations through better coordination and effective delivery of the day-to-day management program. Significantly, the position will enhance communication and understanding between staff of the Authority and the Queensland Department of Environment.



*Table 5. Payments to the Queensland Department of Environment for day-to-day management, by Regions*

	1995-96	1996-97 (estimated)
	\$	\$
Head Office		
Salaries & Operating	594 955	655 000
Capital (Inc. Post Initial)	21 848	30 000
Central Coast Region		
Salaries & Operating	1 728 559	1 650 000
Capital (Inc. Post Initial)	130 000	330 000
Northern Region		
Salaries & Operating	2 374 614	2 317 000
Capital (Inc. Post Initial)	946 888	449 000
Far Northern Region		
Salaries & Operating	1 942 000	2 309 000
Capital (Inc. Post Initial)	874 582	150 000
All Regions		
Salaries & Operating	6 640 128	6 931 000
Capital (Inc. Post Initial)	1 973 318	959 000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8 613 446</b>	<b>7 890 000</b>

*Table 6. Cost sharing for day-to-day management*

	1995-96	1996-97 (estimated)
	\$	\$
Queensland		
Salaries, Wages & Operating	3 320 064	3 465 500
Post Initial Capital	890 936	479 500
Totals	4 211 000	3 945 000
Commonwealth		
Salaries, Wages & Operating	3 320 064	3 465 500
Post Initial Capital	890 936	479 500
Initial Capital	191 446	000 000
Totals	4 402 446	3 945 000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8 613 446</b>	<b>7 890 000</b>



The effectiveness of aerial surveillance was improved with the new flying program combining both routine data collection flights and discretionary flying for additional surveillance work. Development of automated data entry for aerial surveillance records will reduce costs.

Oil spill response capability was enhanced through staff involvement in the *Iron Baron* oil spill incident at the mouth of the Tamar River in Tasmania. The appointment of a staff member to the National Oil Spill Response Team reflects the Authority's recognised expertise in the field. Preventative management was improved with the development of the Ships and Sewage Discharge Regulations with the Queensland Department of Transport.

The creation of the Indigenous Cultural Liaison unit has consolidated and focused the Authority's work on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues. It has enabled the development of strategic programs for better liaison.

Oral feedback from the Cape York Land Council, communities and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission indicated that the Authority's interaction with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities has been positive and productive.

Planning in the Far Northern Section was facilitated by an effective communication program involving indigenous clan groups. By networking with agencies such as the Cape York Land Council and participating in existing programs, the unit minimised costs. Communication was also improved through production of the video *Voices from the Cape* and further issues of *Sea Country*. These products were effective feedback tools which have facilitated the planning process.

Staff knowledge of indigenous culture and issues was expanded through a variety of training activities including a component in the staff induction course and two two-day cross-cultural courses. The unit continued its coordinating role for the Community Rangers program.



*Left: Lockhart River Community Ranger Jimmy Wallace and Kanthanumpoo Elder Lawrence Fruit were involved in surveillance operations at Shelburne Bay.*

# Impact Assessment and Marine Use Management

## Description

*The Impact Assessment and Marine Use Management units undertake impact assessment and manage the Authority's permit system.*

The Impact Assessment unit concentrates on impacts from large projects within the Marine Park. It also provides significant input into environmental impact assessment processes for developments outside the Park but with potential impacts on the World Heritage Area. Following an agreement between the Authority and other Commonwealth environment portfolio agencies, the Impact Assessment unit now represents those agencies in environmental impact assessment processes for developments having the potential to affect the World Heritage Area.

The Marine Use Management unit concentrates on the management of tourist operations within the Park. It administers the Environmental Management Charge (EMC) received from tourist operators and manages the databases associated with both permits and the EMC.

Expanding tourism use in the Cairns and Whitsunday areas as well as additional responsibilities resulting from the portfolio agreement has increased work demands on both units.

Outcomes from new planning processes will change the manner in which permits are issued. There will also be greater involvement in assessment of coastal development approvals for areas outside the Park. A more comprehensive and strategic approach to managing the potential conflicts between cultural and heritage values and other use of the Marine Park is being developed.



## Strategic Direction

The main objective of both units is the management of impacts associated with permitted activities and the provision of advice in a timely and effective manner. The Impact Assessment unit also develops policies relating to the assessment and management of the impacts of major projects. To achieve these objectives, Authority guidelines and policy have been developed on key issues such as marinas, pontoons, jetties and mariculture. The units have contributed to the effects of line fishing research, and will undertake class assessments (strategic impact assessment of a common type of permitted use) and evaluation of impacts from projects in areas adjacent to the Marine Park.

The Marine Use Management unit currently aims to improve the permit process, obtain better information on levels of use and maximise EMC data. Its long-term objectives are to provide for better management of tourism, traditional hunting and research.

Whilst there remains a statutory requirement to undertake assessment of impacts on a case-by-case basis, the work focus of the Impact Assessment unit is changing from reactive assessment towards pro-active input into impact assessments, with greater emphasis on proponent evaluation of impacts and assessment of impacts from adjacent developments outside the Marine Park related to world heritage matters.

## Achievements

Significant achievements in Impact Assessment for 1995–96 included:

- the start of a pilot project on class assessment of activities for Aboriginal clan estates of the Palm Islands
- management of an Administrative Appeals Tribunal application for Green Island
- organisation of world heritage workshops in support of development of a portfolio agreement on management of world heritage issues
- assessment completed in relation to 23 active projects inside the Marine Park
- provision of advice, as required, on 53 additional projects mainly adjacent to the Marine Park and the World Heritage Area.

Significant achievements in Marine Use Management for 1995–96 included:

- decreased time taken to process routine permits
- development of a new permit application form
- update of both of the permits and EMC databases
- initial development of a coordinated program to address management of tourism
- provision of information on tourism use from EMC statistics currently used for planning purposes by a range of internal and external clients.
- improvements with database and reporting systems
- major progress towards a client-based system.





*Above: Pontoon-based tourism at Kelso Reef. Pontoons are a popular way of providing access to the Great Barrier Reef.*

## Performance Analysis

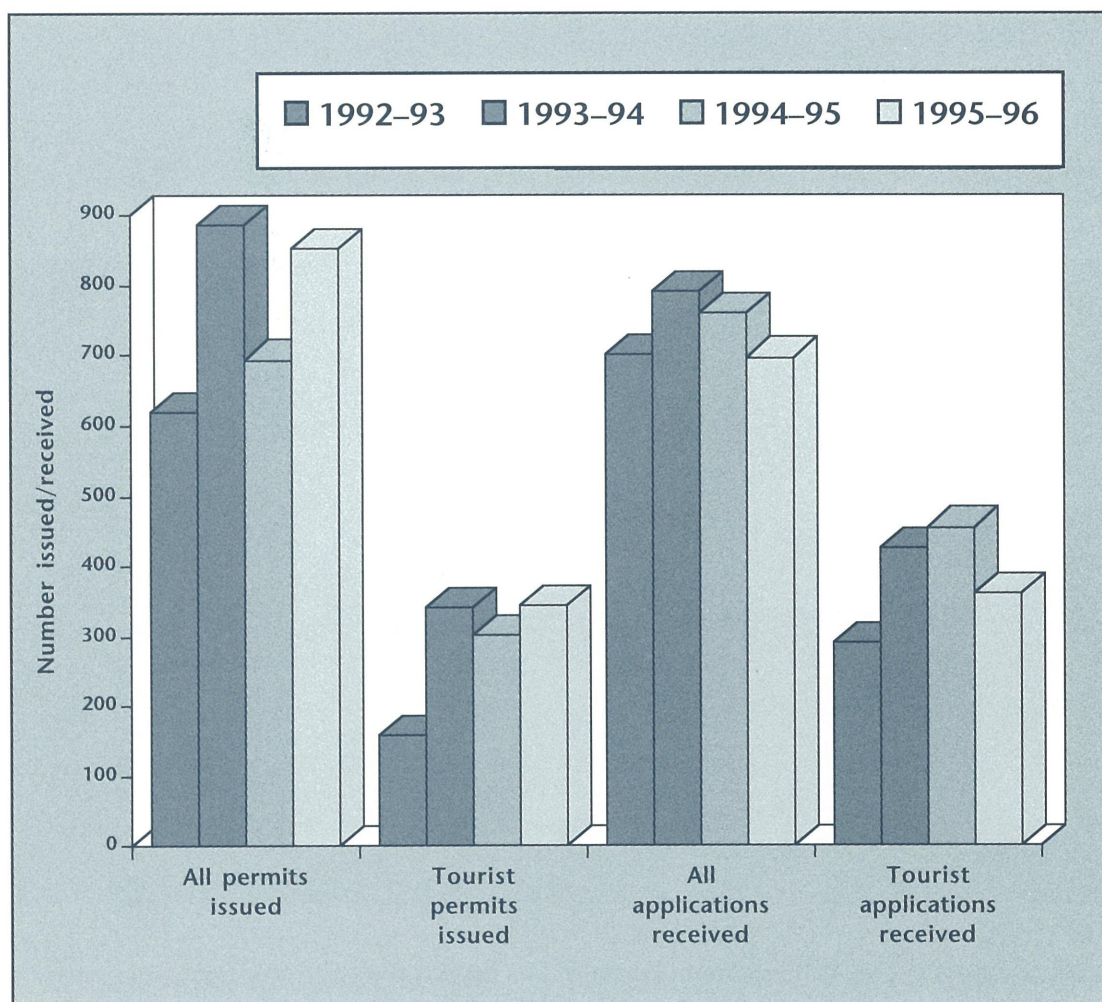
In the Impact Assessment unit, 23 projects within the Marine Park were assessed during the year and advice given on 53 additional projects potentially impacting on the World Heritage Area. The unit also managed one significant application to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.



More effective unit operations have reduced permit assessment time to an average of 30 days per project. A more coordinated approach to workload management, particularly using class assessments and risk assessment procedures, has been developed. Two Impact Assessment staff members have been dedicated to dealing with water quality issues and jetties requiring permits in the Marine Park. These assessments have been undertaken in a framework where policy was reviewed and developed at the same time.

Efficiencies in permit administration were achieved by changing delegations to allow project managers to seek further information and determine application fees. This streamlined approach has increased the timeliness of each permit issue process.

The Marine Use Management unit has implemented the short-term recommendations of the Permits Review Working Group and streamlined the approach to permit assessment. Processing time for a permit within the Authority has been reduced. The level of complaint regarding the time involved in permit assessment has reduced accordingly.



*Figure 5. Numbers of permits issued compared with applications received*



During 1995–96, 343 tourist program permits were granted by the Authority, a 14% increase on the 1994–95 period. A total of 854 new permits were granted in the Marine Park, a 23% increase on the total number of permits granted during the previous year.

Of these, the Queensland Department of Environment granted a total of 197 permits for educational activities, collecting of coral and aquarium fish, and the installation of moorings not associated with tourist program applications.

*Table 7. Permits issued since 1992–93 for activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*

Permit Type	Number Issued			
	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96
Tourist programs	159	341	301	343
(Inc. aircraft operations	3	22	5	13)
(Inc. cruiseship operations	-	-	9	4)
Research programs	206	231	191	227
Education programs	33	59	45	66
Moorings	2	12	4	4
Collecting	111	117	81	127
Traditional hunting	84	103	32	23
Farming of marine resources	7	2	1	0
Sea dumping	3	1	0	2
Offshore structures	1	2	2	7
Removal of dangerous animals	-	-	2	13
Waste discharge	-	-	2	4
Tourist facilities	-	-	6	5
Other activities	13	18	27	16
<b>Total permits issued</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>854</b>

A draft Tourism Use Management Program has been developed through an agency-wide examination of tourism use and the introduction of Best Environmental Practices. Development of a strategic use management policy on a Reef-wide basis will increase Park management capability.

The independent review of the efficiency of the EMC system undertaken by Associate Professor Owen Stanley has been completed. Many recommendations associated with the administration of the charge have been implemented. Installation of new computers in the unit has allowed improvement of the database systems.

In support of the new critical issues-based approach to Reef management, both units have worked closely with the Planning and Park Management Policy sections in the development of policy for user groups, particularly in providing expertise in its implementation. The management of indigenous traditional hunting has been developed along strategic lines with the production of community-based permits.



# Information Technology Services

## Description

*The Information Technology Services section provides networks, systems and databases to support all aspects of Marine Park planning, management, education, extension, research and corporate services.*

Operations have been affected by increasing pressure to be more productive with existing resources in an environment of organisational and rapid technological change. Planning and management processes have increasingly required complex software products. There has also been more demand for productive information technology to support a greater level of management and policy analysis. High levels of technological literacy will need to be maintained by all staff for effective use of new technologies.

## Strategic Direction

The objective of the Information Technology Services section is to provide all clients with the highest level of productivity from the application of technology and resources, given the financial and skill constraints of the organisational environment.

To achieve this objective, section staff have been divided into four teams covering the broad functions of user services, systems management, database administration and network management. A deliberate evolutionary approach has helped facilitate rapid change of technology, maintain responsiveness to changing corporate objectives and improve technological literacy of all staff.

## Achievements

Significant achievements for 1995–96 included:

- success in increasing effective access to data due to increased coordination
- client orientated team approach
- facilitated adoption of recent technology such as Internet access
- extension of geographic information system facilities

## Performance Analysis

Improvements in the Information Technology Services section were measured by service use and systems records, as well as solicited client feedback. All administrative inquiries were addressed in a maximum of two days and all staff inquiries addressed in a maximum of three days, with records kept of the time taken to solve problems.

During the year there was a productivity increase in the whole database area. Permits were produced more cost effectively by decreasing the time taken to process permits and by collecting data associated with permits which was also useful to planning and management processes.

Access to data was improved through the adoption of iterative software development techniques to satisfy changing system requirements and also through more effective coordination of data with other agencies. However, access demands and the cost of demands have increased.

Better development of Internet and e-mail facilities has led to cost-effective transmission of data and documents around the country and better sharing of ideas. These Internet tools allowed education and information services to be made available to national and international clientele.

Staff have improved their capacity to meet service demands by continuously improving their knowledge and skills through training. Outsourcing 50% of the section's functions has facilitated rapid access to skills which contributes to increased productivity. The team approach to service delivery has facilitated change and skill sharing among all staff.

Improved information technology services have resulted in increased productivity for clients. Through provision of a portfolio of tools and support mechanisms, clients had more flexibility in choosing efficient and cost-effective solutions.



# Legal Services

## Description

*The Legal Services unit provides legal advisory services for the Authority.*

*Staff of the unit produce legislative policy, manage legislative amendments and administer Freedom of Information requests in respect of permit assessments. Training services are provided for both the staff of the Authority and the day-to-day management agencies.*

The unit's work has been affected by the steadily decreasing budget available for external legal advice, the extended legislative responsibilities of the Authority and increasingly complex permit issues. Future work will be affected by the proposed act, presently known as the Legislative Instruments Bill, and by Native Title mediations.

## Strategic Direction

The objective of the Legal Services unit is to reduce the risk to the Authority of legal liability by provision of timely, efficient and effective legal advice and training of Authority staff. The unit's early involvement in policy formulation is designed to aid in the development of better legislative tools for effective management of the Marine Park.

To achieve this objective, client awareness of available services has been increased. Knowledge of Authority staff with respect to potential legal pitfalls has been raised by conducting identified and requested legal training.

## Achievements

Significant achievements for 1995–96 included:

- the conduct of training for Marine Park staff on legislation and administrative procedures
- provision of legal support for the Authority's involvement in appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and Native Title mediations

- effective legal support for branch operations and achievement of corporate objectives
- advice for planning activities particularly the Far Northern Section, Cairns and Whitsunday areas, the proposed Byfield section, Shoalwater Bay dugong conservation and five management plans.

## Performance Analysis

Performance of the Legal Services unit was measured by surveys, training appraisal forms and data collection on Freedom of Information matters. Support was provided for one large Administrative Appeals Tribunal process and mediation meetings for Native Title claims. The Administrative Appeals Tribunal commented positively on the professional approach of the Authority in appeal matters, reflecting partly upon the work of the Legal Services unit, but generally on the Planning and Environmental Management branch.

