



*Sheat*

**Australian Government**

**Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority**

ANNUAL REPORT  
2003 - 2004

*our great barrier reef  
let's keep it great*





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**Further information**

The 2003-2004 Annual Report is accessible on the GBRMPA website. The site also includes supplementary information including a list of staff papers and Authority publications produced during the year. A detailed list of membership of relevant external committees can also be found at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au).

Contact Officer: Director, Communication and Education (contact details as above).

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
Townsville QLD 4810

14 October 2004

Senator The Hon Ian Campbell  
Minister for the Environment and Heritage  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

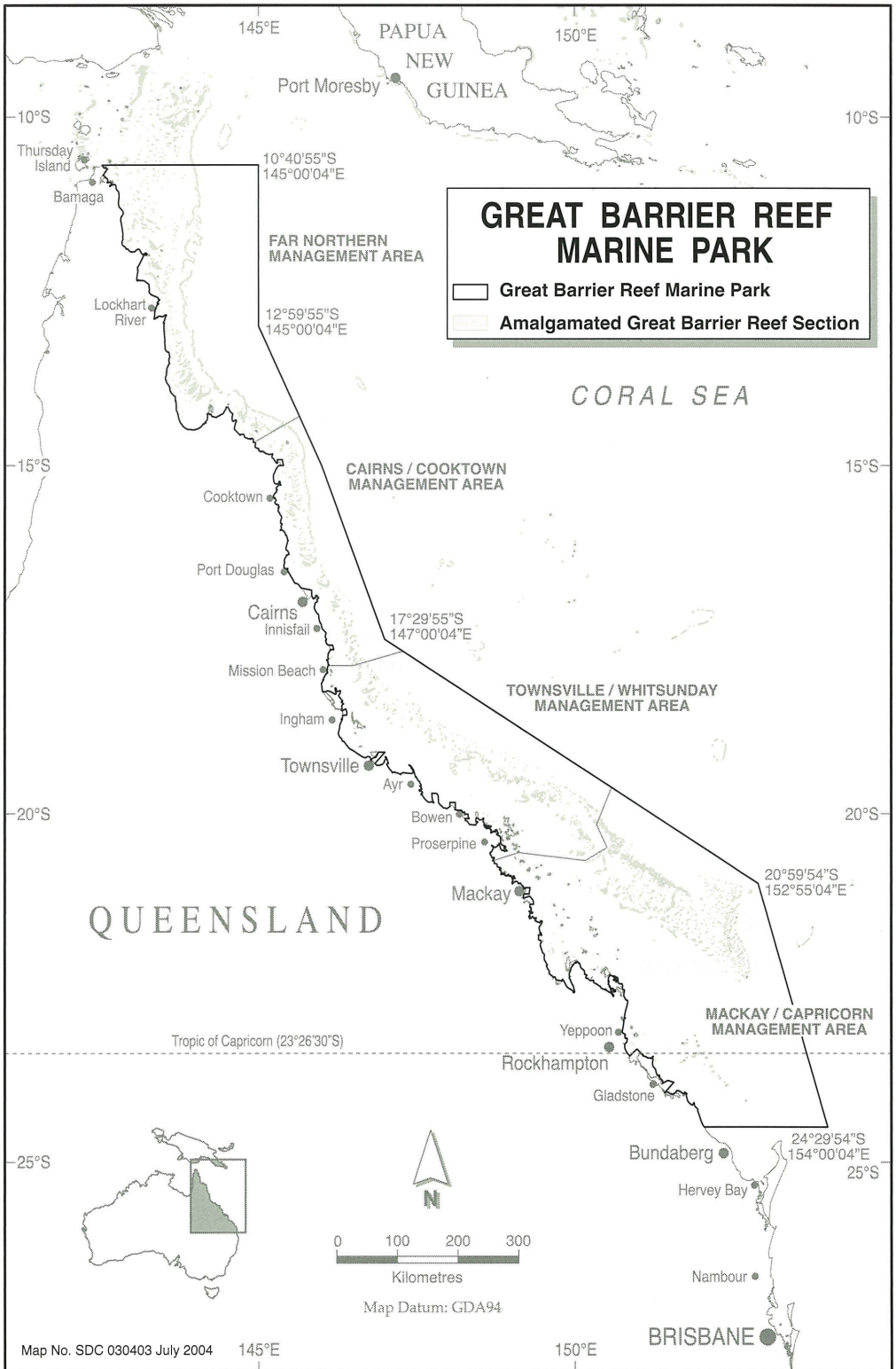
Dear Minister

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 2004.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Chadwick', written in a cursive style.

Hon Virginia Chadwick  
Chairman



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# SECTION A

## Introduction

## Introduction

This year has been significant for the long-term conservation and sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Based on the Representative Areas Program, a new zoning plan for the entire Marine Park has been developed. Following passage through the Australian Parliament, the Zoning Plan is in place.

The plan ensures that at least 20 per cent of each of the 70 known bioregions and an overall 33.3 per cent of the Marine Park has a high level of protection. As part of this process, 28 areas, previously excluded from the Marine Park, have also been included in the Zoning Plan.

More than 31,000 public submissions were analysed in developing the final plan, making it the most comprehensive process of community involvement for any environmental issue in Australia's history.

The Representative Areas Program and the Zoning Plan have been internationally recognised as one of the most comprehensive and innovative global advances in marine conservation and the systematic protection of marine biodiversity in recent decades. The program has recently been awarded the prestigious Banksia Environmental Award and the Eureka Award for Biodiversity Research.

Through the provision of detailed and expert local knowledge and industry input, many changes were made from the draft to the final Zoning Plan to minimise impacts on those who use or work in the Marine Park. The new zoning will benefit the entire Great Barrier Reef ecosystem and enhance the resilience of the Reef to cope with impacts, as well as ensure that industries that rely on the Great Barrier Reef can achieve increased levels of environmental and financial sustainability.

Concern about the quality of water from the Great Barrier Reef catchment area and its impact on the reef continued to be a high priority for the Authority. In the past year, the GBRMPA has worked closely with other Australian and Queensland Government agencies to finalise the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan. The plan was released by the Australian and Queensland Governments on 5 December 2003 and is aimed at halting and reversing the decline in water quality entering the Marine Park within 10 years.

The Authority extended its commitment to education with the launch of the 2004 Reef Guardian Schools Program following a successful pilot in 2003. The program encourages students, teachers, parents and the broader community to become involved in activities to protect the Great Barrier Reef and its surrounding environment.

Recommendations of a review of the Day-to-Day Management Program have been implemented. I acknowledge, and thank the large number of Australian and Queensland Government agencies and departments that contribute significantly to the success of this essential work, especially in the areas of surveillance and compliance.

Maintaining and building relationships with Traditional Owner groups is of importance to the Authority. The Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit is working closely with many Indigenous groups to develop Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements.

The Authority continues to foster partnerships with local communities, stakeholders, industry and community groups through the GBRMPA's Reef Advisory Committees, Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee and the Local Marine Advisory Committees.

I thank all who contribute their time and expertise so generously – many, over a long period of time.

The partnership and collaboration that has developed between community, industry, conservation and research groups has contributed significantly to sound policy outcomes.

In particular, I thank the marine research community, conservationists focussed on the Great Barrier Reef and the Great Barrier Reef Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators.

The success of collaborative decision-making and the growth of partnerships provide sign posts for the future management of the Marine Park. Over time, it is our goal to extend this approach. Engagement with local communities, local government and stakeholder/industry groups during the hundreds of meetings during the rezoning consultation sets both an opportunity and challenge in this regard.

Reef HQ – the world's largest living coral reef aquarium maintains its place as a major tourism attraction. It also provides a focus for the Marine Park Authority's education programs. The financial performance of the aquarium continues to improve through the hard work of aquarium staff.

I thank Marine Park Authority Board members for their support, guidance and expert advice.

I am proud of the staff of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. To achieve this year's outcomes, all staff have had to work as one team, and all have responded in a magnificent fashion.

It is appropriate to acknowledge the commitment and courage of the Hon Dr David Kemp. Without his support as Minister, we would not have achieved the year's outcomes.

I am proud of our achievements over the last year as I submit this annual report to the Parliament and the Australian community. Initiatives of the last 12 months have significantly contributed to the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in the face of local challenges and global pressures.



Hon Virginia Chadwick  
Chairman

## Summary of Financial Performance

Details of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's [GBRMPA's] financial operations are provided in the Financial Statements at Section D. An overview of the Authority's financial operations follows and a summary of financial and staffing resources is at Table 1.

Total appropriation for 2003-04 of \$22.113 million was \$1.893 million less than the 2002-03 appropriation. This was primarily due to the change in accounting treatment of the Special Appropriation due to the Authority from the collection of the Environmental Management Charge (EMC). Full details of the change are disclosed in the Financial Statements. There were other variations due to adjustments to programs in accordance with measures announced in the 2003-04 Budget for Aquaculture and Environmental Management Charge Offset and the discontinuation of the capital use charge.

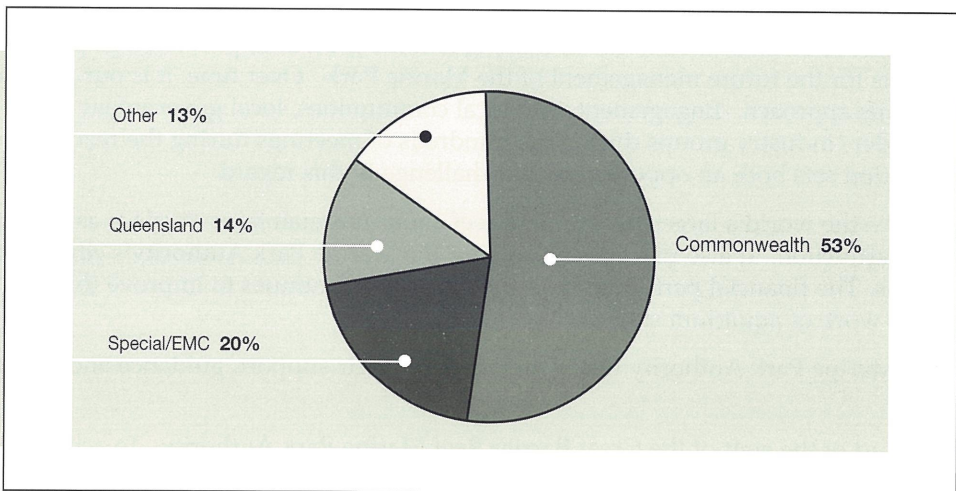


Figure 1: Operating revenues by source 2003-04.

Revenue from other sources for 2003-04 of \$8.441 million was \$1.097 million less than in 2002-03. This reduction was due primarily to a reduction in recovery of monitoring costs associated with the Nelly Bay Harbour project. Revenue from Reef HQ admission sales and retail operations was up on 2002-03 as the facility was operational for the full 12 months of the 2003-04 financial year, whereas only 11 months of operations were possible in the 2002-03 year due to the refurbishment from February to July 2002. A \$0.5 million Natural Heritage Trust grant was received to assist with the zoning of the 28 new areas that have been added to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In addition, a \$0.5 million Natural Heritage Trust grant was received to assist with measures to control crown-of-thorns starfish.

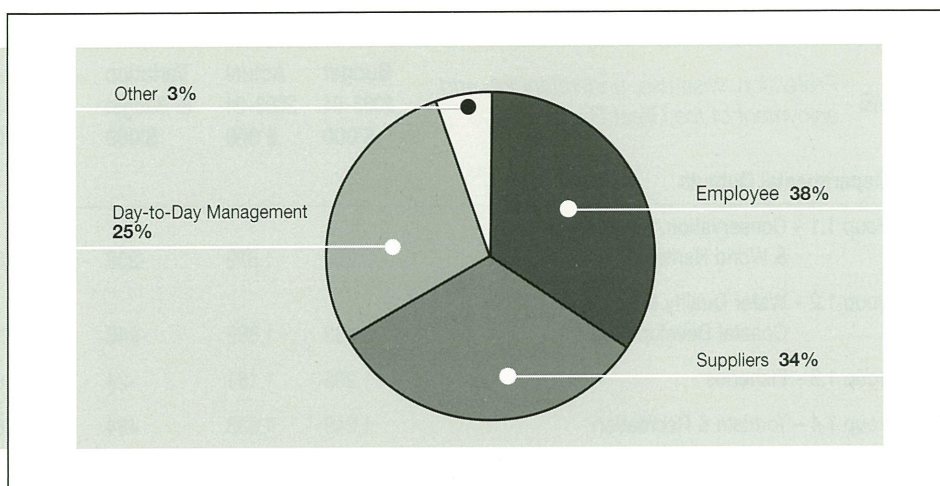


Figure 2: Expenses by category 2003-04.

The operating expense of managing the Marine Park in 2003-04 was \$31.9 million, a decrease of 0.5 per cent from 2002-03. Employee expenses increased due to the first stage of the 2003-2006 Agency Certified Agreement and an increase in staff numbers. Expenses for suppliers were similar to the previous year, with additional resources allocated to the Communication and Education phase associated with the Zoning Plan which came into effect from 1 July 2004.

The Australian and Queensland Governments provided matching funding for day-to-day management of the Marine Park, which is implemented by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The combination of the change in policy in accounting for the Special Appropriation and significant expenditure on implementation of the new Zoning Plan resulted in an operating deficit of \$1.4 million for the year.

Table 1 sets out Budget and Actual Resource usage for each of the Outputs identified in the Portfolio Budget Statements.

#### ***Explanation of resource table variations***

Table 1 indicates variations between Budget and Actual Resource usage for 2003-04. The major increases from Budget to Actual relate to changes to the organisational structure during the year including:

- The reduction of staff numbers in Output 1.1 – Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage as the work of the Representative Areas Program [RAP] Taskforce was completed; and
- The transfer of the Water Quality Research Unit from Output 1.2 – Water Quality and Coastal Development to Output 1.6 – Information for Park Management.

RESOURCES FOR GBRMPA OUTCOME

<b>OUTCOME</b>	<i>Protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef</i>	<b>Budget 2003-04 \$'000</b>	<b>Actual 2003-04 \$'000</b>	<b>Variation to Budget \$'000</b>	<b>Budget 2004-05 \$'000</b>
<b>Price of Departmental Outputs</b>					
Output Group 1.1 – Conservation, Biodiversity & World Heritage		2,067	1,829	-238	1,840
Output Group 1.2 – Water Quality & Coastal Development		2,138	1,892	-246	1,871
Output Group 1.3 – Fisheries		1,205	1,181	-24	1,136
Output Group 1.4 – Tourism & Recreation		1,049	1,533	484	1,426
Output Group 1.5 – Park Management					
1.5.1 Field management of the Marine Park		9,684	9,558	-126	13,014
1.5.2 Planning and Impact Management of the Marine Park		3,010	2,798	-212	2,986
1.5.3 Liaison with Indigenous groups & community involvement		956	947	-9	1,039
<b>Sub-total Output Group 1.5</b>		<b>13,650</b>	<b>13,303</b>	<b>-347</b>	<b>17,039</b>
Output Group 1.6 – Information for Park Management		4,451	5,201	750	7,086
Output Group 1.7 – Reef Education & Communication		6,002	7,006	1,004	8,223
<b>Total Price of Departmental Outputs and Resourcing</b>		<b>30,562</b>	<b>31,945</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>38,621</b>
<b>Staff Level [FTEs at 30 June] 2004</b>		<b>165</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>170</b>

Table 1: Financial and staffing resources summary.

Additional resources were allocated to Output 1.4 - Tourism & Recreation to assist with measures to control crown-of-thorns starfish. This was not included in the original Budget.

Additional resources were allocated to Output 1.6 – Information for Park Management including work on coral bleaching and spatial data analysis for the RAP. The increased resources allocated for Output 1.7 - Reef Education and Communication incorporates the Communication and Education phase associated with implementation of the new Zoning Plan which came into effect on 1 July 2004.

## SECTION B

# Corporate Overview

### 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 GBRMPA and the Australian Government Minister responsible for the environment.

## Role

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority [the GBRMPA or the Authority] is the principal adviser to the Australian Government on the care, development and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

## Legislation

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* [‘the Act’] as an Australian Government statutory authority. The objectives of the Act are set out in section 5 and specific functions of the GBRMPA are defined in sections 7 and 7A.

Regulations in force under the Act are the:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*;
- *Great Barrier Reef Region [Prohibition of Mining] Regulations 1999*; and
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [Aquaculture] Regulations 2000*.

The GBRMPA is also subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. Section 28 of that Act requires members of the GBRMPA to ensure that policies of the Australian Government notified to them in writing by the Minister are carried out in relation to the Authority.

## The Minister

The Hon Dr David Kemp was Minister for the Environment and Heritage from November 2001 to June 2004. Senator The Hon Ian Campbell became Minister for the Environment and Heritage in July 2004.

## Directions to the Authority from the Minister

Subsection 7[2] of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* states that: ‘The Authority shall perform its functions in accordance with any general directions given by the Minister not inconsistent with this Act.’

Subsection 7[3] of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* states that: ‘The Members must include in each report on the Authority under section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* particulars of any directions given by the Minister under subsection [2] of this section during the period to which the report relates.’

No Ministerial Directions were given under sub-section 7[2] of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* during the period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004.

## Organisation

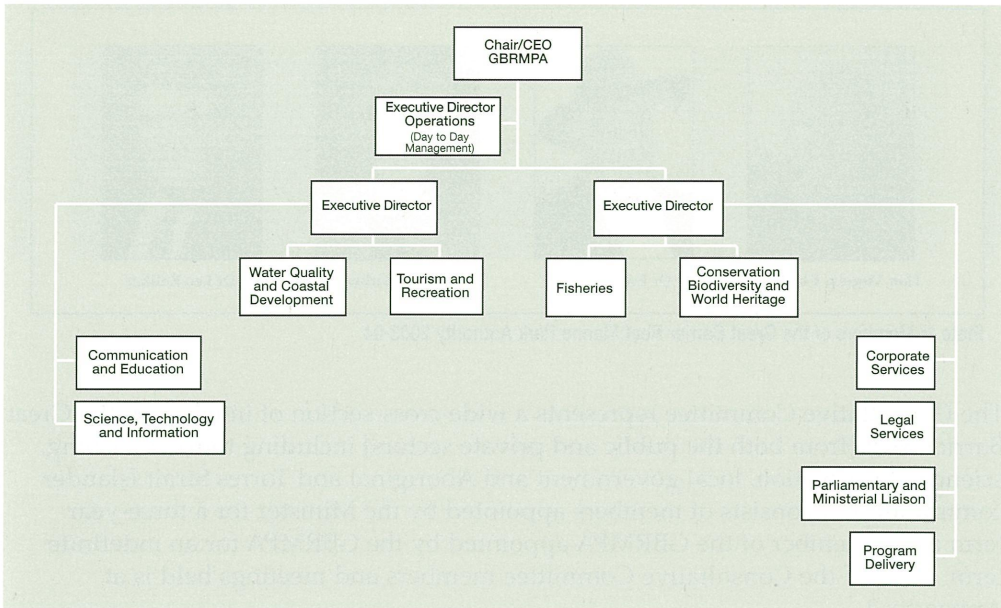


Figure 3: Organisational Chart of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Source GBRMPA.

## Corporate Governance

### Membership of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority consists of a full-time Chairman and three part-time members. One of the part-time members is nominated by the Queensland Government. The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* provides for one of the part-time members to be appointed to represent the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities living adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. See Appendix 1 for details of members' qualifications.

The members of the GBRMPA during 2003–04 were:

- Hon Virginia Chadwick [full-time Chairman and Chief Executive]
- Dr Evelyn Scott, AO [part-time member]
- Ms Fay Barker [part-time member]
- Dr Leo Keliher [part-time member]

Mr John Tanzer acted as Chairman during periods of absence by the Hon Virginia Chadwick, including 5 April – 19 April 2004, and 25 June – 7 July 2004.

### 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 GBRMPA and the Australian Government Minister responsible for the environment.

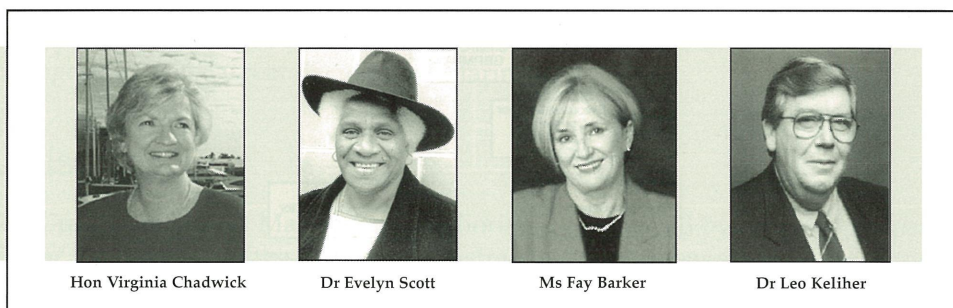


Plate 1: Members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2003-04

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 and Torres Strait Islander communities. It consists of members appointed by the Minister for a three-year term and a member of the GBRMPA appointed by the GBRMPA for an indefinite term. A list of the Consultative Committee members and meetings held is at Appendix 2.

A joint meeting of the Authority and the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee was convened in Canberra on 13 August 2003, to brief members about the Representative Areas Program [RAP] and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.



Plate 2: Joint meeting of the Marine Park Authority and the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee 13 August 2003. Members back row (standing, left to right): Noel Dawson [GBRCC], Dr Leo Keliher [MPA], Dr Evelyn Scott [MPA], Bill Whiteman [GBRCC], Simon Woodley [GBRCC], Terry Wall [GBRCC], Tony Charters [GBRCC], Bob Muir [GBRCC]. Front row [seated, left to right]: Diane Tarte [GBRCC], Dr Ian McPhail [GBRCC], Fay Barker [MPA], Peter Neville [GBRCC], Dr Russell Reichelt [GBRCC], Hon Virginia Chadwick [MPA, GBRCC], Peter Frawley [GBRCC], Jenny Pryor [GBRCC] Source: GBRMPA.

The Minister, The Hon David Kemp, joined the meeting and members were given the opportunity to discuss these issues with him.

### **Audit Committee**

Section 32 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* requires the directors of the Authority to establish and maintain an audit committee. The Authority established such a committee in September 1997.

The objective of the audit committee is to ensure 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*. A list of Audit Committee members, attendance at meetings and issues considered is at Appendix 2.

### **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Advisory Committees**

The GBRMPA has established a number of permanent committees to help execute Board responsibilities. These include four critical issue-focussed Reef Advisory Committees, the Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee and 10 Local Marine Advisory Committees. A number of other committees are also created from time to time to deal with specific issues. All committees have terms of reference and procedures established by the Board. Committee composition and membership is reviewed as required. Information regarding the GBRMPA's committees is contained in Appendix 2.

## **Public Accountability**

### **Internal and external scrutiny**

Pacific Bridge Pty Ltd was re-appointed as internal auditors in 2002-03. The firm continued to provide efficient and professional compliance and performance audit and evaluation services during 2003-04.

In line with the Australian Government's focus on accountability and corporate governance, audit activity has concentrated on areas of high risk, the adequacy of existing control frameworks and compliance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Risk Treatments Schedule outlines actions to manage risks identified in the GBRMPA Risk Management Plan. Staff training to minimise risks and to increase the awareness and use of a risk management approach continued.

The GBRMPA Fraud Control Plan was revised to ensure that the GBRMPA has in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data

collection procedures and processes, which meet the specific needs of the GBRMPA and comply with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines. The revised Plan was approved by the Board in November 2003.

