98 Annual Report 99



GREAT BARRIER REEF
MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

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98 Annual Report 99





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GREAT BARRIER REEF
MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

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PO Box 1379
Townsville QLD 4810

30 September 1999

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

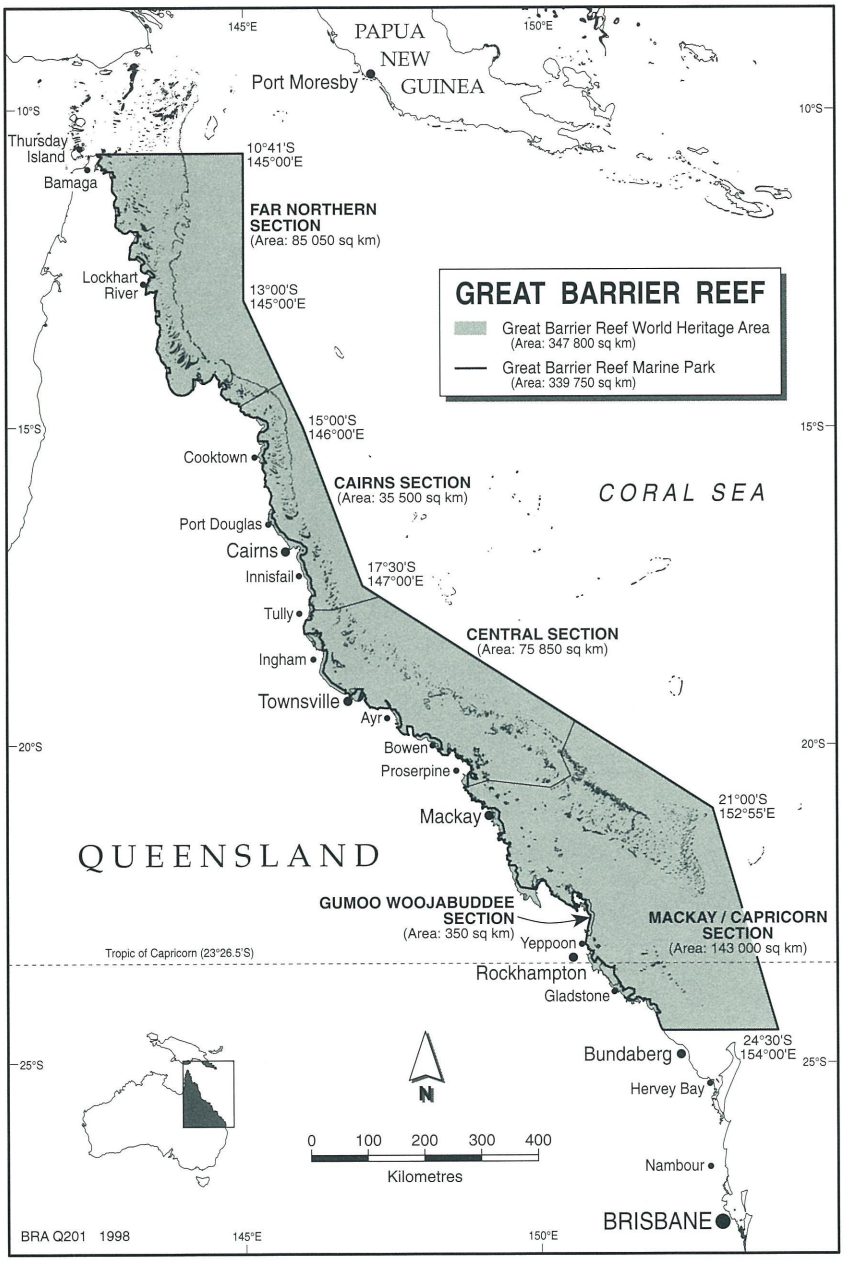
Dear Minister

In accordance with section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, I submit the Annual Report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 1999.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Virginia Chadwick
Chair



The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area extends from the top 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 347 800 square kilometres in area and includes the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (97.7% of the World Heritage Area), Queensland waters not in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (1.7%), and Queensland-owned islands (0.6%). It is important to note that not all of 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 on the mainland.

As specified in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the Authority is responsible for the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Authority also acts as the lead Commonwealth agency for Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Property issues.

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Report
from the Executive

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's primary responsibility of managing the Great Barrier Reef and related ecosystems addresses a very large and complex environment. The Authority's day-to-day tasks are multi-jurisdictional, multi-sectoral, multi-agency and involve a variety of stakeholders. The stakeholders range from the local communities on the Queensland coast to the broader Australian community and, through the World Heritage status of The Great Barrier Reef, to the international community.

The area under management is larger than the combined areas of Victoria and Tasmania or, internationally, is roughly equal to Italy or all of Malaysia.

Within this vast area the Authority must address direct uses such as tourism, fishing and recreation which depend upon the health or productivity of the ecosystem. With Queensland state and local government and the communities of the adjacent coast, it must also address ways to minimise or eliminate the impacts of land and water use that can affect the ecological communities of the Reef region.

The first 20-year phase of the Authority's existence was concerned largely with the design, establishment and initial implementation of the multiple-use management at an ecosystem scale. As this phase reached its conclusion, the Authority addressed the need to focus more clearly on the critical management issues facing the Reef.

This Annual Report covers the first year of a new organisational structure based on a matrix design. This provides for delivery of a range of services — Program Delivery, Planning and Environmental Assessment, Indigenous Cultural Liaison, Information Support, Research Management, GIS, Data Analysis, Education and Communications, Corporate Support, Legal and Management — to address ongoing responsibilities, and critical issues of Fisheries, Tourism and Recreation, Coastal Development and Water Quality, Conservation, Biodiversity and Heritage.

The new structure is working well. The energy and enthusiasm of the Senior Management Team has developed a collective approach to the outcomes, the issues and the programs of the organisation as a whole, and of the work units within the Authority. A three-year rolling work program is in place reflecting the priorities of the Authority, determining its day-to-day operations and linking resources with outcomes. The process of executive team building and strategic

planning was advanced considerably by residential workshop retreats at the Australian Institute of Marine Science at Cape Ferguson.

A feature of the new corporate management approach has been reviewing the focus of education and communication programs conducted by the Authority. In particular, this has led to a change of focus and linkage with the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium. This involves moving from a more separate trading entity with an education program relating primarily to Aquarium visitation to a more broadly-based key educational asset addressing the context and issues of management of the Great Barrier Reef. This is being addressed through displays and activities in the Aquarium and more widely through travelling displays and web-based materials reaching the communities of coastal Queensland and beyond. A new exhibit strategy addressing the critical issues and rebranding through the new identity 'Reef HQ' reflects the closer program linkages.

The publication of the *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area* report in November 1998 was the first of a planned five-yearly cycle of systematic reporting. The development of the report identified many areas where further work is required but indicates that the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area compares very favourably in the context of other world heritage areas and coral reef systems. A summary is provided in this report.

1998/99 has been a year of transition for the Authority and its staff. Mr Tom Tolhurst resigned on 8 October 1998 and was subsequently replaced by Dr Glyn Davis. Dr Ian McPhail resigned as Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer on 12 April 1999. For the remainder of the financial year Mr John Tanzer acted as Chairperson. On 1 July 1999 the appointment of the Hon Virginia Chadwick as Chair and Chief Executive was announced by The Minister, Senator the Hon Robert Hill. The year saw a significant turnover of permanent staff with 29 people joining the organisation and 28 people leaving, with a total of 119 permanent staff at the end of the year.

The Executive Team appreciates the hard work and support of the expert and dedicated staff that characterise the Authority. This dedication has enabled us to end the year with a good foundation for ongoing focus on policies and action to address priority matters relating to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Also appreciated are the efforts of many in industry and the community who contribute to the wellbeing and enjoyment of the Marine Park.

The State of the Great Barrier Reef
World Heritage Area 1998

The *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area 1998* report is the first ever synthesis of information on the state of the environment, human pressures on the environment and management responses to those pressures for the whole World Heritage Area. It represents an important step forward in our understanding of how humans affect the natural environment and what we can do to minimise these effects. It provides a guide for future management strategies to ensure the continuing health of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The distribution and abundance of most major environmental attributes in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area are fairly well known, although comprehensive species distributions are lacking for many plants and animals.

The State of the Reef Report showed significant areas of uncertainty regarding basic distribution and abundance for many groups of organisms including macroalgae, soft corals, inter-reefal and lagoonal benthos, sea snakes and inshore dolphins. The state of major environmental attributes is summarised in table 1.

A small proportion of the environmental attributes have dedicated monitoring programs that are providing increasingly valuable trend data. Together with information on patterns of human activities and impacts, these long-term records allow us to determine whether any action is needed to manage human impacts. Because virtually all environmental attributes vary naturally over time, long time series are required before clear indications of the sustainability of human impact can be demonstrated. Without such time series it is not possible to say with certainty if most environmental attributes are in a satisfactory or unsatisfactory condition.

Despite this uncertainty, the lack of any major declines and uncontrolled human pressures permits a cautiously optimistic conclusion for environmental attributes such as corals, reef fishes, seagrasses, mangroves and island plants. On the other hand, whilst there are no major adverse trends evident for water quality, macroalgae and seabirds, lack of good trend data or the presence of substantial ongoing pressures mean that the outlook is less certain, and that continued vigilance and management action are needed. However, ongoing monitoring and careful management of potential impacts will be required to ensure the continued health of the World Heritage Area.

The report also shows that there are some categories for which the trends are not encouraging and management action is required. These categories include dugongs south of Cooktown, at least three species of marine turtles, and lagoonal benthos in particularly heavily trawled areas. Appropriate management action has been identified in each of these cases, and in most cases implementation has commenced.

The crown-of-thorns starfish presents a dilemma to managers. While a third outbreak is currently developing in the Townsville to Cooktown region, the need for widespread management action is uncertain due to ongoing uncertainty regarding the role of human impacts as causal agents.

Coral bleaching in the summer of 1997/98 had a substantial impact on inshore reefs — mainly in the Central and Northern sections of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Coral bleaching is a response to environmental stress and the major stress is elevated summer water temperature. The surface water temperatures of the Western Pacific in 1997/98 were the highest recorded and over 88 per cent of inshore reefs exhibited some coral bleaching with 25 per cent of all inshore reefs having more than half of their corals affected. Coral mortality, however, was highly variable and patchy with the inshore fringing reefs between Townsville and Cairns suffering the highest level of mortality. Overall, the majority of the Great Barrier Reef recovered well from the bleaching event. The Authority is collaborating with the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in research to achieve a better understanding of the ecological implications of more frequent high summer water temperatures predicted by the International Panel on Climate Change.

Issues of potential human impact on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area have been identified, and management programs have been established by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority or other government agencies to ameliorate these impacts.

Future initiatives

Before the production of the next report in 2003, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will develop the concept of 'environmental status and performance indicators' for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The indicators will include environmental parameters and measures of human use developed specifically to provide information to help improve management. The prime function of these indicators will be to allow informed judgement of the success or otherwise of management strategies in minimising the impacts of human pressures on the state of the environment. Unsuccessful management strategies can then be improved and successful ones can be identified and repeated.

Table 1. Summary of major environmental attributes on the Great Barrier Reef

ATTRIBUTE/STATE	PRESSURE	RESPONSE
Water Quality		
• status fairly well known • limited trend data but no obvious adverse trends	• adjacent land use and associated nutrient and sediment run-off during flood events • loss of freshwater wetlands	• direct inputs of pollutants prohibited or strictly regulated • collaborative arrangements with State Government agencies being developed to reduce indirect inputs through run-off • comprehensive research and monitoring programs in place
Mangroves		
• status well known • some medium-term trend data available • no obvious adverse trends	• principal pressure is clearing for coastal development	• mangroves protected by legislation from damage and removal • further work on cumulative impacts needed
Island Plants		
• status fairly well known • no information on trends	• historical impacts from plant introductions and grazing, some ongoing	• plants on most islands protected from direct damage or removal • ongoing monitoring needed
Seagrasses		
• status fairly well known • some information on trends • no obvious adverse trends	• some potential pressures from coastal run-off and trawling, but few major impacts documented	• trawling prohibited by Marine Park zoning plans in nearly half of mapped seagrass area • trawling prohibited in additional areas by coastal strip closures • offshore beds less protected but impacts not documented
Macroalgae		
• status poorly known • no information on trends • anecdotal reports of increased abundance due to human impacts	• potential impacts on nearshore algae from increased nutrients in run-off	• status information being collected • management needs uncertain • trend monitoring needed
Corals		
• status fairly well known • no evidence of any major declines directly attributed to human impacts • some recent disturbances from crown-of-thorns starfish and bleaching	• potential pressure on inshore corals from increased sediments and nutrients in run-off, but no major impacts documented	• comprehensive research and monitoring programs in place • most major direct pressures regulated or prohibited
Crown-of-thorns Starfish		
• status fairly well known • current outbreak in northern Great Barrier Reef • cause of outbreaks uncertain	• role of human activities in causing outbreaks is uncertain	• comprehensive research and Starfish monitoring programs in place • control measure developed for significant sites • need for further action not clear given uncertainty over causal factors

ATTRIBUTE/STATE	PRESSURE	RESPONSE
Fishes		
• status of commercial species and common reef fishes fairly well known • no evidence of any major declines caused by human activities	• commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers • heavy fishing pressure in some areas	• comprehensive research and monitoring programs in place • variety of management measures to restrict and regulate fishing effort
Birds		
• status fairly well known • trends known for some sites where some species have declined	• human disturbance from visitation • habitat loss and deterioration	• some sensitive nesting sites closed to visitors • research and monitoring programs in place at some sites • more information needed on status for many areas • need for further action uncertain due to lack of trend data
Marine Turtles		
• status well known for two species • significant decline for one species, indications of decline for two others and no indication of decline for a fourth • no information on status of two other species, but both rarely seen	• bycatch in trawl and shark nets • hunting, both locally and overseas • predation of eggs and young by feral animals • habitat removal and disturbance	• important nesting sites protected • efforts under way to reduce bycatch in trawls • need for international agreement to protect turtles • ongoing monitoring
Sea Snakes		
• status information needed	• bycatch in trawl nets	• management requirements uncertain • processing of sea snake skins no longer allowed
Dugongs		
• status and trends fairly well known • decline in southern Great Barrier Reef population	• bycatch in mesh and shark nets • boat strike • indigenous hunting	• Dugong Protection Areas established • voluntary cessation of traditional hunting by most indigenous communities south of Cooktown • traditional hunting south of Cooktown no longer permitted • comprehensive research and monitoring programs in place
Whales and Dolphins		
• status and trends for humpback whale fairly well known • no information on other whales or dolphins, but inshore species possibly in decline	• whale watching of baleen whales, particularly humpback and dwarf minke • inshore dolphins caught as bycatch in mesh nets	• whale-watching guidelines developed • monitoring and protection measures for inshore dolphins needed
Inter-reefal and Lagoonal Benthos		
• status poorly known • likely substantial impacts in areas of high intensity trawling	• trawling • nearshore communities potentially affected by increased sediments and nutrients in run-off	• some progress towards understanding responses and recovery • trawling prohibited by Marine Park zoning plans in over half of inter-reefal area and about 10% of lagoonal area • management plans being developed which aim to reduce fishing effort

This summary was correct at the time of publication of the *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area 1998* report, November 1998.

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.

Enabling Legislation

The Authority is established under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* as a Commonwealth statutory authority. Specific functions of the Authority are defined in sections 7 and 7A of the Act. Section 7 includes a requirement 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 or since the end of the financial year. There are no directions continuing from previous financial years.

Regulations under the Act are the:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations, and
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Prohibition of Drilling for Petroleum) Regulations.

The Authority is also subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. Section 28 of that Act requires members of the Authority to ensure that policies of the Commonwealth Government notified to them in writing by the Minister are carried out in relation to the Authority. No such notifications were issued to members during or since the end of the financial year. There are no such notifications continuing from previous financial years.

At appendix A is a list of other legislation that relates to the operation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act and of the Authority and its staff.

The Minister

During 1998/99 and for the period up to the date of this report, Senator the Hon Robert Hill held portfolio responsibility for the Authority as Minister for the Environment for the period to 18 October 1998 and subsequently as Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

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, implicit in the goal is the primary obligation to ensure conservation of the Great Barrier Reef. 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 Aboriginal communities adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The members of the Authority during the financial year were:
- Dr Ian McPhail (full-time Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer) until 12 April 1999;
- Mr John Lyons (part-time member);
- Mrs Evelyn Scott (part-time member);
- Mr Tom Tolhurst (part-time member until 8 October 1998); and
- Dr Glyn Davis (acting part-time member) for three 12-week periods commencing 16 November 1998, 16 February 1999 and 11 May 1999.

Mr John Tanzer acted as Chairperson during periods of absence by Dr Ian McPhail from 14 July to 1 August 1998, 8 December to 17 December 1998, and, following Dr McPhail's resignation, from12 April 1998.

Mr Richard Kenchington acted as Chairperson during periods of absence by Dr Ian McPhail from 11 to 17 October 1998, 29 November to 3 December 1998, 26 February to 9 March 1999, and by Mr John Tanzer from 15 June to 30 June 1999.

Dr McPhail, Mr Kenchington and Mr Tanzer served as executive directors; the other members served as non-executive directors.

Qualifications of GBRMPA Members



Dr Ian McPhail
member until 12 April 1999

Dr Ian McPhail has been Director-General, Department of Environment and Planning, South Australia (1986–1991); Executive Director, Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency; Director-General of Education, Portfolio Coordinator, Education, Employment and Training (1992–1993); Chief Executive Officer, Department of Education, Employment and Training (1993); Chief Executive officer, Department of Education and Children's Services, South Australia; and was Chief Executive Officer of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority until April 1999. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (University of New Zealand), Bachelor of Letters (University of New England) and a Doctor of Philosophy (University of New England).



Mr John Lyons
part-time member

Mr John Lyons is an accountant practising in Townsville and is Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Advisory Board and of the Museum of Tropical Queensland Management Board. He was Former Chairman of the Cape York North Queensland Enterprise Zone Corporation (1988–1990) and of the Bi-Centennial Reef Wonderland Fund (1986–1987). He holds a Bachelor of Economics, James Cook University of North Queensland and is a Fellow of the Australian Society of Certified Practicing Accountants, the Taxation Institute of Australia, and the Institute of Company Directors in Australia.

Mrs Evelyn Scott is the current Chairperson of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation and President of the National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association Inc. She is the former Chairperson for the Cairns and District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation for Women (1994–1996). Mrs Scott is the recipient of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for community services for the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (1977).



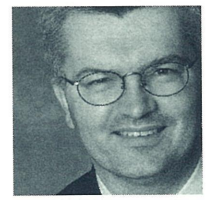
Mrs Evelyn Scott
part-time member



Mr Tom Tolhurst
part-time member until 8 October 1998

Throughout his term on the GBRMPA, Mr Tolhurst was Director-General of the Queensland Department of Environment. He is also the former Deputy Under Secretary of the Department of Health (1988–1990) and a former Member of the GBRMPA Audit Committee. Mr Tolhurst holds a Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Economics and a Bachelor of Laws and is a Fellow of both the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants and the Institute of Corporate Managers, Secretaries and Administrators and is a Member of the Royal Australian Institute of Public Administration.

Dr Davis is Director-General, Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and Executive Director and Director-General of the Office of the Cabinet. He is also Professor in Politics and Public Policy and an Australian Research Council Fellow at Griffith University, Brisbane. He holds a first Class Honours degree in Political Science from University of New South Wales and a Doctorate from Australian National University.

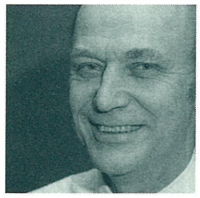


Dr Glyn Davis *acting part-time member for three 12-week periods*



Mr John Tanzer
Acting Chairperson

Mr John Tanzer is the former Executive Chair, Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and former Advisor to both State and Federal Government Ministers on agriculture and natural resource management policy. He is currently Executive Director of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Mr Tanzer holds a Bachelor of Economics.



Mr Richard Kenchington
Acting Chairperson

Mr Richard Kenchington has worked for GBRMPA since 1977 in a number of Director and Executive Officer positions and is currently Executive Director. He was Secretary of the Resource Assessment Common Coastal Zone Inquiry (1990–1993) and Coordinator of the International Coral Reef Initiative (1997–1999). He holds a Master of Science (Marine Biology) from the University of Wales and a Bachelor of Science from London University.

During 1998/99, the Authority held four meetings.

Meeting	Date	Location
MPA 172	18/9/98	Brisbane
MPA 173	10/12/98	Brisbane
MPA 174	19/3/99	Mackay
MPA 175	5/6/99	Brisbane

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997

The *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, which came into effect on 1 January 1998, provides reporting, accountability and other regulations for Commonwealth authorities including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The Authority is neither a Government Business Enterprise nor a Statutory Marketing Authority, which are special classes of Commonwealth authority recognised in the Act. Under the Act, the Authority, its directors (members) and officers (as defined by the Act) have specific obligations.

The Act requires directors to disclose any material personal interests. Such disclosures have been made at the earliest opportunity. The Act requires directors to prepare annual reports and budget estimates. It also provides for the Finance Minister to require interim reports. No such requirements have been put to the Authority.

The Act requires directors to notify the responsible Minister of defined significant events. There has been no cause for directors to make such a notification. However, the Chairperson, on the directors' behalf, has informed the Minister regularly of the operations of the Authority and has provided to the Minister reports, documents and information relating to those operations as required by the Minister. The Finance Minister has made no request of directors for reports, documents or information.

The Minister for Finance and Administration agreed that, until 30 September 1998, the Commonwealth will indemnify 'officers' in respect of legal costs as applies generally to Commonwealth officials, but only where legal costs are not covered by commercial insurance or indemnities already provided by the 'authority'. The Authority had not taken action to indemnify its officers or to take out indemnity insurance for its officers for the period up to 30 September 1998.

From July 1998 the Authority was included in the new Commonwealth Insurable Risk Managed Fund known as Comcover. The Authority applied for Directors and Officers Liability Insurance cover through Comcover from 1 October 1998 to the extent allowed under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act. The cover was for the Chair and Members of the Authority and members of the Senior Management Team of the Authority. The policy prohibits disclosure of the nature and limits of liability and the amount of member contribution.

The directors have not received written notification from the Minister as to any new general policies of the Commonwealth that are to apply to the Authority.

Audit Committee of the Authority

Section 32 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act requires the directors of the Authority to establish and maintain an audit committee. The Authority established such a committee in September 1997. The following persons were members as at 30 June 1999:

Mr Matt Pope, chairperson – a practising Townsville barrister,
Mr Barry Sheedy, member – an accountant practising in Townsville,
Mr John Tanzer, member – an Executive Director on the Authority's staff.

During 1998/99, the Audit Committee held five meetings.

Meeting	Date	Location
AC 4	4/8/98	Townsville
AC 5	9/9/98	Townsville
AC 6	30/11/98	Townsville
AC 7	28-29/1/99	Townsville
AC 8	18-19/5/99	Townsville

Functions of the Committee are set out in appendix B.

Business activities of the audit committee concerned:

- the Internal Audit Plan;
- contractual management;
- implementation of the reorganisation and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Strategic Work Program;
- relationship with CRC Reef Research Centre;
- day-to-day management issues;
- accounting and audit procedure; and
- the Australian National Audit Office Efficiency Audit 'Commonwealth Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park'.

State of Affairs of the Authority

The increase in the Environmental Management Charge (see page 47) and its effect on the Authority's budget was the only significant change in the Authority's state of affairs or principal activities. Since June 1998, there have been no other developments that have significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- the Authority's operations in future financial years;
- the results of those operations in future years; or
- the Authority's state of affairs in future financial years.

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 and management resources close to the Reef and also to carry out necessary liaison functions in Canberra.

Staff of the Authority (including the Townsville office, the staff of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium at Townsville and the Canberra office) numbered 138 (135.56 full-time equivalent) at 30 June 1999.

Operational centres for day-to-day management of the Marine Park (carried out by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage) are at Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton. Also, there are bases at Port Douglas, Dungeness, Airlie Beach, Rosslyn Bay and Gladstone.

Review and Restructure

Following several external reviews and an extensive internal assessment, a decision was made in late 1997 to move to a new issues-based staffing structure to be effective from 1 July 1998. The purpose of the restructure was to provide a tighter focus for the organisation by concentrating on the major critical issues to be addressed and further, to ensure clear internal reporting lines and accountability.

The new organisation structure is matrix based. Operations are overseen by a senior management team consisting of the directors of each of the four Critical Issue Groups to address the priority policy areas, the directors of each of the three service groups, and the executive.

The Critical Issue Groups are:

- Tourism and Recreation
- Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage
- Fisheries
- Water Quality and Coastal Development

and the service groups are:

- Information Support
- Corporate Services
- Program Delivery (including Indigenous Cultural Liaison)
- Day-to-day Management Coordination.

This structure is now in line with the requirements of accrual budgeting and programming and assists the development and implementation of an outcome/output basis for programming and reporting.

Each of the Critical Issue Groups incorporates advisory groups involving key stakeholders in the Park to enhance responsiveness and an improved client focus.