The staff of the unit conducted extensive training activities on subjects including Marine Park legislation, administrative law, contracts and application of other state and commonwealth legislation. Better legal training of Marine Park inspectors will improve job performance and day-to-day management of the Marine Park through increased knowledge of enforcement techniques and legislation. Internal staff training facilitated the achievement of work programs in accordance with good administrative practice.



# Education and Aquarium

## Overview

*The Education and Aquarium branch is responsible for providing education, information, extension and advisory services relating to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area, and provides library, production, public relations and media services to support the Authority and its programs. The branch includes the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, an integral component of the Authority's program to educate the public and school groups about conservation and management of the Great Barrier Reef.*

## Branch Performance Overview

The branch has continued to integrate education, extension and communication activities into Marine Park planning and management programs. This integration is vital to ensure that users and the broader Australian community are involved in decision making and that with increased understanding their actions will support management decisions. Additionally, community education focuses on developing appropriate attitudes, values and behaviours in people who use the Marine Park or live in its adjacent communities.

During the past year the Education and Aquarium branch has successfully undertaken a number of major communication and education initiatives. The branch developed the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Manual* and tourism operator training course, strengthened the role and functions of 11 Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees and coordinated the development of the Ocean Rescue 2000 National Marine Education Program. The branch also coordinated the development of the Authority's new logo and corporate visual identity.

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium has continued to improve its financial performance, and provide new exhibits and educational services including expanded and improved school and public education programs.

The Authority's move towards a new Reef-wide critical issues approach to management of the Marine Park and the World Heritage Area is an outcome of increased consultation with Reef users. This new approach places even greater emphasis on cross-sectoral stakeholder negotiation and public consultation at early stages in the planning process. Ongoing effective liaison with stakeholders and involvement of community-based advisory committees are vital to the success of the new management approach.



*Above: Authority tourism liaison consultant, Richard Fitzpatrick, discusses the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Manual with a Marine Park tourism industry staff member. The manual and tourism operator training courses were developed jointly by the Authority and the tourism industry.*



# Education/Information and Public Affairs

## Description

*The Education/Information section and the Public Affairs unit provide extension and information programs targeted at major stakeholders such as the tourism and fishing industries, coastal communities and the general public. The library provides the Authority and external clients with an extensive information service including multimedia access and an image collection.*

*The production unit provides graphic design, photography, cartography and publishing services. The section manages the Ocean Rescue 2000 National Marine Education Program on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories. The Public Affairs unit supports community and education programs by undertaking media liaison, public relations and corporate marketing services.*

Growth of coastal populations, increased environmental consciousness of the community and greater awareness of cultural heritage issues have increased work demands. Greater focus on world heritage values and management of the World Heritage Area and ongoing budget constraints have also impacted on the section.

Continuing strong growth in Reef tourism, coastal development and increasing competition between Reef users all heighten demand for education, information and extension services. The rising popularity of the Internet as a communication and educational tool is affecting the provision of information services.

## Strategic Direction

The objectives of the Education/Information section and the Public Affairs unit are to increase understanding of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area; promote responsible behaviour on the Reef; and achieve greater stakeholder input into planning and management.

To achieve these objectives, extension and training programs have been developed specifically to target the main Reef user groups. Extension programs have also been developed for coastal urban and rural communities. Mechanisms to increase community and Reef user group input into Marine Park planning and management have been established. These strategies have been supported by the production of

information materials including publications and videos, and reinforced through active public affairs and media programs.

During the year, greater emphasis was placed on improving two-way communication with community and user groups, because of the growing pressures in Reef use especially in the Cairns and Whitsunday areas. Extension activities for the recreational fishing and boating sectors were increased to address emerging conflicts with commercial activities.

## Achievements

Significant achievements for 1995–96 included:

- development and provision of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Manual* to all commercial tourist operators
- further development of and support for Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees
- further development of water quality extension programs to rural and urban communities, in particular on the effects of run-off and sewage
- improved communications including workshops with conservation and tourism groups
- targeted publicity and information to support tourism training, the Aquarium and corporate displays
- the production by Ocean Rescue 2000 program of the documentary *Saltwater People* to be screened on SBS television
- the release of the Ocean Rescue 2000 *Marine Protected Areas: Special Places* video kit
- development of a new corporate logo and graphic identity
- development of a computerised slide cataloguing system and extension of availability and use of this photographic collection to external clients
- updating the Authority's information resources and contact database
- recognition of the Authority Librarian through the award of an 'Excellence of Achievement Commendation' from the Australian Library and Information Association
- good working relationships with regional electronic and print media
- twentieth anniversary celebrations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority highlighting the success of the Authority and its partners in Reef management
- successful involvement with the CRC Reef Research Centre to enhance the good working relationship between Reef science and management.

## Performance Analysis

Improvement in performance of the extension programs was reflected in the development and production of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Manual*—a significant package of training products including videos for the Reef tourism industry. Another major improvement was the greater integration of the section's



**Right:** Authority Librarian, Suzanne Davies, being presented with the 'Excellence of Achievement Commendation' by Ian McPhail.

The commendation was awarded by the Queensland Special Libraries Group of the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) at the Queensland State launch of Australian Library Week 1996.



activities with Marine Park planning and management functions. Increased use of audiovisual and self-learning products has provided more cost-effective information services.

Additional resources from the Environmental Management Charge were used to improve the effectiveness of extension and information to the Reef tourism industry. Services and products provided included a tourism operators' workshop; industry liaison and training of consultants; training materials such as courses, videos and manuals; a draft code of Best Environmental Practice for Reef users; educational activities for schools; and newsletters such as *Tropical Topics* and *Reef Connections*.

Compared to the previous year, community and user group consultations were more numerous and effective, especially those with the tourism industry and the fishing sector. The increased opportunities to communicate with the Authority and be involved in management issues have improved client satisfaction. These consultations have also produced greater communication among user groups and provided an effective means for addressing issues among Reef users for site and use allocations. The section's ability to adapt to change was demonstrated in the increased emphasis on consultation in the Cairns and Whitsunday areas in response to their rapid growth in Reef usage.

The section maintained stable resources during the year. In particular staffing levels have been maintained with less turnover. Improved technology in computer assisted design and enhanced staff skills have enabled greater production and

graphic output without any increase in human resources. Section management was improved through better direction setting and performance reporting.

Projects were completed within budget and with good feedback from clients. Revenue was maintained through marketing of the image collection, and sale of video footage and general publications. Efficient financial management has provided some minor savings for re-allocation to other Authority programs. Publication costs were kept under budget despite increasing paper prices.

Public affairs and media staff have continued to build strong relationships with the media. Press, television and radio coverage of Reef-related matters was generally positive and supported public understanding of the Authority and management of the Marine Park. In response to increased interest by the general public and the media, a new public affairs position was created to better service the Authority's public affairs needs and strengthen media liaison.

The Ocean Rescue 2000 National Marine Education Program continues to be successfully managed by the section. Community service announcements concerning plastics and household chemical pollutants are broadcast nationally with excellent feedback. Links with non-English speaking groups continue to be established and enhanced. A national workshop relating to marine protected areas and the communication process between all groups involved was coordinated by staff.



# Great Barrier Reef Aquarium

## Description

*The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium is the Authority's reef education facility.*

*Operated as a public aquarium, it provides a readily accessible reef environment and interpretive facility. As the National Reef Education Centre, the Aquarium offers curriculum-based school programs, professional development for teachers and public education courses.*

*Community support programs include volunteers, membership, sponsorship and a touring display.*

*Revenue-generating programs include an Aquarium Shop, and venue hire and consultancy services. A research laboratory specialises in marine animal culture.*

The future business performance of the Aquarium will continue to be affected by tourism trends and economic development in the Townsville region.

Increasingly, natural history institutions are competing with the entertainment field for people's leisure time. Consequently, museums must offer value-for-money visitor experiences as well as superior customer service. The Aquarium has identified customer service as the focus for product improvement.

## Strategic Direction

The Authority's objective for the Aquarium is to enhance community understanding and appreciation of the Great Barrier Reef. To achieve this, the objectives of the Aquarium are to ensure visitor satisfaction from an Aquarium visit; continue to be effective in marine education; improve revenue; develop a team of highly motivated and competent staff and volunteers; maintain the wide support of business, government and community; and be recognised as an innovative and effective public aquarium.

To achieve these objectives, the Aquarium has expanded and improved its school and public interpretation programs. It has re-focused its marketing effort towards local residents through the Membership Program, while maintaining tourist market exposure through more cost-effective strategies and cooperative promotional campaigns.

Formal and informal market research have been used as a basis to improve the visitor experience. Improved financial management has enhanced expenditure control.

A decline in ticketed visitation during the year resulted in the cancellation of the planned redevelopment of the World Heritage Exhibit. Funding and revenue shortfalls curtailed research on improving coral survival in the Aquarium as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Interpreter Program.

## Achievements

Significant achievements for 1995–96 included:

- six new school activity programs making a total of 17 (covering curriculum for Preschool through to Year 12)
- an increase of 20% in school student visitation to 11 000
- a 40% increase in Predator Exhibit stocking density which was achieved through seawater quality improvements
- a 20% increase in efficiency for Coral Reef Exhibit seawater processing
- certificate for 'Creative Excellence' at the US International Film and Video Awards for the six-minute video, *Blue Highway*
- an increase of 22% in Aquarium membership to 5000 which represents 4% of Townsville's population
- membership renewal rate of 50% compared to 35% in 1994–95
- the involvement in two Earthwatch-funded research programs, Clamsaver and Coral Spawning
- improvement in the retention rate for the annual volunteer intake from 60% in 1994–95 to 72% in 1995–96
- *Seaworks*, a marine activities resource book for primary schools developed by Aquarium volunteers
- two new permanent exhibits, 'Pieces of the Reef' and 'A Thorny Question'
- balanced budget despite a 12% decline in ticketed visitation
- cessation of joint ticketing arrangements with other major attractions in the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland complex which increased ticket yield by 5%
- continuing strong commercial performance of the Aquarium Shop
- an Australia Post consultancy for *The Stamp Gang Dive Down Under* book which provided major no-cost, promotional and marketing opportunities
- Internet access to Aquarium information including an award-winning real-time view of the Coral Reef Exhibit
- an increase of volunteer hours of service by 17% from 15 00 hours in 1994–95 to 17 600 hours in 1995–96.

## Performance Analysis

Performance improvement during 1995–96 was focused on financial management and education programs. An improved understanding of the budgetary process and greater involvement at the program manager level has facilitated more effective financial planning and control. The annual plan and budget were developed together with the Business Plan objectives. The budget was reviewed regularly and



expenditure adjusted to respond to unanticipated changes in revenue, in particular those caused by changes in visitation numbers.

As a result of the 1994 funding review, in 1995–96 the Aquarium received \$490 000 in government appropriation, to cover community service and education obligations and improve marketing and exhibits.

Ticketed visitation of 123 605 was 17 095 lower than the previous year. Total visitation including that of members and visitors attending functions was 142 642. Despite declining admission revenue, the Aquarium achieved a break-even operating result through pro-active budget management throughout the year. Cost recovery from self-generated revenue was more than 1994–95 at 81%.

The expansion and strengthening of the Education Program has resulted in a higher visitation by school groups. The effectiveness of the program has improved with increasing market orientation. Activities were developed or updated to complement school curricula, and efficiency of delivery was raised through solicited teacher involvement in program development. The establishment of teacher professional development programs and diversification into non-science curriculum areas, such as visual arts, were two further innovations.

The marketing research provided by the expanded program of visitor evaluation of services was the basis for improvement in customer service. Visitor satisfaction was well above average, rating at 8 on a scale of 10. Exhibit standard has improved with less down-time for aquarium displays. Periodic audits and daily inspections have improved workplace and public safety.

The staffing level remained static at 30. The Aquarium's ability to improve customer service and expand public interpretation and education activities has been considerably enhanced by volunteers whose 17 600 annual service hours (equivalent to 10 full-time staff at the ASO 2 level) were predominantly front-of-house. The establishment of joint management meetings between the Aquarium and the Volunteers Association has facilitated greater involvement of volunteers in Aquarium operations.

***Right:** Seaworks, a marine activities resource book produced by the Aquarium volunteers and distributed to primary schools in Queensland, was launched by the Queensland Director-General of Education, Mr Frank Peach.*







*Above: Do fish really snore? Students participating in the Aquarium After Dark Program discover many fascinating aspects of nocturnal reef life.*

Improved performance of revenue generating programs provided non-admission revenue (excluding appropriation) equivalent to 56.4% of ticket sales. The Education and Membership Programs contributed significantly to this. Despite falling ticketed admissions, the Aquarium Shop improved its retail performance with a sales increase of 2.4% and further efficiencies in stock control. The revenue-generating programs became more commercially orientated with the development of individual marketing plans. Touring exhibits were examined as revenue-earning and promotional tools. 'A Thorny Question', the new crown-of-thorns starfish exhibit, was designed as a prototype for a touring exhibit.

A redirection of marketing effort towards identified segments with significant growth potential, such as backpackers and educational group travel, will improve marketing effectiveness. Local visitation was improved through membership promotional campaigns which used low cost advertising and prize incentives sponsored by the business sector.

The value of publicity from media exposure was worth approximately \$150 000 in 1995–96. Program listings on the Internet promoted the Aquarium to a much broader audience with approximately 15 000 individuals accessing the Aquarium's home page since August 1995. Due to this coverage, more well qualified scientific assistants have volunteered to assist in Aquarium research projects for periods of six months. Also, the credit card ordering capability on the Internet for Aquarium Shop products has resulted in sales.



# Research and Monitoring

## Description

*The Research and Monitoring section provides scientific input into Marine Park management and decision-making processes. It synthesises and disseminates information concerning Marine Park status and usage, as well as that relevant to management. Public education programs are supported through the provision of scientific information on issues relevant to the Reef.*

To expand the information resources available for decision making, the section provides design, direction and coordination services for research programs undertaken by external contractors. In this role, the section is normally the initial contact for the CRC Reef Research Centre with which it works closely in coordinating various research programs.

The section operates on a five-year funding cycle which is now due for renewal. The provision of services has been affected by variable budget allocations. The improvement in development of communication channels with government, planners, managers, scientists, industry representatives and the general public has had an impact on outcomes.

Natural resource management has become increasingly supported by scientific information to improve the effectiveness, openness and accountability of decision-making processes. This trend towards scientifically based management will continue to increase work demands on the section.

## Strategic Direction

The objective of the Research and Monitoring section is to facilitate decision-making processes for management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area by obtaining, interpreting, disseminating and applying knowledge and information about the Great Barrier Reef.

To achieve this objective, the section has actively participated in internal and external committees to

optimise scientific input into decision making. Section staff have liaised with external organisations concerning Marine Park management at local, state and national levels. Expertise and funding have been provided to external research organisations and individual researchers to facilitate ongoing research.

In-house information synthesis and dissemination have been targeted through development of information coordination and management capacity. Summaries, syntheses and analyses of fields of knowledge relevant to management have been made available through publications or workshops. Cooperation with Authority extension and media programs has supported public education.

## Achievements

Significant achievements for 1995–96 included:

- early detection of a new crown-of-thorns starfish outbreak in the Cairns Section of the Marine Park
- independent review of the Authority's crown-of-thorns starfish research program
- completion of Year 4 of the Effects of Prawn Trawling in the Far Northern Section of the Great Barrier Reef project with the final year under way
- initiation of the Effects of Line Fishing Experiment
- finalisation of the Torres Strait Baseline Study report
- commencement of the first extensive habitat mapping of Shoalwater Bay
- completion of the dugong survey in the southern half of the Marine Park
- completion of the offshore Enrichment of Nutrients on a Coral Reef Experiment
- implementation of broad-scale, long-term water temperature monitoring
- establishment of long-term water quality and fisheries databases
- draft set of water quality policies for the World Heritage Area
- an initial review of the role of public participation in Authority decision-making processes
- assessment of nationwide community preferences and support for active management of wilderness recreational settings
- development of a biophysical classification for identification of representative areas and use in preparation of zoning plans
- development of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for spatial analysis of recreational and indigenous fishing (Bramble Reef Study), and demographics and private boat registration for the Queensland coastal zone
- improved integration of socioeconomic information into management discussion and decision making
- socio-cultural and economic research priorities identified by the Socio-cultural Economic Research Advisory Committee
- workshops on economics for management, effects of nutrient loading on coral communities and the state of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- preparation of the 'State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report'.