## Australian National Audit Office reports

Ernst & Young, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office [ANAO], undertook the external audit of the GBRMPA's 2003-04 Financial Statements [See Section D: Financial Statements].

The GBRMPA was included in the following Auditor General's Reports tabled in Parliament during 2003-04:

- No. 8 – *Commonwealth Management of the Great Barrier Reef Follow Up Audit*
- No. 22 – *Audits of the Financial Statements of Australian Government Entities for the Period Ended 30 June 2003*

In February 2003, the ANAO commenced a Follow Up Audit to the *Commonwealth Management of the Great Barrier Reef* [Audit Report No. 33 1997-98]. The Follow Up Audit report was tabled in October 2003. In the report the ANAO concluded that "the GBRMPA has implemented six of the seven recommendations made in the 1998 audit, and has made good progress towards implementing the other recommendation".

The GBRMPA addressed in its 2002-03 Annual Report the requirements for full implementation of the recommendations by including performance information that provides a better indication of its overall effectiveness in managing the Marine Park.

The following Auditor General Reports of 2003-04 contain recommendations of relevance to the GBRMPA:

- No. 3 – *Management of Risk and Insurance*
- No. 11 – *Annual Performance Reporting*
- No. 14 – *Survey of Fraud Control Arrangements in APS Agencies*
- No. 19 – *Property Management*
- No. 25 – *Intellectual Property Policies and Practices in Commonwealth Agencies*
- No. 35 – *Compensation Payments and Debt Relief in Special Circumstances*
- No. 37 – *National Marine Unit*
- No. 49 – *The Use and Management of HRIS in the Australian Public Service*
- No. 55 – *Management of Protective Security*
- No. 57 – *Administration of Freedom of Information Requests*

## Internal audit reports

The GBRMPA's Audit Committee met three times during the year and considered external and internal audit reports, a Strategic Audit Plan for 2004-07 and a revised Fraud Control Plan. During 2003-04, internal audits were undertaken in the following areas of operation:

- Compliance;
- Environmental Management Charge;

- Implementation of ANAO recommendations;
- PEMS Post Implementation Review;
- Project/Contract management;
- Revenue collection;
- General IT review;
- Reef HQ;
- Human Resources Management [payroll];
- Purchasing and Procurement; and
- Financial management.

### Parliamentary committees and Government inquiries

There were no submissions made to Parliamentary committees and/or government inquiries during the year.

There were no external reviews that related specifically to the GBRMPA.

### Legal actions

One legal action was commenced against the GBRMPA during the year. A decision by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal on this matter is still pending. Two other legal actions also continued throughout the year. One matter was withdrawn and the other matter is still ongoing.

### Ombudsman

Human resource management decision-making by the GBRMPA during 2003-04 was regarded as sound. The Ombudsman made no comments relating to any of the GBRMPA's permit decisions in 2003-04. There were no actions relating to the appealable selection processes and no comments were made by the Commonwealth Ombudsman with respect to human resource management activities.

There were no other external reviews of human resource management decisions during 2003-04.

### Freedom of Information

The GBRMPA received eight requests for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* [Commonwealth]. A Freedom of Information Statement is provided at Appendix 3.

### Indemnities and insurance premiums

Indemnity is provided to directors and officers of the GBRMPA – to the extent allowed under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* - under the coverage of the Authority's insurer, Comcover, which is an Australian Government self-managed fund for insurable risk. Premiums are levied as part of the overall

insurance coverage and are based on the agreed insurance value and previous-claims history.

## Social justice and equity

The GBRMPA continued its commitment to meeting the Government's objective of enhancing social justice and equity, outlined within the Charter of Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society. As far as practicable, the GBRMPA aims to provide all Australians with equitable access to its services in a manner appropriate to their individual needs.

The Local Marine Advisory Committees [LMACs] continued to operate effectively along the coastline adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. They provided valuable advice and input to the GBRMPA decision-making processes. LMACs provide local people with an opportunity to identify regional issues of importance as well as broader issues of concern throughout the Marine Park and to help develop policy responses to those problems. The GBRMPA monitors membership, in the interests of access and equity, and makes ongoing efforts to encourage representation from a wide range of individuals and interest groups. Information on LMACs is contained in Appendix 2.

The GBRMPA's relationship with Indigenous people is important. All major planning exercises for the Marine Park include consultation with Indigenous communities.

During 2003-04 the major focus for consultation continued to be development and delivery of the Representative Areas Program and management requirements relating to the conservation of dugong, turtles and whales.

## GBRMPA Service Charter

The GBRMPA's Service Charter sets out the Authority's commitment to all its stakeholders. The Charter is available from the Public Information Unit at the GBRMPA on request. The Service Charter is also available on the Internet at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/about\\_gbrmpa/service\\_charter.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_gbrmpa/service_charter.html)

## Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requires Australian Government organisations to include in their annual reports details of the organisation's contribution to ecologically sustainable development as well as the environmental performance of the organisation. Section 516A also promotes development of a framework which integrates environmental, economic and social considerations and helps improve the environmental and ecologically sustainable development performance of Australian Government organisations. The GBRMPA's contribution to ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance is contained in Appendix 8.

## Australian Government Disability Strategy

The Australian Government Disability Strategy recognises that the Government has an impact on the lives of people with disabilities. The GBRMPA has developed a disability action plan which provides for reporting requirements identified in the Strategy. A statement of GBRMPA's compliance with the Australian Government Disability Strategy is contained in Appendix 9.

## State of Affairs of the GBRMPA

The principal activities of the GBRMPA that will be on-going from 2003-04 include:

- Implementation of the new Zoning Plan [*See Output 1.1-Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage*];
- Implementation of the provisions relating to the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements [TUMRAs] [*See Output 1.1-Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage and Output 1.5.3 -Liaison with Indigenous Groups*];
- Amendment to the Cairns Area Plan of Management [*See Output 1.5.2-Planning and Impact Management of the Marine Park*];
- Partnerships with the tourism industry in the crown-of-thorns starfish control program [*See Output 1.4 -Tourism and Recreation*];
- Implementation of the GBRMPA's responsibilities under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan [*See Output 1.2-Water Quality and Coastal Development*].

## Outcomes and Outputs Structure - Guide to the Reports

In 2002 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority identified seven Key Performance Indicators [KPIs] which provide information on the extent to which the Authority has achieved its Goal and proposed Outcomes. Table 2 sets out the KPIs and their relationship to components of the Goal and Outcomes.

A full description of each KPI and an analysis of information collected for each indicator is set out in the following pages.

An analysis of performance in achieving Outputs [several of which may contribute to an Outcome] is contained in Section C, Report of Operations.

<b>Authority Goal</b> <i>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</i>		
<b>Component of Goal</b>	<b>Desired Outcomes expressed as Outputs</b>	<b>Key Performance Indicators</b>
<b>Protection</b>	<i>Output 1.1</i> Conservation of the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef	KPI 1. The relative numbers of reefs that are 'healthy' compared to 'not healthy' as assessed by the AIMS Long-term Monitoring Program
	<i>Output 1.2</i> Improved water quality	KPI 2. Trends in chlorophyll a concentration in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon
<b>Wise use</b>	<i>Output 1.3</i> Sustainable fisheries	KPI 3. The proportion of fisheries with management plans and arrangements that comply with the Australian Government's guidelines for ecologically sustainable fisheries
	<i>Output 1.5</i> Effective park management	KPI 4. The number of bioregions with adequate 'no take' zones
	<i>Output 1.6</i> Accurate and adequate information available for management	KPI 5. The number of technical and scientific publications published about the Great Barrier Reef by the GBRMPA and the CRC Reef Research Centre is static or increasing
<b>Understanding and enjoyment</b>	<i>Output 1.4</i> High quality tourism and recreation opportunities	KPI 6. Trends in the number of tourists to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and their satisfaction with their experience
	<i>Output 1.7</i> Improved community understanding of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	KPI 7. Public understanding of the main threats to and the values of the Great Barrier Reef is increasing

Table 2: GBRMPA Corporate Goal, Outcomes and Key Performance Indicators.

## Key Performance Indicators reported against the Portfolio Budget Statements

**KPI 1: The relative numbers of reefs that are 'healthy' compared to 'not healthy' as assessed by the AIMS Long-term Monitoring Program**

**What is this Indicator?** The following graphs [Figure 4] shows hard coral cover at various sites along the Great Barrier Reef recorded by the Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Program [AIMS LTMP]. Each graph shows the trend in hard coral cover [the amount of substrate covered with living hard coral] at a selection of reefs from 1993 to 2004. There is a separate graph for each section of the Great Barrier Reef and for inshore, mid-shelf and offshore reefs.

**Why is this important?** Measuring live hard coral cover at various sites along the Great Barrier Reef allows scientists and managers to detect changes in the environment. The AIMS LTMP provides regional-scale information about the changes taking place on coral reefs in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This helps the GBRMPA to identify general changes and trends in the 'health' or condition of the environment and increases our understanding of the reef ecosystem.

**What does this mean?** As evident in the graphs following, the amount of live hard coral cover varies greatly from reef to reef and year to year. Coral reefs are very dynamic and the amount of hard coral cover present is affected by a wide range of factors. Cyclones, coral bleaching and crown-of-thorns starfish [COTS] outbreaks can cause sharp declines in coral cover but these effects may be localised and normal recovery results in increased live coral cover in subsequent years. In some cases, effects may be so localised and specific that different parts of the same reef may show extreme differences in appearance and live coral cover. As such, while these graphs provide an overview of the 'health' of the reefs being monitored, the trends in coral cover shown must be interpreted with care. Accurate interpretation of this data requires knowledge of the natural disturbances and potential pressures each reef may have experienced. For more information about the natural variability of coral reef and how this affects the ability of scientists to determine reef health, view the chapter on corals in the State of the Great Barrier Reef On-line at: [http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/corals/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/corals/index.html)

In general, the most significant effects on coral cover in recent years have been the coral bleaching episodes of 1998 and 2002, and the current outbreak of COTS. Together these events have resulted in declining levels of coral cover on many reefs across the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. For example, the latest surveys conducted by the AIMS LTMP show that many inshore and mid-shelf reefs in the Townsville sector have yet to recover from declines caused by the 1998 coral bleaching event and the current COTS outbreaks, and furthermore, that offshore reefs in the Townsville sector have now been affected by COTS. Similarly, some reefs in the Swains region have experienced declines in coral cover due to COTS, and some reefs have also experienced significant declines that are attributable to the 2002 coral bleaching episode. While the numbers of COTS found on inshore and mid-shelf reefs in the Cairns region have decreased from the peak levels of 1999 and 2000, coral cover is still relatively low due to the combined effects of the coral bleaching and COTS outbreaks. Recovery to pre-disturbance levels may take some years.

Meanwhile, coral cover on offshore reefs in the Cairns sector continues to remain fairly stable. Overall, while declines in coral cover are evident, the condition of the coral reefs being monitored are within expected ranges given the natural variability and current outbreaks of COTS, with some reefs declining due to disturbance events [COTS in the Townsville sector], while others have shown steady recovery [recovery from past cyclones in the Capricorn Bunker Group]. Nevertheless, some

reefs have exhibited more subtle indications of decline that are cause of concern and some reefs, especially inshore reefs, may be considered "at risk" from factors such as land based pollutant runoff. Monitoring the long-term recovery of reefs affected by COTS and coral bleaching over the next decade will provide a more precise measure of the health of these coral reef systems.

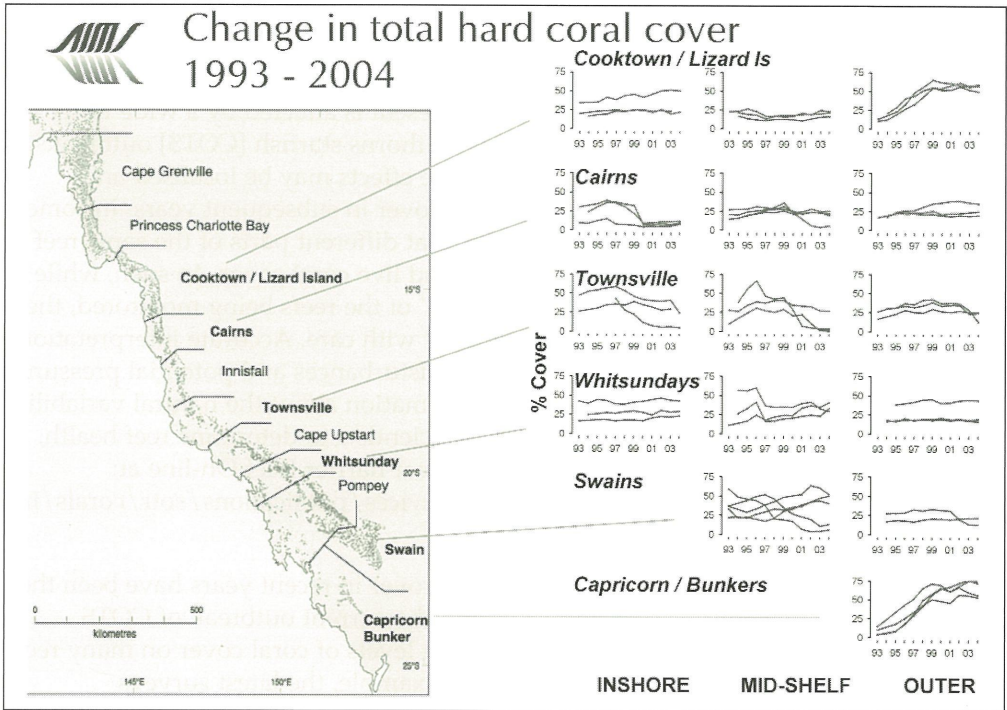


Figure 4: Change in total hard coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef.

Source: Information on the live coral cover of various reefs is collected by the Australian Institute of Marine Science [AIMS] LTMP. Reef scientists conduct coral surveys of 52 "core" reefs every summer using a video monitoring technique. There are three study sites at each reef, and at each site the scientists video five 50m long transects. The videos are then analysed to count the number and type of coral observed and to calculate the total live hard coral cover for that reef. This is equivalent to 39 kilometres of coral reef surveyed and analysed by the LTMP team every year.

#### Related links:

- AIMS LTMP website:  
<http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/reef-monitoring-index.html>
- AIMS LTMP reports:  
<http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/projinfo.html>
- AIMS coral bleaching and COTS information:  
<http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/reefissues.html>
- GBRMPA coral bleaching information:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/science/bleaching/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/science/bleaching/index.html)
- GBRMPA information on coral reefs:  
<http://www.reefed.edu.au/explorer/>

- State of the Great Barrier Reef On-line: Environmental status – corals:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/corals/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/corals/index.html)
- CRC Reef Research Centre coral bleaching information:  
[http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/brochures/bleaching\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/brochures/bleaching_brochure.pdf)
- CRC Reef Research Centre COTS information:  
[http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/brochures/cots-brochure\\_2001.pdf](http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/brochures/cots-brochure_2001.pdf)
- CRC Reef Research Centre information on coral reefs:  
<http://www.reef.crc.org.au/aboutreef/coral/index.html>

## KPI 2: Trends in chlorophyll a concentration in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon

**What is this indicator?** The following graph [Figure 5] shows the concentrations of chlorophyll a measured in both inshore and offshore waters of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon from 1993 to 2003 at sites in the northern, central and southern regions of the Great Barrier Reef. These measurements estimate the concentration of phytoplankton in the water, which, in turn, provides an indication of the concentration of nutrients present in the water column.

**Why is this important?** When nutrients from the land enter the waters of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon, they are rapidly taken up by phytoplankton living in the water.

Phytoplankton reproduce more quickly when more nutrients are available and thus the quantity of phytoplankton present is an accurate indicator of the concentrations of nutrients in the water.

While coral reefs close to the coast are adapted to higher nutrient concentrations than offshore reefs, excessive exposure to nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous can be harmful to these inshore reefs. High nutrient concentrations have been shown to upset the ecological balance of coral reefs, reduce the physical strength of coral skeletons, slow down the recovery of coral reefs damaged by storms, crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks or coral bleaching, and reduce the fertilisation rates and embryo formation of corals.

**What does this mean?** The three graphs presenting chlorophyll a concentrations are for different regions of the Great Barrier Reef. Chlorophyll a concentrations in the inshore waters of the Great Barrier Reef are typically higher than those in offshore areas. Similarly, inshore chlorophyll a concentrations in the central and southern regions are much higher than those for the inshore northern region.

The northern catchments [Cape York] are essentially undisturbed with only limited cropping, and with grazing that is carried out at low stocking levels. In contrast, the central and southern sections are characterised by high levels of agricultural activity including intensive cropping activities in the lower catchments, the destruction of coastal wetlands and cattle grazing at high stocking rates in the upper, inland catchments. The amount of fertiliser used in coastal areas has also sharply increased in recent years. These activities have resulted in increased

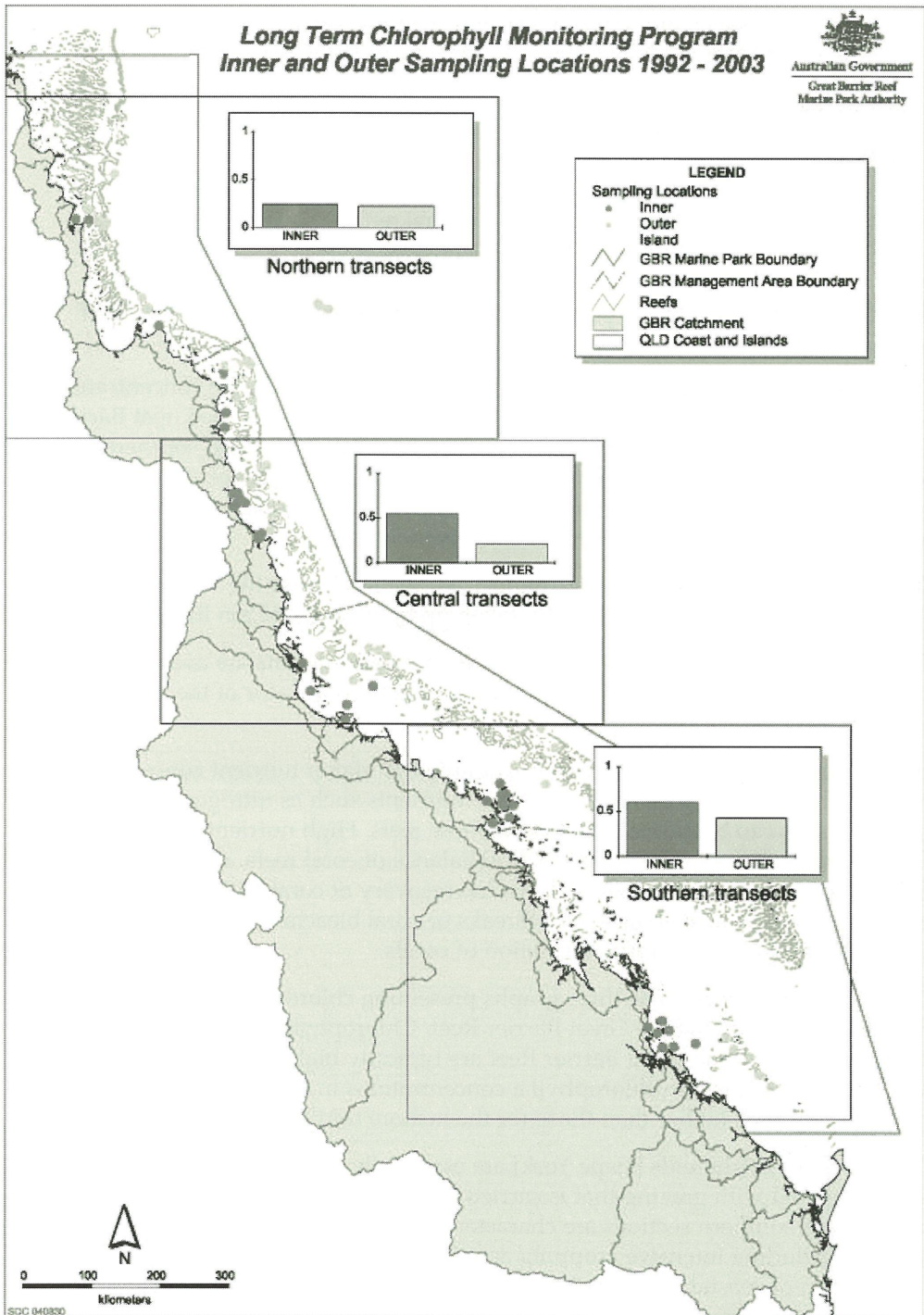


Figure 5: Long-term Chlorophyll Monitoring Program – Inner and Outer sampling locations and mean chlorophyll concentrations [micrograms per litre] over 1993-2003. Source: GBRMPA and CRC Reef Research Centre.

nutrient loads entering the inshore waters and this is reflected by the higher concentrations of chlorophyll a recorded in these regions compared with the relatively undisturbed northern region. The high concentrations of chlorophyll a in offshore waters in the southern Great Barrier Reef are related to the natural upwelling of deep-sea nutrients.

**Related links:**

- Great Barrier Reef Catchment Water Quality Current Issues report:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/water\\_quality/current\\_issues/](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/current_issues/)
- Great Barrier Reef Catchment Water Quality Action Plan:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/water\\_quality/action\\_plan/](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/action_plan/)
- The Science Report:  
<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/science/index.html>
- The Productivity Commission Report:  
<http://www.pc.gov.au/study/gbr/finalreport/index.html>
- The Reef Protection Plan:  
[http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au/News/Initiatives/Reef\\_Water\\_Quality\\_Protection\\_Plan/](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au/News/Initiatives/Reef_Water_Quality_Protection_Plan/)
- The MOU:  
[www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/mou/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/mou/index.html)
- The CRC Reef Research Centre site regarding current knowledge:  
[www.reef.crc.org.au/aboutreef/coastal/waterquality\\_consensus.html](http://www.reef.crc.org.au/aboutreef/coastal/waterquality_consensus.html)

### **KPI 3: The proportion of fisheries with management plans and arrangements that comply with the Australian Government's guidelines for ecologically sustainable fisheries**

**What is this indicator?** The following table [Table 3] shows the progress made in assessing fisheries within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in accordance with the Australian Government's guidelines for ecologically sustainable fisheries. This is an indication of the number of fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that have been assessed and have management recommendations which, if implemented fully, are likely to lead to ecological sustainability.

**Why is this important?** Under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries [QDPI&F] is responsible for management of fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef region subject to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The GBRMPA works closely with the QDPI&F to bring about changes in fishing practices to try and achieve ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Marine Park. Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, those commercial fisheries with an export component in the Great Barrier Reef must be assessed by the Department of the Environment and Heritage [DEH] against the Australian Government Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries. The GBRMPA works closely with the DEH during these assessments. The two management principles against which fisheries are assessed are:

- A fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing, or for those stocks that are over-fished, the fishery must be conducted such that there is a high degree of probability the stock[s] will recover.
- Fishing operations should be managed to minimise their impact on the structure, productivity, function and biological diversity of the ecosystem.

The objective is to have ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. As such, assessment of fisheries for ecologically sustainable management under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* will help to meet the goals of the GBRMPA.

**What does this mean?** Assessment of fisheries began in 2000. For most fisheries, assessments must be completed by 1 December 2004 for the continued export of product. To date, assessments have been completed and recommendations made for the spanner crab fishery and the incidental catch of syngnathids in the trawl fishery. The east coast otter trawl [ECOT] and mud crab fisheries assessments are nearing completion. Progress in assessing the Marine Park fisheries is indicated in Table 3.