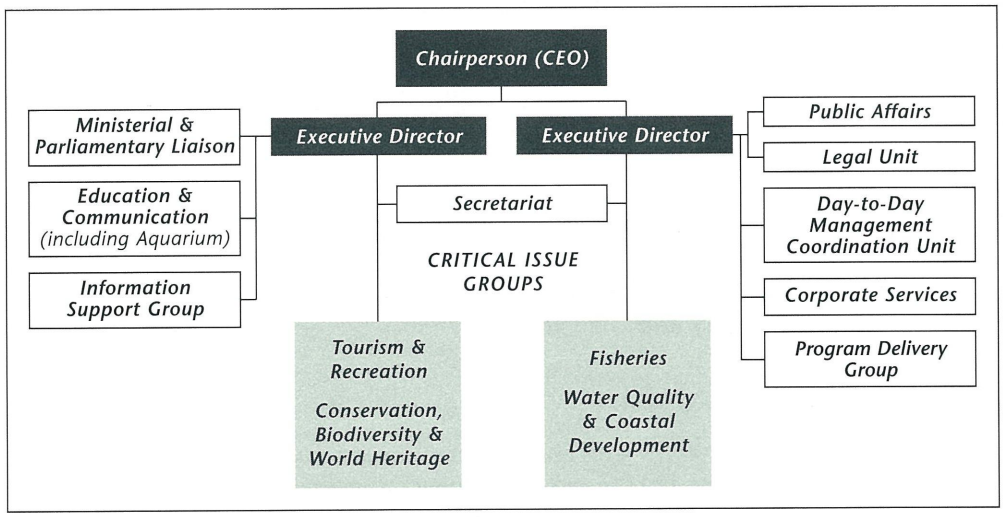


Figure 1. *Operational structure as at 30 June 1999*

Service Charter

A draft GBRMPA Service Charter was produced and distributed for public comment. All comments have been received and the final Charter: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority — Charter of Public Service within a Culturally-Diverse Society will be published early in 1999/2000.

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. A major consequence of the Authority's restructure has been the redesign of the group, now known as the Senior Management Team, which comprises the Chairperson, the Executive Directors and the Directors.

The Authority has designated its two Executive Directors as secretaries to the Authority, one being based in Townsville and the other in Canberra. The staff of the Executive and Secretariat (now functioning as separate units) provide executive support for the Chairperson and the Executive Directors and secretariats for the Authority, its Audit Committee, the executive group and the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee. The Executive and Secretariat staff facilitate communication between other staff and these committees.

Subsidiaries

The Authority is a joint-venture partner in the CRC: Reef Research Centre and in INTROMARC. It has no subsidiaries. However, certain functions are carried out in conjunction with other Queensland and Commonwealth organisations including the Queensland Environment Protection Agency which has, through its Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, 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. All Australian Federal Police are inspectors for the Marine Park.

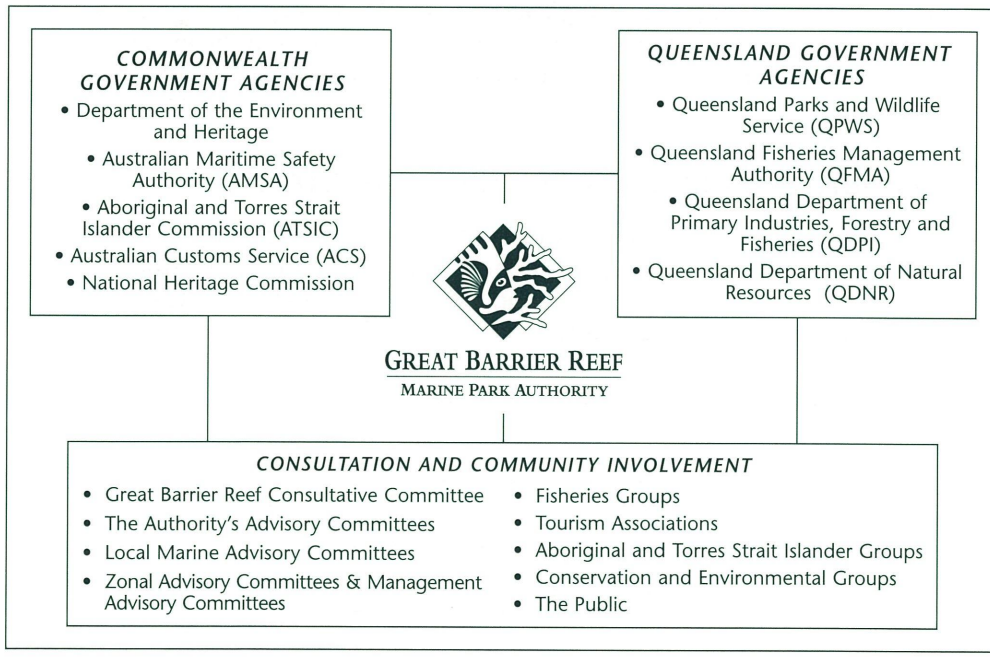


Figure 2. *External Relationships*

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. Senator the Hon Robert Hill, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, is convenor of the Council.

At the commencement of 1998/99, the other members of the Council were the Hon John Moore, Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism; the Queensland Environment Minister, the Hon Brian Littleproud; and the Queensland Tourism Minister, the Hon Bruce Davidson. The Hon Trevor Perrett, Queensland Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry had also participated in discussions relating to his responsibilities for fisheries management.

During the year both the Commonwealth and Queensland established new governments. The Council now comprises:

- The Hon Senator Hill, Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- The Hon Jackie Kelly, Minister for Sport and Tourism;
- The Hon Rod Welford, Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage; and
- The Hon Bob Gibbs, Queensland Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing.

The Hon Henry Palaszczuk, Queensland Minister for Primary Industries, also participated in discussions relating to his responsibilities.

The Ministerial Council met once in 1998/99 on 17 May 1999. The meeting considered issues relating to dugong conservation, the management of ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and the expansion of the Marine Park by including a number of areas previously excluded from the Marine Park.

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 C.

The Consultative Committee met three times during 1998/99.

Meeting	Date	Location
CC 58	13-14/8/98	Townsville
CC 59	12/11/98	Brisbane
CC 60	30-31/3/99	Gladstone

Advisory Committees of the Authority

In September 1998, the Authority decided to establish an Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee which met once during 1998/99 on 17 February 1999 in Townsville. It also took steps to establish a Reef Advisory Committee for each of its four critical issues. This process was continuing at the end of the financial year. Functions, membership and business activities of the Committees are set out in appendix D.

Report of Operations

Executive Operations

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.

EXECUTIVE

Strategic Direction

Broad Outcome
To provide strategic planning, resource allocation and accountable management of the Authority, its operations and external relationships in pursuit of the control, care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Strategic Objectives
1. Provide a clear vision and strategic targets which are understood by all staff and stakeholders.
2. Ensure compliance with externally imposed obligations.
3. To have the Authority recognised as a national and international leader in marine and coastal environment management.
4. To respond flexibly to the needs of the community and Government.

Performance Analysis

This was the first year of implementation of a Matrix Management Structure working to an accruals-based system and program of reporting. The development, prioritisation and integration of the work program were achieved through the Senior Management Team comprising the executive and directors.

The broad outcome, objectives and work program for each group form the basis of the subsequent sections of this Annual Report. The structure of the Senior Management Team, with the focus on the four critical issue groups and the definition of service provision groups, has provided a clearer focus on linkages

and obligations in relation to the major critical issues and overarching considerations facing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Audit Committee of the Authority continues to provide a clear and objective focus on compliance with obligations relating to the organisation as a whole and to the accountability of the executive.

The Authority continues to be recognised nationally and internationally in relation to marine environment, natural resource and coral reef management. During the period 1997 to 1999 the Authority provided the Secretariat and Global Coordination functions for the International Coral Reef Initiative. The highlight of the Australian tenure of the Initiative was the convening of the International Tropical Marine Environment Management Symposium in Townsville in November 1998. This Symposium brought together managers, scientists and stakeholders from all of the Coral Reef Regions of the world who met to consider the management of coral reefs and related ecosystems. The focus of the Symposium was to report on the condition of these environments and the issues facing management, to identify the lessons learned from recent management experience and, through this, to identify priorities for the management of tropical marine ecosystems. At the conclusion of the Symposium, the Secretariat and Global Coordination functions were passed on to the Government of France for a two-year period.

At the seventh meeting of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, the Authority made an invited presentation on the management of The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as an example of multiple-use sustainable management of coral reef areas. This encompassed the sustainable use of natural resources for activities including fishing and tourism.

In recent years the Regional Marine Resource Advisory Committees (RMRACs) have been a major vehicle for the Authority's communications with the community. During the year the RMRAC Program was reviewed with a view to determining how the committees might focus more clearly on issues relevant to the performance and functions of the Authority, and to develop a more effective means of providing feedback to the Authority.

SECRETARIAT

Strategic Direction

Broad Outcome

To provide effective, professional support to the Authority, Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee, Audit Committee and Reef Advisory Committees.

Strategic Objectives

1. Provide for regular meetings of GBRMPA, Audit Committee, GBRCC and other committees at which effective deliberation and decision-making can take place.
2. Report on business of meetings and disseminate information.
3. Carry out statutory and corporate obligations in regard to members of MPA, Audit Committee, GBRCC and others.
4. Administration of the general business of the GBRCC.
5. Management of secretariat operations.
6. Provision of advice.

Performance Analysis

The main initiative for the secretariat this year has been structuring and streamlining operations to accommodate complex meeting timetables that will ensue once the Reef Advisory Committees are fully functional. To reflect this, two new staff were appointed in 1999; one to a new position.

All regular meetings were supported and coordinated to plan.

LEGAL SERVICES

The Legal Services Unit provides and coordinates the provision of legal advice and services to the Authority, and assists with policy development. In addition, the Unit provides legal assistance to officers of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol relating to day-to-day management issues such as permit and enforcement matters. In general, the scope of the legal advice provided is very broad, covering such diverse areas as contracts, intellectual property, administrative law, international law, and native title.

The Unit is responsible for managing the preparation and amendment of legislation, and liaising with external service providers, including the Attorney-General's Department. The Unit coordinates all litigation in which the Authority is involved together with all Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. In addition, in-house training and training for our day-to-day management agencies is provided.

Strategic Direction

Broad Outcome

To provide effective legislation, commercial legal operations, and litigation support.

Strategic Objectives

1. Ensure timely and accurate legal advice is delivered to the Authority.
2. Ensure the Authority's interests in matters of litigation are adequately and competently represented.
3. Ensure the viability of the Authority's legislative program.
4. Ensure that proper commercial legal support is provided.
5. Ensure that legal systems are provided for the Authority's corporate governance.
6. Ensure that the Legal Services Unit efficiently manages itself and develops its staff.

Performance Analysis

Significant achievements for the 1998/99 financial year include:

- the conduct of both internal and external legal awareness training;
- provision of legal support for the Authority's involvement in appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Federal Court;
- effective legal support for branch operations and achievement of corporate objectives; and
- provision of comment in relation to a range of legislative matters including the development of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1994.*

Awareness

One of the objectives of the Legal Services Unit is to reduce the risk to the Authority of legal liability by the provision of timely, efficient and effective legal advice and training of Authority staff. Knowledge of Authority staff and the agencies responsible for the Authority's day-to-day management of the Marine Park with respect to potential legal pitfalls, has been improved by conducting identified and requested legal awareness training.

Budget

The Legal Unit has been affected by the steadily increasing demands on the budget available for the provision of external legal advice and services, and the employment of sufficient numbers of staff to ensure that legal assistance is consistently provided in an efficient and timely manner. The extended legislative responsibilities of the Authority, its increased involvement in litigation, the rising demands for internal legal advice, and the regular receipt of FOI requests has added to this pressure and has necessitated the ongoing requirement for a third staff member. The Authority's responsibilities under the notification provisions of the Native Title Act, which came into effect in late September 1998, have placed a further unanticipated and significant burden on the unit's resources.

Training

The staff of the Unit conducted extensive training on subjects such as enforcement, Marine Park legislation, boundary issues, and Native Title implications for the Marine Park. 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.

Litigation and Referrals

There were no decisions by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) or comments by the Commonwealth Ombudsman relating to any permit decisions of the Authority in 1998/99. Two permit decisions were appealed to the AAT, and both are yet to be dealt with. The Authority was also involved in three actions in the Federal Court of Australia. Whilst all of these actions are still to be finally decided, the Authority has been successful in almost all interlocutory proceedings.

MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY LIAISON

Strategic Direction

Broad Outcome
To ensure effective liaison and productive relationships with ministers, portfolio members and government agencies, and to provide effective, professional support to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council.

Strategic Objectives
1. Facilitate coherent Commonwealth and State Government policies on matters impacting on the Great Barrier Reef.
2. To facilitate the delivery of Authority policies that concur with Government priorities and objectives.

Performance Analysis

During the year the Ministerial and Parliamentary Liaison Section coordinated the preparation of 193 ministerial briefing notes and submissions and 360 items of ministerial correspondence. The issues dealt with covered the full spectrum of Authority programs, projects and activities during the year. These included major roles in the development, formulation or coordination of Authority inputs to environmental impact assessments, policy development and coordination of input to the Senate Inquiry into the Hinchinbrook Channel on behalf of Environment Australia.

The Section also prepared briefing documents for Senate hearings in February, May and June and provided the secretariat for the meeting of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council which was held in Brisbane on 17 May. The Section is the central point for all coordination requests from Environment Australia and Canberra-based Commonwealth Departments.

On 1 March, the office moved premises to the John Gorton Building to be co-located with Environment Australia.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Strategic Direction

Broad Outcome
To provide effective and timely advice to the executive on all media matters pertaining to the Authority.

Strategic Objectives
1. To further develop a media and public relations program to ensure wide public recognition, understanding and support of the Authority, its programs and relationships with other organisations.
2. To continue development of communication vehicles that will embrace modern and effective tools for public communication.
3. To develop and implement staff communication training programs.

Performance Analysis

Media interest and subsequent support for the Authority during its restructure has been one of the positive outcomes of the media and public relations strategy.

Programs implemented during 1998/99 contributed to stabilising and enhancing the public recognition, understanding and continuing awareness of the changes embraced by the Authority in its management of the Marine Park.

Continued development of modern communication vehicles such as the Great Barrier Reef CD ROM and the publication 'Reef Management News' has proved to be effective and positive, fostering greater public understanding of the work of the Authority and the current future challenges for the organisation.

Ongoing development and implementation of communication strategies and advice to staff has resulted in a greater appreciation by staff of the advantages of incorporating public relations and media programs in management initiatives.

Key Issues

for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area

In developing the Vision, Principles for Management and Corporate Values of the Authority, and with guidance from the 25-year Strategic Plan, a series of issues was identified as being crucial for the wellbeing of the Marine Park and World Heritage Area and for the management of its use.

These key issues are:

- Tourism and recreation
- Fisheries
- Water quality
- Coastal development and ports
- Shipping
- Conservation
- World Heritage status
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relationships.

These are all reflected in the Authority's restructure towards issues-based management and are monitored and managed by the four Critical Issue Management Groups:

- Tourism and Recreation
- Fisheries
- Water Quality and Coastal Development
- Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage

Each of these Critical Issue Groups operates under a strategic work program with clear outcomes, objectives and strategies devised for each Group.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relationships are considered to be of overarching significance with a bearing on all other issues and provision of services by the Authority. For this reason, the Indigenous Cultural Liaison Unit has been established and located within the Program Delivery service section.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Tourism is the principal commercial use of the Marine Park, each year bringing over 1.5 million visitors to the area. Over 80 per cent of this tourism use is centred within the Cairns and Whitsundays areas. Management of tourism and recreation in these high-use areas of the Marine Park has focused on the development of new strategies to effectively manage cumulative impacts of use, and to minimise displacement effects on other users.

Strategic Direction

Broad Outcomes

To achieve minimal impact of tourism on the Marine Park and on users
To achieve understanding and appreciation of the natural, cultural and other values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Strategic Objectives

1. Build a partnership with the marine tourism industry to protect and present the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and to meet World Heritage Area obligations to world's best standard.
2. Develop a strategic and integrated framework for managing marine tourism use within the GBRMP including industry capacity and the allocation of resources.
3. Minimise the individual and cumulative impacts of tourism and recreation on the Great Barrier Reef whilst maintaining diversity of opportunities for users and minimising displacement of other users.

The Tourism and Recreation Critical Issue Group was established to develop and implement the Authority's new approach to managing tourism; an approach based on strategic policy and planning, direct management, self-regulation by the industry and active partnerships.

In response to increased demand for access to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the purposes of tourism and recreation, the Authority is developing a more strategic, reef-wide framework for managing tourism impacts throughout the Marine Park which takes into account the cumulative impacts of tourism use.

Introduction of Plans of Management for the Cairns Area and the Whitsundays (in addition to the existing Zoning Plans) and simplified standard permits and policies such as those for cruise ships and 'superyachts' using the Marine Park all contribute to this strategic framework.

Integral to these policies and plans are tourism industry training and accreditation programs and the encouragement of self-regulation by the industry.

Crucial to the success of this management approach is the strengthening of working relationships with the marine tourism industry.

Performance Analysis

Management Planning

During 1998/99 the Tourism and Recreation Group was heavily involved in the implementation of the Cairns Area and the Whitsundays Plans of Management. Participation in the joint GBRMPA/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) Implementation Working Group contributed to the coordination of both Commonwealth and State implementation.

Funds were made available to QPWS to support a consultancy to advise on a suitable integrated booking system for those tourism operators who are required to book to access planning areas and some sensitive locations.

Moorings Management and Allocation

This year the Authority has undertaken a consultancy and negotiated with stakeholders regarding the potential impacts of a range of moorings management approaches on the Authority, QPWS and stakeholders. The information has been crucial in developing a strategic approach to tourism management in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and was necessary in the short term to complement the mooring strategy in the Cairns Area Plan of Management. A related process has been developed for the allocation of the remaining moorings that were identified under the Cairns Plan.

Analysis of reef-wide issues is important for the long-term management of the Great Barrier Reef. The issue of access allocation will be considered in the context of the recent moorings management research.

Standard Permits

The Authority has worked with QPWS throughout the year towards the implementation of the Standard Permit System. At a workshop in July 1998, the Authority and representatives from the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators agreed to the structure of this system. Four major tourism operation permits have now been defined — Tour Operation, Cruise Operation, Hire Operation and Craftless Operation. The conditions covering these types of operations have been incorporated into booklets that are attachments to permits issued and are an interim step towards a transparent standardisation of the permits system. The booklets are expected to result in a significant efficiency gain in the processing of routine applications.

The Authority and QPWS are beginning the process of placing the standard permits into legislation. The legislation will negate the need for a booklet of conditions and allow for the development of an interpretive manual for reef operators.

Reef-wide Policy

Cruise Ships and Superyachts

In response to an anticipated increase in the number of cruise ships and superyachts wishing to access the Marine Park in the lead up to the new millennium and the Sydney Olympics, policy relating to access of such vessels has

been well developed. This policy streamlines the permitting and booking systems for these large vessels and identifies additional anchorages for cruise ships, particularly within the Whitsundays.

A technical working group comprising representatives of the Authority, QPWS, Australian Marine Safety Authority, Queensland Transport, Royal Australian Navy Hydrographers, Reef Pilots and representatives of the cruise ship industry has been established to advise on anchorage sites throughout the reef. Based on discussions at a workshop in February 1999, and advice from the technical assessment group, the Authority proposed amendments to the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management to better address cruise shipping issues in these areas.

The Authority will continue to work closely with QPWS, maritime safety authorities and stakeholders on the issue of cruise shipping—in the first instance to finalise the reef-wide policy and complete a risk analysis of the proposed Hamilton Cove cruise ship anchorage in the Whitsundays.

A superyacht steering committee, comprising representatives from the Authority, Queensland Transport, QPWS and stakeholders, is developing an interpretive guide for superyachts cruising the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The guide will include information on superyacht access, recreational opportunities and rules and regulations relating to operating in the Marine Park.

Reef-Wide Standard Mooring Buoys

Moorings have been used as a management tool in the Marine Park for many years to minimise impacts from anchoring damage. Regulations to provide a reef-wide standardised mooring buoyage system across the Great Barrier Reef Region are in the final stage of development. Standardising mooring buoys will assist in recognition and management of moorings.

Roving Operations

Management planning during the last few years has focused on the high-use and sensitive areas of the Marine Park. This focus has raised requirements for reef-wide regulations for the Roving Operator sector of the Marine Tourism Industry which offers tourist experiences throughout most Sections of the Marine Park.

Recognition of this niche market has identified a need for innovative management approaches for this sector.

Training and Education

Administration of the Great Barrier Reef Tourism Staff Certificate Course, introduced in 1996, has been maintained with the majority of trainers based in the Port Douglas, Cairns and Whitsundays areas. A number of the large operations and members of the dive industry have now incorporated the course into their training programs. A growing interest in the course by secondary school teachers has seen an expansion in the number of school students in years 11 and 12 who have completed the course.

In response to a course review in 1998, the Great Barrier Reef Manual has been updated and reformatted and a Trainer Guide prepared for distribution to trainers.

A program for the accreditation of bareboat (self-sail) operations in the Whitsundays, based on the adoption of operating standards proposed by the industry, has been established with significant industry involvement. A key component is the requirement for bareboat operations to employ appropriately qualified staff. To achieve this, a training course for bareboat staff has been developed jointly by the industry and the Authority, with input from Queensland Transport. The course has been delivered through the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE (Whitsunday Campus). Since February 1999 over 120 bareboat staff have successfully completed the course and are eligible to apply for registration by the Authority as a bareboat briefer or radio operator. The Authority will review this accreditation program, in consultation with the broader tourism industry, with the view of using this as a model that may be applied in the future to other industry groups.

Consultation and Liaison with Stakeholders

Ensuring an effective partnership approach to management has required consultation and liaison on a wide range of Marine Park Management issues including methods of removing latent capacity, Plans of Management issues, management and allocation of moorings, standardised mooring buoyage, roving operation requirements, permit tenure, site planning, and accreditation programs.

This liaison has resulted in meetings with over 200 individual operators, the 11 individual regional industry associations and the regional and reef-wide peak Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators.

Industry Involvement

A Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee is being established to provide expert advice to the Authority on policy development relevant to the Tourism and Recreation Group's objectives.

The Cairns Marine Industry Group has been particularly successful in bringing together tourism, recreation and other users of the Reef to provide a forum to resolve issues of conflicting access to specific offshore sites in the Cairns Area.

The Whitsunday bareboat industry has been closely involved with the Authority in developing a process for adoption, monitoring and enforcement of agreed industry standards. Enforcement will be managed through a complaints process in which an elected Industry Standards Committee will play a key referral role linking the industry and the statutory bodies—the Authority, QPWS and Queensland Transport.

FISHERIES

Fishing is an important industry for the Queensland and Australian economies and relies on wise management of both the fisheries resources and the ecosystems on which these resources depend. The Authority recognises that fishing has significant ecological effects that can impact on World Heritage and nature conservation values. In conjunction with the Queensland Government fisheries management agencies, research organisations, commercial and recreational fishers, Indigenous and other community groups, the Authority seeks to ensure that all fishing activities in the Marine Park are ecologically sustainable.

Strategic Direction

Broad Outcome

To achieve sustainable fisheries that do not compromise the values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Specific Objectives

1. Develop strategic policy for fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park which:
   - clearly states GBRMPA's position on fisheries;
   - enables GBRMPA to audit the ecological sustainability of fishing in the Marine Park in accordance with ESD principles;
   - protects rare, threatened and endangered species and communities together with their critical habitats;
   - incorporates a comprehensive system of protected areas which are free from fishing use and are representative of the habitats within the GBRMP; and
   - is equitable across the community, meeting the traditional, social and cultural needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and maintains a socially acceptable balance of access for all users of the GBRMP.
2. Achieve integration of fisheries and ecosystem management.
3. Develop an effective information base on the ecological and socio-economic impacts of fishing so that sound decisions on resource sustainability and access are made.
4. Develop fishing regulations that are both understood and accepted by Marine Park users and the community, and that are complied with.

Performance Analysis

GBRMPA's Position on Fisheries

The Authority has made its position on the need for whole-of-ecosystem fisheries management clear to the Queensland fisheries managers and stakeholder groups and is working with them to achieve outcomes that are demonstrably ecologically sustainable. To assist this process the Fisheries Critical Issue Group brings together staff with an extensive range of fisheries management expertise. The Group has members on Queensland's fisheries and aquaculture management and regional advisory committees and contributes to fisheries research and management through involvement in conferences, workshops and other internal and external working groups.

Ecologically Sustainable Fishing

Trawl Fishery

The CSIRO report of the five-year study on the effects of prawn trawling in the Far Northern Section of the Marine Park[1] evaluated, for the first time, the environmental impact of prawn trawling in the Marine Park. The report quantified the extent of damage to seabed communities and discussed the implications of recovery times. It also identified evidence of illegal trawling and confirmed earlier findings of the high level of discarded bycatch caused by prawn trawling operations.

In light of this report, the Authority has made clear to the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) that new management arrangements being developed for the trawl fishery must achieve ecologically sustainable fishing within the Marine Park. Critical factors that need to be addressed include the total level of fishing effort, protection of areas from trawling, mandatory use of turtle excluders and other bycatch reduction devices and agreement on species that trawlers may retain. In June 1999 GBRMPA contracted an expert independent review of the draft management plan for the trawl fishery to assess its ability to achieve the objective of ecologically sustainable fishing in accordance with world heritage values.

GBRMPA is continuing to work with the Queensland Government, the fishing industry and other stakeholders to develop an appropriate management plan for the trawl fishery. However the Minister has made it clear that harvesting of prawns and other fisheries must be demonstrably and ecologically sustainable in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Line Fishery

Phase two of research into the effects of line fishing on the Great Barrier Reef began in March 1999 with further measurement of the impact on fish stocks from opening previously closed reefs to fishing. The project also involves analysis of fish biology and life cycles, fishery socio-economics, and the development of sustainability indicators for target species, bycatch and the ecosystem. The study will provide Marine Park and fisheries managers with an evaluation of current and potential management strategies to ensure sustainable fishing. In the meantime the Authority has participated with Queensland fisheries managers and stakeholder groups in developing new measures to protect stocks in the reef line and deep-water rocky reef fisheries. These plans will be implemented in 1999/2000 following further community consultation and input.

Other Fisheries

In 1998/99 GBRMPA contributed to the development of QFMA public discussion papers for the review of fisheries management arrangements for marine aquarium fish, coral, sea cucumber, trochus, tropical rock lobster and inshore netting of finfish including whiting, barramundi, grunter, salmon, mangrove jack and mackerel. The Authority also responded to discussion papers on blue swimmer crabs and mud crabs. New management arrangements to ensure the ecological sustainability of these fisheries are expected to be finalised by the end of 2000. The Authority has also contributed to a draft management plan for the spanner crab fishery.