## Performance Analysis

An indicator of strong performance was the range of research reports completed during the year. These included reports on lead-up projects to the Effects of Line Fishing



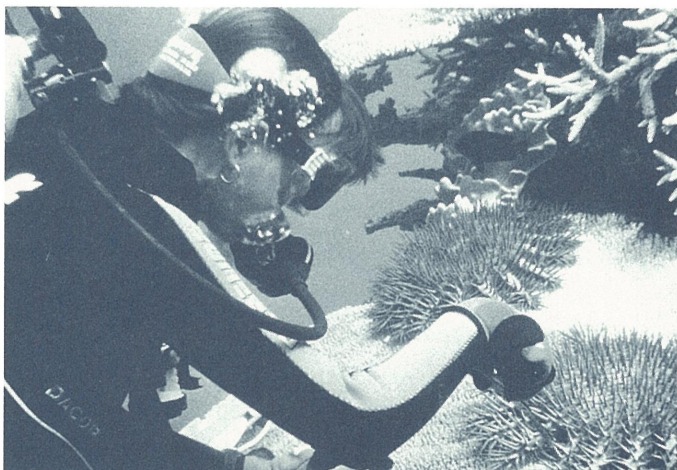
Experiment and quantification of recreational use of the Marine Park through relationships between population and boating densities. Three research publications and one workshop proceedings were released. The high quality of research directed by the Authority was reflected in the publication of an additional 20 papers in the scientific literature.

The Research and Monitoring section had a staff of 20, of which almost half were temporary or contract positions. During the year, the section initiated processes to improve internal communication and structure. These changes are expected to continue over the next six months.

Two-thirds of the section's budget was used to fund research projects carried out through external research organisations or individual contractors.

A significant research outcome was the early detection of the latest crown-of-thorns starfish outbreak. This discovery confirmed the effectiveness of the fine-scale surveys conducted jointly with the CRC Reef Research Centre. For the first time, researchers have been able to study the initial stages of an outbreak cycle on the Great Barrier Reef. An improved understanding of the mechanisms that may lead to the outbreaks will assist scientists and managers to improve management responses to the phenomenon.

*Right: An Authority diver collects spine samples from a crown-of-thorns starfish.*



© Udo Engelhardt

Local-scale controls of crown-of-thorns starfish were conducted by a number of tourism operators on reefs off Cairns and Port Douglas. Crown-of-thorns starfish program staff assisted these operators through the provision of technical advice and the conduct of training workshops. Such activities were an efficient application of research program results in addition to maximising the effectiveness of control methods.

A new program structure for crown-of-thorns starfish research was developed under the guidelines of the Crown-of-thorns Starfish Research Committee, the Authority's advisory body. This development will increase the effectiveness of both the research and the research management.

Effective use of information resources was demonstrated in the establishment of databases for storage and analysis of social, cultural and economic information. The socio-cultural and economic program developed GIS applications for this data to aid in planning and management. It also assisted in the set up of various displays. Continued presentation of the socio-cultural and economic seminar series has raised in-house knowledge of key issues.



Support for informed decision making was strengthened through initiation of information coordination and management processes to improve the accessibility and assessment of information. A software package, developed by the Natural Resource Information Centre for general site assessment and selection, is being trialed as a spatial modelling tool.

Information collected during the Torres Strait Baseline Study has been published. Interpretation and dissemination of this knowledge through extension programs has commenced.



*Left: Continuously recording temperature loggers are deployed at representative sites in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to help staff understand major natural events on coral reefs such as coral bleaching.*

During the year, work began on a major assessment of existing knowledge about the state of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. This synthesis of the state of the reef ecosystems will reflect the level of success of the Authority's management of the Marine Park. The 'State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report' will be published in 1997.

Workshops continued to be used as an efficient mechanism to exchange, synthesise and disseminate new and existing information. Three workshops were organised in 1995–96. Synthesis of the reef water quality data was begun with a workshop which presented and discussed data on the effects of nutrient loading on coral communities. On a more general scale, information dissemination was supported by organisation of the annual Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority /CRC Reef Research Centre Research Day and publication of the newsletter, *Reef Research*.

The section serviced its ongoing commitment to development of Marine Park standards and recommendations for management practices through adapting its information collection and interpretation activities. Notably the growing management focus on the World Heritage Area was supported by the drafting of a set of water quality policies for the World Heritage Area. Fieldwork began on a new research program to investigate the effects of line fishing on reefs and fish. Such research will expand the scientific base for development of fisheries management policy.

The Research and Monitoring section actively supported other programs of the Authority. Ongoing involvement in the water quality and fishing extension programs run by the Education/Information section increased involvement and consultation with external interest groups. Participation of staff in consultancies conducted by the External Services section helped disseminate reef conservation and management practices globally with work in Indonesia, Thailand and Yemen.



# Canberra Office

## Description

*The Canberra office provides a principal point of contact in Canberra on issues affecting the Great Barrier Reef. Its key service is liaison and coordination with the Minister, portfolio agencies and other government organisations. Office services and administrative support are provided for External Services and for visiting Townsville office staff, including the Authority Chairperson, when conducting business in Canberra. The Canberra office also provides secretariat services for the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council.*

Greater political focus on world heritage values has increased demands on the office. Government implementation of a more coordinated approach to environmental management has broadened the operations of the Canberra office.

## Strategic Direction

The objectives of the Canberra office are to establish and maintain effective liaison, communication and coordination links between the Authority and the Minister and Canberra-based organisations and agencies; provide advice and information about the Great Barrier Reef and marine and coastal conservation and management; provide secretariat support for the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council; and assist other Authority sections to develop and deliver programs.

To achieve these objectives, the Canberra office has provided a credible, timely and efficient source of advice to the Minister, Ministerial Council, Parliamentary Committees, the Environment portfolio and other organisations. It has also provided advice to the Chairperson and other sections of the Authority, and to members of the public. The office has promoted the flow of ideas, policy and other initiatives from Canberra-based agencies back to the Authority.

## Achievements

Significant achievements for 1995–96 included:

- coordination of Authority submissions to the Minister and the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories
- establishment of new relationships with the Minister's Office following the change of government
- coordination of procedures for appointments to the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee
- the drafting of papers and the coordination of input to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council meeting on 15 December 1995
- participation in the development of the executive and personal assistant network
- support for the Chairperson through briefings for Environment Policy Coordination Committee meetings
- contribution to and coordination of the drafting of the 'Inter-agency Co-operative Arrangements for the Management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Property'

## Performance Analysis

Performance was assessed by the quality and timeliness of advice, submissions, policy and correspondence to various clients including the Minister, Ministerial Council, Parliamentary Committees, other organisations, members of the public and the Authority. It was also measured by the extent to which statutory, Ministerial, Ministerial Council and Authority requirements were met. A further indicator was the extent to which advice and assistance provided by the office was utilised.

The efficiency of the Canberra office improved during the year. Increased responsiveness resulted from greater use of information technology including electronic mail for the coordination of submissions. In addition, increased use of the Internet as a research and information resource improved the speed and responsiveness of the office in preparation of submissions. The use of electronic communications has become more important with the office of the Chairperson now in Townsville.

During the year the Canberra office had a key role in the development of an agreement within the Environment portfolio on responsibility for consideration of proposals and activities with potential to impact on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Property. This agreement has led to an increase in the workload of the office in facilitating and coordinating joint actions involving the Environment portfolio agencies.



# External Services

## Description

*External Services operates consultancy services for the Authority on a cost-recovery basis. These services include advice on and review of the design of major programs by international development assistance banks, United Nations agencies and international donors. Another focus is training in integrated coastal, marine protected area and multiple-use management. External Services also provides mentoring, expert assistance, workshop facilitation, and training in capacity building for clients involved in marine and coastal management. This training includes masters degree courses in integrated coastal zone management and marine park management.*

Greater awareness of ecological sustainability in the use of marine environments has created a high demand for consultancy services. There has been an increasing expectation of assistance within Australia, as government agencies address the issues of coastal and marine management. There has been an increasing demand from countries in Asia and the Pacific for training programs in coastal zone management. External Services is also increasingly involved in providing advice on the development of international marine and coastal policy.

Future developments that will affect operations of the section include the implementation of the Commonwealth policy 'Living on the Coast', possible commercialisation of the International Tropical Marine Resource Centre (INTROMARC), increasing training demand for training programs developed specifically for middle to higher level coastal zone managers, and greater emphasis on training trainers.

## Strategic Direction

The objectives of External Services are to provide the Authority's expertise nationally and internationally, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region; and to provide a focus and feedback on the performance of the Authority both nationally and globally.

To achieve these objectives, consultancy services have been focused on training and mentoring, utilising the latest knowledge and practices in marine park management. External Services has

continued to work through collaborative alliances with branches and sections of the Authority and other agencies such as INTROMARC and the Australian Marine Science and Technology Limited (AMSAT). A pool of people available for secondment has been established, together with agreed protocols for obtaining staff services from other sections for external consultancies. Staff and the Authority have been kept informed of External Services' operations and projects.

During the year, partnerships with INTROMARC and AMSAT were further developed as an additional approach to meeting the demand for consultancy services.

## Achievements

Significant achievements for 1995–96 included:

- completion of the Tropical Marine Ecosystem (TROMES) training projects in Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Mauritius and Papua New Guinea
- management of the Ocean Rescue 2000 Marine Protected Area Program
- consultancy services to the Seychelles Conservation and National Parks service
- participation in the Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project (COREMAP) for the Indonesian Government
- participation in the Protection of the Marine Ecosystems of the Red Sea Coast consultancy for Yemen
- technical assistance in relation to the Century Zinc Limited mining proposal
- application of underwater visual census to assessing coral reef-fish stocks in the tropical Pacific
- training programs for the Indonesian Government, Egyptian Marine Park rangers, Kenyan Wildlife Service rangers and Mauritian Fisheries Department
- conduct of two masters degree courses in Coastal Zone Management in the Tropics and Marine Park Management at James Cook University of North Queensland
- conduct of a comprehensive Authority staff induction course
- involvement in the International Coral Reef Initiative
- development of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) training materials for the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Coordinating Unit, East Asian Seas (RCU/EAS)
- technical assistance to the South Australian Government with respect to the Great Australian Bight conservation proposals
- management of a project in the Arnarvon Islands and Solomon Islands evaluating the effect of protected areas on invertebrate populations
- provision of assistance to the Planning and Environmental Management branch in organising and facilitating workshops concerned with world heritage issues.

## Performance Analysis

The large number of consultancies completed during the year demonstrated the success of External Services in meeting the high national and international demand for expertise in environmental management. An increasing range of services was





*Above: Haiphong Harbour, Vietnam. The ASEAN-Australia Economic Cooperation Program's 'Coastal Zone Environmental and Resource Management Project' provided assistance and training in integrated coastal management in ASEAN countries such as Vietnam.*

provided in policy and infrastructure advice for marine resource management, training, technical assistance, and support for international activities. Two of the completed contracts were conducted through INTROMARC.

Efficient use was made of relatively limited Authority staff resources to develop practical and advanced training programs tailored to client needs. Seven programs were conducted including ranger and university student training, and an in-house staff induction course. This course helped identify the critical issues faced by the Authority and the strategies required to tackle these issues.

The effectiveness of training programs was demonstrated by an ongoing request to develop further training for rangers from the Ras Mohammed National Park on the Red Sea. As well, requests have been received from countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia for design and conduct of country-specific training programs for rangers and managers, with training to be provided in Australia or in-country.

The consultancies performed to date have resulted in an enhanced reputation for the Authority, the Queensland Department of Environment, and staff of both agencies. All projects undertaken by External Services were subject to Ministerial approval under section 7A of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act.

External Services maintained staff in Townsville and Canberra. To improve performance, a new procedure was established whereby staff from both the Canberra and Townsville offices endeavour to meet yearly to discuss strategic direction and policy. As well, there was a regular telephone link-up and a continuing obligation to conduct section workshops twice per year. These activities enhanced communication and improved operations.

Staffing levels in External Services have increased slightly over the past year. A proposal was prepared to create a business manager position.

Improvement in business performance was targeted in 1995–96 with a view to reducing funding allocation through increasing revenue and achieving a balanced budget. Project officers have improved project management and all consultancies undertaken have been completed within time frames and within budget. Project bid preparations were monitored in order to recover all costs. Better cost analysis and a clearer view of real total costs have contributed to cost recovery.

External Services continued to market itself on a national and international basis, and a marketing budget was established. Senior staff actively promoted the Authority's park management model overseas. Marketing efforts focused on the expertise available in the design and delivery of customised training programs.



*Above: The COREMAP Indonesia AMSAT team in West Lombok, Sumbawa. Authority expertise contributed to the Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project (COREMAP) for the Indonesian Government and the World Bank.*



# Corporate Services

## Description

*Corporate Services is an administrative section that provides services in organisational management advice and support, human resource management, financial management, office accommodation and facilities and travel services. Human resources provides recruitment; performance management; training and development; employment conditions administration; Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S), industrial relations and compensation services. Budget and accounting services are provided by a financial management unit, while office services provides accommodation, equipment and records management.*

The need for greater efficiency in use of resources, and pressures for improved responsiveness have increased work demands. Implementation of Occupational Health and Safety legislation has increased responsibilities and reporting requirements. Changes in the Australian Industrial Relations system, and delays in the implementation of new Commonwealth financial management legislation and a new Public Service Act affected section activities. The focus on Workplace Bargaining gave the Authority more operational flexibility.

Future developments that will affect the section include increasing pressure to recover costs on a user-pays basis, the need to streamline revenue collection, outcomes of the funding review for day-to-day management of the Marine Park, corporate planning and issue-based reporting, and the provision of long-term office accommodation.

## Strategic Direction

The objectives of the Corporate Services section are to achieve cost-effective delivery of programs by providing management and administrative support to the Authority and its staff; and to increase capacity for servicing financial needs.

To achieve these objectives, staff relations have been improved through Enterprise Bargaining and Industrial Democracy processes. A safe work environment has been targeted through high standards of OH&S practices. Accommodation

requirements have been met. Continuous improvement programs have been maintained to foster effective utilisation of resources, and develop staff skills and knowledge. Provision of information systems adapted to the needs and priorities of the Authority was another priority.

## Achievements

Significant achievements for 1995–96 included:

- implementation of the *Agency Bargaining Agreement 1994/5*
- implementation of the Continuous Improvement in the Australian Public Service Enterprise Agreement: 1995–96
- formalisation of Joint Consultative Committee arrangements with the Community and Public Sector Union
- establishment of an OH&S subcommittee
- training of elected OH&S representatives
- completion of an evaluation of a Human Resource Management Information System for implementation in 1996–97
- further implementation of the Financial Management Information System
- an improved telecommunications system
- meeting short-term office accommodation needs
- participation of one staff member in the Executive Development Scheme
- provision of a placement for an Executive Development Scheme participant.

## Performance Analysis

In order to more effectively support the Authority, the Corporate Services section has improved its operational performance. Staff were able to meet demands for essential services and accountability requirements in an environment of organisational growth and great change. Notably, there was no increase in staffing during the year.

Human resource management was characterised by a high level of recruitment activity. Selection exercises were completed for 27 permanent staff. Five staff recruited to the Authority were relocated to Townsville upon appointment.

Continued support for the Executive Development Scheme through staff participation and provision of one placement contributed to the strengthening of corporate staff resources.

Productivity and effectiveness in financial management were improved through further development of the Financial Management Information System. Strategic development of this system to increase capacity and meet changing information and reporting needs has been considered.