	Pre-sub Consultation	Working Draft	Public Comment Period	Formal Assessment	Complete
GBRMP Fisheries					
Spanner Crab					
Syngnathid Incidental Catch					
East Coast Beche de mer					
Blue Swimmer Crab					
Coral Reef Finfish					
Deepwater Demersal Finfish					
East Coast Otter Trawl					
East Coast Spanish Mackerel					
East Coast Trochus					
Marine Aquarium Fish					
Mud Crab					
Rock Lobster					
Rocky Reef Finfish					
Specimen Shell					
East Coast Inshore Finfish	Not started				
Coral	Not started				

**Table 3: Progress in assessment of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park fisheries against the Australian Government Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries.**

Source: CatchUp, [newsletter of the DEH's Sustainable Fisheries Section] June 2004.

#### Related links:

- Department of the Environment and Heritage Sustainable Fisheries section:  
<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/fisheries>
- GBRMPA fisheries:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/fisheries/](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/fisheries/)
- State of the Great Barrier Reef On-line:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/)

#### KPI 4: The number of bioregions with adequate 'no take' zones

**What is this indicator?** The following graph [Figure 6] shows how many of the 70 separate bioregions identified by the GBRMPA Representative Areas Program have adequate protection.

**Why is this important?** A key tool in the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a system of zoning. This zoning system includes 'no take' areas where extractive activities are not allowed, ensuring that plants and animals are fully protected to preserve the function and integrity of the ecosystem. It is recognised that the previous zoning regime for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [ $<5$  per cent designated as a protected area] was inadequate for protection of the wide range of biodiversity in the Great Barrier Reef. In 1999, scientists identified 70 individual bioregions and recommended that in order to adequately protect biodiversity and ecosystem function, a minimum of 20 per cent of each bioregion should be designated as protected "no take" areas.

In 2002, the GBRMPA launched the Representative Areas Program [RAP] to correct the imbalances of the existing zoning regime and to ensure that a representative part of every type of bioregion [an area which, when mapped, depicts similar physical and biological characteristics at a chosen scale, in our case, 10s to 100s of km] found within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park had adequate protection in line with the best scientific advice. The RAP culminated with the launch of the new *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* that rezoned the entire Marine Park. As a result of the new zoning system, a minimum of 20 per cent of every bioregion identified by the RAP is now protected in 'no take' zones. This will help to preserve the ecological functions, inter-connectivity and biodiversity of the entire ecosystem.

**What does this mean?** The number of protected areas has increased since the establishment of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The first Zoning Plan was introduced in 1979 and as new zoning plans were introduced, the number of bioregions with adequate protection [ $>20$  per cent included in 'no take' zones] rose to 14 in 1990. With the launch of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*, the number of bioregions afforded adequate protection has increased to 70.

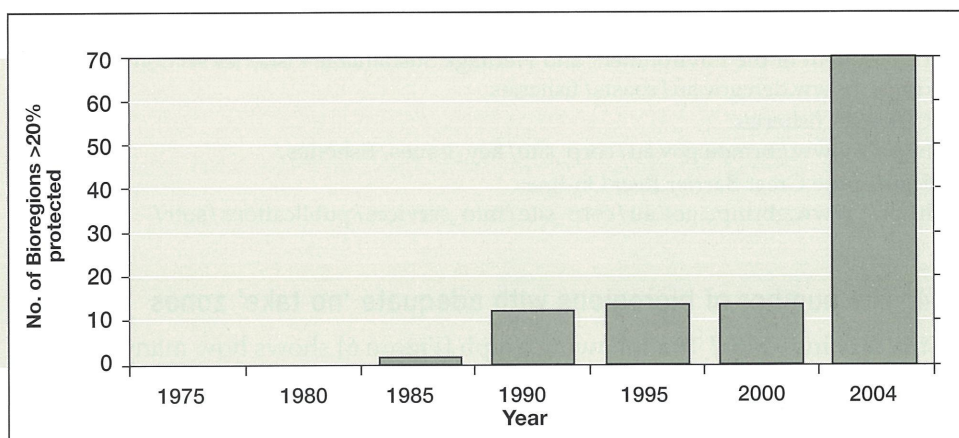


Figure 6: Number of Bioregions >20% protected in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Source: Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage group and Spatial Data Centre GBRMPA.

#### Related links:

- Website introducing the new zoning of the entire Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/management/zoning/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/index.html)
- Information package as delivered to Federal Parliament in December 2003:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/management/zoning/rap/rap/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/rap/rap/index.html)
- State of the Great Barrier Reef On-line:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/benthos/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/benthos/index.html)

#### KPI 5: The number of technical and scientific publications published about the Great Barrier Reef by the GBRMPA and the CRC Reef Research Centre is static or increasing

**What is this Indicator:** The following graph [Figure 7] shows the number of Research Publications, Technical Papers, Workshop Papers and Technical Reports published by the GBRMPA and the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area [CRC Reef Research Centre] since 1978.

**Why is this important:** One of the GBRMPA's corporate goals is to promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef and the issues affecting its health and management. The GBRMPA makes a significant contribution to scientific research in the Great Barrier Reef to better understand the ecosystem and the effects of human activities. The CRC Reef Research Centre is the GBRMPA's primary research provider and carries out the majority of the GBRMPA's research program. Both the GBRMPA and the CRC Reef Research Centre have a reputation for publishing high quality, freely accessible scientific reports which document the research undertaken and promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef. The number of scientific

publications released reflects the amount of information available to help the community understand the Reef and the issues affecting it.

**What does this mean:** The number of publications released by both the GBRMPA and the CRC Reef Research Centre has increased steadily over the years. However the actual number of publications varies from year to year due to the varied nature of the research undertaken. Some research projects take more time to complete and reports vary in both size and complexity. In 2003-04, scientific and technical reports were published on-line on both the GBRMPA and the CRC Reef Research Centre websites. The entire range of published scientific reports are freely accessible from the Internet.

It should be noted that both the GBRMPA and the CRC Reef Research Centre also regularly publish information sheets and pamphlets on particular issues or research projects to help promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef.

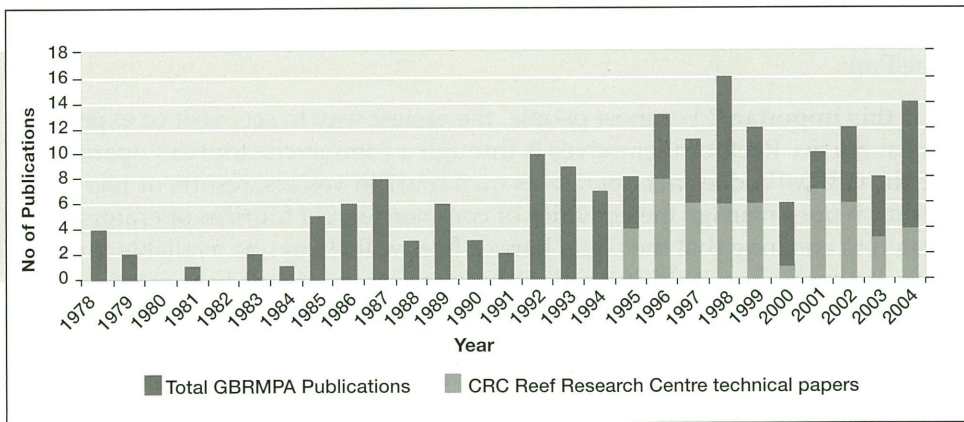


Figure 7: Technical publications produced by the GBRMPA and the CRC Reef Research Centre.

Source: Information compiled by the Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit at the GBRMPA.

### GBRMPA Research Publication 2003-04

Moscardo, G. & Ormsby, J. 2004. *Social Indicators Monitoring System for Tourist and Recreational Use of the Great Barrier Reef*, Research Publication No. 80, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville.

Ormsby, J., Moscardo, G., Pearce, P., Foxlee, J. 2004. *A Review of Research into Tourist and Recreational Uses of Protected Natural Areas*, Research Publication No. 79, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville.

Ormsby, J.M. 2004. *A Review of the Social, Motivational and Experiential Characteristics of Recreational Anglers from Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef Region, 2004.*, Research Publication No. 78, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville.

Hamilton, M, 2003. *Aircraft activity and sound levels relative to recreation opportunity spectrum settings in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: A case study from Whitehaven*

*Beach, Whitsunday Island*, Research Publication No. 75, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville.

**Related Links:**

- GBRMPA technical and scientific publications on-line:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/index.html)
- CRC Reef Research Centre technical publications:  
<http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/index.html>

**KPI 6: Trends in number of tourists to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and their satisfaction with their experience**

**What is this indicator?** The following two graphs [Figure 8 and Figure 9] show aspects of tourism and reef visitation. The first graph shows the number of tourists visiting the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park recorded by data from the Environmental Management Charge [EMC] database. The second graph shows the level of satisfaction expressed by visitors and residents to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

**Why is this important?** For most people, the easiest way to see, visit or experience the Great Barrier Reef for themselves is through a commercial tourism operation. While the GBRMPA does not operate its own tourism vessels, resorts or reef pontoons, it does manage the activities of commercial reef tourism operators and is dedicated to ensuring that the Great Barrier Reef will always be available for people to enjoy. As such, the GBRMPA needs to be aware of the trends in visitation rates and of how visitors feel about their experiences. Trends in the number of visitors to the Great Barrier Reef and the satisfaction recorded by reef visitors show the number of people who are taking the opportunity to visit the Great Barrier Reef and how they felt about their experiences.

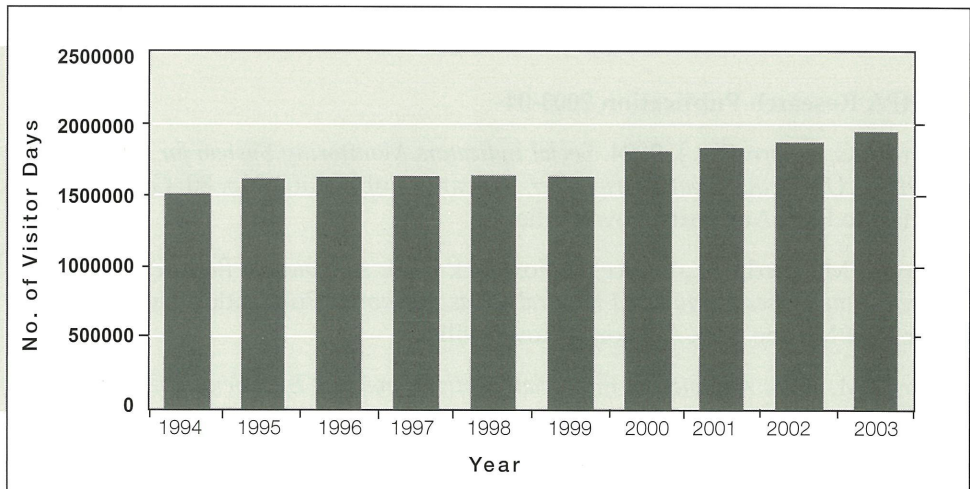


Figure 8: Yearly totals for Reef-wide visitor days.

Source: Data compiled from the Environmental Management Charge database at the GBRMPA.

## What does this mean?

### Visitation

Figure 8 shows the number of tourists who have visited the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park since the EMC was introduced in July 1993. The number of visitors to the Park has remained relatively stable since 1993. It should be noted however that tourism and visitation rates can be greatly affected by factors such as the economy, tourism market trends and global politics. Nevertheless, it is evident that the Great Barrier Reef is still visited by a large number of tourists, with over 1.8 million visitors taking the opportunity to enjoy the Great Barrier Reef in 2003 [this excludes transit passengers].

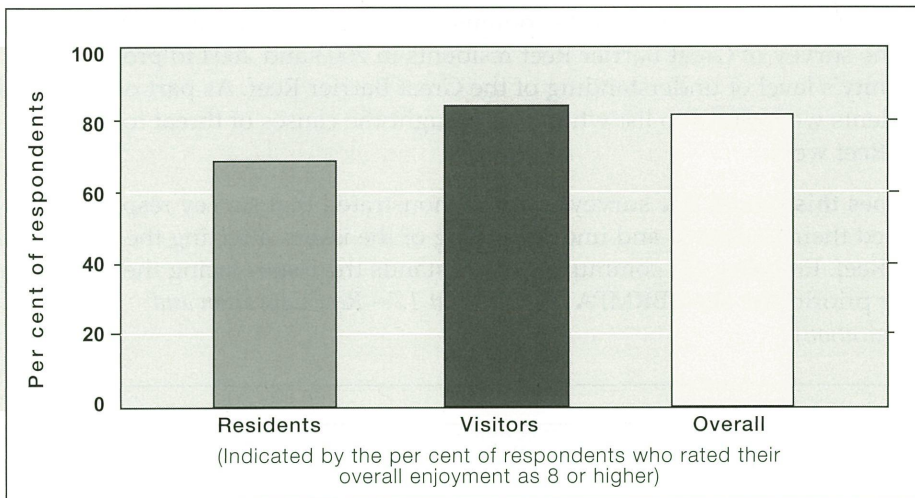


Figure 9: Satisfaction rating of visitors and residents to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Source: Norris A., Moscardo, G. & McCoy A. [in press]. Recreational Use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville.

### Satisfaction

In a CRC Reef Research Centre survey of resident recreational users of the Marine Park, 70 per cent of respondents gave an overall enjoyment score of between 8 and 10 [on a rating scale where 0=not at all and 10=very satisfied], with a mean score of 7.94 for their most recent Marine Park experience. Ninety-seven per cent of respondents said that they would recommend a visit to the same place to their friends or family, while the same percentage of respondents said that they would return to the same destination again. Of the two per cent who said they wouldn't return to the same destination, most of them said that it was because there were too few fish.

### Related links:

- State of the Great Barrier Reef On-line: Management status – Tourism and recreation: [http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/tourec/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/tourec/index.html)

- Tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/tourism/](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/corp_site/key_issues/tourism/)

## KPI 7: Public understanding of the main threats to and the values of the Great Barrier Reef is increasing

**What is this indicator?** The following graph [Figure 10] shows the proportion of responses made by telephone survey respondents surveyed in 2003 and 2004 that identified causes of threat to the Great Barrier Reef.

**Why is this important?** In order to be informed and involved in the management of the Great Barrier Reef, the community needs to have a good understanding of the pressures affecting it. The GBRMPA commissioned the AEC Group Ltd to conduct a telephone survey of Great Barrier Reef residents in 2003 and 2004 to profile the community's level of understanding of the Great Barrier Reef. As part of the survey, respondents were asked to list what they thought the causes of threat to the Great Barrier Reef were.

**What does this mean?** The surveys have demonstrated that survey respondents evidenced their interest in and understanding of the issues affecting the Great Barrier Reef. Ensuring the community understands the issues facing the Reef is an ongoing priority for the GBRMPA [See: *Output 1.7 - Reef Education and Communication*].

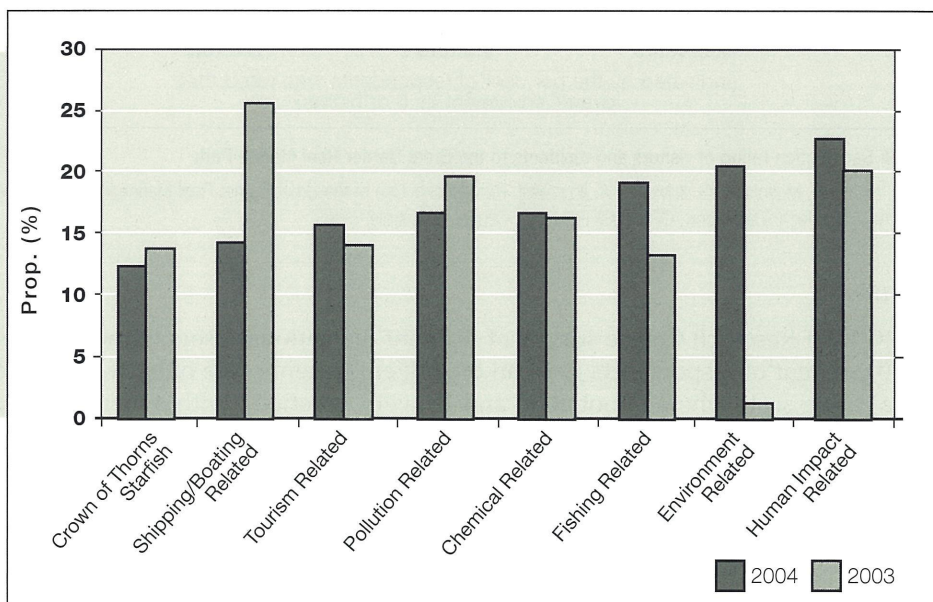


Figure 10: Most significant causes of threat to the Great Barrier Reef as identified by residents in 2003 and 2004.

Source: AEC Group Ltd [Comparative Research Results] Market Research for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority April 2004.

# SECTION C

## Report of Operations



## Executive

	Outcome	Strategic outputs	Performance
	To provide strategic planning, resource allocation and accountable management for the Authority, its operations and external relationships in pursuit of the control, care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.	1. Provide a clear vision and strategic targets that are understood by all staff and stakeholders.	<b>Achieved</b>
		2. Ensure compliance with external imposed obligations.	<b>Achieved</b>
		3. To have the Authority recognised as a national and international leader in marine and coastal environment management.	<b>Achieved</b>
		4. To respond flexibly to the needs of the community and Government.	<b>Achieved</b>
		5. Ensure strong working relationships with major clients and the community based on good communication and clear policies.	<b>Achieved</b>

### *Performance analysis*

Strategic planning and resource allocation is achieved through an Executive Group consisting of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, the Hon Virginia Chadwick and the two Executive Directors, John Tanzer and Andrew Skeat. The Chairman is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the GBRMPA, its governance, chairing the Authority Board and managing the organisation.

Sectional responsibilities have been divided between the two Executive Directors. John Tanzer is responsible for Fisheries; Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage; Corporate Services; Program Delivery; and Executive Services including Legal Services and Ministerial Services and Parliamentary Liaison. Andrew Skeat is responsible for Water Quality and Coastal Development; Tourism and Recreation; Communication and Education Coordination [including Reef HQ]; and Science, Technology and Information.

The Executive Group and the Directors of each of the major work areas form a Senior Management Team responsible for developing policy, coordinating programs, internal communications and budget control. The members of the Senior Management Team and their areas of responsibility are shown in Figure 11.

The Senior Management Team, under the direction of the Chairman, meets formally each fortnight and informally on alternate fortnights. In addition, it meets half yearly over two days to review performance and set program and budget priorities.

This structure has ensured a clear focus for the GBRMPA on those critical issues of greatest environmental significance to the Marine Park. The GBRMPA's work programs focus directly on addressing the major threats to the Reef and ensuring its use is sustainable.

The Executive has placed a strong emphasis on communication and maintaining relationships with major stakeholders and the broader community. Advisory

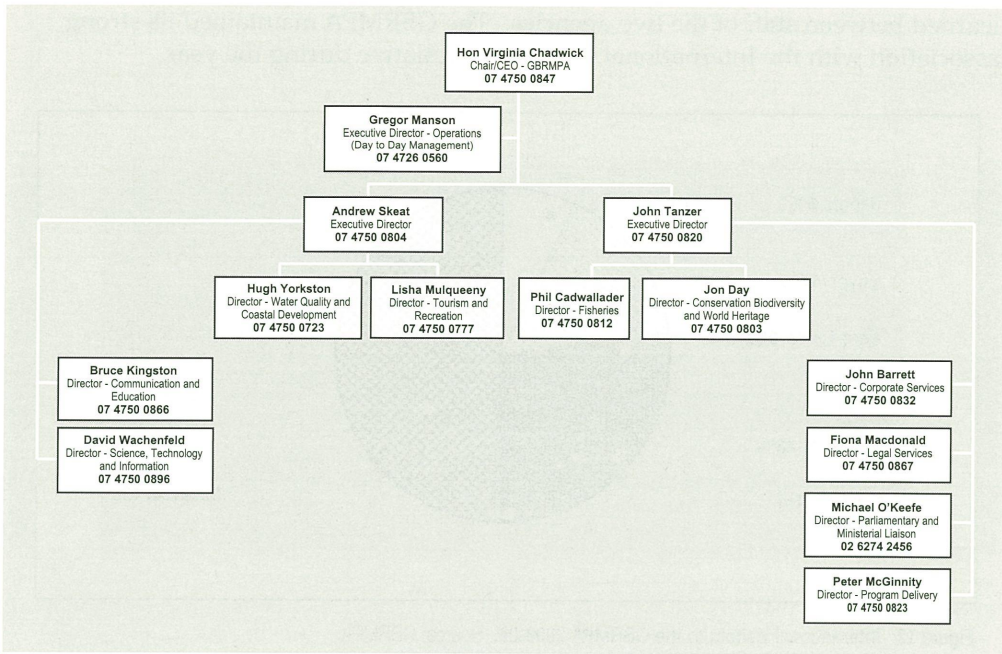


Figure 11: Membership of the GBRMPA Senior Management Team.

committees were strongly resourced and provided excellent feedback to the GBRMPA. Local Marine Advisory Committees operated at 10 locations along the Great Barrier Reef coast, with a new committee being established in Bundaberg. Expertise based committees, dealing with each critical issue continue to provide valuable input into the four critical issue groups with the GBRMPA.

The GBRMPA continues to be recognised nationally and internationally for its leadership in marine management. During 2003-04 the Authority made significant contributions to the World Parks Congress and the International Coral Reef Symposium.

Several officers were awarded Fellowships which enabled international research; Andrew Chin was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and Jon Day was awarded a Queensland-Smithsonian Fellowship.

### International Interest in GBRMPA Activities

The achievements by the GBRMPA were received prominently and positively at the Vth World Parks Congress held in Durban, South Africa and the 7th Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Interest in the GBRMPA also resulted in 77 officials visiting from seven different countries [Figure 12]. During the year the GBRMPA strengthened ties with the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] through an exchange of letters promoting the sharing of experiences and lessons

learned between staff of the two agencies. The GBRMPA maintained its strong association with the International Coral Reef Initiative during the year.

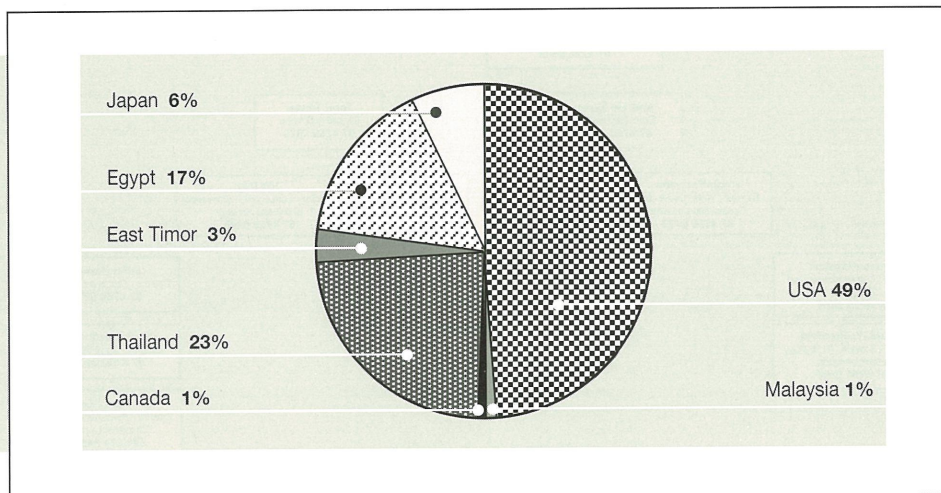


Figure 12: International visitors to the GBRMPA 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.