[1] Poiner, I.R. et. al. *Effects of Trawling in the Far Northern Section of the Great Barrier Reef : 1991 to 1996.* CSIRO Division of Marine Research Cleveland. Final report to GBRMPA June 1998.

Protection of Rare and Threatened Species

A review of the dugong protection areas that prohibit or restrict various commercial net-fishing operations has begun. The review requires the cooperation of Commonwealth and State government agencies. Dugong protection areas were introduced in December 1997 to minimise the threat of dugong capture in commercial mesh nets.

The draft management plan for the trawl fishery proposes mandatory use of turtle excluder devices in a number of key areas identified as having a high risk of trawl capture of turtles. GBRMPA has advised the QFMA that it requires compulsory use of these devices throughout the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area by March 2000.

Equitable Access Recognising Traditional Needs

Marine Park zoning plans regulate fishing practices permitted in selected areas. These provisions apply equally to commercial, recreational and tourist charter fishers. Under a special provision that recognises traditional, social and cultural needs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can apply for permits to fish and gather in zones that are otherwise closed to these activities.

Integration of Fisheries and Ecosystem Management

The Authority is committed to ensuring that all fishing in the Marine Park is ecologically sustainable in terms of target species, non-target species and the environment generally. This includes direct impacts of the fishing practice and indirect impacts such as changes to ecosystem functioning and productivity. The studies conducted into the effects of trawl and line fishing are key elements in this approach.

The approach is integrated with broader protection of critical and representative areas including land-based impacts and pollution threats from shipping. GBRMPA recognises that comprehensive research, monitoring and assessment techniques for complex ecological systems are still in their infancy both in Australia and overseas. Consequently, the precautionary principle is adopted, whereby lack of conclusive data does not prevent implementing protective measures.

Information Base

Information has been collected for core databases on the distribution of fishing catch and effort, and ecological community distribution and abundance. Supported by targeted biological and socioeconomic research projects, this information provides a better understanding of spatial patterns of fish distribution and fishing effort and is essential to integrated fisheries and ecosystem management.

Understanding and Compliance

User groups and the community are actively consulted and involved in the development of Marine Park zoning and management plans and Queensland's fisheries regulations. A communication and education program further enhances public understanding and acceptance of the fishing regulations in the Marine Park management strategy.

Patrols, surveys and anecdotal evidence suggest that the majority of fishers in the Marine Park comply with regulations in place. However, issues such as the evidence of illegal trawling in the Far Northern Section have highlighted the need for enhanced surveillance and enforcement.

Fishing is the key focus in a new three-year compliance strategy that has been developed to begin in July 1999. High priority areas include dugong protection and trawling and line fishing in protected zones. Assisted by additional Commonwealth Government funding, the strategy will include enhanced patrol activities, development of an integrated intelligence system and use of a range of new technologies. The Authority will also have access to the satellite-linked vessel monitoring system developed, initially for trawlers, by Queensland Government fisheries management agencies.

GBRMPA legislation will be reviewed to streamline complementary enforcement with Queensland fisheries and environmental protection authorities. More effective prosecution and higher penalties for offences will assist compliance. The Commonwealth Government in January 1999 announced a penalty of up to $1 million for illegal trawling in no-take zones of the Marine Park. GBRMPA is also seeking to ensure that illegal fishing in the Marine Park is considered a serious fisheries offence under the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority fisheries management plans, and that appropriate additional penalties (such as licence suspension) apply to offenders under State fisheries management regulations.

WATER QUALITY AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

Maintenance of water quality to ensure the preservation of the GBRWHA ecosystems and economic activities in the World Heritage Area is a high priority issue. Degradation of water quality will lead to ecosystem change and loss. Sources of water pollution to the WHA are the GBR catchment (sediment, nutrients and pesticides) and shipping in the GBR (oil and ballast water).

Strategic Direction

Broad Outcome

To achieve minimal impact on the Great Barrier Reef by water pollution particularly that associated with agriculture, shipping and coastal development activities.

Strategic objectives

1. To achieve minimal degradation of the Great Barrier Reef by water pollution.
2. To minimise the risk of adverse impacts on the Great Barrier Reef from shipping activities.
3. To eliminate or reduce the adverse impacts of land use activities on the values of the Great Barrier Reef.

Understanding the connectivity between the land and the sea is vital for the management and protection of the GBR. Current research is directed at furthering understanding of:

- the source of pollutants;
- the transport and fate of pollutants; and
- the effects of pollutants on biota.

The priority water quality pollutants have been identified as sediments, nutrients and pesticide run-off from agricultural and urban lands; and sewage discharges from towns and resorts in the GBR. The loss of coastal freshwater wetlands and riparian vegetation, potential large-scale oil spills in the GBR and ballast water discharges leading to introduction of exotic marine species are also major water quality issues. Other priorities include anti-fouling residues (especially tri-butyl tin and copper compounds), vessel sewage discharges and aquaculture discharges.

Performance Analysis

Long-term Water Quality Monitoring

Data collected over the first five years of the long-term water quality program re-iterate the persistent cross-shelf and regional differences in chlorophyll concentrations detected in previous sampling occasions. Analyses of regional differences indicate that chlorophyll a concentrations (an indicator of eutrophication) are significantly higher (approximately twice) in inshore waters south of Cooktown adjacent to developed catchments in comparison to sites in far northern locations adjacent to relatively pristine catchments.

Flood-monitoring Program

This program measures the extent, composition and movement of flood plumes and the potential impact of changing water quality on inshore GBR ecosystems. The flood-monitoring program aims to investigate how natural processes affect the temporal and spatial movement of plumes. Knowledge of natural processes and changes will allow identification of changes influenced by changing land-use and river flow regimes.

Marine Park pollutant monitoring

A conference entitled *Sources, Fates and Consequences of Pollutants in the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait*, organised by the Authority, was held in Townsville on 29–30 June 1999. The conference brought together over 50 experts in this field to assess the latest scientific advice and to inform management. The conference considered levels and trends in a wide range of contaminants arising from human activity within and adjacent to the Marine Park.

The Water Quality and Coastal Development Critical Issue Group will use the findings in the development of a long-term strategy to address the level and extent of pollutants found in the GBR.

Coastal Development

The Authority continued to provide input into impact assessment processes for proposed developments in coastal areas adjacent to the WHA, providing a Marine Park focus. The Authority commented on a wide of range of proposals which included large resort proposals, marina developments, transport access studies and aquaculture developments. This role was complicated by the introduction of the Queensland Integrated Planning Act 1997 which commenced on 1 April 1998 and excludes the Authority as a formal 'referral agency' for these types of developments. Discussions are currently being held with the relevant agencies to enable the Authority to be recognised as a formal referral agency to ensure responsible environmental management of areas that may affect the Marine Park.

The Authority maintained its focus on developing partnerships with State agencies and local governments to maximise the relationship between Marine Park planning and land use planning.

Aquaculture

An aquaculture development proposal for Armstrong Beach triggered the Commonwealth's development of options for aquaculture assessment in Queensland.

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has asked that the Authority pursue options to ensure that a rigorous, open and transparent process of environmental impact assessment occurs for project, and any other aquaculture proposals for areas adjacent to the GBR. Consideration of options is continuing in liaison with State agencies.

Water Quality Extension and Liaison

One of the key strategies for water quality management is effective extension and education of land users and land managers. The emphasis of the extension program is the connectivity of ecosystems that drain into the GBR lagoon and their potential downstream impact on the marine environment. One example of this type of approach is the development of a formal agreement dealing with standards for cotton farming practices adjacent to the WHA. Part of this process includes education and awareness of farmers about the downstream impacts of their activities.

Nathan Dam

The proposal to construct a large dam on the Dawson River and to develop 30 000 ha of irrigation agriculture (mostly cotton and beef pastures) has created a great deal of controversy in the community and political sectors of Queensland. The Authority has been involved in the ongoing discussions and decisions over the last year and has played an active role in the assessment of the Nathan Dam proposal. This included commissioning a report to examine the potential downstream effects of the proposed Nathan Dam on the Dawson River and downstream environments. The Authority is also involved in an advisory role in the design of a Water Allocation and Management Plan for the Fitzroy River system.

Shipping and Maritime Pollution Response

Shipping Management

The Authority has continued to work with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Queensland Transport on shipping accident prevention measures. In particular the Authority, in conjunction with Queensland Transport, commenced an oil spill risk assessment for the GBR. The risk assessment, when completed, will provide the basis for future management and risk reduction strategies. The Authority reviewed proposed ship-sourced sewage regulations in line with a similar review conducted by Queensland Transport in order to maintain consistent regulations. A final policy position has been developed and consultation with key stakeholder groups on implementation issues is currently being conducted. Authority staff have also developed a draft Introduced Marine Pests policy.

Maritime Incident Response

The grounding of the *New Reach* during May 1999 demonstrated the need for maintaining a high level of preparedness for maritime pollution incidents. The *New Reach* was grounded for a period of 6 hours and refloated without incident. REEFPLAN was activated as a standard procedure and incident-specific response plans were developed by Queensland Transport and the Authority. No action was required.

During the year, the Authority finalised an oil spill response plan to deliver the Scientific Support Coordinator role as described within REEFPLAN. The contingency plan will be implemented during 1999/2000 though timing will be dependant upon the restructure of the Queensland Environment Protection Agency.

The Authority provided substantial assistance to the organisation and presentation of the international oil spill conference, SPILLCON '98, particularly through the facilitation of a technical workshop on dispersants. The Authority provided financial assistance for Dr Tim Lunel , a world expert on dispersant usage, to present at the workshop. Dr Lunel also provided advice to the Authority on dispersant usage within the Marine Park.

GBRMPA staff continued to be involved in National and Queensland training by providing lectures at Oil Spill Operator and On-Scene Coordinator courses. As part of the National Plan Training Working Group, the Authority has been involved in the implementation of standards for Australian oil spill response training.

The Authority continued its commitment to National Plan activities, being involved in the National Plan Advisory Committee, Incident Control System and Training Working Groups, and Queensland State Oil Pollution Committee. The National Plan is undergoing a full review that will have implications for REEFPLAN activities. The Authority forms part of the review steering group and will have significant input into the outcomes.

CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY AND WORLD HERITAGE

In accordance with GBRMPA's Goal and Aims, high priority is given to ensuring conservation of the Great Barrier Reef. During the past year, the Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage group has put particular emphasis on:

- Species conservation, particularly the protection of threatened species such as dugongs, turtles, whales and dolphins;
- the identification and selection of representative areas;
- working with the Australian Committee for the World Conservation Union (ACIUCN) to develop a report for the World Heritage Bureau on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area; and
- improving our understanding of the effects of large-scale disturbances such as the crown-of-thorns starfish.

Strategic Direction

Broad outcome

To ensure the natural and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are protected.

Strategic objectives

1. Ensure the natural values within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are maintained or enhanced, with particular emphasis on:
   - threatened species, the Region's unique fauna and flora, areas of high ecological value and critical habitats; and
   - the identification and protection of representative areas within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
2. Ensure the cultural values within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are maintained or enhanced, with emphasis on:
   - the cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders;
   - non-indigenous cultural heritage; and
   - the socioeconomic implications of GBRMP management actions.
3. Ensure the Authority's involvement within the Marine Park meets the obligations of the World Heritage Convention and other relevant international obligations (including the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, Ramsar and UNCLOS).

Threatened Species

The Authority is one of a number of agencies involved in identifying threats and coordinating and facilitating conservation programs for threatened species. In recent years, dugongs, turtles and whales have been priority conservation tasks.

There is a strong inter-agency approach to the management of such species, together with continuous assessment of their status and management.

Performance Analysis

Dugong Recovery and Conservation

Major efforts were undertaken aimed at dugong conservation.

- **Surveillance and enforcement**
  - coordinated the use of an additional $235 000 to enhance surveillance and enforcement actions in Dugong Protection Areas (DPAs)

- **Public awareness and education**
  - established a dugong web site (3213 queries to 30 June 99, an average of 10 per day)
  - printed waterproof vessel stickers with the message 'Go slow for marine animals'
  - updated kits of dugong information and individual brochures on each DPA
  - ran peak-time television community messages urging conservation of dugongs
  - liaised on revised ramp signs for Hinchinbrook DPA showing vessel transit lanes.

- **Research**
  - a Dugong Research Strategy was finalised and accepted by the GBR Ministerial Council as a guide for future funding of dugong research
  - contracts for a combined value of $250 000 were let for studies of dugong mortality in shark nets, development of a manual for dugong necropsies, study of seasonal distribution in dugongs, surveys of seagrass in the remaining three un-surveyed Zone 'A' DPAs and in three Zone 'B' DPAs, development of methods to estimate absolute abundance of dugongs, and to document Aboriginal knowledge of dugong ecology and behaviour.

- **Review**
  - one major report was submitted to the GBR Ministerial Council and another commenced on behalf of government agencies regarding implementation of measures for dugong recovery and conservation.

Turtle Conservation

The Authority initiated development of a Marine Turtle Conservation Policy for the Marine Park. Initial discussions were held with Q.EPA, scientists and Indigenous groups, and 7000 letters were distributed to stakeholders and interested individuals. In addition, advice was provided regarding applications for permits for traditional hunting of turtles. Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) will be mandatory on all trawl nets within the World Heritage Area by March 2000.

Whale and Dolphin Conservation

A draft Whale and Dolphin Conservation Policy was released for public comment in November 1998 following considerable consultation with stakeholders, individuals and organisations. The policy was also advertised and released on the Authority's web site (1579 queries were received to 30 June 99 at an average of 6 per day). Forty comments were received and the policy was revised in the light of these comments. Advice was provided regarding applications for whale-watching permits.

Marine Animal Stranding Responses

A joint process with Q.EPA reviewed the existing procedures for handling marine animal carcass and live-stranding incidents (endorsed by GBR Ministerial Council). Among other things the joint process:

- established an e-mail reporting network for strandings;
- printed stickers advertising the marine animal stranding hotline for distribution with Queensland vessel registration certificates;
- advertised the marine animal hotline in peak television viewing times;
- proposed an expert panel to finalise determinations on 'cause of death';
- reviewed incident control systems in Q.EPA and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol regarding strandings; and
- commenced a dugong necropsy manual.

Queensland Shark Control Program (QSCP)

The Authority is concerned about the level of non-target bycatch caught in nets set under the QSCP and was a member of a review panel that reported to the Queensland Minister for Primary Industries in 1998. As a result of the review, two additional nets in the GBRWHA were replaced with drumlines in 1998/99 reducing the number of nets remaining in the WHA to ten. GBRMPA liaised extensively with the QSCP regarding its operations in the Cairns, Townsville and Mackay regions.

Seabird Conservation

GBRMPA continued to coordinate action between government agencies, scientists and interested persons regarding GBR and Coral Sea seabird monitoring, research, information sharing and management activity. During 1998/99:

- the fourth annual seabird workshop was coordinated by GBRMPA;
- a seabird monitoring strategy for the GBR was developed;
- data collection, processing and procedures were discussed;
- conservation advice was provided to various inquiries;
- 1291 queries (about 4 per day) were received to 30 June 99 on the Seabird Guidelines published by on the Authority's website; and
- a paper on GBR and Coral Sea seabird management was presented at an international conference in Africa.

Other Species and General Conservation Issues

The section made contributions to projects of other groups on general GBR species conservation issues including:

- to the Authority's State of the GBRWHA Report 1998;
- on rare and threatened species potentially affected by trawling to the Authority's Fisheries Group for consideration in preparing a report to GBR Ministerial Council; and
- in general correspondence and advice.

Considerable advice was provided to the Biodiversity Group (Environment Australia) regarding national marine species protection proposals and activities.

Liaison with Defence on Activities in the GBRWHA
GBRMPA maintained a central coordinating role in liaison with the Department of Defence regarding its activities in the GBRWHA. During the year, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage sought a commitment and timetable from Defence for the phased cessation of high explosive ordnance use in the GBRWHA.

Representative Areas

In recent years there has been a growing realisation that we should be identifying and protecting representative examples of broadscale habitats, rather than trying to preserve individual species. If we can identify habitats and then manage adequate examples as representative protected areas, these should maintain the species we hope to conserve. Many biological communities within the GBR already have high levels of protection. Others, like inshore soft-bottom communities (some of which are major trawl grounds), are poorly represented in highly protected zones.

A carefully planned, ecologically based network of highly protected representative areas will be fundamental to the effective long-term management of the GBR Marine Park and the adjoining State Marine Parks. It will ensure that marine biodiversity and World Heritage values are conserved by adequately protecting representative habitats and the ecological processes upon which species depend. It will also assist Australia's commitment to the protection of marine biodiversity and the maintenance of ecological processes through its international responsibilities and obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Heritage Convention.

By late 2000, a review of existing protective arrangements will have been completed as part of the Representative Areas Program to ensure appropriate levels of protection for all habitat types in the GBRWHA.

Performance Analysis

Considerable effort has been put towards the collation of more detailed regionalisations for the GBRWHA to supplement the existing national-scale Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia (IMCRA). Documentation from published literature has been collated and digital data sets of other regionalisations from a variety of sources obtained including:

- Bathymetry
- Marine geomorphology
- Physical oceanography
- Sediments
- Estuaries
- Climatic factors
- Wetlands
- Mangroves
- Fish distributions
- Seagrass
- Coastal landforms
- Social, economic and cultural use

Collation of such data often involved negotiation for data agreements with various organisations as well as some purchasing of contract services.

All data has been compiled into a data 'atlas' which shows in maps and in text the wide array of environmental and biological information available for developing regionalisations.

As public understanding and participation are important parts of the Representative Areas Program, a detailed Communication Strategy has been developed. A brochure on the Program and a more detailed 'Overview Document' were produced and widely distributed (over 5000 letters and brochures sent out). Similarly, a specific web site for Representative Areas was developed (1055 queries to 21 July 99 at an average of 8 per day). Presentations about the Representative Areas Program were also made to government agencies, stakeholder groups, university personnel and non-government organisations.

The Scientific Steering Group was reconvened to give scientific guidance to the Representative Areas Program and liaison has also commenced with a number of researchers undertaking a variety of socioeconomic evaluations relevant to the program.

Large Scale Perturbations

Crown-of-thorns Starfish

Crown-of-thorns starfish populations are currently very high and many mid-shelf reefs between Port Douglas and Townsville are experiencing active outbreaks. Recent monitoring has provided a clearer picture of how an outbreak develops. However, GBRMPA is still uncertain as to whether human activities increase the severity or frequency of outbreaks. Because of this, the Authority continues to maintain its policy of minimum intervention by only permitting killing or removal of crown-of-thorns by tourism operators who protect certain small areas of reef. As more research information becomes available, further management strategies may be appropriate.

Coral Bleaching

In 1997/98 surface water temperatures in many tropical seas, including the West Pacific and the Indian Oceans, were the highest ever recorded. These areas experienced substantial coral bleaching.

An extensive global experiment to assess the implications (if any) of climate change on aspects such as coral bleaching and the capacity of coral reefs to recover after bleaching, was commenced with cooperation between GBRMPA, NOAA and the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

Cultural Heritage

While the nomination for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area referred to its cultural values, the Area was not listed on the basis of its cultural heritage attributes. It is important, however, to protect, conserve and present the cultural heritage of the Area; hence there is a need to identify Indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values in the GBRWHA.

There are also benefits in developing cooperative management agreements (CMAs) in liaison with Indigenous communities within the GBRWHA and to consider the socioeconomic–cultural implications of GBRMPA management actions. GBRMPA is required by its own Regulations (s. 13 AC (4) (b)) to have regard to the need to protect the cultural and heritage values of traditional inhabitants and other people when assessing permit applications.

Performance Analysis

Two phases of awareness-raising campaigns for threatened species were completed in Indigenous communities. As a result, a number of Indigenous communities south of Cooktown have voluntarily ceased hunting dugongs until numbers have recovered to sustainable levels. Favourable discussions were also held with some communities with a view to initiating processes leading to CMAs for dugongs and hunting management.

In terms of identifying cultural values, discussions were held with researchers at James Cook University which led to a briefing paper and draft terms of reference on Cultural Landscapes. A review of the proposed methodology is being incorporated into a scoping paper and a contract will be prepared to incorporate the task into the program for the new Reef CRC.

World Heritage

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest World Heritage Area. While some of the GBR World Heritage Area lies outside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the Authority is the Commonwealth's lead agency for world heritage issues across the entire Great Barrier Reef.

Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area	347 800 km^2	Starts at low-water mark on the Queensland coast and extends seaward to the outer limit of the GBR Region.
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	339 750 km^2	Comprises 97.7% of Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area but excludes Queensland internal waters, Queensland islands and currently some 28 other exclusion areas along the coast.

The protection of world heritage values and attributes are major responsibilities of the Authority and hence are important considerations in decision-making and management practices.

Performance Analysis

A review of the recommendations in the report by Lucas et al on the *Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area* led to further consultation with a number of stakeholder groups. Many of the recommendations in the Lucas report have either been implemented, or are in the process of being implemented.

The World Heritage Bureau requested an up-to-date report on the State of Conservation of the Great Barrier Reef. An ACIUCN working group, which included representatives of GBRMPA and QPWS, prepared a report for the Bureau addressing the condition, management and threats facing the Great Barrier Reef. Discussions and meetings were also held with such bodies as the World Conservation Union and the World Heritage Centre about the state of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Commonwealth Government announced in January 1999 a proposal to add 28 inshore areas to the marine park, increasing the area of the Park by some 6 000 square kilometres. These coastal areas constitute 34 per cent of the Queensland coastline lying adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. When these areas are added to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the only parts of the World Heritage Area that will not be covered by the Marine Park will be those areas under Queensland jurisdiction (i.e. Queensland internal waters, tidal waters, parts of Queensland ports and Queensland islands).

Service Groups

The implementation of actions to address the critical issues and the overall responsibilities of the Authority is, to a large extent, achieved through the Authority's service provision sections:

- Program Delivery
- Information Support
- Corporate Services

PROGRAM DELIVERY

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is managed to ensure conservation of its natural and cultural values, and to provide for a range of opportunities for use. Management tools include zoning and management plans, permitting, impact assessment, monitoring and policy.

Strategic Direction

Broad Outcome

Program delivery supports the achievement of the broad outcomes and objectives of the four critical issues programs within the Authority.

Strategic Objectives

1. Ensure the natural values within the GBRMP are maintained or enhanced.
2. Ensure the cultural values within the GBRMP are maintained or enhanced.
3. Ensure the management of the marine park meets the obligations of the World Heritage Convention and other relevant international obligations.
4. Minimise the individual and cumulative impacts of tourism and recreation on the GBR.
5. Maintain diversity of opportunities for users of the Great Barrier Reef and minimise displacement of others.
6. Ensure minimal degradation of the GBR by water pollution.
7. Protect GBRMP values from impact of land use activities.
8. Achieve integration of fisheries and ecosystem management.

Performance Analysis

Permitting

This year 515 permits were granted for a range of activities in the Marine Park (see table 2), which was approximately 35 per cent less than for the previous year. This was largely due to the substantially lower number of tourist program permits granted this year (204) than last year (352) due to delays caused by implementation of the Plans of Management for the Cairns and Whitsundays Areas and Standard Permits. A further 62 permits were transferred during the year. Officers of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) as Delegates for the Authority for collecting, moorings and education permits, granted a total of 131 permits during the year.

Standard Permits

Major progress was achieved during the year with the completion and implementation of standard permits for tourism operations. The standard permits, coupled with the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management, are expected to contribute significantly to improving the permitting and management procedures for tourism operations within the Marine Park. The permits section and QPWS are currently working together to develop a more streamlined and efficient process for granting permits for research, traditional hunting, and the small proportion of complex tourism operations not covered by standard permits.

Native Title Act

Some delays in processing permit applications were experienced as a result of the 1998 Amendment to the Native Title Act which requires that relevant traditional owners, native title claimants and advisory bodies be notified of proposed Commonwealth actions (including permits) that may affect their native title interests. Significant resources were diverted to the development and implementation of Native Title Notification procedures within the permitting process.

Cairns and Whitsundays Plans of Management

Significant progress has been achieved in the implementation of the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management, including the establishment of a procedure for processing applications by tourist operators to operate above the limitations of the Plans based on established patterns of historical use.

Impact Assessment

The impact assessment group completed 22 environmental impact assessments for proposed major projects in the Marine Park. Permissions granted included two sea dumping permits, one permit for farming of marine resources, three permits for tourist facilities and four permits for offshore structures (see table 2).

The Authority continued its role as lead agency for Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area issues. On behalf of the Commonwealth environment portfolio, it coordinated and provided responses to Commonwealth, State and Local Government agencies for approval processes for major projects in areas within or adjacent to the World Heritage Area.

Significant projects considered in and adjacent to the Marine Park and World Heritage Area during 1998/99 included Port Hinchinbrook, Nelly Bay Harbour, Keswick Island, Stuart Oil Shale Mining, and several mariculture and aquaculture proposals.

The Authority has also invested considerable resources in recovering Freedom of Information documents, undertaking an advocacy role in the review of decisions through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, and addressing legal, ministerial and technical matters relating to proposed activities in the Marine Park and World Heritage Area. In particular, Native Title matters have, and will continue to, consume substantial resources.

Policy

Some progress has been made on the development of policies relating to the management and control of impacts in the Marine Park, and the jetty policy is now close to completion. Liaison with the CRC Reef Research Centre regarding the engineering requirements for pontoons in the Marine Park continued this year. Progress on developing these policies has been delayed due to more urgent priorities, particularly the need to develop and implement Native Title Notification procedures.

Environmental Management Charge

This was the first full operational year following the increase of the Environmental Management Charge (EMC) to $4.00 on 1 April 1998. In 1998/99 the amount received from the Charge was $5 480 928.