Following on from the evaluation in 1995–96, the anticipated implementation of a Human Resource Management Information System in 1996–97 will further improve Corporate Services infrastructure.

Changes in office and travel services have led to more efficient use of resources. Expansion of the corporate vehicle fleet reduced reliance on short-term rental vehicles and provided cost savings. Implementation of new telecommunications



equipment also reduced costs as well as improving the standard of customer service. The Occupational Health and Safety program was significantly improved during the year. Previously identified shortcomings in OH&S infrastructure and consultation processes were overcome with the establishment of an OH&S subcommittee and training of elected representatives. The ongoing corporate focus on workplace health and safety was reflected in the lodgement of only one workers' compensation claim during 1995–96.

The work environment was also improved through resolution of short-term accommodation issues. Office accommodation was expanded to meet current needs while long-term requirements will be considered as part of strategic resource planning.

Another indicator of performance was the training and development opportunities provided for staff. These activities reinforced workplace skills and helped develop the expertise necessary to meet changing requirements. They were also consistent with the strategy for continuous improvement both in program delivery and staff development.

A significant Industrial Democracy achievement during the year was the formalisation of arrangements for the Joint Consultative Committee with the Community and Public Sector Union. The formalisation of consultation and communication mechanisms provided a framework for strengthening staff involvement in improving organisational productivity.

# Appendix A Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee

The Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee was established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* as an independent advisory body for both the Authority and the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the environment. Specific functions are defined in section 21 of the Act.

The Consultative Committee represents a wide cross-section of interests in the Great Barrier Reef—from both the public and private sectors—including tourism, fishing, science, conservation, local government and Aboriginal communities. It consists of members appointed by the Minister for a three-year term and a member of the Authority appointed by the Authority for an indefinite term. Appointments made by the Minister took effect on 16 August 1993. Dr Ian McPhail, the Authority's appointee, commenced as member on 22 February 1995. On 25 January 1996, the Minister appointed Mrs Irene Butterworth and Ms Penny Figgis to fill vacancies created by the mid-term departures of Mr Greg McLean and Mr Adrian Jeffreys.

## Membership as at June 1996

Professor Helene Marsh (Chairperson)	James Cook University of North Queensland
Mr Harry Bonanno	Canegrowers
Councillor Ann Bunnell	Council of the City of Townsville
Mr Mike Burgess	Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators
Mrs Irene Butterworth	Giru Dala Council of Elders Aboriginal Corporation
Ms Sally Driml	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Ms Penny Figgis	Australian Conservation Foundation
Mr Tony Fontes	Dive Australia
Mr Denis Griffith	Sunfish
Mr Eddie Hegerl	Australian Marine Conservation Society and Queensland Conservation Council
Dr Anne Hoggett	Lizard Island Research Station
Mr Ted Loveday	Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation
Dr Ian McPhail	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Mr David Mazitelli	Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Tourism
Mr Peter Neville	Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry
Mr Peter O'Clery	National Centre for Studies in Travel and Tourism and Australian Tourism Research Institute
Mr Dave Perkins	Queensland Department of Environment

The terms of all members appointed by the Minister ceased on 15 August 1996.



## Business Activities

Administrative assistance for the Committee is coordinated by staff of the Authority's secretariat in Townsville. During 1995–96, the Consultative Committee met three times as follows:

- 3 and 4 August 1995, Townsville
- 2 and 3 November 1995, Cairns
- 11 and 12 April 1996, Brisbane.

Meetings of the Committee are supported by staff of the Authority and indirectly by staff of the Queensland Department of Environment. During 1995–96, seven other persons attended meetings of the Committee to provide professional and expert advice, at no cost to the Committee. These persons were affiliated with the Hydrographic Office of the Royal Australian Navy, the Cooperative Research Centre for Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry, the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation, the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation Limited.

In August, the Committee attended a civic reception hosted by the Townsville City Council and met with representatives of both the Townsville and Hinchinbrook Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees. In November, the Committee held sessions with the Advisory Committees from Cooktown, Port Douglas and Cairns and also visited the Hope Vale Aboriginal Community, north of Cooktown, for discussions with some of its members.

Under arrangements established in 1993–94, the Committee may advise, through the Authority, the Queensland Minister for Environment and the Cooperative Research Centre for Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef.

During the year, the Consultative Committee responded to requests from the Authority for advice on matters including:

- the Committee's role in the implementation of the 25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- the *Twelve-Month Report on Day-to-day Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park 1994–95*
- the review of the environmental management charge by Assoc. Prof. Owen Stanley
- operations of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium
- operations of the Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees
- mooring and anchoring
- the review of day-to-day management
- mariculture industry development
- exclusive use of the Marine Park.

Advice to the Commonwealth Minister in part concerned:

- the recorded decline of dugong populations south of Cooktown
- legislation relating to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, including coordination of actions under the Commonwealth's environmental management legislation in regard to the Marine Park
- general issues concerning membership of the Committee
- the potential for mariculture developments in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Throughout 1995–96, Committee members encouraged action by their respective government agencies and industry organisations in dealing with the decline of dugong populations.

The Committee has found that during this term, Great Barrier Reef issues falling within its function have increased in number and are becoming more complex. In order to remain responsive to these issues, the Committee has established a number of working groups that have focused on particular tasks and so lighten the business of its relatively infrequent meetings.

The Committee has prepared a short paper on its role. This paper, and summary documents of the Committee's meetings, are available on request from the secretariat.

Appendix B

# Authority Senior Management

## Townsville Office

Dr Ian McPhail	Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer
Dr Wendy Craik	Executive Officer: 1/7/95 – 8/9/95
Ms Dianne Brien	Senior Director, Education, Aquarium and Administration Acting Executive Officer: 11/9/95 – 10/11/95; 28/12/95 – 2/1/96; 29/1/96 – 3/4/96
Ms Prue Keen	Senior Director, Planning and Environmental Management Acting Executive Officer: 13/11/95 – 21/12/95; 8/1/96 – 26/1/96; 8/4/96 – 30/6/96
Mr Ian Burston	Director, Education/Information
Mr Martin Jones	Director, Aquarium
Mr Peter McGinnity	Director, Planning
Dr Zena Dinesen	Director, Environmental Impact Management: 1/7/95 – 30/10/95 Director, Park Management Policy: 1/11/95 – 30/6/96
Mr Jon Brodie	Director, Research and Monitoring
Mr Simon Woodley	Director, External Services
Mr Norman Austin	Director, Administration: 4/3/96 – 30/6/96
Mr John Barrett	Acting Director, Administration: 1/7/95 – 9/8/95; 18/12/95 – 1/3/96
Ms Vanessa Elwell-Gavins	Acting Director, Administration: 10/8/95 – 15/12/95

## Canberra Office

Mr Richard Kenchington	Senior Director, External Services
Mr Colin Trinder	Acting Director, Canberra Office



An entire publication list is available from the Authority. This list contains those publications produced during 1995 and 1996 as well as current management publications.

### Workshop Series (ISSN 0156-5842)

21. *The John Brewer Reef Floating Hotel : a Case-Study in Marine Environmental Monitoring : Proceedings of a GBRMPA Workshop reviewing the Environmental Monitoring Program, held in Townsville, Australia in December 1989*, 1995, eds V. Harriott and P. Saenger, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17429 6

### Technical Memorandum Series (ISSN 0817-6094)

GBRMPA-TM-16. *Accelerated Regeneration of Hard Corals : a Manual for Coral Reef Users and Managers*, July 1987, 1995, V. J. Harriott & D. A. Fisk, GBRMPA, Townsville, ISBN 0 642 12032 3

### Research Publication Series (ISSN 1037-1508)

34. *Biological and Chemical Oceanographic Measurements in the Far Northern Great Barrier Reef : February 1990*, 1996, M. Furnas et al., GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17430 X

36. *Nitrogen and Phosphorus Budgets for the Central Great Barrier Reef Shelf*, 1995, M. Furnas, A. W. Mitchell & M. Skuza, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17415 6

38. *Tourist Perceptions of the Great Barrier Reef, March 1988*, 1995, F. M. Vanclay, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17422 9

39. *Review of the Crowns-of-thorns Starfish Research Committee (COTSREC) Program*, 1996, B. Lassig, U. Engelhardt, P. Moran & Tenshi Ayukai, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23000 5

### Ocean Rescue 2000 Workshop Series (ISSN 1324-3799)

1. *Towards a Marine Regionalisation for Australia : Proceedings of a Workshop held in Sydney, New South Wales, 4-6 March 1994*, 1995, ed. J. Muldoon, GBRMPA, [Townsville]. ISBN 0 642 17439 3

### Miscellaneous Publications

*Cairns Section Management Plans (with emphasis on management of mooring and anchoring) : Discussion Paper for Public Comment*, 1995, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17437 7

*Controlling Crown-of-thorns Starfish*, 1995, B. Lassig, GBRMPA/CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17421 0

*A Global Representative System of Marine Protected Areas*, 1995, principal eds G. Kelleher, C. Bleakley & S. Wells, The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, The World Bank and The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Washington, D.C.

*The Great Barrier Reef, Keeping It Great : a 25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, 1994-2019*, 1994, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17412 1 ISBN 0 642 17436 9 (Appendix)

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Manual*, 1996, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23006 4

*Reef Communication*. ISBN 0 642 23007 2

*Reef Learning Guide*. ISBN 0 642 23008 0

*Reef Essentials*. ISBN 0 642 23009 9

*Reef Understanding*. ISBN 0 642 23010 2

*Low Isles Draft Management Plan for Low Islets (Low Island & Woody Island) and Reef*, 1992, GBRMPA/QDEH, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17409 1

*Our Sea, Our Future : Major Findings of the State of the Marine Environment Report for Australia*, 1995, comp. L. P. Zann, GBRMPA for the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, Ocean Rescue 2000 Program, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17391 5

*Overview of Cairns Section Management Plans (with emphasis on management of mooring and anchoring) : Discussion Paper and Proposed Best Environmental Practices for the Great Barrier Reef : for Public Comment*, 1995, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17348 5

*Planning for Crown-of-thorns Starfish Population Increases*, 1995, B. Lassig, GBRMPA/CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17423 7

*The Queensland Nickel Management Appeal : a Case Study of the Appeals Process*, 1995, S. P. Hillman, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17414 8

*Reefplan : An Oil Spill Contingency Policy Document for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area*, [1996], Australian Maritime Safety Authority, [Canberra].

*State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report : Technical Workshop : Abstracts and Program*, November 27–29 1995, Mercure Inn, Woolcock Street, Townsville, 1995, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23001 3

*The State of the Marine Environment Report for Australia : Technical Annex 1 : The Marine Environment*, 1995, eds L. P. Zann & P. J. Kailola, GBRMPA for the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, Ocean Rescue 2000 Program, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17399 0

*The State of the Marine Environment Report for Australia : Technical Annex 2 : Pollution*, 1995, eds L. P. Zann & D. C. Sutton, GBRMPA for the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, Ocean Rescue 2000 Program, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17406 7

*Turtle and Dugong Conservation Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*, 1994, ed. N. Ellis, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17419 9

*Whitsunday National and Marine Parks : Draft Management Plan, October 1993*, 1993, GBRMPA and QDEH, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17418 0

## Aquarium Publications

*Coralines : Magazine of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium* (ISSN 1037-0684), vol. 1(1) –, 1991 –

## Education Programs

*Sink or Swim Years 5–7*, 1996, Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23002 1

*Undercurrents Years 6–9*, 1996, Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23003 X

*Pollution Solution Years 7–9*, 1996, Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23004 8

*Heads, Tails, Fins and Scales Years 8–12*, 1996, Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23005 6

*Seaworks : Resources for Primary Schools : Specific Education Activities*, 1996, Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Volunteers Association of Townsville Inc., Townsville. ISBN 0 646 27391 4

## Aquarium Brochures

*Be in the Swim : Become a Volunteer with the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium*, [1996], Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.

*Experience the Aquarium after dark*, [1995], Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.

*Experience the Living Classroom*, [1996], Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.

*Great Barrier Reef Aquarium*, [1995], Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.

*The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium : Yours 364 days of the year...*, [1995], Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.



## Brochures

*Code of Practice : Diving on Shipwrecks around Magnetic Island*, c. 1995, GBRMPA/QDEH, Townsville.

*Code of Practice for Reef Walking*, 1995, GBRMPA/QDEH, Townsville.

*Corporate Plan 1994–1999*, [1994], GBRMPA, Townsville.

*Crown-of-thorns starfish on the Great Barrier Reef : the facts*, 1996, CRC Reef Research Centre/GBRMPA, Townsville.

*Fishing : The effects on the Great Barrier Reef?*, 1996, GBRMPA, Townsville.

*The Great Barrier Reef, Keeping It Great : a 25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area*, c. 1994, GBRMPA, Townsville.

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Research Permits : Guidelines for Applicants*, 1994, GBRMPA, Townsville.

## Serial Publications

*Annual Report* (ISSN 0155-8072), 1976–77 –

*Bulletin* (ISSN 0725-0886/0705-8764)

*Corporate Plan* (ISSN 1039-8538), 1992–1997 –

*Great Barrier Reef Reference File : Issues, Facts, Figures*, Brief 1 –, 1993 –

*Ocean Rescue 2000 Sea Notes* (ISSN 1324-6887), 1994 –

*Seagrass*

*Ballast water*

*Marine protected areas*

*Ocean Rescue 2000 Update* (ISSN 1320-0828), April 1993 –

*Reef Connections : a Newsletter for the Reef Based Tourist Industry*, no. 1 –, 1993 –

*REEF Current Awareness Bulletin Annual* (ISSN 0813-7897), 1983 –

*Reef Research : Newsletter of the Research and Monitoring Section* (ISSN 1037-0692), vol. 1(1) –, 1991 –

*Sea Country*, no. 1 –, 1995 –

## Audiovisual Productions

*Deckhand : a Video Magazine for Queensland Commercial Fishermen* (video recording) Edition 1 –, 1989/90 –

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Manual*, [1996], GBRMPA, Townsville.

*Reef Essentials*. (video recording, 45 minutes)

*Reef Understanding*. (video recording, 120 minutes)

*Marine Protected Areas : Special Places* (video recording, 45 minutes) 1995, GBRMPA, Townsville.

*Reef Report* (video recording) 1 –, 1987 –

*Saltwater People* (television documentary, 54 minutes) 1996, GBRMPA, Townsville.

## Maps

*Companion Map to Great Barrier Reef 1:2 200 000* 1995, GBRMPA, Townsville. (BRA Q172)

## Zoning Information

All current zoning plans, as statutory publications, are listed below.

### Far Northern Section

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : Far Northern Section Zoning Plan*, 1985, GBRMPA, Townsville.  
ISBN 0 642 52433 5 (Currently out of print but available at the Authority Library.)

## Cairns Section

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : Cairns Section Zoning Plan*, 1992, GBRMPA, Townsville.  
ISBN 0 642 12019 6

## Central Section

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : Central Section Zoning Plan*, 1987, GBRMPA, Townsville.  
ISBN 0 642 52553 6

## Mackay/Capricorn Section

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : Mackay/Capricorn Section Zoning Plan*, 1987, GBRMPA, Townsville.  
ISBN 0 642 12008 0

## Freedom of Information

Documents available for purchase (including bulk-purchase) through selected outlets

*Nomination of the Great Barrier Reef by the Commonwealth of Australia for inclusion in the World Heritage List*, GBRMPA, 1981

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 and Regulations*

Companion Map to Great Barrier Reef

Maps of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Research reports and workshop proceedings

Various information brochures, books, posters and audiovisual productions

Documents available free of charge for single copies from the Authority's Townsville office

Annual Report

Corporate Plan

Strategic Plan

Environmental Management Charge information booklets

Zoning Plans and Zoning Plan Introductory Guides

Selected maps of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Media releases and communiques

Newsletters e.g. *Reef Research*, *Sea Country*

Information brochures, bulletins and leaflets

## Facilities for access

The Townsville office holds most of the documents relating to the Authority, its Office and the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee. It is possible to arrange access to documents, available under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, through either the Canberra or Townsville office (see addresses below), or at the State FOI Information Access Office. Staff are available to provide assistance in relation to any aspect of FOI requests.