Plate 3: His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn of Thailand during his visit to Reef HQ 19 August 2003.

Source: GBRMPA.

## Legal Services

Outcome	Strategic outputs	Performance
An effective legislative framework, commercial legal operations, and litigation representation.	1. Timely and accurate legal advice is delivered to the GBRMPA.	Achieved
	2. Ensure the GBRMPA's interest in litigation is competently represented, that such litigation is minimised through appropriate legal awareness training, and that FOI requests are processed in a legally effective manner.	Achieved
	3. Drive the timely progression of legislation subject to the constraints of the Government's legislative program.	Achieved
	4. Ensure that appropriate commercial legal support is provided to the GBRMPA and the Audit Committee.	Achieved
	5. Ensure that competent legal support is provided for the GBRMPA's corporate governance.	Achieved
	6. Ensure that the Legal Services Unit is managed effectively and that the Unit's staff are provided with opportunities for appropriate professional development.	Achieved

### Performance analysis

Significant achievements for 2003-04 include:

- Providing legal support for legal proceedings in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Federal Court of Australia;
- Providing legal support and advice in relation to the Representative Areas Program, including the preparation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* and associated amendments to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*;
- Providing legal support for the preparation of the Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004 and amendments to the Cairns Area Plan of Management 1998;
- Providing legal support in relation to the preparation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Act 2004*; an Act to remove the liability on tourist operators to pay the goods and services tax on the Environmental Management Charge levied on standard tourism operations;
- Coordinating amendments to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*, particularly the amendments to support the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*, the Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004, and the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Act 2004*;
- Processing eight freedom of information requests; and

- Providing an effective legal support for branch operations and achievement of corporate objectives.

One of the objectives of the Legal Services Unit is to ensure that the GBRMPA's interest in litigation is competently represented, and that such litigation is minimised through appropriate legal awareness training for GBRMPA staff.

The Unit was involved in more than 16 training packages for staff of the GBRMPA, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, Coastwatch, and the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, with respect to the implementation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*. One-on-one coaching, in respect of contracts and other legal issues, was also provided.

The Legal Services Unit managed three pieces of litigation over the course of the year, all of which were conducted in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal [AAT]. A decision by the AAT with respect to one matter is still pending, one matter was withdrawn, and the GBRMPA is appealing the decision of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal with respect to the third matter in the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia.

## Ministerial Services and Parliamentary Liaison

	Outcome	Strategic outputs	Performance
	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.	1. Facilitate coherent Australian and State Government policies on matters impacting on the Great Barrier Reef.	Achieved
		2. Facilitate the delivery of Authority policies that concur with Government priorities and objectives.	Achieved

### *Performance analysis*

The Ministerial and Parliamentary Liaison Unit comprises two permanent staff located within the Department of the Environment and Heritage offices in Canberra. The Unit provides liaison between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the office of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Department of the Environment and Heritage, and other Australian Government agencies based in Canberra.

The unit coordinates ministerial briefings for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and answers to parliamentary questions and ministerial representations. The unit also prepares briefing documents for the GBRMPA's appearances before

Parliamentary Committees and provides the Secretariat for the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council and its official committees.

A major focus of the unit's work entails liaison with relevant Australian Government agencies and non-government organisations on the GBRMPA's legislation, policies and programs. The Unit also coordinates responses on whole-of-government approaches and issues that impact on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

In 2003, the unit was responsible for liaison with Australian Government agencies on the Representative Areas Program [RAP], and specifically the RAP Sub-Committee of the Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas Committee.

The unit represents the Authority on the Operations Policy and Advisory Committee [OPAC], and Programs and Scheduling Committee [PASC] of Coastwatch/Customs, the Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas Committee [COMPAC], and on other interdepartmental committees as required.

# DEPARTMENTAL OUTPUTS

## Output 1.1 - Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and its World Heritage values are being maintained by conserving threatened species and the implementation of a new zoning network, which ensures adequate representation of all habitat types in no-take areas having considered all available social, economic and cultural information.

### OUTPUT GROUP 1.1 - CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY AND WORLD HERITAGE

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.1.1	Natural and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are protected and World Heritage obligations are met.	Quality	Key species and habitats identified and protected whilst minimising any social-economic-cultural impacts.  Effective communication with key stakeholders through the Conservation Reef Advisory Committee.	<b>Achieved</b>
		Quantity	Improved management for key threatened species. Representative Areas Program [RAP] progressed including involvement of stakeholders and high level of public consultation in finalising the Zoning Plan for consideration by Parliament.	<b>Achieved</b> New Zoning Plan into effect on 1 July 2004. Unprecedented level of community involvement as part of the RAP.
			Improved understanding of social-economic-cultural characteristics/ values in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.	<b>Achieved</b> Refer to the Regulatory Impact Statement and other reports prepared for Parliament as part of the RAP.
			Consideration of relevant species and habitat conservation matters in permit/ approval deliberations affecting World Heritage values.	<b>Achieved</b>
		Price	\$2.067m	

### *Performance analysis*

#### **Species Conservation**

##### *Threatened species*

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is one of many government agencies involved in identifying threats, and coordinating and facilitating conservation programs for threatened species. In recent years, the conservation of dugongs,

turtles, dolphins and whales has been given priority in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. There is now a strong collaborative interagency approach to managing these species, together with continuous assessment of their status and management.

#### *Traditional use of marine resources*

Priority was given, in conjunction with the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit, to the development and implementation of an approach to managing the traditional hunting of green turtles and dugongs in the Great Barrier Reef. This is being developed in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owner groups and representative bodies.

Activities in 2003-04 included:

- Developing a new regulatory regime under the Representative Areas Program for managing the traditional use of marine resources;
- Participating in a Taskforce of Australian, State and Territory Government representatives to develop a national approach to manage Indigenous hunting of dugongs and turtles;
- Meeting with Traditional Owners and Native Title Representative Bodies [e.g. Land Councils] to progress management arrangements for marine turtle and dugong hunting; and
- Ensuring close collaboration with Queensland Government agencies on the program.

#### *Dugong conservation*

The dugong population in the Great Barrier Reef continues to be impacted by a range of human-related activities. In 2003-04, the GBRMPA enhanced its dugong conservation initiatives by:

- Ensuring incorporation, where possible, of important dugong habitats in highly protected zones as part of the Representative Areas Program;
- Participating in a CRC Reef Research Centre funded workshop evaluating the design and implementation of dugong aerial surveys in Queensland; and
- Developing draft national codes of conduct for dugong and marine turtle tourism as part of a Natural Heritage Trust funded project with James Cook University.

#### *Turtle conservation*

All six species of turtle on the Great Barrier Reef are threatened. There is continued concern for the loggerhead turtle, which has declined significantly in breeding numbers over the past 30 years and for the breeding status of green and hawksbill turtles. In 2003-04, the GBRMPA enhanced its turtle conservation initiatives by:

- Implementing recommendations from the National Turtle Recovery Plan, finalised in July 2003, as part of the National Turtle Recovery Group and considering human-related impacts specific to the Marine Park;

- Incorporation, where possible, of important foraging and nesting sites in highly protected zones as part of the Representative Areas Program; and
- Continuing to manage contracts that monitor green turtles in their feeding ground at Shoalwater Bay and marine turtles at foraging and nesting areas throughout Queensland.

#### *Whale and dolphin conservation*

Implementation of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Policy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, adopted in March 2000, is proceeding. Actions in 2003-04 included:

- Developing a communication and education strategy to inform commercial and recreational users of the Marine Park about conservation issues associated with whales and dolphins and the need to abide by Regulations for interactions with cetaceans including whale watching;
- Establishing, with the nine permitted tourist programs, a monitoring program to assess the sustainability of the swimming with dwarf minke whales industry; and
- Participating in a Natural Heritage Trust funded workshop - National Cetacean Research Partnership and Priorities.

#### *Marine animal stranding responses*

In 2003-04, the GBRMPA, the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries jointly:

- Maintained an effective internal [government staff] and external [public] email reporting network and Marine Animal Hotline for strandings and carcasses; and
- Finalised a contract using CRC Reef Research Centre funding to conduct a review and refinement study of the marine mammal and turtle stranding program in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

#### *Other species and general conservation issues*

The Species Conservation Unit continues to provide comment on species conservation issues including:

- Providing advice and comment on a wide range of research and development proposals, as well as projects and permit applications. Examples include activities referred by the Department of the Environment and Heritage under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the development of national recovery plans [e.g. whales];
- Maintaining close liaison with other government agencies regarding management actions including surveillance and enforcement, public awareness, bird conservation issues, and the Queensland Shark Control Program;
- Updating the publication *Fauna & Flora of the GBRWHA - A compendium of*

*information and basis for the Species Conservation Program in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*’;

- Delivering presentations on marine species conservation issues, turtle conservation and whale watching to Local Marine Advisory Committee meetings, industry groups, international conferences and tertiary students; and
- Providing media releases and interviews on various conservation topics including dugongs, the Marine Animal Hotline, turtles and whales.

### **Increasing the protection of biodiversity through the Representative Areas Program**

The Representative Areas Program [RAP] was the most comprehensive planning initiative ever undertaken by the GBRMPA and involved staff from across all sections of the Authority. The new Zoning Plan for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park came into effect on 1 July 2004.

The new Zoning Plan protects representative examples of each of the broad habitat types [bioregions] in ‘no-take’ [or Marine National Park] zones and hence improves the protection of biodiversity in the Marine Park. The proportion of the Marine Park protected by ‘no-take’ zones was increased from 4.6 per cent to 33.3 per cent [114,530 km<sup>2</sup>].

Stakeholder and independent scientific advice helped to oversee, guide and constructively critique the RAP. These committees developed expertise-based operational principles, specific to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that guided the RAP and the rezoning process, including recommendations on the minimum levels of protection required to ensure the future of the Great Barrier Reef.

The approach taken in the RAP is now recognised as one of the most comprehensive, innovative and exciting global advances in marine conservation and the systematic protection of marine biodiversity in recent decades. The new regulatory framework will bring great benefits to the conservation and resilience of the entire Great Barrier Reef ecosystem as well as providing benefits for all users and industries dependent on the Reef.

Key achievements included:

- Development of a visionary new Zoning Plan for the Marine Park providing a framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef resources, now and into the future;
- Creation of a network of highly protected areas that is representative of all 70 bioregions within the Marine Park, forming the world’s largest network of highly protected areas; and
- Wide recognition of the multi-award winning Representative Areas Program, which has been internationally hailed as ‘world’s best practice’. In June 2003,

the RAP was recognised with the Banksia Award [Australia's premier environmental award] for "Government leading by Example for a Sustainable Future".

The second formal Community Participation phase [CP2] of the RAP was conducted during 2 June – 4 August 2003, and was designed to gain information to help improve the Draft Zoning Plan. In addition to face-to-face meetings, a range of material was made available to the public and an enormous effort was made to inform the public about the Draft Zoning Plan including:

- More than 10,000 packages of information, more than 50,000 submission forms, 29,000 explanatory brochures and 76,100 Draft Zoning maps were distributed throughout Australia;
- A range of materials were developed to communicate the Draft Zoning Plan to users, and all rezoning information was available on the GBRMPA website and provided on a compact disc [2,100 CD-ROMs distributed];
- GBRMPA staff attended more than 360 meetings and information sessions along the Great Barrier Reef coast in some 90 centres with peak organisations, local communities, commercial and recreational fishing organisations, Traditional Owners, tourism operators, conservation groups and other stakeholders;
- Approximately 2,000 calls were made by the public to the GBRMPA 1800 number;
- There were more than 35,000 'hits' on the GBRMPA website [63 per cent from Australia, the rest from 99 countries]; and
- Local media provided approximately 600 radio and TV news spots, and the GBRMPA placed 88 newspaper advertisements about the RAP.

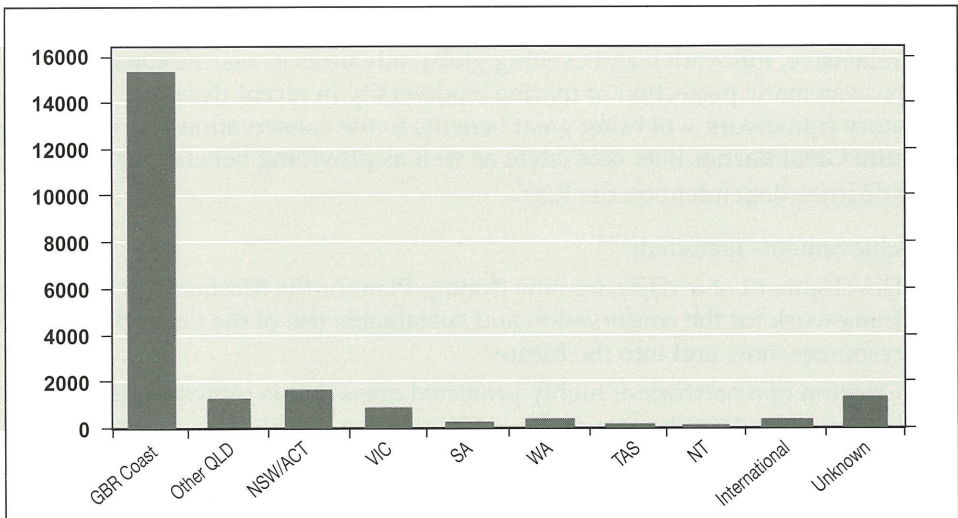


Figure 13. Number of CP2 submissions received by geographical region. Source: GBRMPA.

Submissions were lodged by mail, email or via a form on the website. By the close of the second phase [August 2003], more than 21,300 submissions were received from a wide range of users, Traditional Owners, local communities, stakeholders and the public [75 per cent were from Queensland communities, with the majority of the rest from other parts of Australia].

2003-04 included the culmination of the most comprehensive process of community involvement and participatory planning for any environmental issue in Australia's history.

Key activities in 2003-04 included:

- Detailed consideration of more than 21,300 submissions from the second formal Community Participation phase;
- Revision of the Draft Zoning Plan to better implement social, economic, cultural and management feasibility principles while still satisfying the biophysical operational principles including a minimum of 20 per cent protection per bioregion;
- Revision of zone provisions and supporting regulations to implement recommended consistent policy directions Great Barrier Reef-wide;
- Preparation and distribution of new Zoning Plan interpretive materials including maps, brochures and information sheets;
- Zoning information sent to all those who made a submission as well as all commercial operators [fishing and tourism] in the Marine Park;
- More than 200 community access points [e.g. bait and tackle shops as well as QPWS and QBFP offices] were advertised as having information on the new zoning. All these have been serviced with follow-up meetings, phone calls and/or regular faxed updates;
- More than 600,000 maps and booklets with explanatory material were produced;
- A new website with tens of thousands of copies of maps, plans and guides downloaded since its launch on 1 June 2004 [an average of more than 2,000 unique visitors daily];
- 140 boat ramp signs along the coast were replaced with the new zoning information;
- The GBRMPA 1800 number received hundreds of calls about the new zoning; and
- In May and June, more than 60 meetings were held with key stakeholders prior to the new Zoning Plan coming into effect on 1 July 2004.

By ensuring the future of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, the GBRMPA seeks to maintain lifestyles, ensure economic prosperity and continue to allow equitable access to examples of all the natural resources of the Marine Park for all users into the future. The new Zoning Plan will significantly enhance the resilience [ability to

resist, or to survive or recover from impacts] of the Great Barrier Reef and assist industry to achieve increased levels of environmental and financial sustainability.

**Related links:**

- Website introducing the new zoning of the entire Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/management/zoning/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/index.html)
- The statutory *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/management/zoning/documents/Zoning\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/documents/Zoning_Plan.pdf)
- Information package as delivered to Federal Parliament in December 2003:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/management/zoning/rap/rap/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/rap/rap/index.html)

**Cultural heritage**

The Zoning Plan and Plan of Management for the Marine Park were prepared in consideration of the need to protect cultural and heritage values.

The GBRMPA is also required to have regard to protecting the cultural and heritage values of Indigenous and other peoples when assessing permit applications.

During 2003-04, priority was given to awareness-raising campaigns for threatened species in Indigenous communities adjacent to the Marine Park. Because of the significance of dugong and turtle to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people, conservation programs continue to take account of cultural sensitivities.

**World Heritage and other international conventions**

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area [GBRWHA] is 348,000 km<sup>2</sup> [an area bigger than Victoria and Tasmania combined]. It extends from low water mark on the mainland coast to the outer [seaward] boundary of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park beyond the edge of the continental shelf and is the largest World Heritage Area and marine protected area in the world. The uniqueness of the Area was recognised in 1981 when it was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park comprises 99 per cent of the GBRWHA, the balance being the majority of islands, as well as exclusions for port areas, intertidal areas and internal waters of Queensland. Whilst these areas are part of the GBRWHA, being within its outer boundaries, they are not part of the Marine Park. Maintenance of the World Heritage values and attributes is a major responsibility of the Australian Government and is an important consideration in the GBRMPA's decision-making and management practices.

Effective management of the Marine Park and complementary management programs with Queensland Government agencies all contribute to maintaining World Heritage values.

During 2003-04, specific activities related to World Heritage and other international conventions included:

- Presentation to a World Heritage Marine Workshop [in conjunction with the World Parks Congress, Durban, September 2003]; and
- Participation in the seventh international meeting concerning the Convention on Biological Diversity, Malaysia, February 2004.

**Related links:**

- Brochure summarising the range of activities protecting the GBRWHA:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/brochures/protecting\\_biodiversity/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/brochures/protecting_biodiversity/index.html)
- GBRWHA Periodic Report [and December 2002 update for the GBRWHA 'Framework for Management' Report] as provided to the World Heritage Committee:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/conservation/reporting.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/conservation/reporting.html)

## Output 1.2 - Water Quality and Coastal Development

The risk of degradation to the Great Barrier Reef through water pollution, impacts of coastal development and land use must be minimised. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is working in partnership, through involvement in the implementation of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, with other Australian Government departments, Queensland Government departments, local governments, industry, Regional Natural Resource Management bodies and other relevant stakeholders.

### OUTPUT GROUP 1.2 - WATER QUALITY AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.2.1	Minimal degradation of the Great Barrier Reef from water pollution and coastal development.	Quality	Sound scientific methods used to manage impacts of pollutants and develop management standards.	Achieved
			Quality technical input into environmental assessment and cooperative arrangements in the management of water quality and coastal development.	Achieved
		Quantity	Implementation of the GBRMPA's responsibilities under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, implementation of the recommendations and regulations protecting the Great Barrier Reef from aquaculture wastes and development of the Sewage Discharges Policy.	Achieved
			Improved system for protection of the Great Barrier Reef from shipping products.	Achieved
		Price	\$2.138m	

Long-term monitoring programs are being conducted and enhanced by our research partners in order to track the state of water quality throughout the reef and assess threats from pollution. The Authority is working with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Maritime Safety Queensland and the Department of Transport and Regional Services on a shipping management plan aimed at, amongst other things, improving oil spill contingency planning and response, ship traffic management and emergency towage and salvage.

### ***Performance analysis***

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority was instrumental in raising awareness among the wider community and other government agencies of the issue of declining water quality in the Great Barrier Reef. This led to the development of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, a collaborative effort between the Australian and Queensland Governments, to address declining water quality entering the Reef. The GBRMPA has worked extensively with other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, local governments, industry groups and the broader community to ensure that the responsible bodies implement the actions defined in the Plan. Progress toward the implementation of the Plan is to be reported annually to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council. Further reports, auditing the effective implementation of the Plan strategies are to be provided to the Prime Minister and the Queensland Premier in July 2005 and in 2010. The reports will detail progress and identify the need for stronger action if necessary.

Under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, the GBRMPA has responsibility for developing and implementing a water quality monitoring program in the Marine Park to determine:

- The change in pollution loads entering the Reef at the river mouth;
- Trends in changes in water quality in the Reef; and
- Changes in the health of the inshore Reef communities.

The Water Quality and Coastal Development Group has responsibility for ensuring this monitoring program is coordinated with associated monitoring activities in the Reef catchment [*Also see: Output 1.6 - Information for Park Management*]. Queensland state agencies have responsibility for addressing the requirement for water quality monitoring in the catchments in cooperation with other groups, such as Regional Natural Resource Management bodies.

The GBRMPA has also worked with Australian and Queensland Government agencies and the aquaculture industry to streamline the assessment and approval process for land based aquaculture in the Great Barrier Reef catchment. This is being achieved through a cooperative administrative arrangement between the agencies with a goal of accreditation of Queensland law under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [Aquaculture] Regulations 2000*. Accreditation will be made possible following negotiations with the Queensland Government to upgrade legislative,

administrative and compliance processes to ensure high level protection for the Great Barrier Reef. A position statement has also been developed for aquaculture development in the Reef waters and the GBRMPA has undertaken audits of permitted facilities to ensure they are operating within their permits.

After extensive public consultation a draft Policy for sewage discharge to the Great Barrier Reef has been developed, aimed at ensuring a flexible regulative process that provides for improved protection of the Reef.

Advice was provided to the Queensland Government on 94 coastal developments under the Queensland Integrated Development Assessment System and 16 local government planning schemes. The Water Quality and Coastal Development Group also coordinated the GBRMPA's responses to 14 referrals to the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for developments in or adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Presentations were given at regional, national and international forums on the GBRMPA's management of water quality issues in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and its partnerships with industry, community and other government agencies.

**Related Links:**

- GBRMPA Water Quality and Coastal Development:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/water\\_quality/index.html](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/index.html)
- Reef Water Quality Protection Plan:  
<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/index.html>

## Output 1.3 - Fisheries

Ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park will be achieved in collaboration with Queensland management agencies. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is working to improve current fisheries management arrangements by seeking the adoption of a whole of ecosystem approach to address the sustainability of target species, non-target species and the ecosystems on which they depend.

### OUTPUT GROUP 1.3 - FISHERIES

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.3.1	Ecologically sustainable fisheries that do not compromise the value of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Quality.	Quality	Management arrangements for fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park which are based on the best available scientific information, and which ensure sustainability of fisheries resources and the ecosystem on which they depend and whose performance can be audited.	In progress
		Quantity	Following the release of the GBRMPA Audit Report on the east coast trawl fishery [ECTF], its recommendations have been incorporated in the DEH assessment of the fishery.	Nearly completed
			A review of the ecological sustainability of the ECTF is a legislative requirement under the Trawl Plan. The GBRMPA provided significant input into the review process during 2003-04.	Achieved
			Working with fisheries managers and stakeholders to develop a management plan for coral reef finfish fishery.	Achieved
			Working with fisheries managers and stakeholders to improve management arrangements for crab, coral, tropical rock lobster, aquarium fish, sea cucumber, Spanish mackerel and net fisheries [particularly small mackerels, shark], and to reduce threat of nets to dugong.	In progress
		Price	\$1.205m	

### Performance analysis

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority worked as a key stakeholder in the development of enhanced fisheries management arrangements under the *Queensland Fisheries Act 1994*. Where necessary, the GBRMPA has raised concerns with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries [QDPI&F] and provided advice on preferred fisheries management solutions. The GBRMPA conducts and commissions studies and research projects to support this process. Recognising input from other stakeholders, the consultative process has seen a wide range of fisheries management initiatives introduced during 2003-04. Those with direct benefit to ensuring that fishing in the Marine Park is ecologically

sustainable included:

- On-going input to QDPI&F's Management Advisory Committee process and major influence in improving fisheries management arrangements in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- Implementation by QDPI&F of a management plan for the coral reef finfish fishery;
- Extensive input into the General Effort Review of the trawl fishery, the review of current management arrangements and the subsequent General Effort Review documents [Available at <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fishweb/15969.html>];
- Input into policies on removal of latent effort in the inshore net fishery and the tropical rock lobster fishery;
- Negotiating with QDPI&F and industry to develop effective management arrangements for commercial coral collecting;
- Negotiating with QDPI&F and industry on management arrangements for the multi-species sea cucumber fishery that will reduce the risk of serial localised depletion and have enforceable quota arrangements;
- Continued input to improving management of crab fisheries [trap and float-line design; investment warning in July 2003];
- Commented on proposed management arrangements for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish fishery, which operates adjacent to the Marine Park; and
- Input into proposed developmental fisheries for bug and prawn trapping.