A compliance advice consultancy was undertaken and the subsequent report confirmed that the increase and its budgetary significance to the Authority required the development of a compliance strategy. Continuing development and implementation of strategies to measure and ensure compliance will be a high priority for 1999/2000.

The new EMC logbooks, designed to take account of concessions and exemptions provided in the EMC regulations, also provides for collection of data requested by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on visitation to one Queensland Marine Park in the Cairns Area.

The EMC Management Unit is consequently responsible for the reef visitor database that records patterns of usage by tourism operators in the Marine Park. Further, an amalgamated QFMA/GBRMPA logbook for fishing charter operations is currently being trialed and, if successful, will be extended to apply to all joint clients. The tourism usage database is an increasingly valuable resource for Marine Park managers, planners and scholars.

Table 2. *Permits granted since 1995-96 for activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*

PERMIT TYPE	NUMBER GRANTED 1995/96	1995/97	1997/98	1998/99
Tourist Program	343	311	352	204
Inc aircraft operations	13	14	11	5
Inc cruise ship operations	4	6	4	10
Research Programs	227	160	152	105
Education Programs	66	44	46	63
Moorings	4	35	25	1
Collecting	127	60	54	69
Traditional Hunting	23	57	52	35
Farming of Marine Resources	0	2	1	1
Sea Dumping	2	0	0	2
Offshore Structures	7	17	14	3
Removal of Dangerous Animals	13	14	12	5
Waste Discharge	4	8	6	1
Tourist Facilities	5	6	8	3
Other Activities	16	40	57	23
Total Permits Granted	854	774	794	515

Planning

Statutory planning projects have been undertaken to address both short- and long-term management issues in areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Cairns and Whitsundays Areas

Plans of Management for the Cairns Area and Whitsundays, which were gazetted on 22 June 1998, have been progressively implemented which has involved refining some provisions of the plans. The provisions of the plans will be fully in force in 1999/2000.

Hinchinbrook Area

Work has continued on the Regional Management Plan for the Hinchinbrook area. This area is renowned for its wilderness qualities and the adjacent Port Hinchinbrook integrated resort proposal. The plan will incorporate a statutory plan of management for the Hinchinbrook area of the Marine Park. Interim management arrangements are in place and will continue until the plan is implemented in 2000.

Extensions to the Marine Park

Proposals for extensions to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (to include 18 of 28 currently excluded coastal areas) were prepared for consideration and discussion with the Queensland Government in June 1999.

Capricorn/Bunker Area
Planning for the Capricorn/Bunker Groups of islands, which began in late 1997, has been delayed in order to give priority to the Government's commitment to extending the Marine Park to incorporate the coastal 'excluded areas'.

Northern Section
A revised Zoning Plan, prepared as an outcome of the review of the Far Northern Section of the Marine Park, was submitted to the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage in December 1998 for his consideration in accordance with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act. The Plan awaits Ministerial acceptance.

The Section is regarded as the most remote and biologically diverse of all Marine Park Sections. The management intent is primarily the protection of biodiversity, whilst recognising the interests of Indigenous peoples, maintaining the remote and undeveloped character of the Section, and providing for ecologically sustainable use.

Gumoo Woojabuddee Section
The Gumoo Woojabuddee Section of the Marine Park is situated adjacent to the central Queensland coast in the Shoalwater Bay region, and was proclaimed in 1998 in response to the recommendations of the 1993 Commonwealth Inquiry into the Shoalwater Bay region. A Zoning Plan for the Section was released for public review on 12 March 1999. Comments on the Plan were invited from interested persons and the general public until 7 May 1999. The Plan will be finalised during 1999/2000.

Indigenous Cultural Liaison Unit

Indigenous peoples live in all towns, cities and in specific communities adjacent to the whole GBRMP coast. In total there are more than 40 recognised language groupings traditionally affiliated with the area and a significant number of people with historical association. Contemporary Indigenous peoples are attempting to retain their cultural association, values and uses in the face of increasing pressure from coastal development, rapidly increasing tourism and private recreational growth and commercial fishing.

In line with the restructure of the Authority into Critical Issue Groups, Indigenous Issues are dealt with across all the critical issues. A small Indigenous Cultural Liaison Unit (ICLU) has been maintained to provide advice and support services to Critical Issues Groups and other service delivery areas. This Unit is strategically placed within the Program Delivery section.

Representative bodies, ATSIC and Traditional Owner groups funded and developed a peak representative group (Sea Forum). In future this group, together with ATSIC and Representative Bodies, will advocate traditional owner interests and concerns to the Authority. Sea Forum, in association with ATSIC and CSIRO are developing a negotiating framework for the preparation of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement aimed at achieving Indigenous co-management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area.

Information Exchange with Indigenous Groups and Support for Critical Issue Groups

ICLU and other Authority staff attended several Sea Forum meetings to discuss Marine Park issues and Indigenous involvement in management. Staff also attended the annual Cape York Land and Sea summit to present an update on the Far Northern Section Zoning Plan review and to hear issues relating to Marine Park Management. A major issue was the involvement of Community Rangers in Marine Park management.

The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority staff commissioned a series of workshops aimed at developing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fisheries strategy for Queensland. Authority staff attended two of these meetings providing advice on Marine Park management and recording concerns raised by the meetings relating to the Marine Park. The common theme was the desire for greater involvement in Marine Park management.

A series of eight workshops was held in various centres from Hope Vale to Gladstone to discuss dugong issues and provide advice on the current situation for dugongs. The approach taken was to develop and deliver material in a training format so that Community staff could continue to deliver information throughout the year. Whilst this was successful in six areas, further work is required in the Rockhampton to Gladstone area.

Policy Development and Implementation Relevant to Indigenous Issues

At a local scale, negotiations for dugong co-management arrangements commenced in Hope Vale, Mossman and with the Girringun Elders and Reference Group in the Hinchinbrook area. The Hope Vale Community (north of Cooktown) reached a stage of having an interim draft hunting management plan developed for community consultation, the Mossman Gorge Community successfully managed a community hunting permit (for Green Turtles) and participated in seagrass and turtle research programs. The Girrungun Elders and reference group met with management agencies to negotiate involvement in day-to-day management projects around the Hinchinbrook area.

A reef-wide position paper on Indigenous involvement in dugong management commenced but did not progress as Sea Forum indicated that they wished to discuss co-management of the Marine Park rather than the specifics of dugong co-management. This matter was also overtaken by the need to develop approaches to future act notifications arising from amendments to the Native Title Act (Commonwealth).

These future act notices became an unforseen but major issue for the Authority. Native Title claimant groups and Representative Bodies expressed concern about the nature, content, timing and volume of the notices. One claimant group commenced legal proceedings over the issue of notices including a challenge to the Minister's Determination. This challenge to the Determination was lost but the matter remained before the court. The Authority commenced negotiations with the Queensland Environment Protection Agency over development of joint notifications in an attempt to rationalise notices being issued for common projects. Notifications will remain a challenge into 1999/2000.

Cross-cultural Training

ICLU staff presented lectures at two James Cook University Summer School courses and participated in training programs for delegations attending the ITMEMS conference. In-field training and support on Indigenous consultation was supplied to new Authority staff. The Unit assisted the Great Barrier Reef CRC to develop an understanding of Indigenous research issues and an approach to including Indigenous peoples' research needs into the CRC Reef Research Centre program.

INFORMATION SUPPORT

The Information Support Group works as a service group for all areas of the Authority including the Executive, the Critical Issues Groups, Corporate Services, Program Delivery and the Aquarium.

It comprises the following areas:
- Research and Monitoring Coordination
- Information Technology
- Information Coordination and Analysis
- Library Services
- Public Information and Production
- Training and Advisory Services

Strategic Direction

Broad Outcome
To ensure the Authority's policies and decisions are based on the best available information and are understood and accepted by all sectors of the community.

Strategic Objectives
1. To identify key priority areas for information and communication.
2. To ensure best scientific and technical information is available for decisions and policies of the Authority.
3. To provide information systems and services that meet the needs and priorities of the Authority and partner organisations, and achieve efficiency gains through the strategic and effective application of information technology.
4. To supply an effective and proactive library information service which meets the information needs of its clients and provides leadership in the specialist field of marine information management.
5. To promote the image of the Authority as a world class environmental agency, and to ensure that the policies and practices of the Authority are understood by all stakeholders.

Performance Analysis

Research and Monitoring Coordination (R&MC)

Commissioned Research and Provision of Professional Advice
The R&MC unit has continued to service the scientific information needs of the Authority through the management of research projects and analysis and dissemination of information gained from those projects. Important examples include provision of:
- dugong and representative areas related information to Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage Critical Issue Group including the development of a Dugong Research Strategy;
- information on visitor perceptions of impact on use and amenity from aircraft at Whitehaven Beach for Program Delivery;

- an analysis of QFMA Recreational Fishing Logbook data to report on the socio-motivational aspects of recreational fishing in the GBRWHA for the Tourism and Recreation and Fisheries Critical Issue Groups;
- relevant information on Indigenous cultural and heritage values for an assessment of the impact from proposed commercial activities in the Palm Island area for the Program Delivery Unit; and
- an updated summary of the economic value of the Great Barrier Reef.

Additional functions of the R&MC unit in this area are the continuing maintenance of the Projects Database and Consultants Register together with ongoing coordination of the Augmentative Grants program.

Research Relevant to Management

Extensive liaison with research organisations, particularly AIMS and the CRC Reef continues to be successful at directing research towards management questions.

The R&MC unit provides ongoing scientific expertise to the Research Ethics Committee through the screening of research permit applications. In this financial year, secretariat duties for this Committee have been absorbed by the Authority's Secretariat.

R&MC has been involved with encouraging post-graduate research projects within the Queensland University Department of Economics to examine the application of various economic methods to report on the economic value of the GBRWHA. The section is also working with social science researchers from ANU, JCU and Central Queensland University to provide a range of social science information that can be applied to the management of the GBRWHA.

The *Reef Research* newsletter continues to be a successful product for dissemination of information. Three issues were produced this year and a questionnaire designed to gauge interest in, and usefulness of, the newsletter has resulted in about 600 mostly positive responses from subscribers. In addition, production of research publications is a continuing task of this unit.

Monitoring Impacts of Human Use

R&MC has been involved in the development of Environmental Management Plans for two major developments in the GBR: at Keswick Island and Nelly Bay. This has involved extensive liaison with the Impact Assessment Unit.

A project was implemented to monitor boating use of the Hinchinbrook Channel. Ongoing monitoring, coordinated by the Authority but mostly carried out by QPWS, is tracking changes at coral reefs that are subject to high human use. Some of these same reefs have also provided useful information about the 1998 bleaching event.

Monitoring and Reporting on Reef Status

A major achievement in 1998/99 was the production of the *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area 1998* report. The report is the first-ever synthesis of information on the state of the environment, human pressures on the environment

and management responses to those pressures for the whole of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. This is a continuing program and the next report will be released in 2003.

A major element of the monitoring and reporting has been ongoing work associated with the coral bleaching event of early 1998. Surveys of reefs that experienced bleaching were carried out in November 1998 to determine the degree of recovery from bleaching. Sixty-seven per cent of inshore coral reefs experienced high levels of bleaching, mostly in the southern two thirds of the Great Barrier Reef. However in offshore areas, which contain about 94 per cent of the total coral reef area of the Great Barrier Reef, only 14 per cent of coral reefs experienced high levels of bleaching. Of the inshore reefs that experienced bleaching, some have recovered well with little coral mortality, while others have suffered extensive mortality. Reports indicate that offshore reefs have recovered well from the little bleaching that they experienced.

Long-term temperature monitoring is continuing throughout the Great Barrier Reef. The data from this monitoring program are being used by a newly established cooperative research team comprising staff from the Authority, AIMS and NOAA. The team is investigating links between climate change and coral bleaching. The R&MC unit has produced advice on the coral bleaching event for all levels of government, up to prime-ministerial level.

Our ability to monitor reef status has been improved by the implementation of the Eye on the Reef program. This involves volunteers from the tourism industry collecting basic reef information and reporting back to the Authority. In this way, the Authority is gaining an early warning system of events such as bleaching, crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks and algal blooms.

Information Technology

Demand on Information Technology services increased during 1998/99 as a result of the organisational restructure. Initially the increased demand was in the areas of network, infrastructure and user support as there were a number of staff changes. Training was also in higher demand than usual as new staff arrived and became familiar with corporate software. As the new Critical Issue Groups developed their programs, the demand for information system development also increased.

Increased demand and achievement of IT objectives were met through increased efficiency in use of IT financial and staff resources in the reporting period.

Assessing and Prioritising User Needs

To ensure appropriate information systems and infrastructure were maintained following the organisational restructure, a thorough IT needs analysis was undertaken. This analysis addressed the development of information systems, training and user support needs, and IT hardware and infrastructure needs. A comprehensive Information Technology Strategic Plan for the next three years was developed based on the information gained from this analysis.

An inventory of staff computer skills was undertaken and a three-month training schedule developed to address training needs. Staff participation in training was encouraged by the provision of a PC training room with PCs configured specifically for training purposes.

Effective User Support to Improve Productivity

The structure of the Information Technology Services Unit is unable to be finalised until tenders have been called and an analysis of likely savings of outsourcing has been undertaken. However, the existing structure has been fine-tuned to provide maximum flexibility and availability in user support. An inventory of all PC equipment has been undertaken to provide a basis for three-year planned upgrades.

A web-based list of Frequently Asked Questions, and the corresponding answers has been introduced. Communication with users has also been improved through the establishment of an IT Users Group and a monthly IT newsletter, which includes 'Tips and Techniques'. All of these measures have been introduced to encourage a philosophy of anticipation of user's needs, rather than just reacting to user problems.

The Intranet was redeveloped to give an improved interface and a structure which more-appropriately reflected the organisational structure.

Several existing systems were upgraded to provide more user-friendly web-based interfaces. New databases were developed to manage data relating to megafauna strandings and 'Eye on the Reef' observations.

Effective Information Systems to Meet Authority Needs

Following the IT needs analysis, required information systems development and modifications were prioritised and scoped to provide project timelines and to determine which developments would need to be outsourced due to limited resources.

Security, Upgrades and Year 2000 Issues

All computer hardware and network equipment was reviewed and tested for Year 2000 compliance. All non-compliant equipment has been replaced or upgraded.

Firewall systems to increase network security were evaluated and the recommended system was purchased in June 1999 for installation in the following financial year. Plans were developed to upgrade file and database servers over the next two years, and for all desktop equipment to be replaced in a rolling three-year program.

Rationalisation and upgrade of the network cabling was delayed pending decisions on longer-term accommodation of the Authority.

Information Coordination and Analysis (GIS)

This is the first year that the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Unit has formally existed within the Authority. Demand for GIS services is extremely high with 102 requests completed between February and June. A new server, plotter and

three NT workstations have been installed in response to the increased demand on GIS services. Training in the use of GIS software has been provided to a number of staff within the Authority to utilise the GIS capabilities and resources more effectively.

Research into and development of precision DGPS survey techniques for marine resource management has been a priority. This will ensure spatial data created by the Authority is accurate and has involved public participation with local dive operators collecting ground control point data from the reef.

Acquisition, Documentation and Storage of Information

Establishing protocols and standards for spatial data has also been a priority. External demands have increased requiring legal agreements to be implemented in order to establish where and how the Authority's digital data is being used.

Since February a request database, which includes the product register, was established in order to document and store the Authority's spatial data efficiently.

Library Services

Demand on Library Services varied considerably during 1998/99 with the second half of the year showing heavy and increasing demand on almost all library services. Demand has been building since December 1998.

A comprehensive information-needs survey of all Critical Issue groups was completed by Library staff during 1998/99 to ensure that services were still appropriate to the information needs of the new organisation. Library Services will continue to survey remaining support groups of the Authority during 1999/2000.

Demand on Library Services continues to grow under the new organisational structure. The following report shows large increases in some areas. The number of Library staff and financial resources continue to remain static, despite increasing workload and service demands.

Developing the GBRMPA Library Collection

Accessions of new material into the Library collection increased by 90 per cent in 1998/99 compared to the previous year. This new material required cataloguing and processing by current Library staff, together with a cataloguing contract being offered for two months. Staff loans increased slowly in the first half of 1998/99, but then showed a dramatic increase in the second half of the year. Overall, staff loans increased by 14 per cent compared with the previous year.

The library system, *Horizon*, continues to be reliable with less than three days down-time during 1998/99. Increased efficiencies gained through Horizon applications have allowed Library staff to better manage the increased accessioning workload.

Reference Service

Using the information-needs survey results, Library staff adjusted services and established current subject profiles on members of the Critical Issue groups. Library staff also adjusted existing ALERT and REVEAL services, and established new ones in response to new demands.

The total number of staff interlibrary loan requests for 1998/99 was slightly more than the previous year, with demand being low for the first six months, followed by exceptionally heavy demand during the second six months of 1998/99. Requests from external clients increased steadily throughout the year, with an overall 10 per cent increase in demand on the previous year.

Library Links, the library e-mail newsletter containing useful Internet applications and links, was produced six times throughout 1998/99. Client feedback has strongly supported its continuation as a useful information tool for GBRMPA staff.

Image Collection

The number of images catalogued into the collection fell by 10 per cent during this year. The low level of staff activity was also reflected in the image loans for GBRMPA staff, which also fell during the year. However, loans to external clients increased by 93 per cent this year. Revenue raised from this external use was the highest in six years. Performance indicators for the image collection service were met consistently throughout 1998/99 (i.e. three days turnaround on processing and one day working response on requests).

A brochure, *Tips for the GBRMPA photographer*, was prepared and offered to staff. A new series of web pages called *Reef Snapshots* was developed and established. These pages provide free access to dozens of colour images of the Great Barrier Reef. The images are provided for educational purposes to primary, secondary and tertiary students. Feedback from students about these new pages has so far been very positive. The site has also performed a useful promotional role for the Image Collection Services. Library Services hope to expand this service during 1999/2000.

Library Services intend to begin a small-scale archiving project of some images onto CD-ROM during 1999/2000.

REEF Bibliographic Database

GBRMPA entered into a new joint-management arrangement for the REEF database during 1998/99. The database was transferred from the National Library of Australia to RMIT Publishing and a new contract offering increased royalties to GBRMPA is being established. The technical transfer of all data was also successfully completed during the year.

The total number of bibliographic items indexed into REEF increased by 18 per cent compared to 1997/98. Successful outsourcing arrangements for bibliographic indexing continued throughout the year.

Public Information and Production

Most print-based or graphic design product was produced on schedule through this year and our general client requests have been fully met. The Production Unit undertook some 240 design and print-based jobs along with 54 cartographic jobs. A significant increase on the 190 graphic-design commissions for the previous year.

The Contacts Database continues to be upgraded and maintained by the Unit and the Unit has ensured that all products and materials in the public sphere maintain the appropriate corporate ID.

Australian Government advertising was put out to tender this year with AIS Media winning the contract. They have developed an on-line service that will eventually provide greater efficiency to advertisement placement.

Major projects were:
- The 1997/98 Annual Report;
- The VIP calendar ;
- *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area 1998;*
- Display material for the ITMEMS Conference;
- A World Heritage brochure and display poster;
- Continuing web site development; and
- The Reference File, previously referred to as the Media Reference File.

Training and Advisory Services

The transfer of the Authority's skills and knowledge to assist in management of other marine areas is an important contribution to Australia's international conservation obligations. As the range of national and global marine environmental initiatives develops, the demand for consulting services also increases. The major target of the Training and Advisory Services Unit (TASU) is the provision of training, advisory and mentoring services on a full cost-recovery basis within existing resources to support coastal and marine ecosystem management both nationally and internationally.

A number of national and international consultancies were completed or underway during 1998 this demonstrates a high level of success in making available the Authority's expertise in coastal and marine environmental management.

The International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Symposium (ITMEMS) was held in November 1998. TASU conducted two workshops for participants in association with the Symposium. These were titled 'Elements of Tropical Ecosystem Management' and 'A Practical Approach to Field Management of Protected Areas'.

Two eight-week training programs for Rangers from the Ras Mohammed National Park, Egypt, were also conducted in association with ITMEMS.

Consultancies

Consultancy services in 1998/1999 focused on training and mentoring. These included:
- conducting a 'Training Course in Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas' sponsored by the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD);
- providing strategic planning assistance to Ha Long Bay Management Department, Vietnam through Environment Australia's International Conservation Program; and
- assisting the Department of Marine and Wildlife, American Samoa with the removal of eight fishing vessels which were blown on to the reef in 1991 during Hurricane Val.

In association with James Cook University, TASU delivered Masters-level university courses in Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Management of Marine Protected Areas. Training materials for these and other courses were adapted to meet client needs.

Establishment of marine protected area systems was supported through a number of consultancies. MPA pilot projects have been successfully designed and funded in Samoa and Vietnam with a third project close to completion in Tanzania. This work is part of the Global Representative System of Marine Protected Areas project undertaken jointly by IUCN, GBRMPA and the World Bank.

Technical assistance and project management continued for the Ocean Rescue 2000 National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas program. However this was discontinued during this year due to reallocation of staff to priority Great Barrier Reef programs.

The provision of secretariat services to the International Coral Reef Initiative has supported further development of global coral reef conservation measures. The inaugural International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium was held in Townsville in November 1998. This symposium was a success and was instrumental in promoting the Authority's expertise internationally. A 'Renewed Call to Action' for this symposium was produced by the Authority in April 1999 and the proceedings for the entire symposium are currently under production.

Official visits

There were a number of official visits during the period, including delegates from India, Japan, Canada, United Kingdom and South Africa as well as Australian academics and officials.

The visits provided exposure to a variety of management aspects relating to marine park management and included hosting a South African Ministerial party visiting Australia to study environmental management and tourism marketing of World Heritage Sites, advising a Canadian delegation on a range of issues relating to marine park management and the various levels of governments involved, and encouraging scientific and technological collaboration between Japan and Australia.

Future directions

The section now comes under the direction of the information support group and looks forward to collaborating with its partners in providing the authority's expertise internationally and nationally.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Ensuring that the Authority has appropriate resources and support to achieve its objectives is a continuing priority. The effective use of resources relies on integrated, flexible and efficient systems and practices for the management of human, physical and financial resources.

Strategic Direction

Broad Outcome

To deliver an organisational management framework that facilitates effective functioning of the Authority.

Strategic Objectives

1. To achieve a corporate planning and financial management framework which is efficient and provides timely, flexible and easily accessible decision support systems to managers and staff.
2. To achieve a human resource management framework which supports the achievement of corporate objectives by attracting, developing and retaining individuals within an environment which promotes accountability and equity and encourages innovation, creativity and improved performance.
3. To ensure a safe working environment and an adequate standard of accommodation and office equipment.
4. To provide ongoing corporate services which are benchmarked to appropriate standards and responsive to organisational needs.

Performance Analysis

Major Achievements

- An organisational structure based upon the key challenges facing the Great Barrier Reef was put in place.
- Staffing and recruitment action associated with the establishment of the new structure was completed.
- An alignment of the structure and the planning and financial reporting framework was undertaken.
- An accrual-based budget was prepared for 1999/2000 in accordance with Government policy.
- An accrual-based accounting framework was introduced and financial reports were prepared in accordance with Department of Finance and Administration guidelines.
- A Certified Agreement was developed, negotiated and approved for period 1998–2000.
- A performance and development management scheme was developed and implemented.
- A package of corporate procedures and instructions was developed and promulgated to authority staff.

Funding

The Environmental Management Charge was increased in early 1998 and the full year impact of the increase was realised in 1998/99. The Authority was less dependent upon Commonwealth appropriations than it has been in previous years and it is apparent that future income will be susceptible to fluctuations in visitations to the reef. A review of compliance with Environment Management Charge statutory requirements, which was undertaken in the second half of 1998, recommended the introduction of a control framework. Planning for the introduction of the review recommendations was undertaken during 1998/99.

Resource Management

The Authority has re-aligned the program structure to report on outcomes and, in particular, the quality and quantity of the various outputs and sub-outputs produced. The output groups developed for the 1999-2000 portfolio budget statements provide a sound appreciation of the focus of the Authority's activities.

The implementation of changes flowing from the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 has improved corporate governance through a range of reporting and accountability mechanisms.

Payroll Services

It was decided that, in line with the strategic approach adopted elsewhere in the Commonwealth Public Service, a service level agreement for the provision of payroll services through a bureau would be developed. The procurement of payroll services through a bureau will eliminate the need to purchase and operate a human resource management system within the Authority.

Employee Development

Strategically targeted employee education and development has been enhanced through the introduction of the performance and development management scheme. This scheme identifies competency gaps that should be addressed through the Authority's strategic development plan. This approach will increase employee and organisational competence and result in improved performance.

Due to the 1998/99 restructure, this reporting period saw less training and related activity than in previous years. The Authority plans to continue to commit appropriate funds to resource development activities and these are likely to increase over the next 12 months.

The Authority's commitment to consultative management practices was reinforced through the creation of the Authority Consultative Committee (ACC). This was an important initiative emanating from the Certified Agreement. The ACC meets quarterly to address a range of management issues and provides valuable input to management decision making.

Equal Employment Opportunity and Workplace Diversity

Continued implementation and application of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) plan remained an important priority for the management of the Authority. The principles of workplace diversity were also addressed during this period. The

Authority developed and conducted a workplace diversity survey and reviewed the outcomes of the current EEO plan, with the intention of developing and implementing a Workplace Diversity Plan in early 1999/2000.

Occupational Health and Safety

The Occupational Health and Safety Committee (OH&S) functioned effectively during the year. This committee made a significant contribution to the achievement of workplace safety objectives. Comprehensive dive procedures were developed to enhance the safety of staff working in the field and will be implemented early in 1999/2000. Comcare conducted an audit of OH&S management and were able to provide some valuable recommendations that will be considered carefully during the coming year.

Accommodation

Negotiations on the provision of long-term office accommodation for the Authority in Townsville continued. It is now likely that an agreement will be reached during the next couple of months. The rationale for operating a separate office in Canberra was reviewed and alternative cost-effective options for delivering the associated services are currently under consideration.