Members of the public may make inquiries on FOI matters and inspect documents to which access has been granted at either office. Business hours, Monday to Friday, are 8.30 a.m. – 4.50 p.m. Formal requests for access to documents must be directed to the offices listed in the following section.



Information about facilities for access by disabled persons can be obtained by contacting the FOI Officer at the Townsville office.

The following facilities for access are maintained at the Townsville office:

- computer printer • microfiche reader • film and slide projectors
- video and audio tape recorders • photocopy machine • reading areas.

## FOI procedures and initial contact points

Inquiries may be made in writing, by telephone or in person at the official FOI access points listed below. It is also suggested that inquirers give a telephone number.

### Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

2-68 Flinders Street  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810  
Telephone (077) 500 700

PO Box 1379  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810  
Facsimile (077) 726 093

or

### Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Acorn House, 37 Torrens Street  
BRADDON ACT 2612  
Telephone (06) 247 0211

GPO Box 791  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Facsimile (06) 247 5761

If any difficulty arises in the identification of a document or in providing access in the form requested, an officer of the Authority will contact the applicant with a view to resolving the difficulty.

In consultation with applicants, documents will be made available by mail to the address specified by the applicant or at the official FOI access points.

The authorised decision makers under the Act for the Authority and the Consultative Committee, with official addresses for the lodging of requests, are:

The Executive Officer  
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

The Secretary  
Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee  
PO Box 1379  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

## Appendix D Staff Papers Published or Presented in 1995–96

Copies of the following papers are available from the Librarian, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

During the year, many brief or newspaper articles were published on a range of topics concerning the Ocean Rescue 2000 Program. For more information about these articles contact the Coordinator, Ocean Rescue 2000 Program, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville.

- Benzaken, D. 1995, 'Values do matter : managing cultural and social diversity brings better protection' [abstract], in *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report technical workshop, November 27–29 1995, Mercure Inn, Woolcock Street, Townsville : abstracts and program*, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 12.
- Benzaken, D. and Aston, J. 1995, 'Monitoring activities in the GBR, challenges and opportunities' [abstract], in *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report technical workshop, November 27–29 1995, Mercure Inn, Woolcock Street, Townsville : abstracts and program*, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, pp. 12–13.
- Berkelmans, R. 1995, 'Shoalwater Bay : planning for a new marine park', *Reef Research*, 5(3), pp. 7–9.
- Bleakley, C. 1995, 'A cooperative program to implement the Marine Protected Areas Report' [abstract], in *Sustainable financing mechanisms for coral reef conservation : proceedings of a workshop held at the World Bank, Washington D.C., June 23 1995*, eds A. Hooten and M. Hatzioios, World Bank, Washington D.C., (Environmentally sustainable development proceedings series, no. 9), p. 15.
- Bleakley, C. 1996, 'A global system of marine protected areas', *Ecos : a Review of Conservation*, 17(1), pp. 39–43.
- Brien, D. 1995, Moving from enforcement to empowerment : harnessing community resources, paper presented to Global Biodiversity Forum 1995, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Workshop, Jakarta, Indonesia, 4–5 November 1995, sponsored by the IUCN.
- Brodie, J. 1995, 'Water quality and pollution control', in *Coastal management in the Asia-Pacific region : issues and approaches*, eds K. Hotta and I. Dutton, Japan International Marine Science and Technology Federation, Tokyo, pp. 39–56.
- Brodie, J. and Furnas, M. 1995, Cyclones, river flood plumes and natural water quality extremes in the central Great Barrier Reef, paper presented to Conference on Downstream Effects of Land Use, held at Central Queensland University, Rockhampton, Australia, 26–28 April 1995, sponsored by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.
- Brodie, J. 1996, 'Nutrient and sediment pollution, and its effects', in *Proceedings of the workshop on eutrophication in tropical marine systems : the impacts and management of nutrient pollution*, ed. T. Ward, UNEP, Bangkok, (RCU/EAS technical report series, no. 8), pp. 15–20.
- Brodie, J., Furnas, M., Mitchell, A., Steven, A., Skuza, M., Devlin, M., Trott, L., Rayment, G., Gladstone, W. and Evans, L. 1995, 'Water quality monitoring in the GBR region' [abstract], in *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report technical workshop, November 27–29 1995, Mercure Inn, Woolcock Street, Townsville : abstracts and program*, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 13.
- Cook, C. 1996, 'Coastal impacts on the mangrove fringe : what can GBRMPA do?', in *Mangroves : a resource under threat : an issue for the central Queensland coast : proceedings of a symposium held, Friday 27 October 1995, Lecture Theatre Gladstone Campus, Central Queensland University*, eds D. Hopley and L. Warner, James Cook University of North Queensland and Australian Marine Science Consortium, Townsville, pp. 80–86.
- Craik, W. and Shorthouse, B. 1995, The role of the GBRMPA in fisheries management, paper presented to Fisheries Management Course, Mercure Inn, Townsville, Australia, May 1995, sponsored by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage.
- Davies, S. 1995, 'The Image Collection at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority', *Extra Special*, 1995(6), p. 4.
- Day, J., Baldwin, J. and Walter, D. 1995, 'Day to day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : management at the crossroads' [abstract], in *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report technical workshop, November 27–29 1995, Mercure Inn, Woolcock Street, Townsville : abstracts and program*, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 16.



- Day, J., Walter, D., Burston, I. and Baldwin, J. 1995, Day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area : management at the crossroads, paper presented to State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report Technical Workshop, Townsville, Australia, November 27–29 1995, sponsored by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, with support from CRC Reef Research Centre, Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and the Australian Institute of Marine Science.
- Dinesen, Z. 1995, New directions in management of research in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [abstract], paper presented to Australian Coral Reef Society National Conference and Annual General Meeting, Southern Cross University, Lismore, Australia, 8–9 July 1995.
- Dinesen, Z. and Oliver, J. 1995, 'Tourism impacts' [abstract], in *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report technical workshop, November 27–29 1995, Mercure Inn, Woolcock Street, Townsville : abstracts and program*, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 17.
- Engelhardt, U., Lassig, B., Sweatman, H., Bass, D. and Miller, I. 1995, 'Status of the GBR World Heritage Area : crown-of-thorns starfish' [abstract], in *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report technical workshop, November 27–29 1995, Mercure Inn, Woolcock Street, Townsville : abstracts and program*, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 20.
- Furnas, M. and Brodie, J. 1995, Current status of nutrient levels and other water quality parameters in the Great Barrier Reef, paper presented to Conference on Downstream Effects of Land Use, held at Central Queensland University, Rockhampton, Australia, 26–28 April 1995, sponsored by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.
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## Appendix E **Advisory Committees**

Full membership lists of these advisory committees are available from the Authority.

Committees comprise representatives of relevant agencies and user groups as agreed to by those organisations and/or the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Crown-of-thorns Starfish Research Committee (COTSREC)

Advisory Committee on Research into the Effects of Fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Region

Torres Strait Baseline Study Advisory Committee

Monitoring Advisory Committee

Water Quality Technical Advisory Panel

SOMER Advisory Committee

Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Advisory Board

Socio-cultural Economic Research Committee

### *Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees*

Cooktown Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Douglas Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Cairns Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Mission Beach Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Hinchinbrook Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Townsville Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Whitsunday Coastal Advisory Committee

Mackay Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Capricornia Fisheries Advisory Committee

Gladstone Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Bundaberg & the Coral Isles Marine Park Advisory Committee



# Appendix F Representation on External Committees

- Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research Advisory Committee* – Jon Brodie
- Australian Committee for IUCN (The World Conservation Union)* – Ian McPhail, Dianne Brien
- Australian Committee for IUCN (The World Conservation Union) Marine Subcommittee* – Joan Phillips
- Australian Institute of Maritime Law Advisory Committee* – Stephen Sparkes
- Australian Public Service Regional Directors Group* – Dianne Brien
- Cairns Port Technical Advisory Committee* – Martin Robinson
- Commonwealth Inter-departmental Committee (IDC) (Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy)* – Joan Phillips
- CRC Effects of Fishing Steering Committee* – Ian McPhail
- CRC Reef Research Centre User Advisory Group* – Jon Brodie, Zena Dinesen
- Downstream Effects of Agricultural Practices Committee* – Jon Brodie
- Environment Policy Coordination Committee* – Ian McPhail
- INTROMARC Management Committee* – Richard Kenchington, Simon Woodley
- JCU/AIMS/GBRMPA Liaison Committee* – Ian McPhail
- Marine Study for Torres Strait Environment and Resource Strategy (MaSTERS)* – Jim Muldoon
- Monitoring Advisory Committee (AIMS, GBRMPA)* – Jamie Oliver
- National Plan Advisory Committee* – John Baldwin
- Ocean Rescue 2000 Marine Protected Area Technical Advisory Committee* – Jim Muldoon
- Queensland Aquaculture Development Advisory Committee* – Jon Brodie
- Queensland Fisheries Policy Council* – Ian McPhail
- Queensland Integrated Catchment Management Coordinating Committee* – Prue Keen
- Integrated Catchment Management Awareness and Education Subcommittee for the Queensland Catchment Management Coordinating Committee* – Dianne Brien
- Queensland National Plan Oil Pollution Committee* – Prue Keen
- Queensland State of the Environment Report: Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Environments Sectoral Working Group* – Jamie Oliver
- Raine Island Scientific Advisory Committee* – Jamie Oliver
- Reefmac* – John Robertson
- Reef Tourism 2005 Steering Committee* – Prue Keen
- Sir George Fisher Centre Advisory Committee* – Simon Woodley
- Steering Committee on Information, Education and Advertising (DEST)* – Dianne Brien
- Sugar Research and Development Corporation Program 6 Advisory Party* – Jon Brodie
- Torres Strait Environment Management Committee* – Sylvia Spring
- Torres Strait Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee* – Simon Woodley

Torres Strait Joint Advisory Committee – Jon Brodie

Townsville Enterprise Tourism Advisory Committee – Ian Burston, Loretta Saunders

Townsville Port Technical Advisory Committee – Prue Keen

Trawlmac – Peter McGinnity

Tropical Marine Ecosystem Project (TROMES) Technical Advisory Committee – Jim Muldoon, Richard Kenchington, Simon Woodley

## Appendix G Resources

### Staffing Overview

Table 8. Staff of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority at 30 June 1996

Classification	Permanent				Temporary						All				Total FTE
	Male		Female	Total	Male		Female	Total	Male		Female	Total			
	F/T	P/T	F/T		P/T	F/T	P/T		F/T	P/T	F/T		P/T		
SES 1	1		2		3					1		2		3	3.00
ASO 1	1		2		3	1	3	14	18	1	1	5	14	21	12.78
ASO 2	3		9	2	14		2		2	3		11	2	16	15.30
ASO 3	5		12	1	18		1		1	5		13	1	19	18.50
ASO 4	2		6		8		1		1	2		7		9	9.00
ASO 5	9		9		18	2		1	3	11		10		21	21.00
ASO 6	15		8		23				15		8			23	23.00
SOC	13		2	1	16				13		2	1		16	15.50
SOB	5			1	6				5			1		6	5.80
GSO	8		1		9				8		1			9	9.00
ITO 1	1				1				1					1	1.00
ITO 2	1		1		2				1		1			2	2.00
SITOB	1				1				1					1	1.00
PO 1								1	1				1	1	0.50
PO 2	2				2	1			1	3				3	3.00
SPOC			1	1	2						1	1		2	1.40
SPOB	1				1					1				1	1.00
Public Affairs Officer	1				1					1				1	1.00
Stores Supervisor	1				1					1				1	1.00
TO 1			1		1							1		1	1.00
TO 2	1		1		2					1		1		2	2.00
TO 3	1				1					1				1	1.00
Totals	72		55	6	133	3	1	8	15	27	75	1	63	21	148.78

Notes to table 8.

ASO	Administrative Service Officer	SITO	Senior Information Technology Officer
GSO	General Service Officer	SO	Senior Officer
ITO	Information Technology Officer	SPO	Senior Professional Officer
PO	Professional Officer	TO	Technical Officer
SES	Senior Executive		



## Performance Based Pay

A report of payments made under the Performance Based Pay arrangements during 1995–96 is provided in accordance with APS guidelines.

Performance Based Pay for Senior Officers was included in Agency Productivity Pay from 3 April 1995 under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Agency Bargaining Agreement 1994/5* which was approved by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission on 26 June 1995.

All payments of Performance Based Pay made during 1995–96 relate to the 1994–95 year.

There were 14 staff eligible for Performance Based Pay, and a total of \$45 501 was paid during 1995–96.

*Table 9. Staff by Classification Group*

	SES	SOB	SOC
No. of Staff Paid	3	4	6
Performance Pay Paid	\$22 937	\$15 667	\$6 897

## Staff Training

During 1995–96, \$96 521 was spent on course fees and travel costs in providing training and development activities to Authority staff.

## Industrial Democracy

The Authority recognises the vast contribution made by its dedicated staff to all areas of its operations, by providing a participative work environment which enables all staff to contribute to program development and decision-making processes, within the framework of the decision-making responsibilities and powers of the Authority.

The involvement and commitment of staff to decision-making processes:

- allows staff to fully apply their skills and experience, and
- provides all staff with the opportunity to influence decisions which affect the quality of their working lives,

which results in enhanced organisational productivity.

Significant Industrial Democracy outcomes achieved during the year were:

- staff participation in Industrial Democracy training
- regularised meetings between the Authority/Community and Public Sector Union Joint Consultative Committee
- implementation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Agency Bargaining Agreement 1994/5* in consultation with the Joint Consultative Committee
- staff contributions to the review of the Authority's Corporate Plan
- continuation of the involvement of Townsville-based staff in regular all-staff meetings.

## Occupational Health and Safety

Significant Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) outcomes during the year were:

- issuing the Authority's OH&S policy for the period 1996 to 1998
- approval of the Authority's OH&S agreement for the period 1996 to 1998 after consultation with the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU)
- appointment of OH&S Representatives and Deputy Representatives after elections conducted by the CPSU
- provision of training to elected OH&S Representatives and Deputy Representatives
- establishment of an OH&S Committee.

A minor fire occurred in the Authority's offices in October 1995. No one was injured and notice of a dangerous occurrence was provided to Comcare as required under section 68 of the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991*.

Staff participated in a number of OH&S training activities during the year including:

- Fire Safety and Emergency Procedures
- First Aid
- Emergency Resuscitation
- SCUBA Safety

During the year the Authority continued to provide its staff with an Employee Assistance Program provided by Employee Assistance Service North Queensland. This important OH&S initiative provides staff and their families with access to counselling and advice on a wide range of issues, both work-related and non work-related, as a contribution to improving the quality of working life for all staff. This initiative plays an important role in the continued low incidence of worker compensation claims submitted by Authority staff.

## Equal Employment Opportunity

The Authority's Chairperson and the Senior Director, Education, Aquarium and Administration are the senior executives responsible for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and the Human Resources Manager undertakes the role of EEO Coordinator.

Major EEO outcomes achieved during the year were:

- the recruitment of three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people increasing the involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- implementation of Carers Leave, 48/52 Leave Without Pay arrangements, and enhanced Flexitime provisions from the Agency Bargain which provide staff flexibility in balancing family and work responsibilities
- ensuring EEO group members received information on the implemented provisions of the Agency Bargain
- provision of training for four additional Harassment Contact Officers ensuring the Authority has the capacity to deal effectively with harassment
- continuing the promotion of a high level of access to and provision of management training for women
- provision of competency based training for women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ASO 1 to ASO 4 classifications.

During 1995–96 the Authority continued to pursue its objective of having target group representation in its staffing reflect the representation of those groups in the population of the Great Barrier Reef region of the Queensland coast. Representation of EEO Target Groups within the



Authority's staffing is generally comparable to that of the Australian Public Service as a whole and exceeds Australian Public Service averages in the representation of:

- women in total staff numbers,
- women in Senior Executive Service positions, and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

At 30 June 1996, two of the Authority's four permanent SES positions were filled by women. This gender mix at the SES senior management level is in direct contrast to Australian Public Service wide figures where women occupy less than 20% of SES positions.

Representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Authority's staff increased by 1% to 5%. Increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community involvement in the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park through the Marine Park Ranger Training Program continued during 1995-96.

Equal Employment Opportunity data for the Authority's staff are provided in tables 10 to 13.

**Table 10. Representation of EEO Groups within Salary Levels as at 30 June 1996**

SALARY	TOTAL NO OF STAFF	WOMEN	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD	STAFF WITH EEO DATA
Below \$25938 (includes ASO 1)	24	16 67%	2 8%	1 4%	21 88%	4 17%	0 0%	24
\$25939 to \$29453 (includes ASO 2)	23	15 65%	1 4%	1 4%	21 91%	0 0%	1 4%	23
\$29454 to \$32651 (includes ASO 3)	26	16 62%	0 0%	0 0%	25 100%	0 0%	0 0%	25
\$32652 to \$36609 (includes ASO 4)	11	7 64%	1 9%	1 9%	9 82%	1 9%	1 9%	11
\$36610 to \$39877 (includes ASO 5)	16	6 38%	0 0%	2 13%	12 80%	1 7%	1 7%	15
\$39878 to \$46658 (includes ASO 6)	22	7 32%	2 9%	1 5%	19 86%	2 9%	0 0%	22
\$46659 to \$54088 (includes SOC)	18	4 22%	1 6%	1 6%	16 89%	0 0%	2 11%	18
\$54089 to \$67154 (includes SOB-A)	10	1 10%	0 0%	0 0%	10 100%	0 0%	0 0%	10
Above \$67154 (includes SES)	4	2 50%	0 0%	0 0%	4 100%	0 0%	1 25%	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>74 48%</b>	<b>7 5%</b>	<b>7 5%</b>	<b>137 90%</b>	<b>8 5%</b>	<b>6 4%</b>	<b>152</b>



*Table 11. Representation of EEO Groups within Occupational Groups as at 30 June 1996*

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	TOTAL NO OF STAFF	WOMEN	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD	STAFF WITH EEO DATA
SES	4	2 50%	0 0%	0 0%	4 100%	0 0%	1 25%	4
ASO & related	127	65 51%	7 6%	6 5%	111 89%	7 6%	4 3%	125
GSO & related	10	1 10%	0 0%	0 0%	10 100%	0 0%	0 0%	10
Professional	8	4 50%	0 0%	1 13%	7 88%	0 0%	1 13%	8
Technical	5	2 40%	0 0%	0 0%	5 100%	1 20%	0 0%	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>74 48%</b>	<b>7 5%</b>	<b>7 5%</b>	<b>137 90%</b>	<b>8 5%</b>	<b>6 4%</b>	<b>152</b>

Notes to tables 10 and 11.

Percentage for women based on total staff; percentages for other groups based on staff with available EEO data.

Data retrieved from GBRMPA EEO database.

*Table 12. Representation of EEO Groups within the Australian Public Service*

	TOTAL NO OF STAFF	WOMEN	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD
<b>TOTALS</b>	129 334	61 259 47%	6 614 5%	12 509 10%	80 602 62%	2 705 2%	6 044 5%

SOURCE: APS Statistical Bulletin 1995/96

*Table 13. Representation of EEO Groups within the Population of the Great Barrier Reef region*

	TOTAL POPULATION	WOMEN	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD
<b>TOTALS</b>	861 978	423 330 49%	43 774 5%	118 415 14%	699 789 81%	41 373 5%	84 700 10%

SOURCE: Australian Bureau of Statistics from 1986 and 1991 Census data

Notes to tables 10 to 13.

NESB1 Non-English Speaking Background, first generation  
 NESB2 Non-English Speaking Background, second generation  
 ESB English Speaking Background  
 ATSI Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
 PWD People with a Disability



## Consultancy Services

External consultants are engaged to gain access to specialist technical, professional, research and management expertise in relation to specific tasks, where circumstances require that Authority resources be augmented or that work be carried out independently. It is the Authority's policy to carry out the bulk of its required research using external research organisations rather than develop its own research capability. Research consultants are chosen with the assistance of a formal Consultants' Register.

Details of consultants engaged in 1995–96 are available from the Authority. The total number of consultancies under engagement was 165 at a total cost of \$2 450 000.

## Summary of Resources

The following table reconciles appropriations and program elements for the Authority.

Table 14. Summary table of resources

Reconciliation of programs and appropriation elements for 1995–96 \$('000)						
	Approp Act No. 1	+ Approp Acts Nos 2 & 4	+ Special Approps	= Total Approps	- Adjustments (1)	= Program Outlays
Program						
1.	10 567		1 500	12 067	1 500	10 567
2.	740			740		740
3.		3 779		3 779		3 779
Totals	11 307	3 779	1 500	16 586	1 500	15 086

Notes to table 14.

(1) Revenue collected through the Environmental Management Charge is regarded as an adjustment to derive outlays.

Program 1. Branch Operations

Program 2. Great Barrier Reef Aquarium

Program 3. Day-to-day Management

## Appendix H Advertising

Agency/organisation	Nature of advertising	Amount
Neville Jeffress Advertising	Classified advertising e.g. public notices, augmentative research grants notice	\$28 819.77
Neville Jeffress Advertising	Job vacancies	\$21 437.68

Neville Jeffress is an agency for non-campaign print advertising.

AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
ALIA	Australian Library and Information Association
AMSAT	Australian Marine Science and Technology Ltd
APS	Australian Public Service
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASO	Administrative Service Officer
ASSESS	A System of Selecting Suitable Sites
CEPANCRM	Contract Employment Program for Aboriginals in Natural and Cultural Resource Management
COREMAP	Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project
CPSU	Community and Public Sector Union
CRC Reef Research Centre (or CRC Reef)	Cooperative Research Centre for Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef
DDM	Day-to-day Management
DEST	Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EMC	Environmental Management Charge
ENCORE	Enrichment of Nutrients on a Coral Reef Experiment
FOI	Freedom of Information
FTE	full-time equivalent
GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
INTROMARC	International Tropical Marine Resource Centre
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
JCC	Joint Consultative Committee
JCU	James Cook University of North Queensland
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
QDEH	Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage (now QDoE)
QDoE	Queensland Department of Environment
RCU/EAS	Regional Coordinating Unit for the East Asian Seas



REEFPLAN	contingency plan for oil spill response in the Great Barrier Reef
RMRAC	Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committee
SES	Senior Executive Service
SOMER	State of the Marine Environment Report
TROMES	Tropical Marine Ecosystem Project
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

## Appendix J Compliance Index

This annual report has been prepared using the *Guidelines for the Content, Preparation and Presentation of Annual Reports by Statutory Authorities* (Senate Hansard, 11 November 1982) and the *Requirements for Departmental Annual Reports* approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts under subsection 25(7) of the *Public Service Act 1922* on 17 March 1994 which were updated in February 1996.

### Requirement

### Location

Letter of transmission	Preliminary pages
Aids to Access	
Table of Contents	Preliminary pages
Alphabetical Index	114
Contact Details	87
Abbreviations	85
Corporate Overview	
Enabling Legislation	4
Objectives	4
Corporate Structure	7
Summary of Significant Changes	11
Social Justice and Equity Overview	15
Internal and External Scrutiny Overview	15
Program Performance Reporting	
Activities	10–64
Financial and Staffing Resources	15, 17–21, appendix G
Program/Appropriation reconciliation	84

Human Resources	
Staffing Overview	15, 79
Senior Management	appendix B
Performance Pay	80
Staff Training	80
Equal Employment Opportunity	15, 81
Industrial Democracy	80
Occupational Health and Safety	81
Other Resources	
Publications	appendix C, appendix D
Consultancy Services	84
Advertising and Market Research	84
Financial Statements	6, 17, 21, appendix L
External Scrutiny	
Report of the Auditor-General	16, appendix M
Inquiries by Parliamentary Committees	16
Comments by the Ombudsman	16
Decisions of Courts and Administrative Tribunals	16
Freedom of Information	40, 71

## Appendix K Contact Officer for Further Information

For further information about the Authority contact:

Senior Director  
Education, Aquarium and Administration  
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810  
Telephone (077) 500 700  
Facsimile (077) 726 093



**Appendix L****Financial Statements****GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 1996

In our opinion, the accompanying Statements have been prepared in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities' approved by the Minister for Finance and applicable accounting concepts and standards, and show fairly

- (a) the operating result of the Authority for the financial year ended 30 June 1996,
- (b) the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 1996,
- (c) the Authority's cash flows during the financial year ended 30 June 1996, and
- (d) other matters required to be disclosed by the Guidelines.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Authority.



RHONDDA JONES

Member

23/9/96



IAN McPHAIL

Chairperson

23/9/96

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 1996**

	Notes	1996 \$	1995 \$
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Research and Monitoring		3,929,925	3,681,322
Planning and Environmental Management		4,654,299	4,870,006
Education/Information		2,359,592	1,979,643
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	4(b)	1,957,117	2,026,124
External Services		1,563,045	1,335,542
Corporate Management and Services	5	1,871,079	2,311,772
Unfunded charges	6, 4(b)	1,035,360	703,775
Superannuation contributions	1(i)	667,622	614,352
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	2(a),(b)	<u>8,613,446</u>	<u>8,118,903</u>
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	7, 8	<u>26,651,485</u>	<u>25,641,439</u>
<b>Operating revenues from independent sources</b>			
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	2(a),(c)	3,953,000	3,480,699
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	4(b)	1,631,527	1,781,747
Miscellaneous revenue	3(b)	<u>2,978,685</u>	<u>3,236,542</u>
<b>Total operating revenues from independent sources</b>		<u>8,563,212</u>	<u>8,498,988</u>
<b>Net cost of services</b>		<u>18,088,273</u>	<u>17,142,451</u>
<b>REVENUES FROM COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT</b>			
<b>Revenues from government (before abnormal items)</b>			
Parliamentary appropriations from the Commonwealth	3(a)	16,612,451	15,144,307
Liabilities assumed by government	1(i)	<u>667,622</u>	<u>614,352</u>
<b>Total revenues from Commonwealth Government (before abnormal items)</b>		<u>17,280,073</u>	<u>15,758,659</u>
<b>Abnormal items</b>			
Repayment of Aquarium Advance not required	16	-	231,433
<b>Total revenues from government</b>		<u>17,280,073</u>	<u>15,990,092</u>
<b>Deficit of net cost of services over revenues from government</b>		<u>(808,200)</u>	<u>(1,152,359)</u>
Accumulated deficits at beginning of reporting period		<u>(3,293,721)</u>	<u>(2,141,362)</u>
<b>Accumulated deficits at end of reporting period</b>		<u>(4,101,921)</u>	<u>(3,293,721)</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 June 1996**

	Notes	1996 \$	1995 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash	9	1,750,690	2,524,679
Receivables	10	681,898	544,171
Inventories	1(f)	96,084	81,608
Other		<u>29,783</u>	<u>39,311</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>2,558,455</b>	<b>3,189,769</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	13	<u>7,088,316</u>	<u>7,593,645</u>
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b><u>7,088,316</u></b>	<b><u>7,593,645</u></b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b><u>9,646,771</u></b>	<b><u>10,783,414</u></b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors	12(a)	1,443,216	1,754,374
Leases	12(b)	3,850	9,364
Provisions	11	<u>835,165</u>	<u>798,671</u>
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>2,282,231</b>	<b>2,562,409</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors	12(a)	1,099,225	1,232,213
Leases	12(b)	9,863	13,713
Provisions	11	<u>877,342</u>	<u>788,769</u>
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b><u>1,986,430</u></b>	<b><u>2,034,695</u></b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b><u>4,268,661</u></b>	<b><u>4,597,104</u></b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b><u>5,378,110</u></b>	<b><u>6,186,310</u></b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Capital		1,103,988	1,103,988
Reserves	1(j)	8,376,043	8,376,043
Accumulated deficits		<u>(4,101,921)</u>	<u>(3,293,721)</u>
<b>Total equity</b>		<b><u>5,378,110</u></b>	<b><u>6,186,310</u></b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 1996**

	Notes	1996 \$	1995 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Inflows:			
Parliamentary appropriations		16,586,000	15,110,000
Projects funded by the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories (DEST)		1,055,376	828,000
Permit assessment fees		184,047	268,910
Interest		266,817	226,040
Aquarium admission fees		1,214,916	1,271,720
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management		3,953,000	3,480,699
Environmental Management Charge (EMC)		1,526,172	1,569,556
Other		<u>1,910,173</u>	<u>2,786,865</u>
		26,696,501	25,541,790
Outflows:			
Salaries		(6,556,034)	(6,206,622)
Suppliers		(10,312,348)	(9,759,578)
Payments to Consolidated Revenue Fund (EMC)		(1,500,000)	(1,545,270)
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management		<u>(8,613,446)</u>	<u>(8,118,903)</u>
		(26,981,828)	(25,630,373)
<b>Net cash used by operating activities</b>	22(b)	<u>(285,327)</u>	<u>(88,583)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Inflows:			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		2,679	22,123
Outflows:			
Payments for purchase of plant and equipment		<u>(491,341)</u>	<u>(941,164)</u>
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<u>(488,662)</u>	<u>(919,041)</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		(773,989)	(1,007,624)
Cash at beginning of reporting period		<u>2,524,679</u>	<u>3,532,303</u>
<b>Cash at end of reporting period</b>	9	<u>1,750,690</u>	<u>2,524,679</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1996**

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The following accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of the accounts.

**(a) Accounts Format**

The accounts of the Authority have been prepared in accordance with:

- the 'Guidelines for Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities', issued by the Minister for Finance in June 1995; and
- applicable accounting concepts and standards.

**(b) Historical Cost Convention**

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of the historical cost convention and except where stated do not show the current cost of specific assets and the impact of such costs on operating results.

**(c) Non-current Assets**

Capitalisation occurs on all items which cost more than \$1,500. Non-current assets are depreciated by the straight line method over their estimated useful lives.

**Great Barrier Reef Aquarium**

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium building was funded as a Commonwealth—State Bicentennial project, through the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Association Incorporated. The Aquarium is sub-leased by the Authority from the Association for a period of 75 years. Under the terms of the sub-lease agreement the Authority is responsible for the replacement of the Aquarium building as necessary and for all expenses and revenue in relation to its operation. Consequently, the value of the Aquarium building has been taken up as an asset in the Authority's accounts and is being amortised over 25 years, which is the estimated useful life of the building. The base stock of audiovisual displays at the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium and the base stock of marine life, sand, coral and water in the Aquarium have been included under non-current assets as a non-depreciable item. Stock replacement costs are treated as operating expenses.

**(d) Advances to Consultants**

Under the terms of certain contracts with consultants, payments are made in advance and recorded as an expense in the year of payment. Physical assets purchased by the consultant, which under the terms of the contract become the property of the Authority from the date of acquisition are not capitalised until after completion of the contract. Such assets are capitalised by the Authority at that time at their written down value and depreciated over their remaining useful life.

**(e) Day-to-day Management Advances**

Except for expenditure on fixtures upon land owned by or under the direct control of the Commonwealth or the Authority, advances to the Queensland Department of Environment for day-to-day management are fully expensed in the year of payment (refer to note 2 for details of the day-to-day management item).

**(f) Inventories**

Goods for resale have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is determined as the latest purchase price plus inwards transport costs.

**(g) Provision for Employee Entitlements**

The provision for employee entitlements encompasses annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

the average sick leave taken by employees is less than the annual entitlement for sick leave. The provision for annual leave reflects the value of total annual leave entitlements of all employees at 30 June 1996 and is recognised at its nominal value. The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 1996. In determining the present value of the liability, attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

- (h) **Superannuation**  
Staff of the Authority are employed under the Public Service Act and prior to 1988-89 there had been no obligation in respect of employer contributions to the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme. However, as the Authority is required to manage the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium on a cost recovery basis, employer superannuation contributions for Aquarium employees became payable from 1 July 1988.
- (i) **Superannuation Liabilities Assumed by Government**  
Employer superannuation contributions (other than the productivity component) are not paid by the Authority but are funded by the Commonwealth when required. The notional value of employer contributions for the year is shown as an operating expense in the Operating Statement and an equal amount is recorded as 'Liabilities assumed by government' (Revenue) in the Operating Statement.
- (j) **Reserves**  
This item represents that portion of equity attributable to the original funding provided by grants and donations used for the construction and fit-out of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium building.
- (k) **Taxation**  
The Authority is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax.