### **Major input into Representative Areas Program/rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**

Potential impacts on fishermen and fisheries were considered carefully in the development of the new Zoning Plan for the Marine Park [See *Output 1.1 - Conservation Biodiversity and World Heritage*]. This process included extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders including commercial, recreational and charter fishermen, the QDPI&F and fisheries scientists. Major elements of the work included:

- Accessing, interpreting and using fisheries data sets;
- Assessing the impacts of proposed zoning on fisheries, evaluating submissions and identifying zoning options;
- Consulting with the community and stakeholders;
- Providing briefings to key stakeholders;
- Developing policies and definitions; and
- Contributing advice to the Inter-departmental Structural Adjustment Task Force.

### **Input into compliance policy development**

The GBRMPA's capability to detect, prosecute and deter illegal fishing in the

Marine Park has been enhanced through membership on the Day-to-Day Management Compliance Steering Committee and provision of advice regarding fisheries compliance.

**Related links:**

- GBRMPA fisheries:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues/fisheries/](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/fisheries/)
- State of the Great Barrier Reef On-line:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/)

**Output 1.4 - Tourism and Recreation**

Tourism and recreation are the major uses of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. From information provided by tourism operators as part of their Environmental Management Charge returns, it is estimated that commercial tourism accounted for more than 1.8 million visitor days in 2003 [not including passengers in transit].

Because the number of tourists visiting the Marine Park has remained relatively stable over the last few years, the economic worth of the industry has also remained high and steady. Research by the Productivity Commission [2003], estimated the economic worth of tourism in the entire Great Barrier Reef catchment and lagoon to

**OUTPUT 1.4 - TOURISM AND RECREATION**

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance		
1.4.1	Tourism and recreation opportunities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that are high quality and ecologically sustainable.	Quality	Reef-wide policies on key issues developed in consultation with stakeholders. Planning and regulatory systems that provide transparency and certainty.	Achieved		
			Effective communication with key stakeholders through the Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee.	Achieved		
			Tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park provided in an efficient and equitable manner.	Achieved		
		Quantity	Policies in relation to permit allocation, latency and tenure for tourism developed or reviewed.	Achieved		
			Tourism and recreation input into regulation review and zoning, management and site plans.	Achieved		
			Liaison program with tourism industry and recreation representatives.	Achieved		
			Improved understanding of tourism and recreation users and patterns of use.	Achieved		
			Information and training for industry and other stakeholders.	Achieved		
			Price		\$1.049m	

be \$4.3 billion. Hoegh-Guldberg and Hoegh-Guldberg [2004]<sup>1</sup> estimate that 'reef-interested tourism' contributes \$1.4 billion and 47,600 jobs to the regional economies.

Recent research by the CRC Reef Research Centre<sup>2</sup> has estimated that there are about 4.9 million recreational visits each year to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, conducted by residents of the adjacent coastal communities. Almost half of the residents surveyed had visited the Marine Park in the last 12 months. The major recreational activity is fishing, with an estimated economic worth of approximately \$240 million.

### **Performance analysis**

The key output for the GBRMPA concerning tourism and recreation is that there is sustainable growth of tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park.

The GBRMPA has facilitated sustainable growth in tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park through:

- Adoption and implementation of a policy on managing tourism permissions to operate in the Marine Park [including allocation, latency and tenure];
- Offering rewards to tourism operators that achieve a high standard in terms of protection, presentation and involvement in partnership activities;
- Recognition of the Eco Certification Program [at the Ecotourism and Advanced Ecotourism level] operated by Ecotourism Australia as an approved external certification scheme for identification of high standard tourism operators in the Marine Park;
- Management of government funding for crown-of-thorns starfish control program at key tourism sites on the Great Barrier Reef;
- Fostering industry self-management, for example by encouraging the voluntary adoption of standard buoyage and a unique identification number for private moorings in the Marine Park;
- Improved user understanding of opportunities and responsibilities through quarterly newsletters, updates to the GBRMPA website and facilitation of the Tourism Staff Certificate Course;
- Consultation with the tourism industry and recreational users on various management initiatives, including rezoning of the Marine Park, the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, proposed amendments to the Cairns Area Plan of Management 1998 and introduction of the Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004;

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<sup>1</sup> Hoegh-Guldberg, H. and Hoegh-Guldberg, O. [2004] *The Implications of Climate Change for Australia's Great Barrier Reef*. World Wildlife Fund & Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Brisbane, 345pp.

<sup>2</sup> Norris, A., Moscardo, G. and McCoy, A. [in press] *Recreational Use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*. CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville.

- Provision of significant contribution to the Representative Areas Program;
- Adoption of a Marine Tourism Contingency Plan to ensure prompt and streamlined consideration of applications for tourism operations to be relocated following severe degradation by an environmental incident;
- Undertaking assessment of all tourism operations and, where appropriate, putting in place permit conditions; and
- Fostering partnerships with the tourism industry, especially voluntary involvement in monitoring projects and incident reporting.

A significant achievement of the Tourism and Recreation Group this year was the development, and subsequent adoption by the Authority, of the Policy on Managing Tourism Permissions to Operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [including Allocation, Latency and Tenure]. This policy has formalised the process and business incentives for raising standards and improving the quality of tourism operations in the Marine Park. Essentially, the Policy makes best practice tourism and management practices an even better business proposition, and in doing so, provides increased protection for the Reef.

## Output 1.5 - Park Management

By agreement between the Australian and Queensland Governments, the park management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and Queensland marine parks and island national parks within the Great Barrier Reef region is undertaken through collaborative agency arrangements.

### *Park Management Program*

In reporting on the implementation of the program, it is acknowledged that the outcomes could often not be achieved without the supplementary funding provided through:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority contribution towards the operation of the Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit [DDM];
- Recreation Area Management Board funding for Green Island; and
- Queensland Environmental Protection Agency/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service funding for a range of island and wildlife management projects.

And in kind contributions from agencies including:

- Australian Customs Service National Marine Unit;
- Customs Coastwatch;
- Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Australian Federal Police;
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority;

- Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries/Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol; and
- Queensland Police Service.

**OUTPUT 1.5.1 - FIELD MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE PARK**

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.1	Field Management of the Marine Park.	Quality	Targeted and strategic enforcement with infringements dealt with promptly.	Achieved
			Impact of visitors on reefs and resources kept within sustainable limits.	Achieved
			Visitor and management facilities installed and maintained to a high standard.	Achieved
		Quantity	Regular patrols of high use areas and targeted enforcement of trawl, line fishing and dugong protection area controls.	Achieved
			Public relations contact with users in major activity areas.	Achieved
		Price	\$9.684m	

**Performance analysis**

Targeted and strategic enforcement with infringements dealt with promptly.

Key actions and achievements:

- Customs National Marine Unit vessels conducted seven patrols on behalf of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The vessels were crewed by staff from various agencies including Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, Queensland Police Service, Customs and Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. This multi-agency approach resulted in the detection of a broad range of offences and the ability for information to be shared across agencies;
- Development of Annual Tasking Plans for Customs National Marine and Customs Coastwatch;
- The Coastwatch Command Support System and Queensland Fisheries Service Vessel Monitoring System enhanced the collection and analysis of information for dissemination to patrol vessels;
- Conduct of underwater acoustic sensor trials in partnership with Coastwatch;
- Appointment of two regional compliance coordinators based in Mackay and Cairns;
- Implementation of Compliance Management and Investigation Procedures on 1 January 2004. These procedures provide a benchmark for all agencies delivering compliance in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and allow a consistent approach to investigations;

- Implementation of an Infringement Notice System on 1 December 2003. This provides a simple yet effective method for dealing with lesser offences against the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*. All officers who are appointed as inspectors under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Act 1975* are empowered to issue infringement notices and the system is consistent with systems used by other agencies for maritime offences;
- Funding was allocated to Water Police in Townsville and Airlie Beach to conduct strategic patrols in the Marine Park. Water Police at Thursday Island, Cairns and Yeppoon also conducted tactical operations accessing special operational funding; and
- Compliance risk assessment and strategic planning was reviewed and updated taking into consideration the compliance needs to support the implementation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*.

A total of 213 possible Commonwealth offences were reported during the year [Figure 14]. Fifty-three commercial fishing offences were recorded, which is a considerable decrease from the previous year of 90 offences. A higher presence of multi-agency surveillance provides an increased deterrent.

Compliance Actions	No.
Administrative action	1
Assessments to Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	76
Advisory letter by Day-to-Day Management	25
Warning Letter by Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	12
Infringement Notice [Commonwealth]	4
Infringement Notice [State]	17
Summons Issued	41
Convicted	59
Complaint withdrawn by Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	19
Insufficient/No Evidence/Unable to Locate Offender	58
Recorded for Information	10
Referred to Australian Federal Police	2
Referred to other agencies	10
Under Investigation	61

Table 4: Compliance Actions taken 2003-04. Source: DDM.

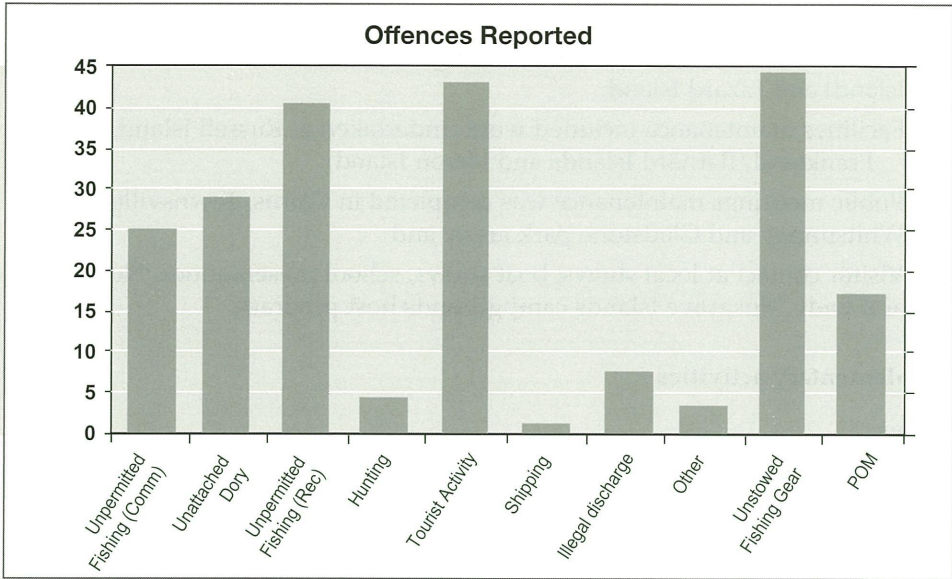


Figure 14: Number of offences reported 2003-04. Source: DDM.

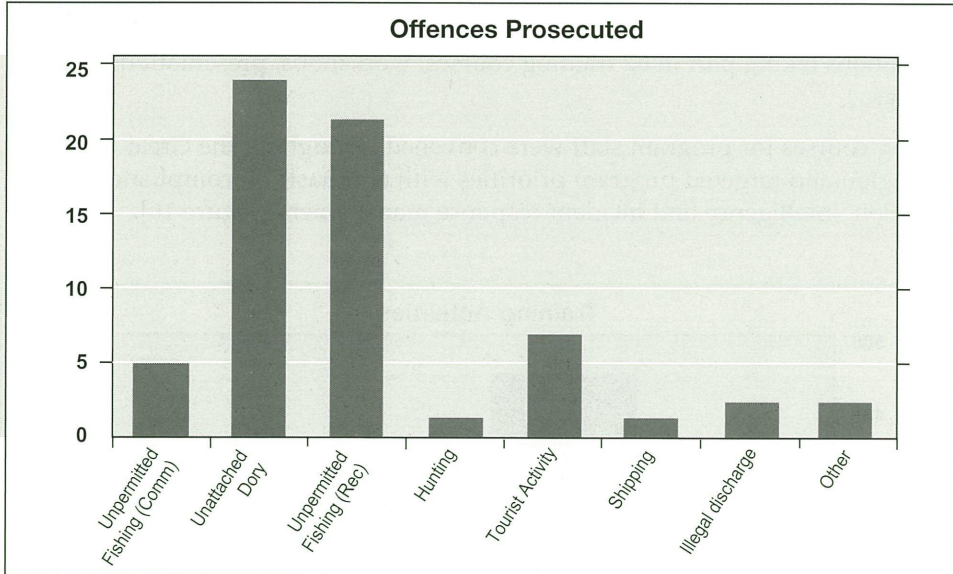


Figure 15: Number of offences prosecuted 2003-04. Source: DDM

**Impact of visitors on reefs and resources kept within sustainable limits and visitor and management facilities installed and maintained to a high standard.**

The program provides operational bases at Port Douglas, Cairns, Cardwell, Townsville, Magnetic Island, Airlie Beach, Mackay, Rosslyn Bay and Gladstone with support from Rockhampton. From these bases the park infrastructure is maintained and public contact activities undertaken.

Key program actions and achievements included:

- Maintenance of walking trails including Frankland Island Group (Russell Island) and Lizard Island;
- Facilities maintenance included work undertaken at Russell Island, Frankland/Barnard Islands and Heron Island;
- Public moorings maintenance was completed in Cairns, Townsville, Whitsunday and Gladstone park areas; and
- Visitor contact at local shows, boat shows, school presentations, North West and Lady Musgrave Islands campgrounds host program.

### Complementary activities

#### *Training*

The Day-to-Day Management training program was successfully implemented with more than 600 participants from: the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; Queensland Environmental Protection Agency/Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service; Customs Coastwatch; Australian Customs Service National Marine Unit; Australian Federal Police; Australian Maritime Safety Authority; Queensland Police Service; Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries/Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol; and the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions taking part in 62 training courses, workshops, presentations and briefings.

Training courses for program staff were convened throughout the Great Barrier Reef region and targeted program priorities with emphasis on compliance legislation, intelligence and incident response management [Figure 16].

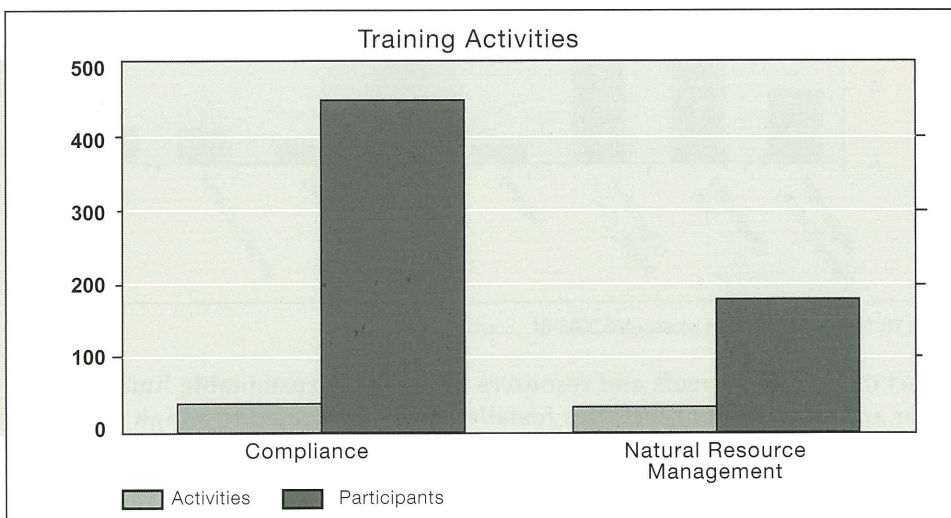


Figure 16: Number of DDM training activities and participants 2003-04. Source: DDM.

### *Program Review*

Following an independent review of the program, a range of recommended initiatives and improvements to the program were approved by the Marine Park Authority Board and implemented during 2003-04. Some key initiatives included:

- Provision of an executive level strategic group to oversee the program and provide advice to the Board;
- Improved governance of the program to reflect modern business practice;
- Five core Indigenous rangers positions established;
- Enforcement capability expanded by two regional investigators based in Cairns and Mackay and upgrading the compliance manager position; and
- Appointment of two liaison officers to enhance program coordination.

### *Natural Resource Management*

Key activities during 2003-04 included:

- A risk-based assessment of vulnerable species was developed and implemented to guide priorities for the program;
- Oiled wildlife plans were developed for each district and exercised;
- Following 20 years of goat control on Percy Island, a concerted two-year program of eradication resulted in 1200 goats being removed. No goats were seen during the last survey indicating successful eradication;
- Feral animal control measures were undertaken for feral pigs on Hinchinbrook Island, feral goats on Long Island, South Percy Island, High Peak Island and Brousons Island and rats on Normanby and Mabel Islands;
- Weed eradication and control programs undertaken on islands including Frankland and Barnard Islands, Lizard Island, North Keppel and Keppel Bay Islands and Brook Island;
- Programmed fire burns were undertaken on islands including Fitzroy Island and Lizard Island;
- Members of the program discovered that most Roseate Terns at the Swains Reefs are migrating from breeding islands in Japan and Taiwan. This led to the Roseate Tern being listed on the Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement;
- Monitoring of the recovery of coral reefs after large ship impacts was conducted at Sudbury and Piper Reefs;
- Masthead, Tryon and Erskine Islands were closed from October 2003 to Easter 2004 to allow for the breeding of seabirds and turtles free of human impact;
- A Rapid Assessment Monitoring Program was developed and implemented to enable field staff to make systematic observations of coral reefs;
- A study of the impacts of scale insects on *Pisonia* forests on the coral cays in the Capricorn/Bunker Group was completed. Management recommendations will lower the risk of loss of the forest and bird nesting habitat;

- Seagrass surveys for the dugong and green sea turtle food resource assessment project were undertaken at Shoalwater Bay; and
- Annual surveys were undertaken as part of the coastal monitoring strategy at Swains Reefs, Michalmas Cay, Far Northern Section and other key sites.

#### OUTPUT 1.5.2 - PLANNING AND IMPACT MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE PARK

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.2	Planning and Impact Management of the Marine Park.	Quality	All plans effectively maintain or enhance natural and cultural values while providing for wise use.	Achieved
			All significant proposals for use of the Marine Park undergo impact assessment.	Achieved
		Quantity	Implementation of site plans for 6 key sites completed, Hinchinbrook Plan of Management completed.	In progress
			Approximately 700 assessments conducted and decisions made, including 30 major projects.	Achieved
		Price	\$3.010m	

#### *Performance analysis - Planning*

##### *Hinchinbrook Plan of Management*

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

The area has become internationally renowned for nature-based experiences such as bush walking, camping, low-key commercial tourism, cultural activities, recreational fishing and boating.

The GBRMPA recognises the intrinsic qualities of the area and plans to coordinate the protection of those qualities for the future, whilst allowing for appropriate levels of nature-based experiences through a range of commercial and recreational opportunities.

The plan implements strategies to manage vessel traffic that will minimise disturbance to the local dugong population, controls intrusive activities near significant bird sites, maintains a range of natural experiences for visitors and ensures that the tourism potential of the area is achieved in an ecologically sustainable manner.

##### *Amendment to the Cairns Area Plan of Management*

On 29 April 2004, the Board of the GBRMPA decided that the Cairns Area Plan of Management warranted further amendment to address new issues and to effect editorial corrections.

The proposed amendment was released for community consultation on 4 June 2004, with a final date for public submissions being 9 July 2004. Thirty submissions were received from a range of interest groups, mainly tourism operators.

It is anticipated that, in response to submissions received, the proposed amendment will be altered and implemented in September 2004.

**Related links:**

- Hinchinbrook Plan of Management:  
<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp-site/management/hinchinbrook>

***Performance analysis – Environmental Impact Management***

During 2003-04 the GBRMPA considered more than 50 major development applications. These applications are complex and involve structures or works in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and included projects such as boat harbours, dredging, pontoons, pipelines, experimental fishing, artificial reefs and coral transplantation. The construction aspects associated with the Nelly Bay Harbour development at Magnetic Island, Townsville were completed. Considerable resources were focussed on assessment of a large pontoon proposed at Moore Reef, Cairns.

Applications and permit decisions continued to be made available on the GBRMPA website to ensure transparent and consistent environmental decisions and management.

*Liaison with Defence and Port Authorities on activities in the World Heritage Area*

The GBRMPA maintained a central coordinating role in liaising with the Department of Defence and Port Authorities about their activities in or adjacent to the Marine Park. The GBRMPA meets both the Department of Defence and Port Authorities at annual workshops and major projects/exercises to ensure issues of importance are discussed and the most appropriate management regimes are put in place.

*Environmental Management Systems [Permits]*

Permits provide an important mechanism for managing activities at a more site specific level. During the year approximately 758 permissions were assessed. As usual, the highest number of permissions were granted for tourist programs. However, many of these were for the continuation of an already existing tourist program. The following graph [Figure 17] represents the various types and numbers of permissions assessed. In addition, 57 permissions were transferred between operators.

The implementation of a number of new policies commenced this year through the permits process including the assessment of reasonable use for some Special Tourism Permissions [refer Managing Tourism Permissions to Operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (including Allocation, Latency and Tenure)], the

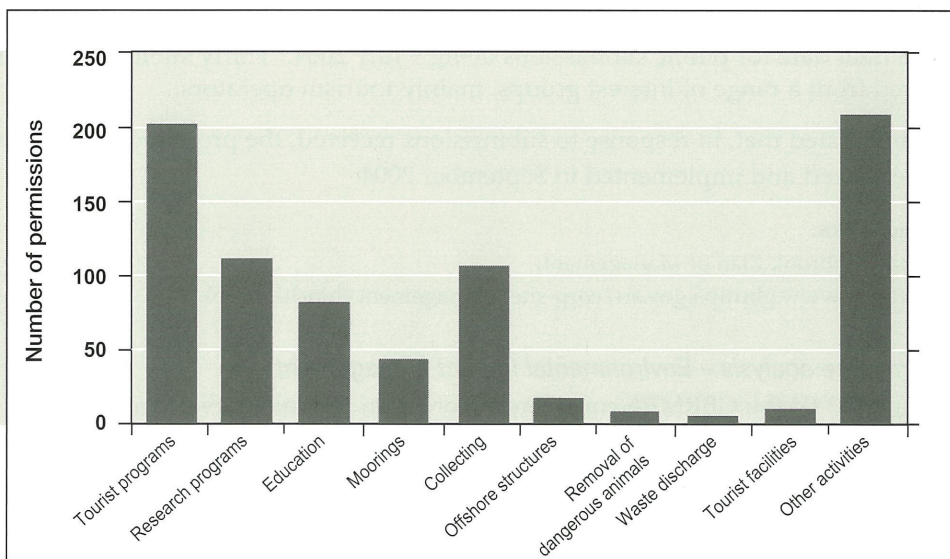


Figure 17: Types of permissions granted by the GBRMPA during 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.

introduction of a trial of Vessel Identification Numbers for tourist vessels and the assessment of eligibility for some tourist operations in the Hinchinbrook Planning Area.