Access and Equity

The reform process commenced by the Minister of the Environment in March 1998 continued and the new structure with a clearer focus on the objectives of the Authority was put in place.

During the year nominations were sought for Resource Advisory Committees, which will focus on the critical issues and provide valuable input to decision making in these important areas.

Planning for the establishment of Local Marine Advisory Committees is also in an advanced stage. Once established, these Committees will provide access at the regional/local level, facilitating an opportunity for local people to identify issues and to have input to the development of policy responses to the problems facing the marine park.

The importance of the Authority's relationship with Indigenous people is reflected by the Indigenous Cultural Liaison Unit. All major planning exercises for the Marine Park include processes for consultation with Indigenous communities. During 1998/99 the major focus for consultation was on development and delivery of conservation programs relating to dugongs and turtles. The Authority continued to develop the Gumoo Woojabuddee Section zoning plan, which included the involvement of the Darumbal people.

Internal and External Scrutiny

Pacific Bridge Pty Ltd provided internal audit services to the Authority during 1998/99. In line with the Government's increased focus on accountability and corporate governance, audit activity concentrated on areas of high risk and the adequacy of existing control frameworks.

New contracts for the provision of internal audit and evaluation services were signed with Pacific Bridge Pty Ltd and Audit Victoria. By developing and utilising these contractual arrangements, the Authority will be able to secure very capable and efficient compliance and performance audit services.

The external audit of the Authority's 1998/99 Financial Statements was undertaken by Arthur Andersen, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office.

The main report concerning the Authority tabled during 1998/99 was the Auditor-General's report of the Financial Statements of Commonwealth Entities for 1997/98 (Audit Report No. 20 of 1998/99).

Audit Report No. 33 of 1997/98 (also referred to in Audit Report No. 6 of 1998/99), that addressed Commonwealth management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, remained a focus of attention for the Authority. The Audit Committee was mindful of the recommendations made in this report and took steps to facilitate the implementation of these recommendations.

During 1998/99 there were no external reviews which related specifically to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Human resource management decision making by the Authority was sound during 1998/99. This was evidenced by the fact that there were no appeals relating to appealable selection processes and there were no comments made by the Commonwealth Ombudsman in relation to human resource management activities. There was, however, one external review of a non-appealable selection. This review resulted in the reviewing authority upholding the Authority's decision and the process by which the decision was reached. There were no other external reviews of human resource management decisions during the period.

Table 3. Financial and Staffing Resources Summary

	Actual 1997-98 $('000)	Actual 1998-99 $('000)
BUDGETARY (CASH) BASIS		
Operational & Program Expenditure		
Authority Operations	14 540	15 332
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	2 446	2 725
Day-to-day Management	8 005	8 193
Total Gross Expenditure	**24 991**	**26 250**
less Revenue	7 641	8 575
variation in cash on hand	846	282
Total Appropriations	**18 196**	**17 957**
less adjustments	3 065	5 485
Total Outlays	**15 131**	**12 472**
ACCRUAL BASIS		
Net Cost of Service Delivery	17 499	18 607
Revenues from Commonwealth Government	18 716	17 812
Surplus/(Deficit) of net cost of services over revenues from Government	1 461	(795)
Total Assets	15 982	7 190
Total Liabilities	4 604	5 096
Total Equity	11 378	2 094
STAFFING full time equivalent at 30 June		
Staff FTE (including Aquarium)	144.0	135.6

Notes to Table 3.

The Authority's Financial Statement, included at appendix P, are prepared on an accrual accounting basis. Payments to the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund of receipts collected from the environmental management charge have been excluded from the cash based figures. The Special Appropriation is included as Appropriation but excluded from Outlays. Reasons for variations between cash and accrual based figures include the inclusion of unfunded charges in the Operating Statement, the accrual of revenue and expense items and expenditure on assets being capitalised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Marine Parks Management Program

field management of the Marine Park is achieved through a partnership between the Authority and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). The Marine Parks Management Group is a specialist team established to implement management of marine parks and island national parks within the Great Barrier Reef Region. This work is supported by arrangements with other agencies for provision of aerial surveillance, compliance and enforcement services.

Strategic Direction

Ensuring that there is effective and efficient marine parks management is a continuing priority for the Authority in partnership with QPWS. Demands on the Marine Parks Management Program continue to increase in direct proportion to the increasing use of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The challenge is to find innovative ways to maintain high standards for core programs such as resource protection, compliance and education, while re-allocating resources as necessary to address emerging priorities.

The desired outcome is to provide a cost-effective, coordinated and accountable program of activities to achieve effective marine parks management through:

- conducting activities that are required to protect natural and cultural resources;
- conducting compliance and enforcement activities;
- providing community education on conservation and wildlife matters; and
- providing appropriate community services and facilities to support environmentally sustainable, nature-based Park visitation.

Performance Analysis

Program Management

Funding for marine parks management has remained constant since 1995 however costs and demands on the program have increased significantly. For example, the average labour cost has increased by 34 per cent since 1995 and additional tasks have been added to the program. Such tasks include: management of Trinity Inlet Marine Park (4 staff, $183 000 per annum), maintenance of new public moorings and reef protection markers ($130 000 per annum), enhanced emphasis on dugong protection ($300 000), native title permit notification requirements ($125 000 per annum), and Aboriginal community ranger program ($100 000). The completion of the Queensland Government's three-year supplementary funding for capital

replacement and community ranger programs required adjustments to the program to accommodate a range of activities that had previously been externally funded.

A number of program adjustments were made in order to accommodate the new program priorities. Adjustments included a reduction in the target levels for vessel patrols and aerial surveillance flights and deferral of the replacement of vessels and associated equipment. Action was also commenced to wind down Aboriginal community ranger programs that had previously been supported by external funding.

A Day-to-day Management Coordination Unit has been set up jointly by GBRMPA and QPWS in view of the need to address the resourcing issues and concerns to ensure the most effective coordination and accountability for the Marine Parks Management Program. The Unit is based in Townsville and replaces the former, separate Day-to-day Management Liaison Unit of the Authority, and the Brisbane-based Marine Parks Management Group. This has resulted in improved Program coordination and a reduction in the level of staffing in comparison to the previous arrangements. Comprising eight staff, four of whom are Authority employees and four are employed by QPWS, the Unit became fully operational in January 1999. The Unit reports to the Marine Parks Strategy Group comprising executive staff of the Authority and QPWS.

A new 18-metre vessel, the *Reef Heron*, was brought on line at the commencement of the Program. This vessel provides the capacity to service the very busy area of the Marine Park, and major tourism destinations, offshore from Cairns.

Resource Management and Monitoring

Public mooring buoys and no-anchoring markers have been installed and maintained at key sites in the Whitsundays, offshore Cairns and the Brook Islands to minimise the impacts of vessels dropping anchors on coral. Weed and feral animal control was undertaken on several islands within the World Heritage Area. The harder task of eradication is achieved where possible and feral chickens have been eradicated in 1998/99 from the important seabird breeding cay of North West Island. Work began on a major vegetation management plan for Lady Elliott Island. Procedures for the retrieval and necropsy of dugong carcasses have been refined and a project investigating the pathology of dugongs was undertaken.

A modest monitoring program has been maintained, aimed at assisting the effectiveness of management actions within the Marine Parks program. For example, one study proved the effectiveness of the provision and enforcement of a National Park zone to protect the icon fish species that make the Yongala shipwreck one of the world's premier dive sites. Another study showed the effectiveness of a bund wall in restoring the lagoon of Heron Island that had been damaged by a boat access channel draining its water at low tide. The seabird monitoring strategy was revised to ensure key seabird populations, and their role as indicators of the health of the marine environment, are effectively monitored.

Compliance

Marine Parks officers conducted 1457 days of vessel patrols and 440 hours of aerial surveillance in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park over the past twelve months. An additional 366 person days of marine parks-related vessel patrols were conducted by the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP). The Queensland Water Police, QPWS and QBFP investigated 230 reported Marine Park infringements during the year, leading to 53 court actions and fines totalling $47 000. The number of infringements detected is a reduction of 32 per cent on the infringements detected in the previous twelve months. This lower level of detected infringements is believed to be a result of the reduced patrol and surveillance activity.

Aerial surveillance undertaken by the Australian Customs as part of their Coastwatch operation continued to provide regular coverage of the Reef, focusing on the protected national park and preservation zones. Coastwatch provided approximately 600 flights over the Great Barrier Reef, of which 35 were dedicated to Marine Parks work. Coastwatch provided reports of 17 marine parks infringements that were passed on to Marine Parks enforcement officers for follow-up action.

Provision of an additional $230 000 by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council allowed Marine Parks inspectors to conduct over 770 days of vessel patrols and 212 hours of aerial surveillance in Dugong Protection Areas (DPAs). This effort resulted in a total of 65 breaches being prosecuted and 80 cautions issued, however, most dealt with matters not relating to DPA provisions (i.e. relating to vessel licence provisions, line fishing in closed areas etc.) Feedback from the inspectors suggests that the combination of public awareness programs and increased patrolling has provided an effective deterrent, with a relatively low level of non-compliance with DPA provisions as evidenced by there being only one prosecution for DPA-related netting infringement. The fact that no dugong deaths occurred that were attributable to netting in DPAs also suggests that the enforcement program has been effective in relation to netting, although the removal of 35 unattended nets is evidence that vigilance is still required.

Visitor Facilities and Services

The Marine Parks Management Program continued to maintain an extensive range of visitor services and facilities including publications, information centres at key locations, signage at access points (airports, boat ramps etc.) and in the parks, walking tracks and camp grounds on approximately 55 Great Barrier Reef islands, and reef protection markers and moorings in high-use areas. In addition to the recurrent workload of maintaining these services and facilities, achievements through the year included:

- installation of a further 25 public moorings in the Whistunday and Brook Islands groups;
- commencement of work to protect Watson's Cottage at Lizard Island and to improve visitor access to this historic site;
- 'work for the dole' funding which enabled over-due maintenance and upgrading of walking tracks at Magnetic Island;
- obtaining natural disaster relief funding to repair storm damage to walking tracks in the Whitsunday, Family and Hinchinbrook Islands. Work will continue into 1999/2000; and
- completion of new toilet facilities at Considine Beach, North Keppel Island.

Community volunteers have been making an invaluable contribution to Marine Parks management for many years, and this continued over the past twelve months. Significant achievements include:

- volunteers undertaking weed control, monitoring nesting birds and turtles and providing guidance to campers and other visitors on ways to assist with conservation of the Capricorn and Bunker islands;
- volunteers at Airlie Beach and in the Whitsunday Islands assisting with the running of the visitor information centre and undertaking monitoring, while the Order of Underwater Coral Heroes (OUCH) continued to survey reefs and maintain reef protection (no anchoring) markers;
- volunteers in the Townsville area undertaking monitoring, particularly in relation to shorebirds; and
- the Low Isles Preservation Society (LIPS) obtaining funding to install and operate a solar energy system at Low Isles and continuing to undertake a range of activities to support Marine Parks operations in the Port Douglas area.

Future Outlook

Program adjustments will be implemented in 1999/2000 to ensure that priorities such as vessel patrols are returned to more acceptable levels. The funding for the Program in 1999/2000 will also be improved with a commitment by the Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage and Natural resources to provide agreed funds to match Commonwealth appropriation. In addition, the funding will be improved through supplementary Commonwealth funding to partially offset the introduction of accrual budgeting. An additional $3.4 million of Commonwealth funding over three years for surveillance and enforcement will also be available from 1999/2000, and will be used to undertake targeted enforcement programs and to introduce improved surveillance technology.

The highest priority areas for the Program will be:

1. Resource Protection
   - Protection of key areas for vulnerable species (e.g. DPAs and turtle and seabird nesting sites).
   - Compliance with protected areas requirements (e.g. marine zoning and national park legislation).
   - Essential works for protection of key high use sites, including anchor damage, cultural site protection and facilities to protect high usage sites.
   - Priority feral animal and weed control and burning programs.

2. Public information necessary to support the above.

3. Maintenance of essential management infrastructure and priority visitor facilities.

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium

a community that understands the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area, and supports the protection of its natural and cultural values, is essential to effective management.

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium continues to provide efficient and effective education and visitor services as Australia's premier reef education centre. As part of the restructure of the Authority, the role of the Aquarium as the key element of the Authority's education and communications programs has been reinforced.

Strategic Direction

The Aquarium is focusing on the implementation of a comprehensive repositioning strategy. This strategy involves significant product development to meet the needs of visitors in the increasingly competitive tourism industry and strengthening its position as the Reef Education Centre for the Authority. Product development will concentrate on improvements in the visitor experience namely exhibitions that reflect the key issues facing the Great Barrier Reef, visitor services, interpretive presentations and special interest programs. Education programs are being developed for international launch via the world wide web and video conference facilities. Alliances with other environmental management agencies are being strengthened to maximise educational opportunities.

Performance Analysis

Awards

The Aquarium won the 1999 Townsville North Queensland Tourism Award for Retail Services and a special commendation in the category of Significant Regional Attraction and General Tourism Services. The Aquarium was also a finalist at the Queensland Tourism Awards in the category of Significant Regional Attraction. These awards acknowledge business excellence and contribution to the development of the tourism industry. Endorsement from the tourism industry helped promote both the facility and the reef.

Business Performance

During 1998/99 considerable effort was concentrated on improving business performance. Market research conducted in previous years identified the segments with growth potential and the need to reposition. The operating surpluses from

previous years were invested in the launch of a new brand and image for the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium as Reef HQ in August 1999. New exhibits, services and programs were developed to complement the new brand and an integrated promotional campaign was implemented to build the brand.

Education

The Aquarium's Education Program played a major role in raising awareness and knowledge of the Reef within the formal education sector and maintaining existing and developing new programs and activities in 1998/99. Total student numbers undertaking Aquarium Education Programs exceeded 10 000 which is a 26 per cent increase on last year and represents some 30 per cent of students in the Northern Statistical District[2].

A major initiative, Reef Videolinq, was developed in partnership with TAFE Queensland and Education Queensland to provide school programs relevant to the critical issues of managing the Great Barrier Reef to students in coastal and remote areas of Queensland. It also has the potential to be expanded nationally and internationally.

Other new initiatives such as *Reef Play*, targeted at the play group market for children aged 18 months to 5 years, and *Science by the Sea*, an after school science club for Grade 10 students, were operational for most of the year.

Exhibits and Exhibit Development

The primary focus for exhibit development during the year was the design and construction of two new exhibit galleries aimed at interpreting issues related to managing the Great Barrier Reef. The first gallery is due to open in August 1999.

In response to increasing visitor interest in 'behind-the-scenes' operations, the Aquarium commissioned a new facility, *The Sea Turtle Centre*. The Sea Turtle Centre houses the Aquarium's marine turtle husbandry, research and rehabilitation programs and permits visitor access in the form of regular, daily guided tours.

The Aquarium's research and conservation programs were again recognised internationally. Twelve research interns from around the world were provided supervision in a wide range of projects as part of the Intern Program. These included captive breeding research, reinforcing the Aquarium's commitment to conservation and sustainability. The efforts have been rewarded with success in breeding hard corals, anemonefish, spiny chromis and seahorses. Some of these species are considered to be extremely difficult to breed, particularly seahorses. However, seahorses have been bred to second generation in the Aquarium.

Public Programs

The following public programs were held throughout the year.

- The Aquarium hosted *Fascinating Science* — a touring exhibition from Questacon — with assistance from Visions Australia.
- School holiday programs were developed to complement both community and Aquarium exhibit themes.

[2] Local Government Areas Statistical Summary Queensland 1993. Catalogue Number 1306.3. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1993.

- *The Great Ocean Science Show* extended the touring exhibit theme and National Science Week.
- The *Lucky T Turtle Show* complemented the opening of the Sea Turtle Centre and the turtle hatching season.
- *The Ghost of the Yongala* — an underwater dive show combined with a theatrical presentation — developed the theme of maritime history and the need to protect wreck sites on the Great Barrier Reef.

Marketing and Promotions

The Aquarium continued to cooperatively market North Queensland as a tourist destination. The primary target was the travel trade, with product presentations made at the inbound, wholesale and retail level. With twelve other Townsville operators, the Aquarium launched its new brand – Reef HQ as a new product at the Australian Tourism Exchange (Australia's premier international tourism trade event) and targeted special interest markets such as educational travel and eco-tourism. Promotional activities complemented the North Queensland Tourism Strategy by targeting self-drive, regional families with school-aged children and seniors markets. Market research projects were undertaken by interns and these analysed performance in the backpacker market as well as the effectiveness of the Aquarium voucher distribution system used as a selling tool with commercial accommodation providers.

reefHQ
The world's best living reef experience

The new name and logo for the Aquarium after 18 August 1999.

Community Support

Volunteers continue to play a crucial role in Aquarium operations with 26 000 annual service hours ensuring cost-effective delivery of programs. The role of the Aquarium Volunteer Association has been expanded with the streaming of volunteers in education, curatorial, function, promotion, visitor services and administrative support groups. Administrative changes introduced by the executive of the Association have ensured continuity of volunteer management providing greater surety for the 5-year planning horizon of the Aquarium.

An extension of the volunteer program — Aquarium Intern Program — continued to grow and provided opportunities for recent Australian and international graduates to participate in science, education and business development projects to mutual benefit.

Targeting the local population through the Membership Program was maintained with some 8000 members in the Townsville region representing 6 per cent of the population. The membership renewal rate for 1997-98 was maintained at 42 per cent.

Trading Environment

The Aquarium's immediate trading environment was affected considerably by the closure for redevelopment of the adjacent major attraction: the Museum of Tropical Queensland. Ticketed visitation to the Aquarium fell marginally compared to the

previous year while the total number of visitors remained stable at 123 937. The Museum will re-open in June 2000 once construction of its new facility is completed and this is expected to increase market opportunity.

Non-admissions revenue-generating programs received increased effort during the year. The performance of the Aquarium Shop improved in spite of the adverse trading conditions and exceeded original revenue projections to produce record revenue for the third year in succession.

Total non-admissions revenue (excluding appropriation) for the year was equivalent to 71 per cent of ticket sales.

In all, despite extremely adverse trading conditions during the year, the Aquarium achieved a cost recovery from self-generated revenue of 76 per cent.

Financial Report Summary

details of the Authority's financial operations are provided in the Financial Statements at appendix O. An overview of the Authority's financial operations follows.

The operating expense of managing the Marine Park in 1998/99 was $25.7 million, an increase of 2 per cent from 1997/98. Employee expenses increased due to separation payments associated with the restructure of the Authority and the implementation of the Agency Certified Agreement. Expenses for suppliers were similar whilst the depreciation expense reduced. Payments to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for day-to-day management of the Marine Park increased in line with the funding from the contribution of the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments.

Revenues from independent sources were less than in 1997/98 due to fewer externally funded activities. As a result of increased operating expenses and reduced independent revenues, the Net Cost of Services increased.

Total appropriation for 1998/99 was less than in 1997/98 reflecting the reduction in Operational Appropriation and the Special Appropriation from collection of the environmental management charge (EMC) which was below budget estimates.

The operating deficit for the year, before the Extraordinary Item, was $795 526 drawing on funds carried over from the previous year to meet commitments. It takes into account the one-off nature of significant events in 1998/99 including the restructure of the organisation and the preparations for relaunching the Aquarium as Reef HQ.

An extraordinary item of $2 968 371 is included in relation to a change in policy to not accounting for the Aquarium as an asset in the Authority's Financial Statements.

An accumulated surplus of $489 665 is recorded. This reflects the reversal of the Aquarium entries and carry over of funds to meet ongoing commitments.

Liabilities increased due to a loan to cover the separation expenses and partial prepayment of the 1999/2000 Queensland contribution to the day-to-day management program. Receivables from the Commonwealth are consistent with 1997/98 reflecting the accrual of the Special Appropriation. Other receivables have been reduced following changes in the provision of payroll services which no longer require the maintenance of a salary advance with the Department of Finance.

The outcome of the 1998/99 Financial Year will be taken into account in revising the 1999/2000 Authority Budget. Subsequent events, which are included as Notes in the Financial Statements, are the arrangements for the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the office accommodation lease. The Authority will have material financial commitments to both items.

Appendices

APPENDIX A

LEGISLATION

Continental Shelf (Living Natural Resources) Act 1968
Seas and Submerged Lands Act 1973
Environmental Protection (Impact of Proposals)Act 1974
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975
National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975
Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 (Cth)
Great Barrier Reef Amendment Act 1978
Coastal Waters (State Powers) Act 1980
Coastal Waters (State Title) Act 1980
Environmental Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981 (Cth)
Marine Parks Act 1982 (Qld)
Great Barrier Reef Amendment Act 1983
Protection of the Sea (Pollution from Ships) Act 1983 (Cth)
World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983 (Cth)
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Act 1988
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Act 1990
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Act 1991
Fisheries Management Act 1991 (Cth)
Queensland Heritage Act 1992 (Qld)
Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)
Endangered Species Act 1992 (Cth)
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Act 1993
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge — General) Act 1993
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge — Excise) Act 1993
Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993 (Qld)
Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld)
Fisheries Act 1994 (Qld)
Native Title Act 1994 (Cth)
Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 (Qld
Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995 (Qld)
Planning and Environmental Assessment Bill 1995 (Qld)
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 amended to create a part-time position within the Authority to represent the interests of the Aboriginal communities adjacent to the Marine Park.
Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997

APPENDIX B

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE OBJECTIVE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

Objective

The objective of the Audit Committee is to ensure that the Authority maintains a high standard of management, both corporate and financial, and achieves its outcomes in accordance with its business strategy and strategic plans whilst carrying out its responsibilities under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Powers and Functions

The functions and responsibilities of the Audit Committee are to:

1) help the Authority and its members to comply with obligations under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997;
2) provide a forum for communication between members, the senior managers of the Authority and the internal and external auditors of the Authority;
3) review the risk management strategy and fraud control plans of the Authority to ensure they remain current and focus on the areas of greatest risk;
4) review and endorse the internal audit strategic and annual work plans;
5) assess the external audit strategy to ensure it addresses all significant business and other risks;
6) as far as practicable, coordinate internal and external audit programs;
7) review all audit reports involving matters of concern, follow-up implementation of recommendations and provide advice to the board of the Authority on action to be taken for matters raised by internal, or external audit;
8) review the Authority's accounting policies and disclosures in the annual financial statements and other disclosures in the Annual Report;
9) review any other externally published financial information prior to release;
10) monitor developments and changes in legislation and government policy in terms of their possible impact on the responsibility and liability of the Authority, its members and officers;
11) in addition to the specific advice functions at 7) above, advise the board of the Authority in regard to any matter relating to its other functions, as it considers necessary or is directed to by the Authority;
12) review any activity of the Authority to achieve the Committee's objectives.

APPENDIX C

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.

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.

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

The three-year appointments by the Minister of most of the members listed below took effect on 4 December 1997. Mr David Mazitelli, Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Tourism, resigned on 30 January 1998. The Minister then appointed Mr Crick, from that Department, for three years commencing 19 February 1998. Sir Sydney Schubert's three-year appointment took effect on 17 April 1998. Dr Ian McPhail, the Authority's appointee, commenced as member on 22 February 1995.

Membership as at 30 June 1999

Mr H R (Harry) Bonanno	Queensland Cane Growers Council
Cr G J (Greg) Breckell	Local Government Association of Queensland Inc
Mrs I F (Irene) Butterworth	Girudala Council of Elders (Whitsundays)
Mr R (Robert) Crick	Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Tourism
Mr C A (Colin) Earle	Queensland Game Fishing Association Inc
Mr A W (Tony) Fontes	Whitsunday Coastal Advisory Committee
Mr E J (Eddie) Hegerl	Australian Marine Conservation Society Inc
Mrs B L (Bernice) Kelly	Direct Employment Service Inc
Mr T (Ted) Loveday	Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation
Dr I R (Ian) McPhail	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Prof H D (Helene) Marsh	James Cook University
Mr J (John) Millward	Cairns Marine Tourism Operators Association
Ms Margaret Moore	World Wide Fund for Nature Australia
Mr P (Peter) Neville	Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry
Ms S A (Suzette) Pelt	Whitsundays Bareboat Charter Operators Association
Mr D L (David) Perkins	Queensland Department of Environment
Dr R E (Russell) Reichelt	Australian Institute of Marine Science
Sir Sydney Schubert	Association of Marine Parks Tourism Operators
Mr A J (Alan) Turnbull	Queensland Sport and Recreational Fishing Council (Sunfish)

Professor Marsh is Chairperson of the Committee.

Business Activities

This year the committee has been working through its strategic work plan based on the '25 Year Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area'. The major topics have been:

- funding;
- surveillance and enforcement;
- cross-jurisdictional issues and inter-agency coordination; and
- community involvement in management.

APPENDIX D

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The following committees were in existence, and many were active, during 1998/99. They comprised experts and representatives of relevant agencies and user groups as agreed to by the organisations and/or the Authority. Information concerning these committees is available from the Authority.

Dugong Protection Areas Advisory Group

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Management Coordinating Committee

Interim Ethics Committee (until December 1998)

Ethics Committee (from January 1999)

Independent Advisory Committee on ex-gratia payments for Fishers affected by Ministerial Council Decisions in relation to Dugong Protection Areas

(See also appendix B for details of the Audit Committee and appendix C for Consultative Committee functions.)

The Authority's organisational restructure involved the establishment of a Reef Advisory Committe (RAC) for each of the four Critical Issue Groups.

- Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage RAC
- Fisheries RAC
- Tourism and Recreation RAC
- Water Quality and Coastal Development RAC

The Authority has encouraged the establishment of, and has provided limited resource support to, a series of Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) from within regional coastal communities. These committees (previously called Regional Marine Advisory Committees) interact with, and provide advice to, the Authority and other coastal management agencies from a regional perspective. The following committees were proposed during 1998/99.