**2. DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**

- (a) Principles agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments relating to the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park provide for:
  - the Queensland Department of Environment (QDoE) to carry out the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, subject to the Authority in accordance with intergovernmental agreements
  - the Commonwealth to fund 100% of an initial capital works program (in the first three years or so) required to establish management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park on a sound basis; other capital costs (i.e. the post-initial program) of day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to be shared equally between the two Governments
  - the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments to meet in equal shares the recurrent costs for day-to-day management in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (which may include Queensland national parks or Queensland marine parks, the use or management of which would or might affect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park)
  - moveable property funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used and administered by Queensland; proceeds from the sale of any such moveable property are paid into the day-to-day management account to offset Commonwealth/Queensland contributions on a 50:50 basis



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

- fixed assets funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used by Queensland and administered by the Government (or the Authority) which owns or controls the land on which the fixture is located
- expenditure on day-to-day management to be in accordance with an annually agreed program, and
- the Authority to administer funds provided by the Commonwealth and Queensland for these purposes.

(b) Expenditure  
 Expenditure on day-to-day management for 1995-96 was \$8,613,446 (1994-95 \$8,118,903).

(c) Revenue received from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and from other sources.

	1996	1995
Commonwealth Government appropriation:	\$	\$
(i) Recurrent and Post Initial Capital Programs	3,779,000	3,655,000
(ii) Initial Capital Works	-	64,000
Queensland Government contribution:	3,953,000	3,480,699
From other sources	<u>197,545</u>	<u>515,651</u>
	<u>7,929,545</u>	<u>7,715,350</u>

(d) The receipt and expenditure of day-to-day management cash resources is reconciled as follows:

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
Cash at bank 1 July	881,851	1,285,404
Plus Revenue	7,929,545	7,715,350
Less Expenditure	<u>8,613,446</u>	<u>8,118,903</u>
Cash at bank 30 June	<u>197,950</u>	<u>881,851</u>

(e) Financial statements for day-to-day management which have been prepared by QDoE and audited by the Queensland Auditor-General are at note 26.

### 3. REVENUE

(a) The operations of the Authority are largely dependent upon the appropriation of moneys by the Commonwealth Parliament. Commonwealth parliamentary appropriations comprised the following:

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
Operational	10,567,000	9,831,000
Special Appropriation	1,526,451	1,594,307
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	740,000	-
Commonwealth contribution to day-to-day management refer note 2(c)	<u>3,779,000</u>	<u>3,719,000</u>
	<u>16,612,451</u>	<u>15,144,307</u>

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

Special Appropriation: On 30 July 1993 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority introduced an Environmental Management Charge (EMC) with the objective of recovering part of the increasing management, research and education costs associated with a marked increase in use of the Marine Park. Amounts collected by the Authority, as agent for the Commonwealth, are paid into Consolidated Revenue and then paid back to the Authority via Special Appropriation. The amount shown above represents actual amounts received via Special Appropriation plus an accrual for amounts applicable to the financial year ended 30 June 1996 but received after that date and due to be paid to the Authority as Special Appropriation.

(b) Miscellaneous revenue comprised the following:

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
Implementation of DEST funded programs	371,000	325,000
External Services section revenue - DEST funded	423,842	503,000
External Services section revenue - Other	587,873	682,012
From industry for monitoring and baseline studies	30,260	204,556
Sale of Authority education and information materials	74,210	66,406
Interest	241,434	220,502
Permit assessment fees	184,047	268,200
Payments from QDoE: refer note 2(a)		
for - sale of moveables	33,257	319,576
- other receipts	26,702	51,622
Revenue from other miscellaneous sources	<u>1,006,060</u>	<u>595,668</u>
	<u>2,978,685</u>	<u>3,236,542</u>

**4. GREAT BARRIER REEF AQUARIUM REVENUE AND EXPENSES**

(a) Aquarium shop trading results

Shop Sales	435,065	424,835
Less: Cost of goods sold		
Opening Stock	81,608	91,976
Purchases	278,070	250,362
Less: Closing Stock	<u>96,084</u>	<u>81,608</u>
	<u>263,594</u>	<u>260,730</u>
Gross profit from shop trading	<u>171,471</u>	<u>164,105</u>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

(b) Operating Statement - Aquarium operations

	1996 \$	1995 \$
NET COST OF SERVICES		
Operating expenses		
Curatorial Operations	577,205	718,727
Interpretative Facilities	506,397	466,044
Marketing/Promotions	128,130	191,298
Shop Management and Services	86,529	88,684
Corporate Services		
- property services	279,786	273,290
- general services and administration	239,136	155,132
Interest	113,733	130,463
Bad and doubtful debts	9,500	1,537
Loss on sale of non-current assets	16,701	949
Total operating expenses	<u>1,957,117</u>	<u>2,026,124</u>
Unfunded charges		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment refer note 1(c)	462,870	411,474
Staff provisions	20,885	(19,175)
Total unfunded charges	<u>483,755</u>	<u>392,299</u>
Total Aquarium expenses	<u>2,440,872</u>	<u>2,418,423</u>
Operating revenues		
Admission fees	1,211,919	1,263,463
Donations and sponsorships	9,373	18,102
Membership program	76,074	54,471
Interest	19,279	7,612
Research and consultancy contracts	50,967	198,916
Other revenue	92,444	75,078
Gross profit from shop trading 4(a)	171,471	164,105
Total operating revenues	<u>1,631,527</u>	<u>1,781,747</u>
Net cost of Aquarium operations	<u>(809,345)</u>	<u>(636,676)</u>
Revenue from Commonwealth Government		
Parliamentary Appropriations	740,000	-
Result from Aquarium operations	<u>(69,345)</u>	<u>(636,676)</u>

This result excludes reimbursement of the 1995-96 Great Barrier Reef Aquarium superannuation contributions estimated at \$60,100 (1994-95, \$55,200).

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

**5. CORPORATE MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES**

Corporate management and services comprised the following:

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
Expenses of the Authority	247,545	388,706
Expenses of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee	44,965	38,540
Executive and Secretariat	426,679	687,282
Canberra office	351,488	308,009
Administration	<u>800,402</u>	<u>889,235</u>
	<u>1,871,079</u>	<u>2,311,772</u>

The item 'Expenses of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee' includes sitting fees paid to part-time members in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination. In 1995-96 payments totalled \$13,400 (1994-95, \$11,025).

The item 'Administration' includes the following:

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
Bad and doubtful debts	506	629
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets	11,894	7,033
Auditor's remuneration		
- auditing the accounts of the Authority	42,000	42,000
(no other services were provided)		

**6. UNFUNDED CHARGES**

The aggregate amount of unfunded charges of the Authority including those of the Aquarium disclosed at note 4 was:

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment refer note 1(c)	952,883	775,847
Long service leave	65,541	(99,311)
Annual leave	7,147	31,590
Leave fares	<u>9,789</u>	<u>(4,351)</u>
	<u>1,035,360</u>	<u>703,775</u>

**7. TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES - FINANCE LEASES**

Included in total operating expenses are the following charges relating to property, plant and equipment purchased under finance leases:

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
Amortisation	3,962	14,763
Finance charges	<u>2,086</u>	<u>4,477</u>
	<u>6,048</u>	<u>19,240</u>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

**8. TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES - SALARIES AND WAGES COSTS**

Included in total operating expenses are the following salaries and wages costs:

	1996 \$	1995 \$
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium		
- Operations	889,266	977,838
- Aquarium Shop	79,407	82,365
Other Authority Operations	<u>5,336,957</u>	<u>5,421,837</u>
	<u>6,305,630</u>	<u>6,482,040</u>

**9. CASH**

Cash held at 30 June comprised the following:	30 June 1996 \$	30 June 1995 \$
Authority Operations Account	1,397,413	1,548,806
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Account	138,091	83,416
Day-to-day Management Account	197,950	881,851
Cash on hand	<u>17,236</u>	<u>10,606</u>
	<u>1,750,690</u>	<u>2,524,679</u>

**10. RECEIVABLES**

Receivables at 30 June were:	30 June 1996 \$	30 June 1995 \$
Trade Debtors	356,930	209,482
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	<u>334,968</u>	<u>334,689</u>
Total Receivables	691,898	544,171
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>681,898</u>	<u>544,171</u>
Receivables which are overdue:		
- less than 30 days	125,474	14,390
- 30 to 60 days	19,449	2,234
- more than 60 days	<u>29,047</u>	<u>23,512</u>
	<u>173,970</u>	<u>40,136</u>

**11. PROVISIONS**

Additional detail relating to provisions is as follows:	30 June 1996	30 June 1995
Current liabilities	\$	\$
Provision for long service leave refer note 1(g)	40,000	20,442
Provision for annual leave	720,795	713,648
Provision for leave fares	<u>74,370</u>	<u>64,581</u>
	<u>835,165</u>	<u>798,671</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Provision for long service leave refer note 1(g)	<u>877,342</u>	<u>788,769</u>
	<u>877,342</u>	<u>788,769</u>

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

**12. CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES**

(a) Creditors

	30 June 1996	30 June 1995
Current	\$	\$
Trade Creditors	686,793	1,110,912
Advances from Dept of Finance and accrued interest refer note 16	246,721	250,194
Accrued salaries and wages	54,581	304,986
Other Creditors	<u>455,121</u>	<u>88,282</u>
	<u>1,443,216</u>	<u>1,754,374</u>
Non-current		
Advances from Dept of Finance and accrued interest refer note 16	<u>1,099,225</u>	<u>1,232,213</u>

(b) Finance lease liabilities

Lease liabilities recognised in the Statement of Financial Position

Current	3,850	9,364
Non-current	<u>9,863</u>	<u>13,713</u>
	<u>13,713</u>	<u>23,077</u>

Finance lease commitments as at 30 June are due as follows:

	30 June 1996	30 June 1995
Payable:	\$	\$
Within one year	5,455	11,451
In the second year	5,455	5,455
Within a three to five year period	<u>5,903</u>	<u>11,365</u>
Minimum lease payments	16,813	28,271
Less: Future finance charges	<u>3,100</u>	<u>5,194</u>
Lease liabilities	<u>13,713</u>	<u>23,077</u>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

**13. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

(a)	Authority and Aquarium fixed assets:	Cost		Accumulated Depreciation		Written Down Value	
	As at 30 June:	30 June 1996	30 June 1995	30 June 1996	30 June 1995	30 June 1996	30 June 1995
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Furniture, fittings & displays		259,552	271,872	140,584	132,075	118,968	139,797
Office machines		260,456	200,018	173,719	158,914	86,737	41,104
Audiovisual & photographic		576,496	454,248	144,386	96,109	432,110	358,139
Marine & diving		83,656	74,291	30,740	23,528	52,916	50,763
Computer hardware		1,807,877	1,641,603	1,363,538	1,039,534	444,339	602,069
Computer software		227,424	224,745	125,558	98,558	101,866	126,187
Scientific & technical		114,353	139,075	87,202	93,513	27,151	45,562
Vehicles & mobile plant		37,581	37,581	21,767	14,455	15,814	23,126
Other plant & equipment		576,711	563,954	270,733	240,443	305,978	323,511
Aquarium contents		346,093	346,093	-	-	346,093	346,093
Works in progress		847	197,588	-	-	847	197,588
Improvements to leasehold property							
- Fixtures & fittings		446,827	439,740	138,201	112,075	308,626	327,665
- Aquarium building		8,041,209	7,839,841	3,194,338	2,827,800	4,846,871	5,012,041
Total		12,779,082	12,430,649	5,690,766	4,837,004	7,088,316	7,593,645

These assets are grouped into the following classes:

Land and buildings	8,834,129	8,625,674	3,332,539	2,939,875	5,501,590	5,685,799
Plant and equipment	3,944,953	3,804,975	2,358,227	1,897,129	1,586,726	1,907,846
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,779,082</b>	<b>12,430,649</b>	<b>5,690,766</b>	<b>4,837,004</b>	<b>7,088,316</b>	<b>7,593,645</b>

(b) Included above are the following amounts initially capitalised as assets purchased under finance leases, and accumulated amortisation.

	30 June 1996	30 June 1995
	\$	\$
Office machines	53,204	53,204
Amortisation	40,989	37,027
Written down value	12,215	16,177

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

## 14. AGREEMENTS EQUALLY PROPORTIONATELY UNPERFORMED

At the end of the financial year the particulars of research contracts and other contracts not brought to account were as follows:

	30 June 1996	30 June 1995
Payable:	\$	\$
Within one year	527,623	413,829
In the second year	37,786	6,000
Within a three to five year period	<u>75,572</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>640,981</u>	<u>419,829</u>

Also refer to note 17 on operating leases.

## 15. MATERIAL COMMITMENTS

At the end of the financial year the particulars of material commitments, including commitments for capital expenditure, not brought to account were as follows:

	30 June 1996	30 June 1995
Payable:	\$	\$
Within one year	87,030	200,825
In the second year	-	-
Within a three to five year period	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>87,030</u>	<u>200,825</u>

## 16. REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES FROM DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

The Department of Finance has determined that funds appropriated for the purposes of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium are repayable advances. The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium has received two such advances:

- \$450,000 in 1986-87 for establishment costs; and
- \$1,000,000 in 1989-90.

The advances are being repaid in the form of instalments deducted from Authority appropriation and made up from Great Barrier Reef Aquarium revenue. Interest on the outstanding principal is charged at the long-term bond rate and has been capitalised.

Scheduled repayments in respect of the establishment costs advance were made in 1988-89 and in 1989-90. Repayments for the remaining balance of the establishment costs advance together with the other advance in 1989-90 were consolidated and scheduled to be repaid over a period of ten years. The repayment to the Department of Finance due in the 1992-93 financial year was satisfied by a reduction of Authority appropriation. The Department of Finance agreed to defer the repayment due in the 1993-94 financial year and the term of repayment was extended. The instalment of \$231,433 due in the 1994-95 financial year was waived by the Department of Finance and was recorded as an abnormal item in the Operating Statement.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

**17. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**

- (a) The aggregate amount of operating leases contracted for and outstanding as at 30 June 1996 is \$995,598. These leases are for office accommodation and the discharge will be:

	30 June 1996	30 June 1995
	\$	\$
Within one year	667,796	647,534
In the second year	102,831	640,474
Within a three to five year period	224,971	282,246
Later than five years	<u>-</u>	<u>30,666</u>
	<b>995,598</b>	<b>1,600,920</b>

- (b) The Authority sub-leases the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium building from the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Association Incorporated for a nominal amount payable if demanded.

**18. CASH BONDS**

Cash Bonds are held in lieu of bank guarantees

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 1996

	1996
	\$
Cash at bank 1 July 1995	137,654
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Cash Bonds in lieu of bank guarantee	6,720
Interest	<u>7,860</u>
	<b>152,234</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
Return of Cash Bonds and accrued interest	<u>14,534</u>
Cash at bank 30 June 1996	<u>137,700</u>

**19. INSURANCE**

The Authority has a policy of self-insurance for its general operations but has commercial insurance cover for the operation of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium.

**20. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

The Authority is aware of a personal injury claim against it and anticipates that the claim will be covered under public liability insurance.