**Related links:**

- Managing Tourism Permissions to Operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [including Allocation, Latency and Tenure]: <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp-site/key-issues/tourism/permits-policy.html>

**OUTPUT 1.5.3 - LIAISON WITH INDIGENOUS GROUPS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN MANAGEMENT**

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.3	Liaison with Indigenous groups and community involvement in management.	Quality	Effective participation by Indigenous people and the broader community in the development of key policies and management strategies.	Achieved
		Quantity	Initial agreements on Traditional Use of Marine Resources [TUMRA] developed for four Traditional Owner groups.	In progress
			Ten Local Marine Advisory Committees and a general Consultative Committee maintained.	Achieved
		Price	\$0.956m	

**Performance analysis**

*Liaison with Indigenous Groups*

Significant progress on future management was made by the Indigenous Policy and

Liaison Unit's consultation with Indigenous communities, Traditional Owner groups and their representative bodies.

#### *Representative Areas Program*

From the start of the first Community Participation phase in May 2002 to lodging the revised Zoning Plan in Federal Parliament in December 2003, the Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit, in conjunction with other GBRMPA staff conducted more than 200 meetings, including major workshops with a broad range of client groups throughout Queensland. More than 300 submissions received by the Authority referred to Indigenous issues.

#### *Traditional Use of Marine Resources Program*

The Indigenous submissions to the Representative Areas Program generally raised two main issues [a] zoning preferences and locations, and [b] proposed traditional use of marine resources criteria for the revised Zoning Plan.

In order to develop a management framework for working with more than 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clan groups, the Marine Park can be basically divided into 27 Traditional Use Management Units. The management units are based on a range of criteria including tribal or clan boundaries, administrative groupings and geographical range. Of the 27 management units, Traditional Owner groups and their representative bodies from 20 of the management units expressed a strong desire in the Representative Areas Program submissions, towards entering into formal management arrangements for the traditional use of marine resources in their sea country areas.

During 2003-04, the Marine Park Authority Board approved a five-year Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement [TUMRA] Program. The Program commenced on 1 July 2004 with initial work being conducted within the Giringun, Kuku Yalanji and Gudjuda regions.

Other outputs for the year include one edition of the Sea Country Newsletter, update of the State of the Reef On-line Indigenous Issues Section, and Representative Areas Program displays at the Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival, Gurang Land Council Land and Sea Summit and Townsville NAIDOC Day.

A highlight for the year was the Goold Island Cultural Education Camp held 3-6 June 2004 where staff learnt about Indigenous people, cultural and heritage issues within marine park management. The cultural education services were provided by the Traditional Owners from the Cardwell region with logistics coordination and support from the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation, Cardwell State Emergency Service and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

#### **Related Links:**

- State of the Reef On-line Indigenous Issues:  
[http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/publications/sotr/indigenous/](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/indigenous/)

## Output 1.6 - Information for Park Management

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's policies and decisions are based on the best available scientific and technical information. The Authority is a major partner in the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

### OUTPUT GROUP 1.6 - INFORMATION FOR PARK MANAGEMENT

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.6.1	Scientific and technical information available for management.	Quality	Effective coordination and delivery of information required for park management.	Achieved
		Quantity	Effective scientific and technical information is available for park management.	Achieved
			Effective information technology systems and services for park management.	Achieved
			Effective library and information management services available for park management.	Achieved
			Effective storage, analysis and presentation of spatial information for park management.	Achieved
	Price	\$4.451m		

### *Performance analysis*

In 2003-04, the Science Technology and Information Group continued to co-ordinate the delivery of information needs throughout the GBRMPA. In doing this, the group has responsibility for knowledge management. 2003-04 saw considerable developments in knowledge management and knowledge sharing at the GBRMPA. The Knowledge Management Committee co-ordinated a visit by the Department of the Environment and Heritage [DEH] Knowledge Management Director, who ran two Knowledge Management workshops. This interaction initiated closer ties between GBRMPA and DEH on this issue. One of the GBRMPA's Executive Directors now participates in an inter-agency Knowledge Management Committee, thus adding executive involvement into future developments. Storing and analysing information for the development of the new Zoning Plan was a strong focus of knowledge management in 2003-04. Several spin-off projects have been identified for next year's Strategic Work Plan. These projects aim to build on what was learnt through the development of the new Zoning Plan, and to establish systems for sharing that knowledge. An information management vision is also currently under development.

In addition to overall responsibility for knowledge management, the Science, Technology and Information Group comprises four separate teams each with a distinct service delivery function that contributes Information for Park Management. The four teams are:

- Research and Monitoring Co-ordination;

- Information Technology;
- Library and Image Services; and
- Spatial Data Centre.

### ***Research and Monitoring Coordination***

The Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit continues to ensure that the GBRMPA has the best available scientific information for Marine Park management decisions. The members of the unit coordinate the scientific expertise within the GBRMPA necessary for acquiring, understanding and interpreting this information. To increase the GBRMPA's capacity to deliver social science for park management, a social science team was created within the unit. The unit now has both natural science and social science teams, with the two team managers jointly coordinating delivery of research and monitoring service to the GBRMPA.

This year the unit provided advice on a wide variety of scientific issues. Of particular importance was social science support for the Representative Areas Program, including coordination of a comprehensive analysis of more than 21,300 public submissions from the second Community Participation phase, as well as reference to more than 10,000 submissions from the first phase. The unit also continued to develop an improved scientific understanding of the implications for Marine Park management of major ecosystem events upon the Great Barrier Reef caused by global climate change. The State of the Great Barrier Reef On-line, launched by the Hon Dr David Kemp, Minister for the Environment and Heritage on 4 July 2003, was updated with additional chapters completed, and improved website, including downloadable [pdf] versions of all chapters. The web-based report has been highly successful, with high numbers of visits, and incorporation into school courses in Australia and overseas. In conjunction with the Environmental Impact Management Unit and the Secretariat, the unit also provided support for the Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee.

*Coordinating research and monitoring, and partnerships with scientists, industry and the community*

Most of the GBRMPA's scientific information needs were met through outsourcing. The CRC Reef Research Centre is the primary research provider, and the unit maintained extensive liaison with the Centre to ensure the research program closely reflects the GBRMPA's research priorities [See the GBRMPA website at <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au>].

The unit also manages several research partnerships in the form of Australian Research Council Linkage Grants, with a range of research. This year saw a successful major new partnership with the Centre for Coral Reef Biodiversity, aimed at improving knowledge of the resilience of the Reef in the face of increasing impacts such as climate change.

Another major success was the development of a monitoring program to monitor the impacts of the newly announced Reef Water Quality Protection Plan on the

health of inshore ecosystems. This program was awarded \$2 million per year for three years from the National Heritage Trust, to commence in 2004-05, and will integrate community participation with scientific rigor in a broad range of monitoring programs and partnerships.

Successful partnerships with the community, and the tourism industry in particular, included the "Eye on the Reef" program, which draws on tourist operators to monitor reef health, and the "Bleachwatch" program which provides the unit with advance warning of bleaching damage to reefs from a wide range of tourist and research sites. Both these programs were identified by a visiting expert as highly successful in terms of building partnerships and stewardship, as well as providing monitoring information.

#### *Providing scientific advice on major phenomena and significant events*

Following on from the 1998 and 2002 coral bleaching events, the Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit continues to work collaboratively with the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and the United States Government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency to improve scientific understanding of the impact of global climate change upon the Great Barrier Reef's ecosystem. The unit made major contributions to the National Action Plan on Climate Change and Biodiversity, and the revised 'Work Plan on Coral Bleaching' developed at the 7th international meeting on the Convention of Biological Diversity in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, [Information about coral bleaching is available on the GBRMPA's website at [http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/info\\_services/science/bleaching/](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/science/bleaching/)] and received international recognition for the development of strategies to enhance reef resilience, at the 10th International Coral Reef Symposium.

The unit continues to provide substantial scientific support to the GBRMPA Environmental Impact Management Unit for major development assessments.

#### *Disseminating research results*

The need for an integrated and updated view of knowledge prompted the Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit to coordinate a major conference on Water Quality Issues on the Great Barrier Reef in March, which brought together all available information on the topic. To ensure the outcomes of that conference are widely accessible, the unit is publishing them in a special issue of the international journal *Marine Pollution Bulletin*.

In addition, in 2003-04, the unit published four research publications, and hosted 17 seminar presentations, attended by approximately 325 people, as part of the GBRMPA Seminar Series. This series disseminates the latest research information to researchers and managers in the Townsville area.

#### *Enhancing research for management: the next generation*

The GBRMPA Science for Management Research Grants encourage graduate student research relevant to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

and World Heritage Area, by providing funding to assist students with PhD or Masters research. The research must contribute towards addressing the GBRMPA's research priorities and key management issues, and may be physical, biological or social science based. In 2004, the GBRMPA awarded seven discretionary grants, of \$1000 each.

#### *Publications*

Moscardo, G. & Ormsby, J. 2004, *Social Indicators Monitoring System for Tourist and Recreational Use of the Great Barrier Reef*, Research Publication No. 80, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority: Townsville.

Ormsby, J., Moscardo, G., Pearce, P., Foxlee, J. 2004. *A Review of Research into Tourist and Recreational Uses of Protected Natural Areas*, Research Publication No. 79, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority: Townsville.

Ormsby, J.M. 2004. *A Review of the Social, Motivational and Experiential Characteristics of Recreational Anglers from Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef Region, 2004*, Research Publication No. 78, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority: Townsville.

Hamilton, M, 2003. *Aircraft activity and sound levels relative to recreation opportunity spectrum settings in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: A case study from Whitehaven Beach, Whitsunday Island*, Research Publication No. 75, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority: Townsville.

#### **Information Technology**

The Information Technology Unit continues to design, develop and implement strategies and contingencies to meet the ongoing and changing information system and technology needs of the Authority while maintaining the expected high standard of service and usability. This year again there has been a major focus for the Information Technology Unit on network and information technology security along with the development of databases to support the Authority's staff with accessible systems.

#### *Assessing and prioritising user needs*

There continues to be a very high demand for information technology training because of the continuing growing need for, and reliance on, technology.

#### *Effective user support to improve productivity*

The user support staff have continued to provide a positive face for the Information Technology team to our clients. They have improved the helpdesk procedures that have been implemented to continue to ensure effective user support. Software and user procedures are constantly being refined to improve responsiveness to support needs.

#### *Effective information systems to meet Authority needs*

The major database development was the finalising of the design and construction of the Representative Areas Program database. Several web-based and other

databases have been developed to support internal administrative functions.

This year has seen the continued development of the public website to reflect the Authority's revised corporate identity and features an improved navigation system and utilities to facilitate ease of use and a major facelift to improve visual interaction. For the 2003-04 financial year, the Authority downloaded 3,612,787 web pages to 696,784 unique visitors. Traffic to the website has increased at 25 per cent per year over the last five years to its current average of more than 2000 unique visitors daily.

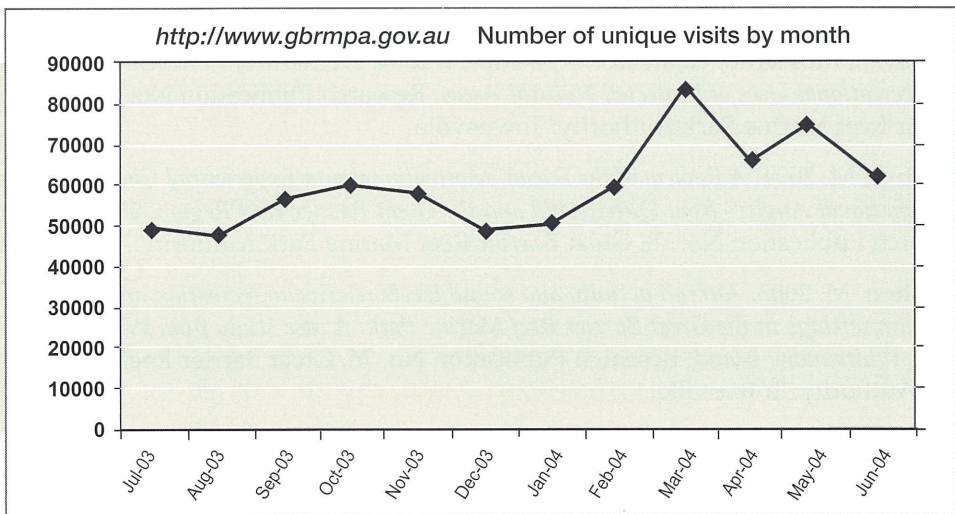


Figure 18: Number of unique visits by month to the GBRMPA website. Source: GBRMPA.

#### *Effective accessible network and technical services*

A new Storage Attached Network facility was added to the network to improve access speeds and data storage capability, along with a new backup system to ensure data survivability. Network and server availability continues to be maintained at a very high level [99.996 per cent].

#### *Library and Image Services*

As always, meeting client needs was the primary goal and primary achievement for Library and Image Services throughout the year. In order to improve its relevance to clients, new services were introduced and existing ones altered accordingly. The unit continued to seek opportunities for enhancing the management of corporate knowledge and expertise across the agency.

#### *Develop the Library collection*

The unit placed emphasis on providing relevant electronic services to clients and subscriptions to the electronic version of journals were significantly increased throughout the year.

Digital aerial photograph coverage was greatly expanded to include the whole Queensland coastline. The topographic map collections of 1:50,000 and 1:100,000 scale maps were reviewed and updated. The result was a comprehensive cartographic collection that meets clients' spatial data information needs. These resources were important tools in the recent rezoning of the Marine Park.

*Reference Service*

Web-based delivery of services is rapidly becoming a cornerstone of information delivery and access. Use of online database services continued to increase. Current awareness services to staff were also expanded.

Staff Papers database has been expanded to incorporate PowerPoint presentations as well as published items. This has been welcomed by staff as an important knowledge-sharing tool for the Authority.

For the first time, all GBRMPA publications from 1975 to 2004 are now listed on one spot on the external website, with links to the full text version for each publication. Both internal and external clients have welcomed this significant achievement.

*Image Collection Services*

Image Services have been in very high demand throughout the year. Image loans for 2003-04 were extremely high, nearly equalling the record high loans of the previous year [Figure 19]. Major corporate projects such as the Representative Areas Program placed extremely heavy demands on Image Services. The high quality of the final products is a strong statement on the Image Collection's diversity and quality, as well as the technical expertise of Image Services staff.

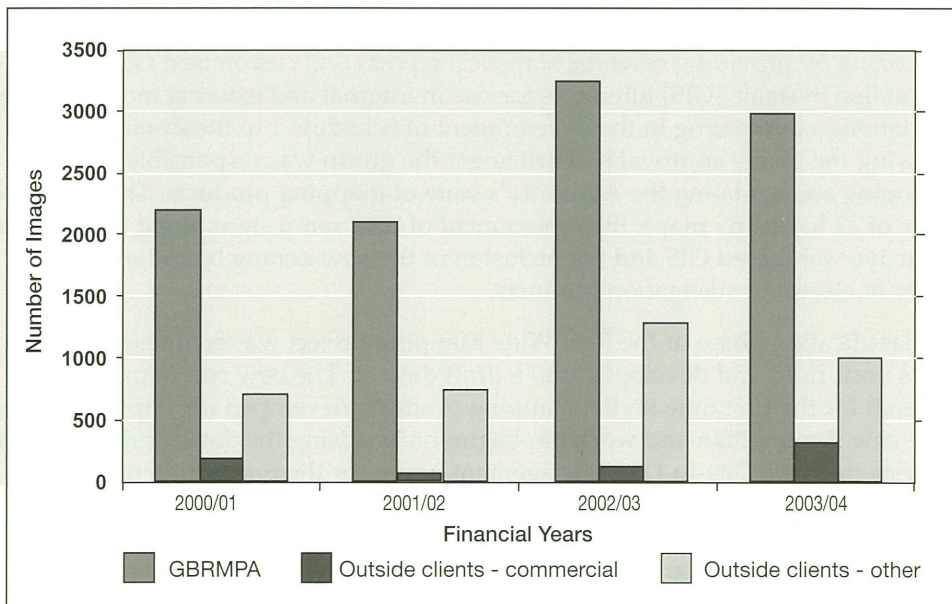


Figure 19: Use of the GBRMPA Image Library. Source: GBRMPA.

External use of the Image Collection increased greatly during the year, possibly due to the high corporate profile of the GBRMPA. In addition to such heavy client demand, the number of original images catalogued into the collection remained as high as the previous year.

#### *REEF bibliographic database*

REEF is a bibliographic database, managed by the GBRMPA and commercially available both in CD-ROM format and via the Internet through Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Informit Online service. REEF indexes journal articles, books, maps, and electronic resources that describe or illustrate some aspect of the Great Barrier Reef region, or activities that influence that region. Library staff set a twenty-year record for the number of records indexed into the database for the year. Successful outsourcing arrangements for indexing continued and all deadlines for database updates were met for the year.

#### ***Spatial Data Centre***

In 2003-04, the Spatial Data Centre [SDC] continued to provide the Authority with access to critical spatial information and products to support management initiatives.

Support was provided to all sections of the Authority with the major clients being the Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage Group, the Water Quality and Coastal Development Group, Fisheries Group and Day-to-Day Management [enforcement]. Focus for the year centred around delivery of the new Zoning Plan as a result of the Representative Areas Program for the first half of the year and then the implementation of that plan during the later part.

The SDC played a critical role in the development of the final boundaries for the new zoning by providing essential statistical reports and customised Geographic Information Systems [GIS] interfaces for use in internal and external meetings and negotiations, culminating in the development of Schedule 1 to the Zoning Plan. Following the plan's approval by Parliament the group was responsible for developing and updating the Authority's suite of mapping products. This included a suite of 22 hardcopy maps, the replacement of boat ramp signs along the coast, an interactive web-based GIS and the inclusion of the new zoning boundaries on a variety of electronic navigation products.

The classification phase of the Reef Wide Mapping Project was completed and the results vectorised and developed into a draft dataset. The new reef boundaries appeared for the first time on the mapping products developed for implementation of the new Zoning Plan and work has begun on finalising the data for distribution. Requests from the Day-to-Day Management group for the production of evidentiary mapping products again increased with more than 50 individual jobs being completed along with support for major cases and the development of mapping products for use by Customs and Coastwatch in surveillance.

Work has also begun on a spatially enabled referrals database for the Water Quality

and Coastal Development Group as part of the Spatial Data Centre’s initiative to provide targeted information systems.

Detailed analysis and modelling of fisheries effort data, especially for the harvest fisheries, has supported the Fisheries Group with some important management initiatives.

### Output 1.7 - Reef Education and Communication

Community support for conservation and sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef can be achieved through education and awareness of critical issues. Reef HQ is the Reef Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

#### OUTPUT GROUP 1.7 - REEF EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.7.1	Improved Australia-wide profile and community understanding of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and its management [includes Reef HQ].	Quality	Sound communication and education marketing methods used to profile issues and achievements. Informed public debate on significant issues. Reef HQ provides high quality educational focus.	Achieved
		Quantity	Regional and national education programs developed and use in schools in excess of benchmark year 2000.	Achieved
			Measure of community understanding of significant reef issues against previous research benchmark.	Achieved
			Communication and education 3-year operational plan in place.	Achieved
			Reef HQ operating effectively as the reef education facility with net cost minimised.	Achieved
	Price	\$6.002m		

#### Performance analysis

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority recognises the importance of promoting and fostering a positive attitude to the use and management of the Great Barrier Reef and an understanding of its value to the community, the economy and as a World Heritage asset.

2003-2004 saw a realignment of resources with the Communication and Marketing section of the Communication and Education Group to be more reflective of the priorities of the GBRMPA. Communication coordinators were realigned to specifically support each of the Critical Issue and Service Groups of the organisation. This was achieved by restructuring some of the positions within the group with the aim of building and strengthening relationships and partnerships with internal and external stakeholders, to ensure we were meeting the needs of our customers.

The Representative Areas Program moved the GBRMPA to a position where close community relationships have been forged through advisory committees and broad stakeholder consultation.

Relationships were reinforced through the establishment of 241 Community Access Points located at regional centres along the Great Barrier Reef coast. While their primary role is as distributors of zoning information to the public, these Community Access Points also act as conduits of information between the GBRMPA and recreational users of the Marine Park.

As part of fostering relationships with external stakeholders the Communication and Education Group produced monthly Reef Retailer Updates during 2003-04, which were distributed to more than 460 individuals and businesses. This enabled the Authority to communicate directly with reef industry retailers and provide information relevant to their businesses. The GBRMPA encouraged business owners to further communicate this information to their customers.

During 2003-04, most communication resources were directed towards developing and producing a range of products and communications activities in support of the Representative Areas Program. These included drafting, editing and production of a range of communications materials, such as brochures, maps, posters, CD-ROMs and technical documents.

The Communication and Education Group relaunched the GBRMPA website in June 2004 in preparation for the predicted increase in usage due to the implementation of the new zoning. The website was redesigned to make it easier for stakeholders to source information through a more contemporary, user-friendly design. Since the launch the Communication and Education Group has received a high level of positive feedback. [*See Output 1.6 - Information for Park Management for 2003-04 statistical figures*].

The Reef ED website provides students and teachers with a comprehensive portal to educational programs and products about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The site expanded during the 2003-04 year to include programs and information for the broader public such as industry courses for tourism staff and bareboat operators. By 30 June 2004, the Reef ED website had seen some 261,220 visitors from more than 150 countries.

The Reef Guardian Schools Program is an innovative program that encourages students, teachers, parents and friends to become involved in protecting our environment and the Great Barrier Reef. In 2003, 25 schools participated in the successful pilot program and more than 117 schools registered to be involved in the 2004 Program. Students involved in the program have developed many creative projects and activities in land, waste and water management and the protection of marine environments and the Great Barrier Reef.

Reef Beat was a ten-week, weekly educational supplement that was published in the 'Newspapers in Education Section' of the major daily newspapers along the Great Barrier Reef coastline, except in the Townsville and Thuringowa area where

ten posters were produced for schools in the region. The supplement provided readers, teachers and students with information about critical issues in the Great Barrier Reef and informed them about what they can do to protect and preserve it. The supplement also directs readers to the Reef ED website where they are able to download curriculum-related educational materials for use in a more detailed study.

Reef Watch was a series of weekly 45-second television commercials that appeared on WIN Television in markets along the Great Barrier Reef coastline. The segments featured a range of issues affecting the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and outlined positive actions that individuals could take to help protect it. Reef Watch was also used to provide the community with information regarding the Representative Areas Program.

The Communication and Education Group developed and implemented a television Community Service Announcement to inform the public about the pressures being placed on the Great Barrier Reef and reinforce the idea that we all have a role to play in protecting it. This Community Service Announcement aired Australia-wide.

The GBRMPA commissioned the AEC Group to conduct independent market research to determine people's views on a range of issues pertaining to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The telephone survey of 1025 residents was conducted in April and May 2004 and included coastal Queensland and capital city residents. Comparative surveys over the last three years show that people's belief that the Great Barrier Reef is under threat is at an all time high with 83.06 per cent of people responding agreeing with the statement in the May 2004 survey, up from 76.88 per cent in April 2003 [Figure 20].