- Cooktown LMAC
- Port Douglas LMAC
- Cairns LMAC
- Mission Beach LMAC
- Hinchinbrook LMAC
- Townsville LMAC
- Whitsunday LMAC
- Mackay LMAC
- Capricornia LMAC
- Gladstone LMAC

APPENDIX E

AUTHORITY SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Townsville Office

Dr Ian McPhail	Chair and Chief Executive Officer (Until April 1999)
The Hon Virginia Chadwick	Chair and Chief Executive Office (From July 1999)
Mr John Tanzer	Executive Director

Critical Issue Groups

Mr Jon Day	Director, Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage
Ms Annie Ilett	Director, Tourism and Recreation
Dr Phil Cadwallader	Director, Fisheries
Mr Jon Brodie	Director, Water Quality and Coastal Development
Mr Andrew Skeat	Director, Program Delivery
Mr Jamie Oliver	Director, Information Support Group
Mr Peter McGinnity	Director, Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit
Mr Martin Jones	Director, Aquarium
Mr Les Bell	Director, Corporate Services

Canberra Office

Mr Richard Kenchington	Executive Director
Mr Colin Trinder	Director, Ministerial & Parliamentary Liaison

APPENDIX F

PUBLICATIONS

An entire publication list is available from the Authority. The list here contains those publications produced during 1998–99 as well as current management publications.

Workshop Series (ISSN 0156-5842)

Nil

Research Publication Series (ISSN 1037-1508)

55. *Long-term Chlorophyll Monitoring in the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon: Status Report 1, 1993–1995.* A. D. L. Steven, L. Trott, F. Pantus & D. Brooks, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23956 0

56. *Dollar Values and Trends of Major Direct Uses of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*, S. Driml, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23060 9

Miscellaneous Publications

D. R. Wachenfeld, J. K. Oliver & J. I. Morrissey (eds) 1998, *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area 1998*, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23058 7

Dugong Information Kit, 3rd edn, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville.

Permission Booklet for Hire Operators: Attachment A, 1999, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23062 5

Permission Booklet for Cruise Operators: Attachment A, 1999, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23063 3

Permission Booklet for Tour Operators: Attachment A, 1999, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23061 7

Permission Booklet for Craftless Operators: Attachment A, 1999, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23064 1

Renewed Call to Action: International Coral Reef Initiative, 1999, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23066 8

Protecting Biodiversity: an overview of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Representative Areas Program, 1999, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23067 6

Training Publications

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park manual: *Reef Manual*, second revised edition, 1999, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23059 5

Aquarium Publications

Coralines: Aquarium Supporters' Magazine (ISSN 1037–0684), issue 1–, 1997–

Coral Capers: Newsletter of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Education Program (ISSN 1441–3434), issue 1–, 1998–

General Aquarium Brochures

Brochures

Dugong Sanctuary brochures, updated 1999, GBRMPA, Townsville:
Hinchinbrook and Taylors Beach Dugong Sanctuaries
Cleveland Bay and Bowling Green Bay Dugong Sanctuaries
Upstart Bay Dugong Sanctuary
Edgecumbe Bay Dugong Sanctuary
Repulse Bay, Newry Region and Sand Bay Dugong Sanctuaries
Llewellyn Bay, Ince Bay and Clairview Region Dugong Sanctuaries
Shoalwater Bay and Port Clinton Dugong Sanctuaries
Rodds Bay Dugong Sanctuary

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: Cairns Area Plan of Management: A Guide to the Cairns Area Plan of Management, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority: Protecting the Whitsundays: A Guide to the Whitsundays Plan of Management for Marine Park Users, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville.

Cairns Area Plan of Management: Major Amendments — information sheet

Whitsundays Plan of Management: Major Amendments — information sheet

The Great Barrrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area

Implementing the Plans : Information bulletin. Cairns area and Whitsundays plans of management – update, 1999.

Protecting Biodiversity: Representative Areas in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, 1999

What's that slick? – update, 1999

Serial Publications

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

Bulletin (ISSN 0725-0886/0705-8764)

Heritage and Environment [CD-ROM] 1995 –, *Informit, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Melbourne.*

Shorelines (ISSN 1327-6697), 1996 –

Reef Notes (ISSN 0814-9453), 1985 –, GBRMPA, Townsville.

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

Sea Country, no. 1 –, 1995 –

Management Information

Cairns Area Plan of Management, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23053 6

Whitsundays Plan of Management, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23054 4

Far Northern Section
Draft plan for the Marine Parks of Cape York : Have your say, 1997, GBRMPA, Townsville.

Marine Parks of Cape York : Proposed Zoning and Management for the Far Northern Section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Zoning of the Proposed Cape York Marine Park, 1997, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23036 6

Marine Parks of the Byfield coast and Port Clinton: Proposed zoning for the Gumoo Woojabuddee Section and zoning of the proposed Gumoo Woojabuddee Marine Park, 1999, GBRMPA. ISBN 0 642 23065 X

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : Central Section Zoning Information: Introduction, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville. (BRA Q152 1989 and BRA Q129 1989)

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: Mackay/Capricorn Section Zoning Information: Introduction, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville. (BRA Q194 1988).

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: Far Northern Section: Introduction, reprinted 1995, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville. (BRA Q 88 1986).

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: Cairns Section and Cairns Marine Park Zoning Information: Introductory Guide, GBRMPA, Townsville. (BRA Q155 & BRA Q156 1992).

Companion Map to Great Barrier Reef 1:2 200 000 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville. (BRA Q165)

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

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

APPENDIX G

STAFF PAPERS

Benzaken, D. and Oliver, J.K. 1998, 'Manipulative research in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area: the management perspective' [abstract], in the *Proceedings of the Australian Coral Reef Society 75th anniversary conference held at Heron Island, 2–6 October 1997*, eds Jack G. Greenwood and Narelle J. Hall, School of Marine Science, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. p. 249.

Berkelmans, R. and Oliver, J.K. 1999, 'Large-scale bleaching of corals on the Great Barrier Reef', *Coral Reefs*, **18**, pp. 55–60.

Berkelmans, R., Oliver, J.K., Byron, G. and Olds, J. 1998, 'Heron Island: the history of the Bund Wall and an impact assessment of its 1993 redevelopment on nearby coral communities', in the *Proceedings of the Australian Coral Reef Society 75th anniversary conference held at Heron Island, 2–6 October 1997*, eds Jack G. Greenwood and Narelle J. Hall, School of Marine Science, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. pp. 11–28.

Dineson, Z. 1998, 'Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', in the *Proceedings of the Australian Coral Reef Society 75th anniversary conference held at Heron Island, 2–6 October 1997*, eds Jack G. Greenwood and Narelle J. Hall, School of Marine Science, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. pp. 67–76.

Haynes, D. and Devlin, M. 1998, 'The sandy intertidal: a neglected marine ecosystem' [abstract], in the *Proceedings of the Australian Coral Reef Society 75th anniversary conference held at Heron Island, 2–6 October 1997*, eds Jack G. Greenwood and Narelle J. Hall, School of Marine Science, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. p. 264.

Haynes, D., Muller, J. and McLachlan, M. 1999, 'Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans in Great Barrier Reef (Australia) dugongs (*Dugong dugon*)', *Chemosphere*, **38**(2), pp. 255–-262.

Honchin, D. 1998, 'Native title implications for management of marine protected areas', paper presented to 1997/98 Tropical Environment Flexible Learning Program. Management of Marine Protected Areas: TG5210. Masters Level Course, James Cook University, Townsville.

Honchin, D. 1998, 'Jurisdiction and regulation in Marine Protected Areas', paper presented to 1997/98 Tropical Environment Flexible Learning Program. Management of Marine Protected Areas: TG5210. Masters Level Course, James Cook University, Townsville.

Hough, P. 1998, 'Giant clams as water quality indicators' [abstract], in *Abstracts: Australian Coral Reef Society, Annual Scientific Meeting held 16–19 October, Port Douglas 1998*, Australian Coral Reef Society, p. 32.

Hunter, B. and Williams, R. 1998, 'Sustainable hunting: in search of a solution', in *Marine turtle conservation and management in Northern Australia: proceedings of a workshop held at the Northern Territory University, Darwin, 3-4 June 1997*, eds R. Kennett, A. Webb, G. Duff, M. Guinea and G. Hill, Centre for Indigenous Natural and Cultural Resource Management and Centre for Tropical Wetlands Management, Northern Territory University, Darwin, pp. 63–65.

Ilett, A. 1999, 'The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: the world's largest multiple-use marine protected area', paper presented to APEC Marine Conservation Working Group and Fisheries, Working Group meeting held in Cairns, Australia, 20 May 1999.

Innes, J. 1998, 'Achieving cooperative management: a discussion paper', an information paper prepared for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, Townsville, Australia.

Jones, M. 1999, 'New directions for Marine Centers in the 21st century', paper presented to the First International Meeting of Aquariums, Museums and Science Centers held 6–9 June 1999 at NAUSICAA, the National Sea Center, Boulogne sur Mer, France.

Kenchington, R. 1998, 'Prospects for coral reefs and related ecosystems', in the *Proceedings of the Australian Coral Reef Society 75th anniversary conference held at Heron Island, 2–6 October 1997*, eds Jack G. Greenwood and Narelle J. Hall, School of Marine Science, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, pp. 119–124.

Kenchington, R. 1998, 'Status of the International Coral Reef Initiative', in *Coral reefs challenges and opportunities for sustainable management: proceedings of an Associated Event of the Fifth Annual World Bank Conference on Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development, held at the World Bank, Washington D.C., 9–11 October 1997*, eds Marea E. Hatziolos, Anthony J. Hooten and Martin Fodor, World Bank, Washington DC. pp. 11–15.

Kenchington, R. 1998, 'The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Interim Research Ethics Advisory Committee: establishing the Committee', in *Proceedings of the 1997 Fenner Conference. Environmental Research Ethics: National Principles and Guidelines held in Canberra, 26–28 November 1997*, (Australian Journal of Environmental Management. 5 (Supplement): 1998), pp. 11–14.

Kenchington, R. 1998, 'Results of the ASTEC questionnaire on current agency policies and guidelines on environmental ethics', in *Proceedings of the 1997 Fenner Conference. Environmental Research Ethics: National Principles and Guidelines held in Canberra, 26–28 November 1997*, (Australian Journal of Environmental Management. 5(Supplement): 1998), pp. 50–52.

Kenchington, R. 1999, 'The ethics of research in protected and other environmentally sensitive areas', *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, **38**(6), pp. 429–430.

McPhail, I. 1998, Opening address, paper presented to International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS) held 23–26 November 1998, Townsville Australia.

McPhail, I. and Storrie, J. 1998, 'The environmental significance of the Great Barrier Reef and Australia's Oceans — the need for protection against pollution' paper presented to SPILLCON '98 — Oil Spills: Causes and Cures, 18–20 August 1998, Cairns, Australia.

McPhail, I. 1998, 'Development of Australia's Oceans Policy', presented to Seaviews Conference, 8–17 February 1998, Wellington, New Zealand.

Muller, J.F., Haynes, D., McLachlan, M., Bohme, F., Will, S., Shaw, G.R., Mortimer, M., Sadler, R. and Connell, D.W. 1999, 'PCDDS, PCDFS, PCBS and HCB in marine and estuarine sediments from Queensland, Australia', *Chemosphere* (In press, 1999).

Muller, J.F., Haynes, D. and Mclachlan, M.S. 1998, 'PCDD/Fs in the Great Barrier Reef environment of Australia', *Organohalogen Compounds*, **39**, pp. 105–108.

Muller, J.F., Haynes, D. and McLachlan, M.S. 1998, 'Polychlorinated dibenzodioxins and dibenzofurans and polychlorinated byphenyls in dugong, sediment and seagrass samples collected from the Great Barrier Reef environment of Australia' [abstract], presented to the Fifth International Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics, October 1998, Cairns, Australia.

Rupp, A.J. 1999, 'Meeting the international challenges of land degradation and biodiversity conservation', presented to the 2nd International Conference on Land Degradation held 27, 30 January–2 February 1999, Thailand.

Russell, M. and Robertson, J. 1998, 'Fishing. The effects on the Great Barrier Reef?' [abstract], in the *Proceedings of the Australian Coral Reef Society 75th anniversary conference held at Heron Island*, 2–6 October 1997, eds Jack G. Greenwood and Narelle J. Hall, School of Marine Science, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, p. 273.

Skeat, H., Barnett, B. and Watson, M. 1998, 'Tourism management in the Great Barrier Reef Australia', presented to the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS), held 23–26 November 1998, Townsville, Australia.

Spring, S. 1999, 'Satellite telemetry and green turtles', *Reef Research*, **9**(1), pp. 6-7.

Spring, S. and Pike, D. 1998, 'Tag recovery supports satellite tracking of a green turtle', *Marine Turtle Newsletter*, **82**, p. 8.

Stokes, T. 1998, 'Integrating research, monitoring and management of seabirds in the Great Barrier Reef and adjacent waters' [abstract], *Ostrich*, **69**(3-4), p. 454.

Tanzer, J. 1998, 'Fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park — seeking the balance', *Parks*, **8**(2), pp. 41–46.

Trinder, C. 1998, 'The Great Barrier Reef and the Australian Defence Forces' paper presented to CO/XO RAN in-service training course held in Canberra, 11 August 1998.

Trinder, C. 1998, 'The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the tourism industry', paper presented to the Introduction to Tourism Course, University of Canberra, Canberra, 1 September 1998.

Ward, T.J., Kenchington, R.A., Faith, D.P. and Margules, C.R. 1998, *'Marine bio rap guidelines: rapid assessment of marine biological diversity'*, CSIRO, Perth, Australia.

Ward, T.J., Vanderklift, M.A., Nicholls, A.O. and Kenchington, R.A. 1999, 'Selecting marine reserves using habitats and species assemblages as surrogates for biological diversity', *Ecological Applications*, **9**(2), pp. 691–698.

APPENDIX H

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 (07) 4750 0700

PO Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
Facsimile (07) 4772 6093

or

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Ground Floor
The John Gorton Building
King Edward Terrace
PARKES ACT 2600
Telephone (02) 6247 0211

GPO Box 791
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Facsimile (02) 6274 15091

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 1

REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Executive

Australian Committee for IUCN — Ian McPhail, Richard Kenchington

Commonwealth/State Committee to develop Co-Management Strategy — John Tanzer

Day-to-Day Management Strategy Group — John Tanzer, Richard Kenchington

Dugong Protection Area Review Group — John Tanzer

Environment Executive, Environment Australia — Virginia Chadwick, (Richard Kenchington)

Fisheries Industry Development Council — John Tanzer

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Ethics Committee — Richard Kenchington

International Coral Reef Initiative Committees — Richard Kenchington

INTROMARC Management Committee — Richard Kenchington

North Queensland Economic Development Board Management Committee — John Tanzer

Ministerial and Parliamentary Liaison

Coastwatch Operations and Program Advisory Committee — Colin Trinder

Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage

ACIUCN Working Group — Jon Day

Defence/Great Barrier Reef Working Group — Tony Stokes

Environmental Advisory Committee for the Shoalwater Bay Defence Training Area — Tony Stokes

Focus Groups for the Queensland Shark Control Program — Tony Stokes

Reef Advisory Committee — Jon Day

Fisheries

Management Advisory Committees (MACs) and related working groups:
- TrawlMAC — Phil Cadwallader
- ReefMAC — Mick Bishop
- Tropical FinfishMAC — Darren Cameron
- HarvestMAC — Jan Forbes
- CrabMAC — Martin Russell
- East Coast Tuna MAC — Martin Russell

Queensland Aquaculture Development Advisory Committee (QADAC) — Jan Forbes

Queensland Fishing Industry Research Advisory Committee (QFIRAC) — Mick Bishop

Qld/WA/NT Northern Fisheries Joint Workshops — Phil Cadwallader

Reef Advisory Committee — Phil Cadwallader

Torres Strait Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee — Mick Bishop

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Steering Committee — Phil Cadwallader

Zonal Advisory Committees (ZACs):
- Central Queensland ZAC — Mick Bishop
- Townsville ZAC — Darren Cameron
- Cairns ZAC — Jan Forbes
- Mackay ZAC — Martin Russell

Tourism and Recreation

Cairns Marine Industry Group — Annie Ilett, Ed Green, Others depending on issue

Cairns Plans of Management Implementation Task Force — Annie Ilett, Ed Green, Hilary Skeat

Cruise Ship Working Group — Richard Kenchington, Annie Ilett, Chris Thomas

Green Island Reef Advisory Committee — Annie Ilett

Plans of Management Implementation Working Group — Hilary Skeat

Reef 2005 Training Committee — Bryony Barnett

Reef Advisory Committee — Annie Ilett

Super Yacht Steering Committee — Annie Ilett, Chris Thomas

Whitsundays Bareboat Executive Committee — Bryony Barnett

Water Quality

ANZECC Working Group on Waste Management from Shipping — Jamie Storrie

Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research Advisory Committee — Jon Brodie

Barron Water Allocation and Management Plan Technical Advisory Panel — Sheriden Morris

Bioremediation Research Project Steering Committee — Jamie Storrie

CRC for Sustainable Sugar Production Advisory Committee — Jon Brodie

Downstream Effects of Agricultural Practices Committee — Jon Brodie

Fitzroy Water Allocation and Management Plan Technical Advisory Panel — Sheridan Morris

Herbert Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package Working Group — Jon Brodie

National Chemical Spill Contingency Plan Working Group — Jamie Storrie

National Oil Spill Response Team — Jamie Storrie

National Plan Advisory Committee — John Tanzer, Jon Brodie, Jamie Storrie

National Plan Coastal Resource Atlas Working Group — Jamie Storrie

National Plan State Committee (Queensland) — Jon Brodie

Queensland Dioxyn Working Group — David Haynes

Queensland Landcare and Catchment Management Council — Jon Brodie

Queensland Water Quality Steering Group — David Haynes

Reef Advisory Committee — Jon Brodie

Sugar Research and Development Corporation Advisory Committee — Jon Brodie

Technical Advisory Panel for Water Infrastructure in North Queensland — Jon Brodie

Wet Tropics Coast Regional Consultative Committee — Jon Brodie

Wet Tropics Natural Heritage Trust Board — David Haynes

Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit

Enforcement Coordinating Committee — Peter McGinnity

Program Delivery

Day-to-Day Management Operations Group — Andrew Skeat

Hinchinbrook Regional Coastal Management Plan Management Committee — Andrew Skeat

Hinchinbrook Regional Consultative Group — Hugh Yorkston

Sea Forum/Land and Sea Policy Group — Greg Smith

Education and Communication

Townsville Enterprise Limited Tourism Advisory Committee — Loretta Saunders

Information Support

Townsville Port Technical Advisory Committee — Jamie Oliver

CRC Reef User Advisory Group — Jamie Oliver

APPENDIX J

RESOURCES

Staffing Overview

Table 3. Staff of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority at 30 June 1999

Classification	PERMANENT Male F/T	PERMANENT Male P/T	PERMANENT Female F/T	PERMANENT Female P/T	PERMANENT Total	TEMPORARY Male F/T	TEMPORARY Male P/T	TEMPORARY Female F/T	TEMPORARY Female P/T	TEMPORARY Total	ALL Male F/T	ALL Male P/T	ALL Female F/T	ALL Female P/T	ALL Total	Total FTE
SES 2	2				2						2				2	2.00
Exec 2	10		2	1	13						10		2	1	13	12.80
Exec 1	10		4	1	15	1				1	11		4	1	16	15.71
APS 6	10		12		22	2		2		4	12		14		26	26.00
APS 5	9		4	2	15			1		1	9		5	2	16	15.36
APS 4	5		6	1	12						5		6	1	12	11.82
APS 3	8		6	2	16	3		2		5	11		8	2	21	20.26
APS 2	4		12	1	17	1		4		5	5		16	1	22	21.61
APS 1	5		2		7	2		1		3	7		3		10	10.00
TOTAL	**63**		**48**	**8**	**119**	**9**		**10**		**19**	**72**		**58**	**8**	**138**	**135.56**

APS *Australian Public Service Officer* **Exec** *Executive Level* **SES** *Senior Executive Service*

Staff Training

During 1998/99, $52,058 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 by providing a participative work environment. This enables all staff to contribute to program development and decision-making processes within the statutory framework of the decision-making responsibilities and powers of the Authority.

The involvement and commitment of staff to these decision-making processes allows staff the opportunity to influence decisions that affect the quality of their working lives, resulting in enhanced organisational productivity.

Significant Industrial Democracy outcomes achieved during the year were:

- the development, certification and implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Certified Agreement 1998–2000;
- a high level of staff involvement and consultation with the CPSU on the implementation of a new program structure for the Authority;
- the inaugural meeting of the Authority Consultative Group — the peak consultative mechanism between Authority management and elected staff representatives;
- two meetings of the Authority and Community and Public Sector Union Joint Consultative Committee (JCC); and
- the establishment of an evaluation group comprising management and staff representatives to review the effectiveness of the new structure for the Authority.

Occupational Health and Safety

Significant Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) outcomes during the year are as follows.

- Two meetings of the OH&S Committee were held.
- There was only one workers compensation claim submitted.
- There was a continuation of the downward trend in Workers Compensation Premium Rate — a 24 per cent reduction from 1997/98.

Issues considered and actioned by the OH&S Committee included:

- preventative action required in response to each Incident Report submitted
- work station ergonomics and desk top computer equipment standards
- implementation of building emergency procedures
- policy on eye sight testing.

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

- First Aid
- Emergency Resuscitation
- SCUBA Safety
- Shipboard Safety
- Marine radio operation
- OH&S Risk Management
- Back Care and Manual Handling
- Work Station Ergonomics
- Stress Management
- OH&S Representative Training

During the year the Authority continued to provide its staff with an Employee Assistance Program. This important OH&S initiative provides staff and their families with access to counselling and advice on a wide range of both work-related and non work-related issues and makes a significant contribution to improving the quality of working life for Authority staff. The effectiveness of this initiative is demonstrated by the continued low incidence of worker compensation claim submission by Authority staff.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Equal Employment Opportunity outcomes achieved during the year were:

- maintaining the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the Authority's staff at 5 per cent;
- continuation of the use of Carers Leave, Purchased Leave arrangements, part-time employment and enhanced Flexitime provisions to assist staff to more effectively balance family and work responsibilities;
- inclusion in the GBRMPA Certified Agreement 1998–2000 of a number of family-friendly and employee-choice initiatives, including Hours of Work and Flexitime, time off in lieu of overtime, more flexible Purchased Leave, Working from Home and part-time employment that are designed to assist employees balance their personal and working lives;
- conducting a workplace diversity issues identification survey;
- maintaining access to Permanent Part Time Employment, 7 per cent of staff at 30 June 1999, which reflects the level of access to Permanent Part Time Employment taken up by women returning to work after periods of maternity leave; and
- sustained high level of use of Study Assistance by EEO Group members;
- increasing access for staff to timely and comprehensive information on employment related issues through the use of the GBRMPA Intranet.

Representation of EEO Groups within the Authority's staffing is generally comparable to that of the APS as a whole and exceeds APS averages in the representation of:

- women in total staff numbers;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and
- people with a disability.

EEO data for the Authority's staff is provided in Tables 4–6 below.

Table 4. *Representation of EEO Groups within Salary Levels as at 30 June 1999*

SALARY	Total No of Staff	Women	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD	Staff with EEO Data
APS 1	13	7 54%	1 8%	0 0%	12 92%	1 8%	1 8%	13
APS 2	20	16 80%	0 0%	1 5%	18 95%	1 5%	2 11%	19
APS 3	23	13 57%	0 0%	0 0%	23 100%	1 4%	0 0%	23
APS 4	12	8 67%	0 0%	1 8%	11 92%	1 8%	1 8%	12
APS 5	17	8 47%	0 0%	0 0%	16 100%	2 13%	0 0%	16
APS 6	30	14 47%	2 7%	1 4%	25 89%	1 4%	2 7%	28
Executive 1	18	6 33%	0 0%	1 6%	17 94%	0 0%	3 17%	18
Executive 2	16	2 13%	0 0%	0 0%	16 100%	0 0%	2 13%	16
SES	2	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%	0 0%	0 0%	2
TOTALS	151	74 49%	3 2%	4 3%	140 95%	7 5%	11 7%	147 97%

Note: Percentage for women based on total staff; percentages for other groups based on staff with EEO data

Source: GBRMPA EEO Database

Table 5. *Representation of EEO Groups within Australian Public Service*

	Total No of Staff	Women	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD
TOTALS	108,785	52,597 48%	5,770 5%	10,826 10%	66,959 62%	2,229 2%	4,916 5%

Source: APS Staffing Statistics Report 1997/98

Table 6. *Representation of EEO Groups within the population of the Great Barrier Reef region*

	Total Population	Women	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD
TOTALS	960160	472870 49%	45783 5%	50120 5%	864257 90%	52558 5%	73200 8%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics from 1996 Census data

NESB1 Non-English Speaking Background, first generation
NESB2 Non-English Speaking Background, second generation
ESB English Speaking Background
ATSI Aboriginal or 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 required 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 Register of Consultants.

Details of consultants engaged in 1998/99 are available from the Authority.