**21. CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THE ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF**

The Co-operative Research Centre for the Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef (CRC Reef) was established to work with industry and environmental managers in addressing strategic and tactical issues so that opportunities for use of the Great Barrier Reef Region may be maximised, consistent with ecologically sustainable development.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1996

As at 30 June, the Authority's commitment to the CRC Reef, in cash contributions, 'in kind' contributions and amounts payable from EMC collections was:

	1996			1995
	Cash	In Kind	EMC	
				\$
Within one year	665,000	250,000	875,000	1,790,000
In the second year	665,000	250,000	945,000	1,790,000
Within a three to five year period	1,330,000	500,000	2,122,000	3,952,000
Later than five years	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,660,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>3,942,000</u>	<u>9,327,000</u>

The disclosure for 1995-96 differs from that shown in previous years in that the requirement to remit to the CRC Reef a prescribed portion of EMC collections has been included. The comparative figures for 1994-95 reflect this change in presentation.

22. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, the Authority considers cash to include cash on hand and in banks. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows has been reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position and is shown at note 9.

(b) Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities to Net Cost of Services.

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
Net Cost of Services	(18,088,273)	(17,142,451)
Revenues from the Commonwealth	17,280,073	15,758,659
Abnormal Items	-	231,433
Operating result	(808,200)	(1,152,359)
Depreciation	952,883	775,847
Bad debts and provision for doubtful debts	10,006	2,166
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	28,595	7,982
Increase in Receivables	(137,727)	(103,403)
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	(14,476)	10,368
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Assets	9,528	12,506
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(441,439)	422,589
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	124,867	(72,071)
Increase/(Decrease) in Lease Liabilities	(9,364)	7,792
Net cash used by operating activities	<u>(285,327)</u>	<u>(88,583)</u>

(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities

During the reporting period the Authority acquired no equipment by means of finance leases (1994-95, \$19,808).



23. RELATED PARTIES

(a) Authority Members

The members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during the financial year were:

Dr Ian McPhail (full-time Chairperson and chief executive officer);  
Dr Craig Emerson (part-time member) to 16 November 1995;  
Professor Rhondda Jones (part-time member).

(b) Acting Member and Chairperson appointments

Dr Wendy Craik acted as Chairperson during a period of absence by Dr McPhail from 14 July 1995 to 26 July 1995.

Professor Rhondda Jones acted as Chairperson during a period of absence by Dr McPhail from 13 June 1996 to 10 July 1996.

(c) Remuneration

Information on remuneration of Authority Members is disclosed at note 24.

(d) Authority Members' interest in contracts

On the basis of statements declared by members in accordance with s. 16A of the Act, no Authority member has received or become entitled to receive a benefit, other than a benefit included in the aggregate of remuneration received or due and receivable shown at note 24 by reason of a contract made by the Authority member or with a firm of which the Authority member is a member or with a company in which the Authority member has a substantial interest.

24. REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVES

(a) Remuneration - Members of the Authority

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
Remuneration received, or due and receivable, directly or indirectly, by members of the Authority:	148,340	149,100

The number of members of the Authority whose remuneration from the Authority was within the specified bands are as follows:

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
\$Nil - \$10,000	1	-
\$10,000 - \$20,000	1	2
\$60,000 - \$70,000	-	2
\$130,000 - \$140,000	1	-

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1996

(b) Remuneration - Senior Executives of the Authority

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
Income received, or due and receivable, by Senior Executives:	109,585	104,193

The number of executive officers of the Authority whose total fixed remuneration received, or due and receivable, directly or indirectly, from the Authority, fell within each band of income after \$100,000 is:

	1996	1995
\$100,000 - \$110,000	1	1

25. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Authority has its principal office located in Townsville, north Queensland and also has a small office in Canberra. This arrangement enables the Authority to have its principal technical resources close to the Reef and also to carry out important liaison functions in Canberra.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1996

26.

Queensland Department of Environment  
 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park  
 Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year Ended 30 June 1996

1994 - 95		1995- 96	
\$		\$	\$
	<b>The balance at 1 July comprised -</b>		
	Recurrent Costs		
7,455	Salaries and Wages	3,731	
5,346	Operating Costs	-	
	Capital Works and Services		
24,279	Initial Program	81,891	
51,524	Post Initial Program	134,913	
	Balance of proceeds from sale of Moveables	160	
88,604			220,695
	<b>Receipts for the year were -</b>		
	Recurrent Costs		
3,828,991	Salaries and Wages	3,874,243	
2,515,788	Operating Costs	2,765,885	
	Capital Works and Services		
837,506	Initial Program	191,446	
936,618	Post Initial Program	1,781,872	
319,576	Disposal of Moveables	31,591	
39,344	Other Receipts	28,209	
8,477,823	<b>Total Receipts (Note 3)</b>		8,673,246
	<b>From which the following payments were made -</b>		
	Recurrent Costs		
3,832,715	Salaries and Wages	3,866,653	
2,521,134	Operating Costs	2,754,033	
	Capital Works and Services		
779,894	Initial Program (Note 4)	271,328	
853,229	Post Initial Program (Note 4)	1,857,412	
319,576	To GBRMPA for Moveables sold	31,591	
39,184	To GBRMPA for Other Receipts	28,369	
8,345,732	<b>Total Payments</b>		8,809,386
132,091	<b>Resulting in an excess/deficit of receipts over payments of -</b>		(136,140)
	<b>Leaving a balance at 30 June comprising-</b>		
	Recurrent Costs		
3,731	Salaries and Wages	11,321	
-	Operating Costs	11,852	
	Capital Works and Services		
81,891	Initial Program	2,009	
134,913	Post Initial Program	59,373	
160	Balance of proceeds from sale of Moveables	-	
220,695			84,555

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1996

Queensland Department of Environment  
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Note 1 Statement of Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounts

The accounts have been prepared on a cash basis, consistent with the basis applied in the previous financial year and in the form approved by the Minister for Finance (Commonwealth), as required by the Agreement.

(b) Carryover Transfer to the Queensland Treasury Department

The balance of Commonwealth funds for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park at 30 June 1996, which does not include the balance of proceeds from the sale of moveables, was transferred to the Treasury Department in terms of that Department's requirements. The amount transferred has been refunded to the Department of Environment in July 1996. The total of receipts included in the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 1996 represents gross receipts excluding the transfer.

(c) Property, Plant and Equipment

All items which cost more than \$1,000 are capitalised. This resulted in a \$19,161 (1994/95 \$19,864) and \$19,161 (1994/95 \$8,760) adjustment to the Commonwealth and Queensland funded assets, respectively.

(d) Contingent Assets/Liabilities

There were no known contingent assets or liabilities of a significant nature at 30 June 1996 (1995 \$NIL).

Note 2 Property, Plant and Equipment

(a) Statement of Property, Plant and Equipment (at cost) as at 30 June 1996, including movements for 1995-96 financial year.

	Funded by Commonwealth (cumulative from 1 July 1981)			
	Balance	Acquisition	Disposal/ Write Offs	Balance
	1/7/95	1995-96	1995-96	30/6/96
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Buildings and infrastructure	1,770,113	362,417	-	2,132,530
Vessels and associated equipment	2,492,306	747,590	120,622	3,119,274
Vehicles	688	-	-	688
Other plant and equipment	911,353	90,027	54,330	947,050
	5,174,460	1,200,034	174,952	6,199,542





**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

**Queensland Department of Environment**  
**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT (continued)**

**Note 2 Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)**

	Funded by Queensland (cumulative from 1 July 1981)		
	Balance	Acquisition	Disposal/ Write Offs
	1/7/95	1995-96	1995-96
	\$	\$	\$
Buildings and infrastructure	320,915	190,164	-
Vessels and associated equipment	465,693	667,514	59,084
Vehicles	689	-	-
Other plant and equipment	427,540	71,028	25,501
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,214,837	928,706	84,585
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL</b>	6,389,297	2,128,740	259,537
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Stocktakes of Property, Plant and Equipment were carried out by officers of the Department of Environment

(b) Statement of Property, Plant and Equipment Disposed of/Written Off during 1995-96

	Funded by Commonwealth		Funded by Queensland	
	1994-95	1995-96	1994-95	1995-96
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sale/Transfer of Assets	129,342	142,321	104,497	63,615
Write off due to:				
Damage and				
Obsolescence/Worn Out	26,622	3,487	2,075	1,809
Other	6,716	9,983	6,717	-
Asset criteria adjustment	19,864	19,161	8,760	19,161
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	182,544	174,952	122,049	84,585
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



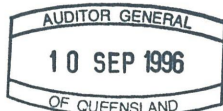
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

**Queensland Department of Environment**  
**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT (continued)**

	1994-95 \$	1995-96 \$
<b>Note 3 Receipts</b>		
Receipts during the year were provided from the following sources:		
Commonwealth Government:		
Recurrent 50%		
Salaries and Wages	1,914,496	1,937,122
Operating Costs	1,257,894	1,382,942
Capital Works and Services:		
Initial Program 100%	837,506	191,446
Post-Initial program 50%	468,309	890,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,478,205	4,402,446
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Queensland Government:		
Recurrent 50%		
Salaries and Wages	1,914,495	1,937,121
Operating Costs	1,257,894	1,382,943
Capital Works and Services		
Post-Initial Program 50%	468,309	890,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,640,698	4,211,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Disposal of Moveables	319,576	31,591
Other Receipts	39,344	28,209
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Gross Receipts	8,477,823	8,673,246
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Note 4 Capital Works and Services**

-Initial Program		
Buildings and infrastructure	66,813	172,252
Vessels and associated equipment	708,796	80,076
Office and field equipment	4,285	19,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	779,894	271,328
	<hr/>	<hr/>
-Post Initial Program		
Buildings and infrastructure	277,160	380,329
Vessels and associated equipment	192,729	1,335,028
Vehicles	28,111	-
Office and field equipment	355,229	142,055
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	853,229	1,857,412
	<hr/>	<hr/>





**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1996**

**CERTIFICATE OF THE QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT**

We have prepared the foregoing annual financial statement in relation to the operation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and certify as follows -

- (a) the foregoing financial statement and appended notes to and forming part thereof are in agreement with the accounts and records of the Queensland Department of Environment;
- (b) the receipt and expenditure of monies were in accordance with the approved programs and in accordance with the aforementioned agreements and previous draft agreements executed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments with regard to day-to-day management and control and ownership of assets; and
- (c) in our opinion-
  - (i) the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
  - (ii) the foregoing annual financial statement has been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view, on a basis consistent with that applied in the financial year last preceding, of the transactions of the Queensland Department of Environment in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the period 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996.



H McLoughlin  
Executive Manager (Financial Services)  
Department of Environment



T. Tolhurst  
Acting Director-General  
Department of Environment



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 1996**

**CERTIFICATE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

**Scope**

I have audited the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Queensland Department of Environment - Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the year ended 30 June 1996.

The Director-General of the Department of Environment is responsible for the preparation and the form of presentation of the Statement and the information it contains. I have audited the Statement in order to express an opinion on it.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with *QAO Auditing Standards* to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. Audit procedures adopted have included the examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statement and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statement is presented fairly so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the results of the entity's financial transactions.

The audit opinion expressed in this certificate has been formed on the above basis.

**Audit Opinion**

In terms of the Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority relating to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, I certify that, in my opinion:

- (a) the foregoing Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 is based on proper accounts and accounting records and is in agreement with those accounts and records; and
- (b) the expenditure of moneys is in accordance with the Agreements.

  
B M ROLLASON  
Auditor-General





## Appendix M Report of the Auditor-General

### Independent Audit Report

To the Minister for the Environment,

### Scope

I have audited the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 1996. The statements comprise:

- Statement by Authority Members
- Operating Statement
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Cash Flows, and
- Notes to and forming part of the accounts

The members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information contained therein. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the Minister for the Environment.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards, to provide reasonable assurance as to the whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Concepts and Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Authority's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

## Audit Opinion

In accordance with section 55 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, I now report that the statements are in agreement with the accounts and records of the Authority, and in my opinion:

- (i) the statements are based on proper accounts and records
- (ii) the statements show fairly in accordance with Statements of Accounting Concepts, applicable Accounting Standards, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements the financial transactions and results and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 1996 and the state of affairs of the Authority as at that date
- (iii) the receipt, expenditure and investment of moneys, and the acquisition and disposal of assets by the Authority during the year have been in accordance with the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, and
- (iv) the statements are in accordance with the *Guidelines for Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities*

Australian National Audit Office



D.S. Lennie  
Executive Director

For the Auditor-General

Canberra  
23 September 1996



# Index

25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area	(see Strategic Plan)
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	5,7,10,13,15,24,27,28,29,37,82
Aboriginal communities	5,28,33,65
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	16,33,40
advertising	84
advisory committee	15,27,45,53,54,77
agency bargaining	15,62,63,80
AMSAT	59
Aquarium	42,48–51,66
Aquarium volunteers	49,50
ASSESS	55,85
Authority funding review (1994)	50
Best Environmental Practice	46
bioremediation	15,29
Bramble Reef	53
Cairns	9,12,15,23,28,29,32,41,45,46,54
coastal development	2,10,14,32,44
commercial fishing	9,10,13
community rangers	12,14,31
computing	27
conservation	2,4,12,27
consultancy services	48,55,60,84
contact officer for further information	87
COREMAP	59,61,85
corporate planning	3,10,11,22,24,25,62,80
Council of Elders	14,65
CRC Reef Research Centre	12,15,19,27,45,52,54,55,85
critical issues (see individual issues also)	11,12–15,25,29,37,43,60,62
crown-of-thorns starfish	12,51,53,54
databases	27,32,33,38,39,,45
day-to-day management	17–21,28–30,41
review	16,28,29,62,66

dugongs	9,12,14,25,41,53,66
effects of fishing	13,25,33,53,77
ENCORE	53,85
enforcement	9,28,41
Environmental Management Charge	9,17–21,27,32,33,37,46,66
Equal Employment Opportunity	15,81–83
Executive Development Scheme	63
Executive Group	6
exhibits	49,50
external committees	78
external consultancy services	11,16
Far Northern Section	15,28,31,41,53
Financial Statements	6,16,17,21
Freedom of Information	40,41,71–72
Geographic Information System	53
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Advisory Board	77
Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee	7,15,20,57,65
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act	4,10,60,65
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	5,6,20
aims	4–5
functions	4
goal	2,4
<i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Manual</i>	11,42,45
Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council	7,56,57
Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area	8–9,11,12,44,52,53,57
issues	33
Report on the State of the	8–9,11,53,55
Green Island	33
image collection	44,45,47
Industrial Democracy	62,64,80
Internet	39,44,49,51,57
INTROMARC	58,60
Joint Consultative Committee	15,64,80
latent permitted use	9
library	44,45,46
line fishing	13,25,33,53,55
management plans	24,25,26,41
mariculture	33,66
marine protected areas	45,47
media	44,47,51
mediation	14,28,40
moorings	25
moratorium	25
Native Title	13,28,29,40
newsletter	15,29,46,55
Occupational Health and Safety	62,64,81
Ocean Rescue 2000	42,44,45,47,59,72
Palm Islands	33
performance pay	80
permits	11,32,33,35,36,39,40



pontoons	33
Port Hinchinbrook	34
publications	47,49,68,72
public affairs	44,47
public participation	12,15,25
Public Service Act	86
Queensland Department of Environment	5,7,19,28–30,36,60,65,66
reef monitoring	8–9
REEFPLAN	29,86
<i>Reef Research</i>	55
Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees	11,15,27,42,45,66,77,86
review	
Authority funding (1994)	50
day-to-day management	16,28,29,62,66
Environmental Management Charge	37,66
<i>Saltwater People</i>	45
scrutiny	15
<i>Sea Country</i>	15,29
<i>Seaworks</i>	49,50
secretariat	6,20
senior management	6,7,67
shipping and maritime pollution	14,28,29,31
Shoalwater Bay	25,29,53
social justice and equity	15
socio-cultural and economic program	53
staff papers	54,72
staff training	29,31,39,40,59,64,80
staffing	6,50,54,67, app. G
Strategic Plan	10,22,66
surveillance	9,28,31
Torres Strait Baseline Study	53,55
tourism	9,11,12,19,27,32,33,36,42,45,54
TROMES	11,59,79,86
turtles	9
union	15,63,64
water quality	9,14,35,45,55
Whitsunday area	15,23,26,29,32,41,45,46
The World Bank	61
world heritage issues	11,12,24
zoning plans	11,13,24