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

Table 7. *Summary table of resources*
Reconciliation of Programs and Appropriation Elements for 1998-99 $('000)

Program	Approp Bills Nos 1 & 3	+ Approp Bills Nos 2 & 4	+ Special Approps	= Total Approps	– Adjustments (1)	= Program Outlays
1.	7,592	0	5,485	13,077	5,485	7,572
2.	897	0	0	897	0	897
3.	0	3,983	0	3,983	0	3,983
TOTAL	8,489	3,983	5,485	17,957	5,485	12,472

Notes to Table 7

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 K

ADVERTISING

Creative Agencies

Various	6,878.47
PEP Central	1,110.00
Island Impressions	1,800.00
Prestige Litho	2,656.00
Predator Signs	1,825.80
Digital Dimensions	1,003.00

Market Research & Polling Organisations ..... Nil

Direct Mail Organisations ..... Nil

Media Advertising Organisations

Print (Includes Campaign & Non-campaign)

AIS Media	45,211.64
Australian Posters	23,700.00
AGPS Gazette	6,095.81
Courier Mail	761.40
TMP Worldwide	67,481.91
NQ Newspaper Company Ltd	8,344.30
Adshel	2,520.00
Australian Airport Advertising	2,401.00
Australian Tourist Commission	3,485.00
Herald Weekly Times	2,500.00
Tourism Council Australia	5,150.00
North Australian Publishing	1,840.00
Townsville Enterprise Ltd	4,010.00
Townsville Magazine	3,677.25
Visitor Guide Australia	1,750.00
Pacific Access	2,754.00
Round North QLD	1,500.00
Marine Teachers Assoc	1,500.00
Morey Boyle Travel	2,210.00
VIP Resorts	1,650.00
Various Aquarium print advertising	6,096.99

TV & Radio

Seven Townsville	3,250.00
WIN Television	3,092.00
Regional Television	11,776.00
Radio 4TO	396.00
Townsville Broadcasters	2,839.00

APPENDIX L

ABBREVIATIONS

AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
ACIUCN	Australian Committee for the World Conservation Union
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
AMSAT	Australian Marine Science and Technology Ltd
APS	Australian Public Service
ASO	Administrative Service Officer
CPSU	Community and Public Sector Union
CRC Reef Research (or CRC Reef)	Cooperative Research Centre for Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation
DDM	Day-to-day Management
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EMC	Environmental Management Charge
ENCORE	Enrichment of Nutrients on a Coral Reef Experiment
EPA	Environment Protection Agency
FOI	Freedom of Information
FTE	Full-time Equivalent
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IMCRA	Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia
INTROMARC	International Tropical Marine Resource Centre
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
JCC	Joint Consultative Committee
JCU	James Cook University of North Queensland
LMAC	Local Marine Advisory Committee
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
QBFP	Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol
QDPI	Queensland Department of Primary Industries
QFMA	Queensland Fisheries Management Authority
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
REEFPLAN	Contingency plan for oil spill response in the Great Barrier Reef
RAC	Reef Advisory Committee
SES	Senior Executive Service

APPENDIX M

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), 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 (updated in May 1999) and the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Orders 1998.

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APPENDIX N

CONTACT OFFICER FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the Authority contact:

Director
Information Support Group
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
PO Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Telephone	(07) 4750 0700
Facsimile	(07) 4772 6093
e-mail	registry@gbrmpa.gov.au

APPENDIX O

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1999

In our opinion, the attached financial statements give a true and fair view of the matters required by Schedule 2 of the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Authority.

JOHN LYONS
Member

24 September 1999

VIRGINIA CHADWICK
Chairperson

24 September 1999

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1999

	Notes	1999 $	1998 $
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Operating expenses			
Employees	3	**8,025,653**	7,482,379
Suppliers	4	**8,940,269**	8,903,917
Depreciation and amortisation	5	**474,242**	557,858
Write-down of assets	6	**374**	26,500
Grants	7	**16,800**	38,772
Interest	8	**44,277**	67,849
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets		**4,135**	11
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	9(a),(b)	**8,193,072**	8,005,000
Total operating expenses		**25,698,822**	25,082,286
Revenues from independent sources			
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	9(a),(c)	**3,966,999**	3,932,500
Interest earned on Bank Deposits		**195,498**	204,219
Net gain on disposal of non-current assets		**–**	19,548
From industry for monitoring and baseline studies		**–**	73,592
Profit from aquarium shop trading	10(a),(c)	**262,645**	218,523
Other aquarium revenues	10(a),(b)	**1,384,755**	1,429,160
Other miscellaneous revenues	11(b)	1,281,679	1,705,679
Total operating revenues from independent sources		**7,091,576**	7,583,221
Net cost of services		**18,607,246**	17,499,065
REVENUES FROM COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT			
Revenues from government			
Parliamentary appropriations from the Commonwealth	11(a)	**17,811,720**	18,960,120
Total revenues from Commonwealth Government		**17,811,720**	18,960,120
(Deficit)/surplus of revenues from government over net cost of services	14	**(795,526)**	1,461,055
Loss on extraordinary items	1(b)	**(8,488,724)**	–
(Deficit)/surplus		**(9,284,250)**	1,461,055
Accumulated deficits at beginning of reporting period		**(1,683,180)**	(3,144,235)
Aggregate of amounts transferred from reserves		**11,457,095**	–
Accumulated surpluses/(deficits) at end of reporting period	14	**489,665**	(1,683,180)

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30 JUNE 1999

	Notes	1999 $	1998 $
DEBT			
Advances from the Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA)	12(a)	**1,241,012**	1,019,613
Leases	12(b)	**443**	5,466
Total debt		**1,241,455**	1,025,079
PROVISIONS AND PAYABLES			
Employees	13(a)	**2,083,627**	2,229,237
Suppliers	13(b)	**639,386**	801,819
Other	13(c)	**1,131,570**	548,063
Total provisions and payables		**3,854,583**	3,579,119
Total liabilities		**5,096,038**	4,604,198
EQUITY			
Capital	14	**1,103,988**	1,103,988
Reserves	14	**–**	8,376,043
Special purpose reserves	14	**500,000**	500,000
Asset revaluation reserve	14	**–**	3,081,052
Accumulated surpluses	14	**489,665**	(1,683,180)
Total equity		**2,093,653**	11,377,903
Total liabilities and equity		**7,189,691**	15,982,101
FINANCIAL ASSETS			
Cash	15	**4,583,068**	4,451,942
Receivables	16(a)	**1,452,035**	1,452,508
Other	16(b)	**292,538**	735,029
Total financial assets		**6,327,641**	6,639,479
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS			
Land and buildings	17	**217,005**	8,115,929
Plant and equipment	17	**498,366**	1,087,384
Inventories held for resale		**146,679**	139,309
Total non-financial assets		**862,050**	9,342,622
Total assets		**7,189,691**	15,982,101
Current liabilities		**3,126,984**	2,720,881
Non-current liabilities		**1,969,054**	1,883,317
Current assets		**6,474,320**	6,778,788
Non-current assets		**715,371**	9,203,313

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 1999

	Notes	1999 $	1998 $
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received:			
Appropriations		**17,957,000**	18,196,000
Projects funded by the Department of the Environment		**60,000**	82,000
Permit assessment fees		**134,540**	136,010
Interest		**190,362**	203,823
Aquarium admission fees		**1,160,389**	1,128,355
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management		**4,631,999**	3,932,500
Environmental Management Charge (EMC)	11(a)	**5,480,928**	2,997,064
Other		**1,879,613**	2,247,771
Total cash received		**31,494,831**	28,923,523
Cash used:			
Grants		**(16,800)**	(38,772)
Employees		**(8,171,262)**	(7,380,218)
Suppliers		**(9,017,606)**	(9,712,953)
Finance lease interest charges		**(432)**	(1,056)
Payments to Consolidated Revenue Fund (EMC)		**(5,485,000)**	(3,000,000)
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management		**(8,193,072)**	(8,005,000)
Total cash used		**(30,884,172)**	28,137,999)
Net cash from operating activities	18(b)	**610,659**	785,524
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received:			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		**500**	343
Cash used:			
Purchase of plant and equipment		**(480,033)**	(236,964)
Net cash from investing activities		**(479,533)**	(236,621)
Net increase in cash held		**131,126**	548,903
Add cash at 1 July		**4,451,942**	3,903,039
Cash at 30 June	15	**4,583,068**	4,451,942

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS AS AT 30 JUNE 1999

BY TYPE	1999 $	1998 $
CAPITAL COMMITMENTS		
Plant and equipment	68,400	80,000
Total capital commitments	68,400	80,000
OTHER COMMITMENTS		
Operating leases	197,026	313,854
Other commitments	814,909	734,187
Total other commitments	1,011,935	1,048,041
Total commitments payable	1,080,335	1,128,041
BY MATURITY		
All commitments		
Within one year	972,109	930,467
From one to two years	96,528	140,434
From two to five years	11,698	57,140
Total commitments	1,080,335	1,128,041
Operating lease commitments		
Within one year	126,300	132,988
From one to two years	66,528	124,830
From two to five years	4,198	56,036
Operating lease commitments	197,026	313,854

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.

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES AS AT 30 JUNE 1999

	1999 $	1998 $
CONTINGENT LOSSES		
	30,000	–
	30,000	–
CONTINGENT GAINS		
Nil	–	–
	–	–

SCHEDULE OF UNQUANTIFIABLE CONTINGENCIES

At 30 June 1999, the Authority was not aware of any litigation or potential litigation which might lead to damages being awarded against the Authority.

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 1999

Note	Description
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4.	Suppliers Expenses
5.	Depreciation and Amortisation
6.	Write-down of assets
7.	Grants Expense
8.	Interest Expense
9.	Day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
10.	Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Revenue and Expenses
11.	Revenue
12.	Debt
13.	Provisions and Payables
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18.	Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows
19.	Repayment of Advances from Department of Finance and Administration
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GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1999

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements are a general purpose financial report.
They have been prepared in accordance with Schedule 2 to Orders issued by the Finance Minister under the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997.

The financial statements have been prepared:

- in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Accounting Standards Boards (Accounting Guidance Releases) and the Consensus Views of the Urgent Issues Group, and
- having regard to Statements of Accounting Concepts.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets which, as noted, are at valuation. No allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or on the financial position.

(b) Property, plant and equipment

Capitalisation occurs on all items which cost more than $5,000. The $5,000 threshold was selected because it facilitates efficient asset management and recording without materially affecting asset values recognised.

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 maintenance of the Aquarium building as necessary and for all expenses and revenue in relation to its operation. Consequently, the value of the Aquarium building had been shown as an asset in the Authority's accounts. The accounting treatment has been reviewed by the Authority in consultation with the Australian National Audit Office. As a result, it was determined that the leased asset should be viewed in substance as an operating lease with the necessary adjustments to give effect to this view reflected in the accounts. These changes have included the removal of the Aquarium building from the Authority's accounts, an adjustment to accumulated depreciation and the reversal of the reserves associated with the Aquarium building and the reserves arising from the revaluation undertaken in the 1996-97 financial year.

This action has been taken as at 30 June 1999 and the net effect in the Authority's accounts is disclosed as an extraordinary item in the Operating Statement for the year ended 30 June 1999.

Schedule 2 requires that property, plant and equipment be progressively revalued in accordance with the 'deprival' method of valuation by 1 July 1999 and thereafter be revalued progressively on that basis every three years.

The Aquarium building was revalued as at 30 June 1997 by an independent valuer and the outcome of the valuation had been recognised as at that date. As the result of the change in accounting policy, the value of the Aquarium building is no longer recorded in the Authority's accounts. This change in

policy is effective as at 30 June 1999. Aquarium plant and equipment were also revalued as at 30 June 1997 by an independent valuer and the outcome of the valuation had been recognised as at that date. As the result of the change in accounting policy the value of plant and equipment associated with the Aquarium building is no longer recorded in the Authority's accounts. This change in policy is effective as at 30 June 1999.

Other plant and equipment will be initially revalued progressively over the 1999/2000 financial year. All plant and equipment thereafter will continue to be revalued over successive three year periods.

Assets in each class acquired after the commencement of the progressive revaluation cycle will be reported on the basis of the value initially recognised on acquisition for the duration of the progressive revaluation then in progress.

The financial effect of the move to progressive revaluations is that the carrying amounts of assets will reflect current values and that depreciation charges will reflect the current cost of the service potential consumed in each period.

The application of the deprival method by the Authority values its assets at their depreciated replacement cost. Any assets which would not be replaced or are surplus to requirements are valued at net realisable value; at 30 June 1999 there were no assets in this situation.

All valuations are independent.

Depreciable plant and equipment assets are written off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the Authority using, in all cases, the straight line method of depreciation. Leasehold improvements are amortised on a straight line basis over the lesser of the estimated useful life of the improvements or the unexpired period of the lease.

Depreciation/amortisation rates (useful lives) and methods are reviewed at each balance date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate. Residual values are re-estimated for a change in prices only when assets are revalued.

Depreciation and amortisation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are as follows

	1999	1998
Buildings	50 years	50 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and equipment	3 to 20 years	3 to 20 years

(c) 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.

(d) 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 the Environmental Protection Agency for day-to-day management are fully expensed in the year of payment (refer to note 9 for details of the day-to-day management items).

(e) 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.

(f) 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 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 1999 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 1999. In determining the present value of the liability, attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

Provision is also made for separation and redundancy payments in circumstances where the Authority has formally identified positions as excess to requirements and a reliable estimate of the amount of the payments can be determined.

(g) Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases which effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of leased assets and operating leases under which the lessor effectively retains all such risks and benefits.

Where a non-current asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at the present value of minimum lease payments at the inception of the lease and a liability for lease payments recognised at the same amount. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component and the interest expense. Leased assets are amortised over the period of the lease. Lease terms are five years (1997-98: five years).

Operating leases are not capitalised and payments are charged to the Operating Statement in the period in which they are incurred. The lease for the Aquarium building is treated as an operating lease.

(h) Bad and doubtful debts

Bad debts are expensed during the year in which they are identified, to the extent that they have not previously been provided for. A provision is raised for doubtful debts based on a review of all outstanding receivables at year end.

(i) Superannuation

Employer superannuation contributions became payable by the Authority from 1 July 1996 and are included as part of operating expenses in the Operating Statement. The Authority contributes to the Commonwealth Superannuation (CSS) and the Public Sector (PSS) superannuation schemes which provide retirement, death and disability benefits to employees. Contributions to the schemes are at rates calculated to cover existing and emerging obligations.

(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. As the result of a change in accounting policy the value of the Aquarium building is no longer recorded in the Authority's accounts and the reserves associated with the building have been reversed as at 30 June 1999.

(k) Special Purpose Reserves

An amount of $500,000 set aside as a reserve for working capital has been maintained.

(l) Taxation

The Authority is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax. As from 1 July 2000, the Authority will be required to comply with the requirements of the Goods and Services Tax legislation.

(m) Comparative figures

Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation in these financial statements.

(n) Changes in accounting policies

Changes in accounting policy have been identified in this Note under their appropriate headings.

(o) Economic Dependency

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is a statutory authority of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Authority is dependent on appropriations from the Commonwealth to carry out its normal activities.

(p) Financial Instruments

Accounting policies in relation to financial instruments are disclosed in Note 26.

(q) Segment Reporting

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 operates within Australia.

2. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent to balance date the Authority has indicated its intention to finalise negotiations for the future leasing of office accommodation. The lease arrangements will most likely have an impact in the 1999-2000 financial year and subsequent years. As the arrangements for such a lease are not yet finalised the financial impact is not yet clear but will certainly include a major commitment for rental payments over the term of the lease.

3. EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

	1999 $	1998 $
Basic remuneration for services provided	**7,745,502**	7,351,047
Separation and redundancy	**234,983**	48,628
Total remuneration	**7,980,485**	7,399,675
Other	**45,168**	82,704
Total employee expenses	**8,025,653**	7,482,379

During 1998-99 as a result of the Agency Certified Agreement employees received:

i) a lump sum payment of $800 per employee;

ii) a salary increase of 4% for Non-Senior/Non-Executive employees and 3.5% for Senior/Executive employees effective from the first pay in December 1998.

In addition, existing leave fare entitlements were paid out following the introduction of a fortnightly Remote Locality Allowance, this also gave rise to an increase in Fringe Benefits Tax for the 1998-99 financial year. The impact of these payments is reflected in the basic remuneration expense disclosed above. Under the Agency Certified Agreement, a second increase of 4% is payable from 1 July 1999.

The separation and redundancy expense is calculated on the basis of two weeks pay for every year of service by employees made redundant.

The Authority contributes to the Commonwealth Superannuation (CSS) and the Public Sector (PSS) superannuation schemes which provide retirement, death and disability benefits to employees. Contributions to the schemes are at rates calculated to cover existing and emerging obligations. Current contribution rates are 18.9% of salary (CSS) and 10.1% of salary (PSS). An additional 3% is contributed for employer productivity benefits. Non-permanent staff are members of the Australian Government Employees Superannuation Trust (AGEST) and contributions are made at the rate of 7%.

4. SUPPLIERS EXPENSES

	1999 $	1998 $
Supply of goods and services	**8,806,479**	8,768,459
Operating lease rentals	**133,790**	135,458
Total suppliers expenses	**8,940,269**	8,903,917

5. DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION

	1999 $	1998 $
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	**470,281**	553,896
Amortisation of leased assets	**3,961**	3,962
Total expense	**474,242**	557,858

The aggregate amounts of depreciation or amortisation allocated during the reporting period as expense for each class of depreciable asset are as follows:

	1999 $	1998 $
Buildings	**216,547**	206,630
Leasehold Improvements	**41,171**	79,774
Plant and Equipment	**216,524**	271,454
Total expense	**474,242**	557,858

6. WRITE-DOWN OF ASSETS

	1999 $	1998 $
Financial assets:		
Receivables for goods and services	**374**	26,500
Total write-down of assets	**374**	26,500

7. GRANTS EXPENSE

The Authority makes grants (Augmentative Research Grants) to universities to provide financial support to students undertaking research and to voluntary community groups.

	1999 $	1998 $
Augmentative Research Grants	**11,000**	11,000
Grants to Voluntary Community Groups	**–**	17,000
Grants to universities	**5,000**	10,772
Other	**800**	–
Total grants to non-profit institutions	**16,800**	38,772

8. INTEREST EXPENSE

	1999 $	1998 $
Finance charges on lease liabilities	**432**	1,056
Interest on Advance from DOFA	**43,845**	66,793
Total interest expense	**44,277**	67,849

9. 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, now known as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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 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;
- 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 1998-99 was $8,193,072 (1997-98 $8,005,000).

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

	1999	1998
	$	$
Commonwealth Government appropriation:		
(i) Recurrent and Post Initial Capital Programs: ref: Note 11(a)	**3,983,000**	3,924,000
(ii) Initial Capital Works	**–**	
Queensland Government contribution	**3,966,999**	3,932,500
From other sources	**155,609**	228,259
	8,105,608	8,084,759

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

	1999	1998
	$	$
Cash at bank 1 July	**250,296**	170,537
Plus Revenue received	**8,105,608**	8,045,958
Plus Revenue accrued	**–**	38,801
Less Expenditure	**8,193,072**	8,005,000
Funds available at 30 June	**162,832**	250,296

(e) During 1998-99 the Day-to-Day Management program received aerial surveillance services provided free of charge by the Australian Customs Service as part of its Coastwatch operation. The value of these services is estimated to be $648,000 (1997-88: $648,000).

(f) Financial statements for day-to-day management which have been prepared by the EPA and audited by the Queensland Auditor-General are at Note 27.

10. GREAT BARRIER REEF AQUARIUM REVENUE AND EXPENSES

(a) Operating Statement - Aquarium operations

NET COST OF SERVICES	1999	1998
Operating expenses	$	$
Curatorial Operations	**712,844**	690,366
Public Programs Operations	**605,900**	567,999
Marketing/Promotions	**184,666**	175,862
Shop Management and Services	**120,226**	114,662
Corporate Services		
– property services	**284,078**	292,695
– general services and administration	**248,967**	176,402
Interest	**43,845**	66,793
Bad and doubtful debts	**195**	–
Total operating expenses	**2,200,721**	2,084,779

	1999	1998
Unfunded charges	$	$
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment: refer Note 1(b)	**294,134**	308,978
Staff provisions movements	**39,643**	19,134
Total unfunded charges	**333,777**	328,112
Total Aquarium expenses	**2,534,498**	2,412,891
Operating revenues		
Interest	**19,441**	14,309
Gain on sale of non-current assets	**–**	8,500
Other aquarium revenues: ref: Note 10(b)	**1,384,755**	1,429,160
Gross profit from shop trading: ref: Note 10(c)	**262,645**	218,523
Total operating revenues	**1,666,841**	1,670,492
Net cost of Aquarium operations	**(867,657)**	(742,399)
Revenue from Commonwealth Government Parliamentary Appropriations: ref: Note 11(a)	**897,000**	820,000
Result from Aquarium operations	**29,343**	77,601

(b) Other aquarium revenues

	1999	1998
Operating revenues	$	$
Admission fees	**1,160,389**	1,128,355
Donations and sponsorships	**9,944**	16,793
Membership program	**92,208**	89,190
Research and consultancy contracts	**23,880**	70,137
Other revenue	**98,334**	124,685
Total	**1,384,755**	1,429,160

In the 1998-99 year, Aquarium volunteers contributed 26,795 hours of service to the operations of the Aquarium, the equivalent of 15.2 person years of service. The value of this contribution is estimated to be $457,000 and has not been recognised in the financial statements (1997-98: 25,500 hours; 14.5 person years; value $405,000).

(c) Aquarium shop trading results	1999 $	1998 $
Shop Sales	594,027	499,049
Less: Cost of goods sold		
Opening Stock	139,309	116,291
Purchases	338,752	303,544
Less: Closing Stock	146,679	139,309
Cost of goods sold	331,382	280,526
Gross profit from shop trading	262,645	218,523

11. REVENUE

(a) Appropriation	1999 $	1998 $
Operational	7,414,000	10,631,000
Special Appropriation	5,517,720	3,585,120
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	897,000	820,000
Commonwealth contribution to day-to-day management: refer Note 9(c)	3,983,000	3,924,000
	17,811,720	18,960,120

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 1999 but received after that date and due to be paid to the Authority as Special Appropriation.

(b) Other miscellaneous revenues:

	1999 $	1998 $
Programs funded by Environment Australia	**4,965**	39,000
Training and Advisory Services section revenue:		
– Funded by Environment Australia	**90,139**	322,218
– Other sources	**650,361**	572,488
Sale of Authority education and information materials	**50,982**	56,289
Permit assessment fees	**134,540**	136,010
Payments from the EPA: refer Note 9(a)		
for – sale of moveables	**–**	65,670
– other receipts	**63,328**	73,960
Revenue from other miscellaneous sources	**287,364**	440,044
	1,281,679	1,705,679

12. DEBT

(a) Advances from Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA)

	1999 $	1998 $
Current		
Advances from DOFA and accrued interest: refer Note 19	**319,921**	232,446
Non-current		
Advances from DOFA and accrued interest: refer Note 19	**921,091**	787,167
	1,241,012	1,019,613

Advances from DOFA as at 30 June are payable as follows:

Payable:		
Within one year	**319,921**	232,446
Within one to two years	**289,699**	181,092
Within two to five years	**631,392**	606,07
	1,241,012	1,019,613

(b) Finance lease liability

	1999 $	1998 $
Current	**443**	5,023
Non-current	**–**	443
	443	5,466

Finance lease liabilities at the reporting date and related finance charges are payable as follows:

	1999 $	1998 $
Within one year	448	5,455
Within one to two years	–	448
Within two to five years	–	–
Minimum lease payments	448	5,903
Less: Future finance charges	5	437
Total lease liabilities	443	5,466

13. PROVISIONS AND PAYABLES

(a) Employees

Current liabilities	1999 $	1998 $
Accrued salaries and wages	133,078	107,324
Provision for long service leave	50,772	116,385
Provision for annual leave	851,814	834,428
Provision for leave fares	–	75,393
	1,035,664	1,133,530
Non-current liabilities		
Provision for long service leave	1,047,963	1,095,707
Total provisions and payables – Employees	2,083,627	2,229,237
(b) Suppliers		
Trade Creditors	639,386	801,819
(c) Other		
Current liabilities		
Prepayments received from Queensland for 1999-2000 DDM Program	665,000	–
Other prepayments received	426,251	476,187
Other liabilities	40,319	71,876
	1,131,570	548,063

14. EQUITY

Item:	Capital	Accum-ulated Results	Special Purpose Reserves	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves	Total Reserves	TOTAL EQUITY
Balance 1 July 1998	1,103,988	(1,683,180)	500,000	3,081,052	8,376,043	11,957,095	11,377,903
Surplus/(Deficit)	–	(9,284,250)	–	–	–	–	(9,284,250)
Net revaluation increases	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Transfers to/(from) reserves	–	11,457,095	–	(3,081,052)	(8,376,043)	(11,457,095)	–
Changes in accounting policies	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Balance 30 June 1999	**1,103,988**	**489,665**	**500,000**	**–**	**–**	**500,000**	**2,093,653**

15. FINANCIAL ASSETS – CASH

Cash held at 30 June comprised the following:		1999 $	1998 $
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Account		**360,571**	404,397
Day-to-day Management Account		**827,832**	211,495
Cash on hand		**22,112**	90,445
Authority Operations Account:	**1999**		
Working Capital	500,000		
Training Services Unearned Income	192,301		
Other Operations Unearned Income	233,950		
Appropriation Reserve	465,000		
Other identified projects	1,981,302		
Total: Authority Operations Account		**3,372,553**	3,745,605
		4,583,068	4,451,942

The balance held in the Authority Operations account is presented in the manner shown in order to identify the specific purposes of cash reserves held by the Authority.

Cash held at 30 June was held as follows:	1999 $	1998 $
Cash at bank and Deposits at call	**3,676,856**	3,516,042
Term deposits	**884,100**	845,455
Cash on hand	**22,112**	90,445
	4,583,068	4,451,942

16. FINANCIAL ASSETS – RECEIVABLES & OTHER

(a) Receivables at 30 June were:	1999 $	1998 $
Trade Debtors	**248,938**	290,129
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	**1,211,986**	1,179,354
Total Receivables	**1,460,924**	1,469,483
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	**27,500**	30,450
	1,433,424	1,439,033
Other debtors	**18,611**	13,475
	1,452,035	1,452,508
Receivables which are overdue:		
– less than 30 days	**28,820**	113,286
– 30 to 60 days	**3,656**	29,126
– more than 60 days	**44,004**	33,106
	76,480	175,518

(b) Other financial assets at 30 June were:	1999 $	1998 $
Salary advance held by DOFA	213,426	663,726
Other prepayments	79,112	71,303
Total Other financial assets	292,538	735,029

17. NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

(a) Buildings	1999 $	1998 $
Buildings - at 30 June 1997 valuation	–	10,157,760
Accumulated depreciation	–	2,238,517
	–	7,919,243
Buildings - at cost	–	17,770
Accumulated depreciation	–	458
	–	17,312
Improvements to leasehold property - at cost	481,993	408,566
Accumulated depreciation	264,988	229,192
	217,005	179,374
Total Buildings and Leasehold Improvements	217,005	8,115,929

(b) Plant and Equipment		
Plant and equipment - at 30 June 1997 valuation	–	943,210
Accumulated depreciation	–	346,822
	–	596,388
Plant and equipment - at cost	1,992,780	1,845,703
Accumulated depreciation	1,494,744	1,358,998
	498,036	486,705
Plant and equipment under finance lease	19,808	19,808
Accumulated amortisation	19,478	15,517
	330	4,291
Total Plant and Equipment	498,366	1,087,384

The revaluation of the Aquarium building and associated infrastructure as at 30 June 1997 was completed by an independent valuer M.A.Becker FVLE (Val). A revaluation increment of $3,081,052 was transferred to the asset revaluation reserve. As the result of a change in accounting policy the value of the Aquarium building is no longer recorded in the Authority's accounts and the revaluation reserve has been reversed as at 30 June 1999.

(b) Analysis of Property, Plant and Equipment

TABLE A
Movement summary 1998-99 for all assets irrespective of valuation basis

Item:	Buildings & leasehold improvements $	Plant & equipment $	Total $
Gross value as at 1 July 1998	10,584,096	2,808,721	13,392,817
Additions	117,794	376,273	494,067
Adjustment for revaluations	–	–	–
Disposals	(8,576)	(26,320)	(34,896)
Changes in accounting policy	(10,211,321)	(1,146,086)	(11,357,407)
Other movements	–	–	–
Gross value as at 30 June 1999	**481,993**	**2,012,588**	**2,494,581**
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation as at 1 July 1998	2,468,167	1,721,337	4,189,504
Depreciation/Amortisation charge for assets held 1 July 1998	254,941	171,167	426,108
Depreciation/Amortisation charge for additions	2,777	45,357	48,134
Adjustment for revaluations	–	–	–
Adjustment for disposals	–	(15,853)	(15,853)
Changes in accounting policy	(2,460,897)	(407,786)	(2,868,683)
Adjustment for other movements	–	–	–
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation as at 30 June 1999	**264,988**	**1,514,222**	**1,779,210**
Net book value as at 30 June 1999	**217,005**	**498,366**	**715,371**
Net book value as at 1 July 1998	8,115,929	1,087,384	9,203,313

TABLE B
Summary of balances of assets at valuation as at 30 June 1999

Item:	Buildings $	Other plant & equipment $	Total $
As at 30 June 1999			
Gross value	–	–	–
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	–	–	–
Other movements	–	–	–
Net book value	–	–	–

TABLE C
Summary of balances of assets held under finance leases as at 30 June 1999

Item:	Buildings $	Other plant & equipment $	Total $
As at 30 June 1999			
Gross value	–	19,808	19,808
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	–	19,478	19,478
Net book value	–	330	330
As at 30 June 1998			
Gross value	–	19,808	19,808
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	–	15,517	15,517
Net book value	–	4,291	4,291

18. 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 Assets and Liabilities and is shown at Note 15.

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

	1999 $	1998 $
Net Cost of Services	**(18,607,246)**	(17,499,065)
Revenues from the Commonwealth	**17,811,720**	18,960,120
Operating result	**(795,526)**	1,461,055
Depreciation	**474,242**	557,858
Bad debts and provision for doubtful debts	**374**	26,500
(Gain) on disposal of non-current assets	**–**	(19,548)
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	**4,135**	11
Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables	**473**	(392,949)
(Increase) in Inventories	**(7,370)**	(23,018)
Decrease/(Increase) in Other Assets	**442,491**	(408,782)
(Decrease)/Increase in Employee Liabilities	**(145,610)**	102,161
(Decrease) in Suppliers	**(162,433)**	(103,519)
(Decrease)/Increase in Other Liabilities	**804,906**	(409,848)
(Decrease) in Lease Liabilities	**(5,023)**	(4,397)
Net cash provided by operating activities	**610,659**	785,524

(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities

The repayments to the Department of Finance for the advances detailed at note 19 are satisfied by instalments deducted from Authority appropriation. The repayments do not affect cash flows but do effect the other liabilities item in the statement of assets and liabilities. This effect is reflected in the reconciliation above.

19. REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES FROM DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Finance and Administration has determined that certain 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 have been repaid in the form of instalments deducted from Authority appropriation. Interest on the outstanding principal is charged at the long-term bond rate and has been capitalised. Scheduled repayments have been made in the 1995-96, the 1996-97, the 1997-98 and the 1998-99 financial years.

The Authority has also received a repayable advance in the 1998-99 financial year which was used to offset the costs of redundancies arising from the restructure of the Authority which took effect from 1 July 1998. This advance of $410,000 is to be repaid over the course of the next four years.

20. REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVES

(a) Remuneration – Members of the Authority

	1999	1998
	$	$
Aggregate amount of superannuation payments in connection with the retirement of Members:	**10,888**	11,730
Other remuneration received, or due and receivable, directly or indirectly, by Members of the Authority:	**171,127**	163,814
Total remuneration received, or due and receivable, directly or indirectly, by Members of the Authority:	**182,015**	175,544

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

	1999	1998
$Nil - $10,000	**3**	3
$10,000 - $20,000	**1**	1
$140,000 - $150,000	**–**	1
$150,000 - $160,000	**1**	–

(b) Remuneration - Senior Executives of the Authority

	1999	1998
	$	$
Income received, or due and receivable, by Senior Executives:	271,825	127,778

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:

	1999	1998
$120,000 - $130,000	–	1
$130,000 - $140,000	2	–

The remuneration disclosed includes all officers concerned with or taking part in the management of the Authority during 1998-99 except the Chairperson. Details in relation to the Chairperson have been incorporated into Note 20(a) Remuneration – Members of the Authority.

21. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

(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) until 12 April 1999;

Mr John Lyons (part-time Member);
Mrs Evelyn Scott (part-time Member);
Mr Tom Tolhurst (part-time Member) until 8 October 1998;

(b) Acting Part-time Member and Acting Chairperson appointments

Mr John Tanzer acted as Chairperson during periods of absence by Dr Ian McPhail from 14 July to 1 August 1998, 8 to 17 December 1998, and following the resignation of Dr Ian McPhail, from 12 April to 14 June 1999.

Mr Richard Kenchington acted as Chairperson during periods of absence by Dr Ian McPhail from 11 to 17 October 1998, 29 November to 3 December 1998, 26 February to 9 March 1999 and following the resignation of Dr Ian McPhail, from 15 June to 30 June 1999.

Dr Glyn Davis was appointed acting part-time Member for the following periods,
12 weeks commencing 16 November 1998,
12 weeks commencing 16 February 1999, and
12 weeks commencing 11 May 1999.

(c) Remuneration

Information on remuneration of Authority Members is disclosed at Note 20.

(d) Superannuation

The aggregate amount of superannuation payments paid to the Public Sector (PSS) superannuation scheme in connection with the retirement of Members was $10,888 (1997-98: $11,730).

(d) Authority Members' interest in contracts

On the basis of statements declared by Members in accordance with s. 16A of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act or s. 21 of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997, 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 20 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.

22. REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	1999	1998
	$	$
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period	**40,000**	40,000

No other services were provided by the Auditor-General during the reporting period.

23. CASH BONDS

Cash Bonds are held in lieu of bank guarantees.
Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 1999

	1999
	$
Cash at bank 1 July 1998	**154,068**
RECEIPTS	
Cash Bond	**44,000**
Interest	**5,602**
Cash at bank 30 June 1999	**203,670**

24. 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. 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:

	Cash	In Kind	EMC	**1999** **$**	1998 $
Within one year	665,000	250,000	1,102,000	**2,017,000**	1,935,000
From one to two years	–	–	–	**–**	2,017,000
	665,000	250,000	1,102,000	**2,017,000**	3,952,000

At balance date the Authority was engaged in negotiations for the establishment of a new Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Although the negotiations for the establishment of a new CRC were not final at balance date it is highly likely that the Authority's commitment to the existing CRC

for the 1999-2000 financial year will be replaced by the proposed arrangements for the new CRC. In addition to the commitment for 1999-2000 the new CRC will involve a substantial commitment of cash, in-kind contributions and payment of EMC collections by the Authority over the following six years and is quantified as follows.

	Cash	In Kind	EMC	$
Within one year	665,000	350,000	1,102,000	2,117,000
From one to two years	665,000	420,000	1,240,000	2,325,000
From two to five years	1,995,000	1,260,000	3,720,000	6,975,000
More than five years	1,330,000	840,000	2,480,000	4,650,000
	4,655,000	2,870,000	8,542,000	16,067,000

25. INSURANCE

From July 1998 the Authority was included in the new Commonwealth Insurable Risk Managed Fund known as Comcover. The Authority has commercial insurance cover for the operation of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium.

26. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Terms, conditions and accounting policies

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms & conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
Financial Assets		Financial assets are recognised when control over future economic benefits is established and the amount of the benefit can be reliably measured	
Cash at Bank and Deposits at Call	15	Deposits are recognised at their nominal amounts. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Temporarily surplus funds, mainly from monthly drawdowns of appropriations, are placed on deposit at call with the Authority's bank. Interest is earned on the daily balance at the prevailing daily rate and is paid monthly.
Term Deposit	15	The deposit is recognised at the nominal amount. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	The deposit is with the Authority's bank on 30 day terms and the interest rate at 30 June 1999 was 4.84%. Interest is payable monthly.
Receivables for goods and services	16	These receivables are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Provisions are made when collection of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.	Credit terms are nett 28 days (1997-98: 28 days)
Amounts receivable from the Common-wealth	16	The amount receivable is recognised at the nominal amount due as at 30 June 1999. The amount arises from EMC collections due to be paid into Consoli-dated Revenue and then paid to the Authority as Special Appropriation.	The EMC is collected each quarter by the Authority as agent for the Commonwealth.
Other Debtors	16	These amounts represent interest accrued on deposits with banks.	Interest is received monthly.

26. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)

(a) Terms, conditions and accounting policies

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms & conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
Financial Liabilities		Financial liabilities are recognised when a present obligation to another party is entered into and the amount of the liability can be reliably measured.	
Advances from the Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA)	12(a)	Liabilities are recognised at the present value of the outstanding principal plus accrued interest unpaid as at reporting date.	The advances received for the purposes of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium have been repaid in the form of instalments deducted from Authority appropriations. Interest on the outstanding principal is charged at the long-term bond rate and has been capitalised. At 30 June 1999 the applicable rate was 5.57%. The advance received in 1998-99 to offset the costs of redundancies is to be repaid over the next four years. At 30 June 1999 the applicable rate was 5.1%.
Finance lease liabilities	12(b)	Liabilities are recognised at the present value of the minimum lease payments at the beginning of the lease. The discount rates used are estimates of the interest rates implicit in the lease.	At reporting date the Authority had one finance lease with a term of 5 years. The interest rate implicit in the lease averaged 13.4% (1997-98: 13.4%) The lease liability is secured by the lease asset.
Trade creditors	13(b)	Creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods and services have been received.	Settlement is usually made in 30 days.

26. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)

(b) Interest rate risk

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate 30 day terms		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Effective Interest Rate	
		98-99 $	97-98 $	**98-99 $**	97-98 $	**98-99 $**	97-98 $	**98-99 $**	97-98 $	**98-99 %**	97-98 %
Financial Assets (Recognised)											
Cash at Bank and Deposits at Call	15	**3,676,856**	3,516,042					**3,676,856**	3,516,042	**3.6**	3.8
Cash on Hand	15					**22,112**	90,445	**22,112**	90,445	**n/a**	n/a
Term Deposit	15			**884,100**	845,455			**884,100**	845,455	**4.5**	5.5
Receivables for goods and services	16					**221,438**	259,679	**221,438**	259,679	**n/a**	n/a
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	16					**1,211,986**	1,179,354	**1,211,986**	1,179,354	**n/a**	n/a
Other Debtors		**18,611**	13,475					**18,611**	13,475	**3.6**	3.8
Total Financial Assets (Recognised)		**3,695,467**	3,529,517	**884,100**	845,455	**1,455,536**	1,529,478	**6,035,103**	5,904,450		
Total Assets								**7,189,691**	15,982,101		

26. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)

(b) Interest rate risk

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate 1 year or less		1 to 2 years		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Effective Interest Rate	
		98-99 $	97-98 $	**98-99 $**	97-98 $	**98-99 $**	97-98 $	**98-99 $**	97-98 $	**98-99 %**	97-98 %	**98-99 %**	97-98 %
Financial Liabilities (Recognised)													
Advance from DOFA	12(a)	**831,012**	1,019,613							**831,012**	1,019,613	**5.57**	7.01
Advance from DOFA	12(a)	**410,000**	–							**410,000**	–	**5.10**	n/a
Finance lease liabilities	12(b)			**443**	5,023	–	443			**443**	5,466	**13.4**	13.4
Trade creditors	13(b)							**639,386**	801,819	**639,386**	801,819	**n/a**	n/a
Total Financial Liabilities (Recognised)		**1,241,012**	1,019,613	**443**	5,023	–	443	**639,386**	801,819	**1,880,841**	1,826,898		
Total Liabilities										**5,096,038**	4,604,198		

26. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)

(c) Net Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

The financial assets and liabilities are held at carrying amounts which approximate net fair value. The net fair value of a financial asset or a financial liability is the amount at which the asset could be exchanged, or liability settled in a current transaction between willing parties after allowing for transaction costs.

(d) Credit Risk Exposures

The Authority's maximum exposures to credit risk at reporting date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Authority has no significant exposures to any concentrations of credit risk.

27. DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
OPERATING STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1999

	Note	1999 $	1998 $
Operating Expenses			
Employee expenses		4,940,896	4,778,714
Supplies and services		2,749,861	2,755,387
Depreciation	2	937,890	968,520
Transfers to Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		..	66,777
Net Losses		8,060	21,095
Total operating expenses		**8,636,707**	**8,590,493**
Operating Revenues			
Funding from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		4,041,971	4,168,999
Other		205,110	1,146
Total operating revenues		**4,247,081**	**4,170,145**
NET COST OF SERVICES		**(4,389,626)**	**(4,420,348)**
Revenues from Government			
Appropriations from State Government		4,092,000	3,836,001
Total revenues from Government		**4,092,000**	**3,836,001**
Increase (decrease) in net assets before abnormal items		**(297,626)**	**(584,347)**
Abnormal items	3	126,208	21,811
Increase (decrease) in net assets		**(171,418)**	**(562,536)**
Opening Accumulated Surplus	10	4,856,472	5,357,799
Closing Accumulated Surplus		4,685,054	4,795,263

27. DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT (cont.)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 1999

	Note	1999 $	1998 $
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	4	164,279	187,429
Receivables	5	23,279	6,574
Other	6	48,501	823,968
Total current assets		**236,059**	**1,017,971**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	5,082,890	4,567,251
Total non-current assets		**5,082,890**	**4,567,251**
Total assets		**5,318,949**	**5,585,222**
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors	8	18,352	196,886
Total current liabilities		**18,352**	**196,886**
Total liabilities		**18,352**	**196,886**
Net assets		**5,300,597**	**5,388,336**
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		4,685,054	4,795,263
Asset Revaluation Reserve	9	615,543	593,073
Total equity		**5,300,597**	**5,388,336**

27. DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT (cont.)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1999

	Note	1999 $	1998 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Payments from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		4,041,971	4,253,100
Other		4,490	1,279
Outflows:			
Employee expenses		(4,984,981)	(4,778,714)
Supplies and services		(2,840,272)	(2,696,296)
Transfers to GBRMPA		..	(66,777)
Net cash used in operating activities	11	**(3,778,792)**	**(3,287,408)**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		27,381	119,840
Outflows:			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(363,739)	(765,043)
Net cash used in investing activities		**(336,358)**	**(645,203)**
CASH FLOWS FROM GOVERNMENT			
Inflows:			
Appropriations from State Government		4,092,000	3,836,001
Net cash provided by Government		**4,092,000**	**3,836,001**
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		**(23,150)**	**(96,610)**
Cash at beginning of reporting period		**187,429**	**284,039**
Cash at end of reporting period	4	**164,279**	**187,429**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
AS AT 30 JUNE 1999

NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) **Basis of Accounting**
The financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards outlined in the "*Guidelines for Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities* " as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Except where stated the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention on an accrual basis.

(b) **Carryover Transfer to the Queensland Treasury Department**
The balance of unspent funds held by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park at 30 June 1999, was transferred to the Queensland Treasury Department in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's standard accounting practices and procedures. As at 1 July 1999 the amount transferred was refunded to the Agency. The unspent funds are treated as cash in the financial statements.

(c) **Funding from the Commonwealth Government**
Funding from the Commonwealth Government is recognised as revenue in the reporting period when received.

(d) **Acquisition of Assets**
The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisition of assets. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

(e) **Property, Plant and Equipment**
All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, in excess of $1,000 are capitalised in the year of acquisition. All other such assets with a cost, or other value, less than $1,000 are expensed.

(f) **Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment**
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment is calculated on a straight line basis so as to write off the cost (or other value) of each depreciable asset, less its estimated residual value, progressively over its estimated useful life. The depreciation rates for each class of Property Plant and Equipment are:
Buildings 7% Infrastructure ranges between 7% and 33%
Vessels > $250,000 13%
Plant and Equipment ranges between 7% and 33%

(g) **Revaluations of Non-Current Physical Assets**
Non-current physical assets having an estimated value greater than the revaluation threshold of $250,000 and an estimated useful life of three years or more are required to be revalued. A comprehensive revaluation of non-current physical assets is performed at five year intervals with annual indexation between the full valuations.

Non-current physical assets are valued on the "deprival" basis. Under this concept, assets are valued at an amount that represents the entire loss that might be expected to be incurred if the Agency was deprived of the future economic benefits of these assets at the reporting date.

Buildings and Infrastructure assets were valued during the 1995-96 financial year by Casagrande registered valuers and vessels were independently valued during 1996-97. The index applied to the 1998-99 year is the Seasonally Adjusted Implicit Price Deflator Covering Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure General Government, as supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

(h) **Employee Entitlements**
Officers of the Environmental Protection Agency provide a service to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and consequently the Agency is the responsible entity for all employee entitlements. In recognition of this service the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park contributes to the salary and related costs of the officers but does not incur any liabilities with regards to employee entitlements.

(i) **Losses**
Recorded losses include loss on disposal of capitalised and non capitalised assets.

27. DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT (cont.)

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
AS AT 30 JUNE 1999

		1999 $	1998 $
NOTE 2	**DEPRECIATION EXPENSE**		
	Depreciation expense for the financial year was charged in respect of:		
	Plant and equipment	323,670	367,419
	Vessels > $250,000	491,107	429,849
	Buildings and Infrastructure	123,113	171,252
		937,890	968,520
NOTE 3	**ABNORMAL ITEMS**		
	Revenue		
	Donated asset	..	1,089
	Non-current assets recovered during stocktake	..	55,932
	Recognition of expenditure incurred in previous years on non-current assets	..	5,333
	Correction to opening balances of the net book value of assets arising from conversion of assets to a new system	286,184	..
	Expenditure		
	Accumulated depreciation on non-current assets recovered during stocktake	..	(40,543)
	Expenditure incorrectly coded to work in progress in prior year	(159,976)	..
		126,208	21,811
NOTE 4	**CASH**		
	Unexpended funds carried over at end of period held by Treasury	160,492	187,129
	Imprest Accountable Advances	800	300
	Accountable Advances - Travel	2,987	..
		164,279	187,429
NOTE 5	**RECEIVABLES**		
	Trade Receivables	23,279	..
	Sundry amounts due from Queensland Treasury	..	6,093
	Monies owing from the Environmental Protection Agency	..	481
		23,279	6,574
NOTE 6	**OTHER CURRENT ASSETS**		
	Advances to other Departments in respect of vessels	..	800,000
	Prepayments	48,501	23,968
		48,501	823,968

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
AS AT 30 JUNE 1999

	1999 $	1998 $
NOTE 7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Buildings and Infrastructure		
- At cost	129,124	873,794
- Accumulated depreciation	(25)	(415,370)
- At valuation	1,501,699	790,269
- Accumulated depreciation	(400,206)	(197,857)
Work In Progress	1,032,769	1,169,739
Vessels > $250,000		
- At cost	987,194	259,283
- Accumulated depreciation	(93,878)	(43,750)
- At valuation	3,312,536	3,025,153
- Accumulated depreciation	(2,241,720)	(1,906,431)
Plant and equipment		
- At cost	2,703,641	2,632,531
- Accumulated depreciation	(1,848,244)	(1,620,110)
Total Property, Plant and Equipment - Net Book Value	5,082,890	4,567,251
NOTE 8 CREDITORS		
Trade creditors	18,352	112,613
Other creditors	..	84,273
	18,352	196,886
NOTE 9 ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE		
Opening balance	593,073	13,058
Full revaluation	..	560,857
Interim revaluation	22,470	19,158
Closing balance	615,543	593,073
NOTE 10 OPENING ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Opening accumulated surplus	4,795,263	5,357,799
Adjustments:		
1997/98 revenue incorrectly coded to GBRMP	84,273	..
1997/98 receivables balance entered into new financial management system incorrectly	904	..
Reversal of 1997/98 opening balance of prepayments entered twice into new financial management system	(23,968)	..
	4,856,472	5,357,799
NOTE 11 RECONCILIATION OF NET COST OF SERVICES TO NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net cost of Services	(4,389,626)	(4,420,348)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation	937,891	968,520
Net Losses	8,060	21,095
Asset transferred from Environmental Protection Agency	(187,304)	..
Stock write-on's	(5,737)	..
Non cash abnormal items adjusted through operating activities	77,696	..
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables	(16,705)	..
(Increase)/Decrease in other assets	(24,533)	94,436
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(178,534)	48,889
Net cash used in operating activities	(3,778,792)	(3,287,407)

27. DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT (cont.)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
AS AT 30 JUNE 1999

NOTE 12 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There are no known commitments or contingent liabilities of a significant nature at 30 June 1999 (1998 Nil).

NOTE 13 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Terms, Conditions and Accounting Policies

The entity's accounting policies, including terms and conditions of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument, both recognised and unrecognised at balance date, are as follows:

Recognised Financial Instruments	Statement of Financial Position Notes	Accounting Policies	Terms and Conditions
1. Financial Assets Receivables	5	Receivables are carried at nominal amounts due.	No terms and conditions apply.
2. Financial Liabilities Trade creditors and accruals	8	Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received whether or not billed to the entity.	Trade liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms or less.

(b) Interest Rate Risk Exposure

No exposure to interest rate risk exists at 30 June 1999.

(c) Credit Risk Exposure

The entity's maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date in relation to each class of recognised financial asset is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position.

(d) Net Fair Values

The aggregate net fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities at the balance date are as per the Statement of Financial Position.

The following methods and assumptions are used to determine the net fair values of financial assets and liabilities.

Recognised Financial Instruments
Cash balances
The carrying amount approximates fair value.

Trade Receivables and Trade Payables
The carrying amount approximates fair value.

27. DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT (cont.)

CERTIFICATE OF THE EVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
In relation to the operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

The foregoing financial statements have been prepared as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. We certify that -

(a) the statements together with the other information and notes to and forming part thereof are in agreement with the accounts of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(b) the receipt and expenditure of monies and the control and management of assets were in accordance with the approved programs and in accordance with the aforementioned agreements and previous agreements executed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments with regard to day to day management; 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) statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the transactions and cash flows of the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the period 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, and of the financial position as at 30 June 1999.

N. O'Sullivan
Acting Manager (Financial Services)

Date: 16/9/99

B. Carbon
Director-General

Date: 16 9. 99

27. DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT (cont.)

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

Scope

I have audited the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the year ended 30 June 1999 comprising the Operating Statement, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Notes to and forming part of the financial statements and certificates given by the Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency and the person responsible for financial administration of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for the preparation and the form of presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have audited the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with *QAO Auditing Standards* to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are 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 statements 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 statements are presented fairly in accordance with prescribed accounting standards and other prescribed requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the entity's financial position, the results of its operations and cash flows.

The year 2000 issue has been addressed only in the context of my existing audit responsibility under Australian Auditing Standards to express an opinion on the financial statements. Plans and associated actions to address the year 2000 issue have been reviewed for action taken to date, but the adequacy of those plans has not been assessed. Accordingly, the audit of the financial statements does not provide specific assurance, nor is a specific opinion expressed that the systems of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park or other systems such as those of suppliers, vendors, service providers, customers, associates, joint venture parties or third parties are year 2000 compliant.

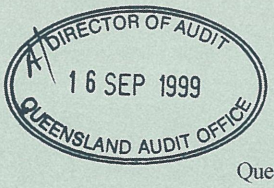
The audit opinion expressed in this certificate has been formed on the above basis.

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 I have received all the information and explanations I have required in respect of the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and, in my opinion -

- the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and

- the statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view in accordance with the prescribed accounting standards and other prescribed requirements of the transactions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the financial year ended 30 June 1999 and of the financial position as at the end of that year.



O C CLARE
Delegate of the Auditor-General of Queensland

Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

APPENDIX P

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Scope

I have audited the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 1999. The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by Members
- Operating Statement
- Statement of Assets and Liabilities
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Schedule of Commitments
- Schedule of Contingencies, and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements.

The members of the Authority are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you.

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 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 as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements so as to present a view of the entity which is consistent with my understanding of its 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 my opinion,

(i) the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Finance Minister's Orders; and

(ii) the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and Schedule 2 of the Finance Minister's Orders, of the financial position of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 1999 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Allan M Thompson
Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
1 October 1999

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