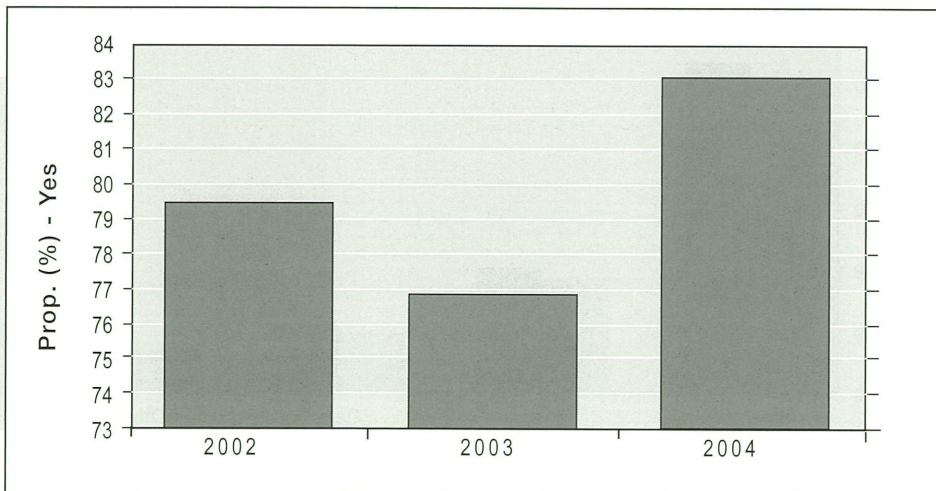


Figure 20: Proportion of people surveyed who believe the Great Barrier Reef is under threat. Source: AEC Group Ltd [April 2004] Market Research for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Comparative Research Results.

Comprehensive television and newspaper promotion through initiatives like Reef Watch, Reef Beat, the Representative Areas Program and Community Service Announcements have highlighted issues and threats facing the reef.

## Reef HQ

### *Performance analysis*

Reef HQ is a major part of the Authority's public communications program and aims to increase community understanding and awareness of the Great Barrier Reef and its management.

As the National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef, Reef HQ pursues its mission of inspiring people to care for the future of the Great Barrier Reef by providing a realistic coral reef experience supported by exhibitions as well as interpretive and curriculum-based educational programs.

During 2003-04, Reef HQ continued to focus on increasing both its operating revenues and the size of the audience to which it delivers its community education programs.

Despite a significant down turn in international visitation attributed to the adverse global political climate, 2003-04 was a successful year producing an increase in both operating revenue and visitor numbers.

In general, revenues from all major revenue programs increased compared to the previous year. In all, consolidated revenue increased by 13.2 per cent [Figure 21].

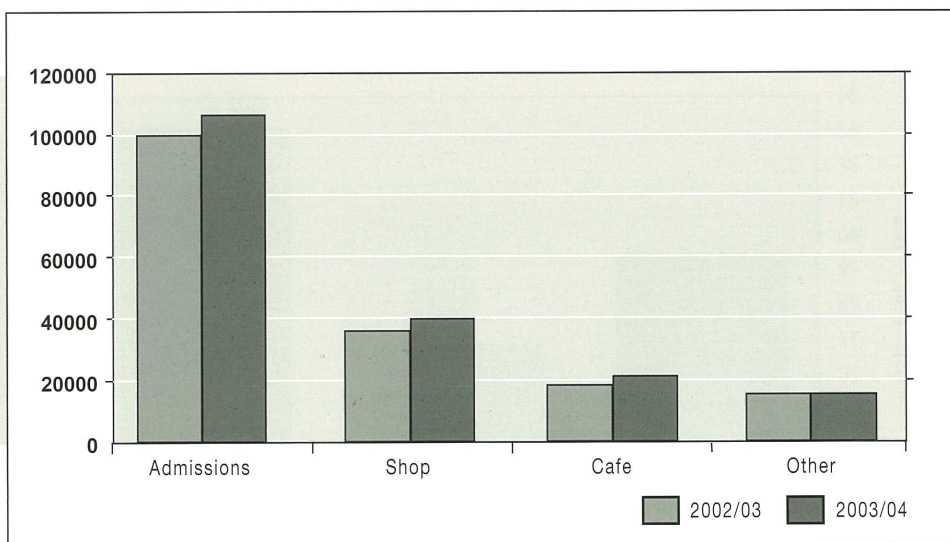


Figure 21: Reef HQ revenue 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.

In total, 107,980 people participated in Reef HQ programs throughout the year. Ticketed admissions to the Reef HQ Facility increased by 9.1 per cent compared with the previous year [Figure 22].

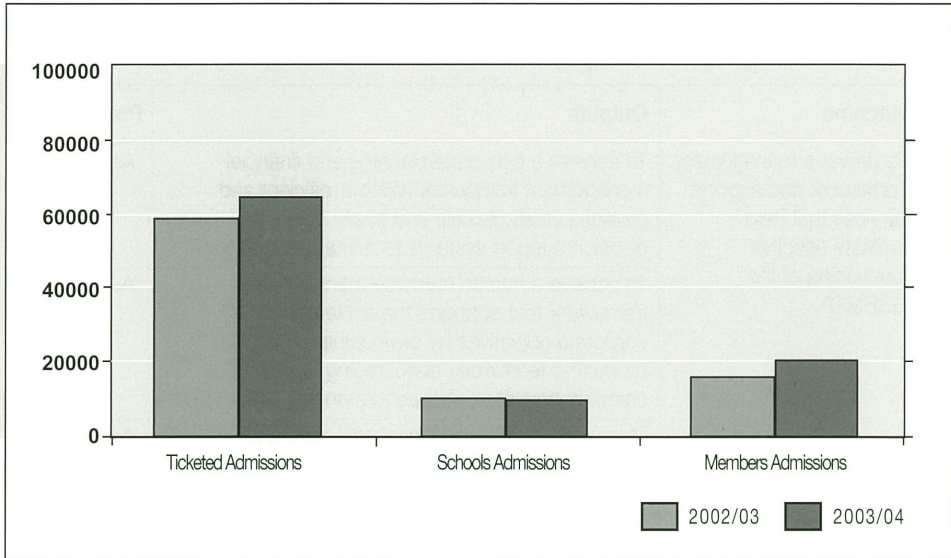


Figure 22: Reef HQ admissions 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.

The total number of students participating in schools-based programs in the Reef HQ facility reduced by 9.1 per cent. This is attributed to the unusual increase in schools visits to the region during 2002-03 resulting from the Regional Sitting of State Parliament and a number of major schools sporting events during that year. Reef HQ continued to increase the reach of its schools based education programs via Reef Videoconferencing during 2003-04. Reef-based education programs were delivered, via videoconference, to 20 locations nationally and internationally including the United States of America, the United Kingdom and South Africa. The GBRMPA received in-kind equipment sponsorship from Sony Videoconferencing to help continue the Authority's commitment to raising awareness of the Great Barrier Reef both in Australia and overseas.

Reef HQ annual membership numbers increased by 3.7 per cent compared to 2002-03. Similarly, visits by Reef HQ members increased by 56 per cent while admission sales to members' guests increased by 64 per cent highlighting the value placed on the opportunity for repeat visitation within the Townsville community.

The Townsville community continued to support Reef HQ through volunteer activity during 2003-04. Forty-five adult volunteers and 25 student volunteers were recruited during the year bringing the total number of active volunteers to 161.

## Corporate Services

Ensuring that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has appropriate systems, resources and support to achieve its objectives is an ongoing priority. Effective use of resources relies on integration of flexible and efficient systems and practices for managing human, physical and financial resources.

	Outcome	Outputs	Performance
	To deliver a management framework and support services that help facilitate effective functioning of the GBRMPA.	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.	Achieved
		To achieve a human resource management framework that supports the achievement of corporate objectives by developing individuals, promoting teamwork, encouraging innovation, creativity and improving performance.	Achieved
		To provide a safe working environment and adequate standard of accommodation and field and office equipment.	Achieved
		To provide ongoing corporate services which are benchmarked to appropriate standards and responsive to organisational needs.	Achieved
		To maximise potential Environment Management Charge whilst developing and maintaining good relationships with clients.	Achieved
		To provide effective, efficient and professional Secretariat support to the GBRMPA.	Achieved

### *Performance analysis*

During 2003-04, Corporate Services' major achievements included:

- Facilitated improved financial management by upgrading the Financial Management Information System;
- Ensured staff have an understanding of the GBRMPA, corporate policy, systems and procedures by conducting staff inductions that include human resources, finance and office services;
- Revised the Fraud Control Plan;
- Improved Protective Security;
- Implemented the 2003-06 Agency Certified Agreement and established a new Authority Consultative Group [ACG] to facilitate workplace participation;
- Increased staff capabilities through the provision of levels of training in leadership, performance management, workplace diversity, occupational health and safety and other key APS subject areas;
- Continued to enhance the Environment Management Charge compliance framework;

- Successfully amended the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* to ensure the Environmental Management Charge was not subject to GST; and
- Provided high quality Secretariat services to the Authority and its committee structures.

#### *Environmental Management Charge*

The GBRMPA collected a total Environmental Management Charge [EMC] of \$7.4 million in 2003-04 despite the effects of world-wide uncertainty in tourism including terrorism. Revenue from the EMC provides funding for research, user education and management of the Marine Park. The compliance framework has been adapted to meet ongoing internal and external changes. An important element of the compliance framework is to communicate to clients their statutory obligations under the legislation. This is necessary because of the high turnover of staff in the tourism industry. Infringement Notices are a new compliance tool and a notice may be issued by inspectors for breaches of record keeping requirements. Breaches may now be dealt with by the issue of an 'on the spot fine' instead of progressing the matter through the courts.

The EMC provisions in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* were amended with effect from 20 April 2004. The changes place the liability for the EMC on visitors taken into the Marine Park by the tourist operator to participate in tourist program activities such as diving, snorkelling, fishing etc. The legislation was amended to ensure that there is no GST liability on the EMC from 20 April 2004.

An external consultant conducted a review of EMC concessions as proposed by the Minister for Finance and Administration. The review was to examine the appropriateness of the current EMC concession structure across the standard tourist program and selected activities of the non-standard tourist program.

The reef visitor database continues to record the number of visitors to each location within the Marine Park. The reports available from this data are a valuable resource for managers, planners, the tourism industry and researchers.

#### *Resource Management*

The majority of positions within the GBRMPA were staffed on a continuing basis [See Appendix 5 for details of staffing as at 30 June 2004]. The output groups developed for the portfolio budget statements remain relevant and provide a sound focus for the GBRMPA's activities.

The major organisation change during the year was in relation to the Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit. Additional staff were appointed to investigation and to liaison positions.

#### *Human Resources Management Information System*

The GBRMPA operates with the Aurion Human Resources Management Information System. Aurion was brought in-house in 2003-04, resulting in significant cost savings and enhanced ability to tailor information and reporting

requirement to business management information needs. The system provides valuable information management assistance in relation to learning and development and occupational health and safety, and offers enhanced access to employee details through 'employee self service' arrangements.

#### *Learning and Development*

The GBRMPA spent \$164,305 on learning and development opportunities for employees during 2003-04. This covered a wide range of activities including leadership/management development, communication and negotiation skills, project management, performance management, information technology, occupational health and safety, and technical/professional skills. Conference attendance and study assistance was predominately used to develop and maintain technical/professional expertise. In addition, a substantial amount of on-the-job training was undertaken by employees involved in the Representative Areas Program.

#### *Participative Work Practices*

The GBRMPA values its employees' contributions and is committed to consulting employees and their representatives about workplace matters that affect them and considering their views in making those decisions wherever reasonably possible. Although information is made available to employees through many informal avenues, and employees may at any time raise and discuss their views with management, this is complemented by more formal consultative mechanisms which include: regular general, group and team meetings; and the Authority Consultative Group [ACG].

The ACG is the peak formal consultative mechanism between management and employees. The ACG comprises a mix of management representatives and employee representatives who are elected for the duration of the GBRMPA Workplace Agreement. The ACG has a minimum of three formal meetings per year. In addition to these formal meetings, employee representatives and management meet on an informal basis to discuss issues as they arise.

The ACG deals with a wide range of issues including but not limited to:

- Resource planning;
- Development and/or review of Human Resource Management Guidelines;
- Work structure and organisation;
- Training and development;
- Occupational health and safety;
- Workplace diversity; and
- General issues arising from the application of conditions under the GBRMPA Certified Workplace Agreement 2003 -2006.

In addition, the ACG was the vehicle for negotiation of the GBRMPA Certified

Workplace Agreement 2003-2006 and will continue to work towards the resolution of issues for future agreements.

*Equal employment opportunity and workplace diversity*

Equal employment opportunity data for the GBRMPA's employees is provided in Appendix 5.

The GBRMPA Workplace Diversity Program continues to be implemented. The long-term objectives of the plan are to ensure:

- The GBRMPA's corporate, business and human resources plans demonstrate the GBRMPA values the diverse backgrounds of employees and values, and is able to access and make use of, the diverse skills and experiences of its employees;
- The GBRMPA workplace structures, systems and procedures assist employees in balancing their work, family and other caring responsibilities effectively;
- Engagement decisions in the GBRMPA are made taking into account the diversity of the Australian community, as well as the organisational and business goals of the GBRMPA and the skills required to perform the relevant duties; and
- Equity in employment is promoted and upheld.

During 2003-04, the GBRMPA has continued to offer employment conditions, through the implementation of the GBRMPA Certified Workplace Agreement 2003-2006, that ensures the GBRMPA recognises, values and utilises the background, skills and abilities of all employees including but not limited to:

- Flexible work hours and time off in lieu of overtime;
- Maternity leave at half pay, parental leave, paternity leave, increased access to carer's leave, family and emergency household leave, NAIDOC leave and leave without pay for personal/family reasons;
- Access to part-time employment and job sharing;
- Access to home-based work; and
- Provision of a carer's room.

All Senior Executive Service employees have Australian Workplace Agreements. Consistent with the Government's workplace relations policies and policy parameters for agreement making in the Australian Public Service, the GBRMPA may enter into Australian Workplace Agreements with employees.

In addition the GBRMPA has continued to:

- Offer high-level use of study leave assistance to equal employment opportunity target groups;
- Improve access by employees to timely and comprehensive information on employment related activities through the use of the GBRMPA intranet;
- Maintain the indigenous employees support network;

- Assist the representation of people with a disability in the workplace through reasonable workplace adjustments; and
- Ensure equity in employment through awareness training.

#### *Accommodation*

The majority of GBRMPA staff are accommodated in the Reef HQ complex which is the main office building. The Kelleher Place building provides a reasonable standard of accommodation and further improvements to fire warning systems were made during the year to improve occupational health and safety.

Staff of the Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit occupy leased office accommodation at the Breakwater Marina in Townsville. Two regional investigators are based in Cairns and Mackay.

Ministerial and Parliamentary Liaison Unit staff occupy an office within the Department of the Environment and Heritage offices in Canberra.

## SECTION D

# Financial Statements





## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

### To the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

#### Scope

##### *The financial statements and members responsibility*

The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by Members of the Authority;
- Statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cash Flows;
- Schedules of Commitments and Contingencies; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2004.

The members of the Authority are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

#### *Audit approach*

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you. My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive, rather than conclusive, evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

While the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting was considered when determining the nature and extent of audit procedures, the audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

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Centenary House 19 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT  
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

I have performed procedures to assess whether, in all material respects, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Authority's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the statements of financial performance, and cash flows.

The audit opinion is formed on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the members of the Authority.

#### **Independence**

In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

#### **Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- (i) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and applicable Accounting Standards; and
- (ii) give a true and fair view, of the matters required by applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and the Finance Minister's Orders, of the financial position of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 2004, and of its performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspa Dash  
Acting Executive Director  
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra  
5 October 2004

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2004 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

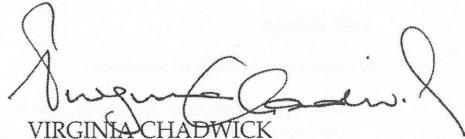
In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Authority will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This Statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Authority.



FAY BARKER  
Member

30 September 2004



VIRGINIA CHADWICK  
Chief Executive Officer

30 September 2004

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE  
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	Notes	2004 \$	2003 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>			
Revenue from Government	5A	22,113,021	24,005,668
Interest	5B	230,546	257,123
Revenue from Reef HQ shop trading	5C	384,611	327,182
Reef HQ revenues	5D	1,716,226	1,507,516
Revenue from sale of assets	5E	1,212	261
Other	5F	1,771,479	3,056,684
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	9(b)	4,337,000	4,389,000
<i>Revenues from ordinary activities</i>		<u>30,554,095</u>	<u>33,543,434</u>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)</b>			
Employees	6A	12,230,121	11,554,997
Suppliers	6B	10,733,689	10,592,044
Depreciation and amortisation	6C	925,807	918,505
Write-down of assets	6D	582	13,609
Value of assets sold	5E	292	0
Cost of Goods sold from Reef HQ shop trading	5C	202,392	142,302
Grants	7	21,757	26,178
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	9(d)	7,829,925	8,859,942
<i>Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)</i>		<u>31,944,565</u>	<u>32,107,577</u>
<i>Borrowing cost expense</i>	8	<u>0</u>	<u>21,387</u>
<b>Operating surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities</b>		<u>(1,390,470)</u>	<u>1,414,470</u>
<b>Net Profit</b>		<u>(1,390,470)</u>	<u>1,414,470</u>
Net credit to asset revaluation reserve	14	<u>1,523,670</u>	<u>391,214</u>
<b>Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity</b>		<u>1,523,670</u>	<u>391,214</u>
<b>Total Changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with the Australian Government as owner.</b>		<u>133,200</u>	<u>1,805,684</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
 as at 30 June 2004

		2004	2003
		\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash	10A	3,376,184	2,768,089
Receivables	10B	2,979,312	2,559,599
Investments	10C	15,780	7,986
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<u>6,371,276</u>	<u>5,335,674</u>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Land, buildings and improvements	11A	11,636,333	10,739,971
Plant and equipment	11B	1,687,414	1,573,553
Intangibles	11C	323,940	365,345
Other	11E	101,701	87,029
Inventories	11F	72,416	100,336
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<u>13,821,804</u>	<u>12,866,234</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>20,193,080</u>	<u>18,201,908</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employees	12	2,894,584	3,103,715
<b>Total provisions</b>		<u>2,894,584</u>	<u>3,103,715</u>
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	13A	1,109,441	1,251,913
Other	13B	2,983,260	646,685
Capital use charge	13C	0	127,000
<b>Total payables</b>		<u>4,092,701</u>	<u>2,025,598</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>6,987,285</u>	<u>5,129,313</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>13,205,795</u>	<u>13,072,595</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity	14	4,204,004	4,204,004
Reserves	14	14,060,469	12,536,799
Accumulated deficits	14	(5,058,678)	(3,668,208)
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>13,205,795</u>	<u>13,072,595</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		6,545,393	5,523,039
<b>Non-current assets</b>		13,647,687	12,678,869
<b>Current liabilities</b>		5,505,306	3,647,689
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		1,481,979	1,481,624

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
for the year ended 30 June 2004

	Notes	2004 \$	2003 \$
<b>Operating Activities</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Appropriations		23,117,000	24,069,000
Permit assessment fees		248,167	270,045
Interest		230,546	221,695
Reef HQ admission fees		1,249,973	1,258,087
GST Receipts from ATO		763,216	1,039,109
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management		4,627,000	4,389,000
Environmental management charge		7,518,775	6,667,023
Other receipts		2,926,500	3,593,595
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>40,681,177</b>	<b>41,507,554</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Grants		(21,757)	(26,178)
Employees		(12,409,736)	(11,312,989)
Suppliers		(12,250,963)	(12,796,301)
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management		(7,829,925)	(8,859,942)
Borrowing costs		0	(21,387)
Refunds of Environmental management charge		(72,754)	(30,355)
Payments to Consolidated Revenue Fund		(7,000,000)	(6,700,000)
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>(39,585,135)</b>	<b>(39,747,152)</b>
<b>Net cash from / (used by) operating activities</b>	15	<b>1,096,042</b>	<b>1,760,402</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		1,212	261
<b>Cash payments</b>			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(362,159)	(2,813,984)
<b>Net cash from / (used by) investing activities</b>		<b>(360,947)</b>	<b>(2,813,723)</b>
<b>Financing Activities</b>			
<b>Cash used</b>			
Repayments of debt		0	(354,121)
Capital use charge paid		(127,000)	(1,267,000)
<b>Net cash from / (used by) financing activities</b>		<b>(127,000)</b>	<b>(1,621,121)</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>608,095</b>	<b>(2,674,442)</b>
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		2,768,089	5,442,531
<b>Cash at the end of the reporting period</b>	10A	<b>3,376,184</b>	<b>2,768,089</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS  
 as at 30 June 2004

By Type	2004 \$	2003 \$
<b>Capital commitments</b>		
Land and buildings <sup>1</sup>	0	40,056
Plant and equipment <sup>2</sup>	0	20,790
<b>Total capital commitments</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>60,846</u>
<b>Other commitments</b>		
Operating leases <sup>3</sup>	946,519	1,587,969
Other commitments <sup>4</sup>	834,516	460,836
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<u>1,781,035</u>	<u>2,048,805</u>
<b>Commitments receivable<sup>5</sup></b>	<u>(346,548)</u>	<u>(602,391)</u>
<b>Net commitments</b>	<u><u>1,434,487</u></u>	<u><u>1,507,260</u></u>
<b>By Maturity</b>		
<b>Capital commitments</b>		
One year or less	0	60,846
<b>Total capital commitments</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>60,846</u>
<b>Operating lease commitments</b>		
One year or less	694,271	678,731
From one to five years	252,248	909,238
<b>Total operating lease commitments</b>	<u>946,519</u>	<u>1,587,969</u>
<b>Other commitments</b>		
One year or less	559,357	430,586
From one to five years	275,159	30,250
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<u>834,516</u>	<u>460,836</u>
<b>Commitments receivable</b>	<u>(346,548)</u>	<u>(602,391)</u>
<b>Net commitments</b>	<u><u>1,434,487</u></u>	<u><u>1,507,260</u></u>

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

- 1 Land and buildings commitments disclosed in 2002-03 were primarily purchase orders for ongoing refurbishment of Reef HQ.
- 2 Plant and equipment commitments disclosed in 2002-03 were primarily purchase orders for leasehold improvements, computer equipment and software.
- 3 Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Nature of Lease	General Description of leasing arrangement
Leases for office accommodation	1 Lease payments are subject to current open market rent review in 2004-05.
	2 Lease payments are subject to current open market rent review in 2004-05. The term of first option for renewal is 3 years. The term of second option for renewal is 3 years.
	Lease payments are paid monthly
Leases for office equipment	

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS**  
as at 30 June 2004

- 4 As at 30 June 2004, other commitments comprise amounts to be paid under contracts for consultancy services and purchase orders for other services and supplies.
- 5 Commitments receivable includes amounts due to the Authority under the leases associated with the lighthouse properties.

Commitments to the Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef) are not included above and are disclosed at Note 20.

In addition, the Authority has a lease arrangement with the Townsville Port Authority in relation to the Reef HQ building for a nominal amount payable if demanded.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES**  
as at 30 June 2004

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
<b>Contingent liabilities</b>		
Claims for damages/costs	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

<b>Note</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
2	Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards from 2005-2006.
3	Economic Dependency
4	Events Occurring After Reporting Date
5	Operating Revenues
6	Operating Expenses – Goods and Services
7	Operating Expenses - Grants
8	Borrowing Costs
9	Day-to-day Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
10	Financial Assets
11	Non-Financial Assets
12	Provisions
13	Payables
14	Equity
15	Cash Flow Reconciliation
16	Remuneration of Members
17	Related Party Disclosures
18	Remuneration of Officers
19	Remuneration of Auditors
20	Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
21	Cash Bonds
22	Financial Instruments
23	Average Staffing Levels
24	Appropriations
25	Reporting by Outcomes Information
26	Financial Statements: Day-to-day Management

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

**1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**1.1 Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements are required by clause 1(b) of Schedule 1 to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and are a general purpose financial report.

The statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (being the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Orders (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2004)*);
- Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- Consensus Views of the Urgent Issues Group.

The Statements of Financial Performance and Financial Position 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. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or on the financial position.

Assets and liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. Assets and liabilities arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are however not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments and the Schedule of Contingencies.

Revenues and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance when and only when the flow or consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

**1.2 Changes in Accounting Policies**

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year except for accounting for environmental management charge (EMC) special appropriations.

The Authority, as agent for the Commonwealth, collects an environmental management charge (EMC). Amounts collected are paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund and then paid back to the Authority as a special appropriation. Previously, EMC special appropriations revenue was recognised when monies were owed to the Commonwealth from tourist operators. In the current year special appropriations revenue has only been recognised when money has been received by the Authority from tourist operators.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

The effect of this revised policy is to decrease the revenue recorded in the year by \$1.65 million, as special appropriations receivable from the Commonwealth and resulting revenue has not been recorded. In future years special appropriation revenue will comprise a twelve month period.

**1.3 Reporting by Outcomes**

A comparison of actual figures across accounting periods by outcome specified in the Appropriation Acts relevant to the Authority is presented in Note 25.

**1.4 Revenue**

The revenues described in this Note are revenues relating to the core operating activities of the Authority. Details of revenue amounts are given in Note 5.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised upon the delivery of goods to customers.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from disposal of non-current assets is recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts. The stage of completion is determined according to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Receivables for goods and services are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Provisions are made when the collectability of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.

*Revenues from Government – Appropriations*

The full amount of the appropriation for departmental outputs for the year is recognised as revenue.

EMC special appropriations revenue is recognised when the Authority has the right to receive the revenue and it can be reliably measured. This is deemed to occur when monies are received by the Authority from tourist operators. Refer to notes 1.2 and 5A.

**1.5 Transactions by the Government as Owner**

*Equity Injections*

Amounts appropriated by the Parliament as equity injections are recognised as 'contributed equity' in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2004

**1.6 Employee Benefits**

*Benefits*

Liabilities for services rendered by employees are recognised at the reporting date to the extent that they have not been settled.

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits), annual leave and sick leave are measured at their nominal amounts. Other employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months of their reporting date are also to be measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

All other employee benefit liabilities are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

*Leave*

The liability for employee entitlements includes provision for 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 to be taken in future years by employees of the Authority is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration, including the Authority's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

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 2004. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

*Superannuation*

Employees of the Authority are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS) and the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS). The liability for their superannuation benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Commonwealth and is settled by the Commonwealth in due course.

The Authority makes employer contributions to the Commonwealth at rates determined by the actuary to be sufficient to meet the cost to the Commonwealth of the superannuation entitlements of the Authority's employees.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

**1.7 Leases**

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially 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 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.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

**1.8 Borrowing costs**

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

**1.9 Cash**

Cash means notes and coins held and any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.

**1.10 Financial Instruments**

Accounting policies for financial instruments are stated at Note 22.

**1.11 Acquisition of Assets**

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor entity's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

**1.12 Buildings and leasehold improvements, plant and equipment**

*Asset Recognition Threshold*

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, except for purchases costing less than \$5,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

*Reef HQ*

The Reef HQ building was funded as a Commonwealth–State Bicentennial project, through the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Association Incorporated. The building was sub-leased by the Authority from the Association for a period of 75 years, the end date for the lease being in the year 2061. Following the winding up of the Association in September 2001 that lease arrangement is now between the Authority and the Townsville Port Authority. Under the terms of the arrangement the Authority is responsible for the maintenance of the building as necessary and for all expenses and revenue in relation to its operation. Consequently, the value of improvements to the building and associated plant and equipment is shown as an asset in the Authority's accounts.

*Revaluations*

*Basis*

Buildings, plant and equipment are carried at valuation. Revaluations undertaken up to 30 June 2002 were done on a deprival basis; valuations since that date (including 30 June 2004) are at fair value. This change in accounting policy was required by Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1041 'Revaluation of Non-Current Assets' and occurred in the prior year. Fair value revaluations were performed at 30 June 2004 and are based on depreciated replacement cost.

*Frequency*

The Finance Minister's Orders require that all property, plant and equipment assets be measured at up-to-date fair values from 30 June 2005 onwards. The current year is therefore the last year in which the Authority will undertake progressive valuations.

The Authority has valued its assets at fair value since the 2002-03 year. Assets are revalued based on an independent valuation every third year. The Directors are responsible for making a fair value assessment each year.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

*Conduct*

All valuations have been made by members at fair value with independent advice sought for some items in each class. The latest fair value revaluations as at 30 June 2004 are based on assessment conducted by management and approved by the members of the Authority. This assessment was supported in part by an independent valuation of certain plant and equipment assets at 30 June 2004.

*Depreciation*

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 rates (useful lives) and methods are reviewed at each reporting 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 rates applying to each class of depreciable assets are based on the following useful lives:

	<b>2004</b>	2003
Buildings	<b>50 years</b>	50 years
Leasehold improvements	<b>Lease term</b>	Lease term
Lighthouse properties	<b>Lease term</b>	Lease term
Plant and equipment	<b>3 to 20 years</b>	3 to 20 years

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 6C.

*Impairment of Non-Current Assets*

Non-current assets carried at up-to-date fair value at the reporting date are not subject to impairment testing.

**1.13 Intangibles**

The Authority's intangibles comprise purchased software for internal use. The asset is carried at cost.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of the Authority's software is 3 to 8 years (2002-03: 3 to 8 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2004. None were found to be impaired.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

**1.14 Lighthouse properties**

During 2002-03, ownership of a number of lighthouse properties within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was transferred from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. At the same time the Queensland Government provided clear title to Low Isles and Dent Island.

The properties had been the subject of contracts for transfer for some time, however the completion of the contracts was subject to the provision of clear title. The acquisition of these properties was recognised in the 2002-03 financial statements.

As the properties were acquired for nominal consideration and as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements they were initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor entity's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

Two of the properties are subject to ongoing leases to a third party. Under the leases the third party is required to pay monthly rental to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and these properties have been valued at fair value, which has been assessed as the present value of the future lease payments payable under the leases.

**1.15 Inventories**

Goods held for resale are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is determined as the purchase cost on a first-in-first-out basis.

**1.16 Taxation**

The Authority is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax and the goods and services tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST:

- except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- except for receivables and payables.

**1.17 Comparative Figures**

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

**1.18 Insurance**

The Authority has insured for risks through the Government's insurable risk managed fund called 'Comcover'. This includes insurance cover for the operation of Reef HQ. Worker's compensation is insured through Comcare Australia.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

**1.19 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, payments 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).

**1.20 Rounding**

In some notes to the financial statements, numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

**2 Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards from 2005-2006.**

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has issued replacement Australian Accounting Standards to apply from 2005-2006. The new standards are the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) which are issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The new standards cannot be adopted early. The standards being replaced are to be withdrawn with effect from 2005-06, but continue to apply in the meantime.

The purpose of issuing Australian Equivalents to IFRSs is to enable Australian entities reporting under the Corporations Act 2001 to be able to more readily access overseas capital markets by preparing their financial reports according to accounting standards more widely used overseas.

It is expected that the Finance Minister will continue to require compliance with the Accounting Standards issued by the AASB, including the Australian Equivalents to IFRSs, in his Orders for the Preparation of Authorities' financial statements for 2005-06 and beyond.

The Australian Equivalents contain certain additional provisions which will apply to not-for-profit entities, including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Some of these provisions are in conflict with the IFRSs and therefore the Authority will only be able to assert compliance with the Australian Equivalents to the IFRSs.

Existing AASB standards that have no IFRS equivalent will continue to apply.

Accounting Standard AASB 1047 Disclosing the Impact of Adopting Australian Equivalents to IFRSs requires that the financial statements for 2003-04 disclose:

- An explanation of how the transition to the Australian Equivalents is being managed, and
- A narrative explanation of the key differences in accounting policies arising from the transition.

The purpose of this note is to make those disclosures.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

*Management of the transition to AASB Equivalents to IFRSs*

The Authority has taken the following steps in preparation towards the implementation of Australian Equivalents:

- The Authority's Audit Committee will be tasked with the oversight of the transition to and implementation of the Australian Equivalents to IFRSs. The Chief Finance Officer will be formally responsible for the project and report regularly to the Audit Committee on progress against the formal plan to be approved by the Committee.
  
- The plan will require the following key steps to be undertaken and sets deadlines for their achievement:
  - Identification of all major accounting policy differences between current AASB standards and the Australian Equivalents to IFRSs progressively throughout 2004-05.
  - Identification of system changes necessary to be able to report under the Australian Equivalents, including those necessary to be able to capture data under both sets of rules for 2004-05, and the testing and implementation of those changes.
  - Preparation of a transitional balance sheet as at 1 July 2004, under Australian Equivalents, within six months of 30 June 2004.
  - Preparation of an Australian Equivalent balance sheet at the same time as the 30 June 2005 statements are prepared.
  - Meeting reporting deadlines set by Finance for 2005-06 balance sheet under Australian Equivalents Standards.
  
- The plan will also address the risks to successful achievement of the above objectives and include strategies to keep implementation on track to meet deadlines.
  
- To date, not all major accounting and disclosure differences and system changes have been identified and tested. The changes are expected to be identified, tested and implemented by 31 December 2004.

*Major changes in accounting policy*

Changes in accounting policies under Australian Equivalents are applied retrospectively, i.e. as if the new policy had always applied. This rule means that a balance sheet prepared under the Australian Equivalents must be made as at 1 July 2004, except as permitted in particular circumstances by AASB 1 "First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards". This will enable the 2005-2006 financial statements to report comparatives under the Australian Equivalents also.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

Changes to major accounting policies are discussed in the following paragraphs.

*Property plant and equipment*

It is expected that the Finance Minister's Orders will require property plant and equipment assets carried at valuation in 2003-04 to be measured at up-to-date fair value from 2005-06. This differs from the accounting policies currently in place for these assets which, up to and including 2003-04, have been revalued progressively over a 3-year cycle.

However, it is important to note that the Finance Minister requires these assets to be measured at up-to-date fair values as at 30 June 2005. Further, the transitional provisions in AASB 1 will mean that the values at which assets are carried as at 30 June 2004 under existing standards will stand in the transitional balance sheet as at 1 July 2004.

*Impairment of Non-Current Assets*

The Authority's policy on impairment of non-current assets is at note 1.12.

Under the new Australian Equivalent Standard, these assets will be subject to assessment for impairment and, if there are indications of impairment, measurement of any impairment (impairment measurement must also be done irrespective of any indications of impairment, for intangible assets not yet available for use). The impairment test is that the carrying amount of an asset must not exceed the greater of (a) its fair value less costs to sell and (b) its value in use. 'Value in use' is the net present value of net cash inflows for for-profit assets of the Authority and depreciated replacement cost for other assets which would be replaced if the Authority were deprived of them.

The most significant changes are that, for the Authority's for-profit assets, the recoverable amount is only generally to be measured where there is an indication of impairment and that assets carried at up-to-date fair value, whether for-profit or not, may nevertheless be required to be written down if costs to sell are significant.

*Inventory*

Inventory held not for sale is recognised at cost, except where no longer required, in which case net realisable value is applied.

The new Australian Equivalent standard will require inventory held for distribution for no consideration or at a nominal amount to be carried at lower of cost or current replacement cost.

*Employee Benefits*

The provision for long service leave is measured at the present value of estimated future cash outflows using market yields as at the reporting date on national government bonds.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

Under the new Australian Equivalent standard, the same discount rate will be used unless there is a deep market in high quality corporate bonds, in which case the market yield on such bonds must be used.

*Financial Instruments*

Financial assets and liabilities are likely to be accounted for as "held at fair value through profit and loss" or available-for-sale where the fair value can be reliably measured (in which case, changes in value are initially taken to equity). Fair values will be published prices where an active market exists or by appraisal.

Cash and receivables are expected to continue to be measured at cost information.

Financial assets, except those classified as "held at fair value through profit and loss", will be subject to impairment testing.

**3 ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority was established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and is controlled by the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Authority is dependent on appropriations from the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia for its continued existence and ability to carry out its normal duties.

**4 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER REPORTING DATE**

There have been no events occurring after reporting date which have the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of the Authority.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 2004

5 OPERATING REVENUES	2004	2003
	\$	\$
5A Revenues from Government		
Appropriations:		
Operational	11,490,000	12,980,000
Special Appropriations	5,996,021	6,636,668
Commonwealth contribution to day-to-day management: refer Note 9 ( b )	4,627,000	4,389,000
Total revenues from Government	<u>22,113,021</u>	<u>24,005,668</u>

Refer to notes 1.2 and 1.4 for discussions on the accounting policy for special appropriations.

5B Interest revenue

Interest on deposits	230,546	257,123
Total interest revenue	<u>230,546</u>	<u>257,123</u>

5C Reef HQ shop trading results

Shop sales	384,611	327,182
Less: Cost of goods sold		
Opening stock	96,713	44,115
Plus: Purchases	174,751	194,900
Less: Closing stock	(69,072)	(96,713)
Cost of goods sold	<u>202,392</u>	<u>142,302</u>
Gross profit from trading	<u>182,219</u>	<u>184,880</u>

5D Reef HQ revenues

Admission fees	1,249,973	1,143,716
Donations and sponsorship	11,591	175
Membership program	119,969	85,452
Other revenue	334,693	278,173
Total Reef HQ revenues	<u>1,716,226</u>	<u>1,507,516</u>

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5E Net gains on sale of assets	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Plant and equipment		
Proceeds from disposal	1,212	261
Net book value of assets disposed	292	0
Net gain / (loss) from disposal of plant and equipment	<u>920</u>	<u>261</u>

5F Other miscellaneous revenues

Project revenue from related entities	1,042,408	1,320,684
Project revenue from external entities	49,413	104,271
Other revenue - from external entities		
- Sale of the authorities education and information material	6,577	19,084
- Permit assessment fees	248,167	270,045
- Fines	13,596	37,885
- Reimbursement of monitoring costs	11,244	942,790
- Cost recovery	68,173	256,170
- Other	331,901	105,755
Total other miscellaneous revenues	<u>1,771,479</u>	<u>3,056,684</u>

6 OPERATING EXPENSES - GOODS AND SERVICES

6A Employee expenses

Wages and salaries	9,454,907	8,907,329
Superannuation	1,549,459	1,265,144
Leave and other entitlements	1,112,777	1,151,007
Separation and redundancies	0	121,601
Other employee expenses	48,053	72,606
Total employee benefits expense	<u>12,165,196</u>	<u>11,517,687</u>
Worker compensation premiums	64,925	37,310
Total employee expenses	<u>12,230,121</u>	<u>11,554,997</u>

6B Supplier expenses

Supply of goods and services from related entities	766,049	419,889
Supply of goods and services from external entities	9,144,459	9,109,335
Repairs and maintenance from external entities	178,374	421,680
Operating lease rentals	644,807	641,140
Total supplier expenses	<u>10,733,689</u>	<u>10,592,044</u>

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6C Depreciation and amortisation	2004 \$	2003 \$
Buildings and leasehold improvements	571,582	563,839
Plant and equipment	276,613	258,265
Computer software	77,612	96,401
Total depreciation and amortisation	<u>925,807</u>	<u>918,505</u>

6D Write-down of assets

Bad and doubtful debts expense	582	2,595
Investment write down	0	11,014
Total write-down of assets	<u>582</u>	<u>13,609</u>

7 OPERATING EXPENSES - GRANTS

Augmentative research grants	15,387	20,140
Other grants	6,370	6,038
Total Grants	<u>21,757</u>	<u>26,178</u>

8 BORROWING COSTS

Loan expense	0	21,387
Total borrowing cost expense	<u>0</u>	<u>21,387</u>

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 instructions from 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 (ie, the post-initial program) of day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to be shared equally between the two Governments;

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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- The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments to meet in equal shares the recurrent costs for the 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 programme; and
  - The Authority to administer funds provided by the Commonwealth and Queensland for these purposes.
- (b) Revenue received from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and from other sources:

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Queensland Government contribution Refer Note 9(c) below	4,337,000	4,389,000
Commonwealth Government appropriation Recurrent and post-initial capital programs Refer: Note 5 (a)	4,627,000	4,389,000
Other revenue from permit assessment fees.	70,350	88,045
	9,034,350	8,866,045

- (c) An additional amount of \$290,000 received from the Queensland Government in 2003-04 has not been recognised as revenue in 2003-04 and has been recorded as 'Revenue received in advance' as the relevant part of the day-to-day management program was not complete at balance date.
- (d) Payments to the Queensland Government for day-to-day management for 2003-04 were \$7,829,925 (2002-03 \$8,859,942).
- (e) Financial Statements for day-to-day management which have been prepared by the EPA and audited by the Queensland Auditor-General are at Note 26.

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	2004	2003
	\$	\$
<b>10 FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
<b>10A Cash</b>		
Day-to-day management account	450,499	105,379
Cash on hand	18,389	49,660
Authority operations accounts	2,907,296	2,613,050
Total cash	<u>3,376,184</u>	<u>2,768,089</u>
<b>10B Receivables</b>		
Goods and services	148,377	373,507
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(2,500)	(2,500)
Receivable from the Commonwealth	953,112	507,091
Other debtors	1,657,267	1,460,019
Interest receivable	35,747	39,093
GST receivable	187,309	182,389
Total receivables	<u>2,979,312</u>	<u>2,559,599</u>
Receivables (gross) are aged as follows		
Not overdue	2,979,312	2,552,826
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	0	2,956
- 30 to 60 days	0	2,754
- 60 to 90 days	0	1,213
- more than 90 days	2,500	2,350
	<u>2,981,812</u>	<u>2,562,099</u>
The provision for doubtful debts is aged as follows:		
Not overdue	0	0
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	0	0
- 30 to 60 days	0	0
- 60 to 90 days	0	150
- more than 90 days	2,500	2,350
	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Credit terms are net 28 days (2003: 28 days)		
<b>10C Investments</b>		
Shares	15,780	7,986
Total investments	<u>15,780</u>	<u>7,986</u>

At 30 June 2004, the Authority held shares in two listed companies, Baycorp Advantage Limited and Insurance Australia Group Limited (formerly NRMA Insurance). The shares were acquired in the 2001-02 financial year as a result of the companies being listed on the ASX. The shares were acquired at no cost.

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11 NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS	2004	2003
	\$	\$
<u>11A Land, buildings and leasehold improvements</u>		
<b>Land and buildings</b>		
- at Members valuation (fair value)	15,748,791	13,230,055
- Accumulated depreciation	(4,705,273)	(3,526,412)
<b>Leaseholds</b>		
- at Members valuation (fair value)	1,163,314	1,156,445
- Accumulated depreciation	(749,787)	(511,347)
<b>Lighthouse properties</b>		
- at Members valuation (fair value)	179,288	391,230
<b>Total land, buildings and leasehold improvements</b>	<u>11,636,333</u>	<u>10,739,971</u>

All valuations have been made by members at fair value with independent advice sought for some items.

<u>11B Plant and equipment</u>		
- at Members valuation (fair value)	3,833,262	3,422,893
- Accumulated depreciation	(2,145,848)	(1,849,340)
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<u>1,687,414</u>	<u>1,573,553</u>

All valuations have been made by members at fair value with independent advice sought for some items.

<u>11C Intangibles</u>		
Software purchased	719,387	683,436
Accumulated amortisation	(395,447)	(318,091)
<b>Total intangibles</b>	<u>323,940</u>	<u>365,345</u>

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11D Analysis of Property, Plant and Equipment

TABLE A — Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment

	Buildings and Leasehold Improvements \$	Plant and Equipment \$	Computer software \$	Lighthouse Properties \$	Total \$
As at 1 July 2003					
Gross book value	14,386,500	3,422,893	683,436	391,230	18,884,059
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(4,037,759)	(1,849,340)	(318,091)	0	(6,205,190)
Net book value	<u>10,348,741</u>	<u>1,573,553</u>	<u>365,345</u>	<u>391,230</u>	<u>12,678,869</u>
Additions					
by purchase	21,889	312,567	36,207	0	370,663
Transfer from work in progress to categories	6,974	(6,974)	0	0	0
Net revaluation increment/(decrement)	1,651,023	84,589	0	(211,942)	1,523,670
Depreciation/ amortisation expense	(571,582)	(276,613)	(77,612)	0	(925,807)
Disposals					
Gross book value	0	35,597	0	0	35,597
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	0	(35,305)	0	0	(35,305)
As at 30 June 2004					
Gross book value	16,912,105	3,833,262	719,387	179,288	21,644,042
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(5,455,060)	(2,145,848)	(395,447)	0	(7,996,355)
Net book value	<u>11,457,045</u>	<u>1,687,414</u>	<u>323,940</u>	<u>179,288</u>	<u>13,647,687</u>

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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**TABLE B — Assets at valuation as at 30 June 2004**

Item:	Buildings and Leasehold Improvements	Plant and Equipment	Lighthouse Properties	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>As at 30 June 2004</b>				
Gross value	16,912,105	3,833,262	179,288	20,924,655
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(5,455,060)	(2,145,848)	-	(7,600,908)
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>11,457,045</b>	<b>1,687,414</b>	<b>179,288</b>	<b>13,323,747</b>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>As at 30 June 2003</b>				
Gross value	14,386,500	3,422,893	391,230	18,200,623
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(4,037,759)	(1,849,340)	-	(5,887,099)
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>10,348,741</b>	<b>1,573,553</b>	<b>391,230</b>	<b>12,313,524</b>

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	2004	2003
<b>11E Other Non-Financial Assets</b>	\$	\$
Prepayments	101,701	87,029
Total other non-financial assets	<u>101,701</u>	<u>87,029</u>
All prepayments are current assets.		

<b>11F Inventories</b>		
Inventories held for sale	72,416	100,336
Total inventories	<u>72,416</u>	<u>100,336</u>
All Inventories are current assets.		

**12 PROVISIONS**

Employees

Salaries and wages	0	291,821
Superannuation	0	45,498
Provision for long service leave	1,595,843	1,577,143
Provision for annual leave	1,284,701	1,181,382
Other	14,040	7,871
<i>Aggregate employee entitlement liability</i>	<u>2,894,584</u>	<u>3,103,715</u>
Current	1,412,605	1,622,091
Non-Current	<u>1,481,979</u>	<u>1,481,624</u>
	<u>2,894,584</u>	<u>3,103,715</u>

**13 PAYABLES**

**13A Suppliers**

Trade Creditors	1,100,937	1,166,872
Amounts owing for property plant and equipment purchases	8,504	85,041
Total supplier payables	<u>1,109,441</u>	<u>1,251,913</u>

All supplier payables are current liabilities  
Settlement is usually made net 28 Days

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	2004	2003
	\$	\$
<b>13B Other</b>		
Revenue received in advance	373,127	126,199
Amounts owed to Commonwealth	2,603,112	507,091
Other	7,021	13,395
Total other payables	<u>2,983,260</u>	<u>646,685</u>
All other payables are current liabilities		

**13C Capital Use Charge Payable**

Balance owing 1 July	127,000	127,000
Capital use charge provided for during the period	0	1,267,000
Capital use charge paid	<u>(127,000)</u>	<u>(1,267,000)</u>
Balance owing 30 June	<u>0</u>	<u>127,000</u>

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**14 EQUITY**

**Analysis of Equity**

Item	Contributed Equity		Accumulated results		Special Purpose Reserves		Asset Revaluation Reserve		Other Reserves		Total Equity	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Opening balance 1 July</b>	4,204,004	4,203,988	(3,668,208)	(3,815,678)	200,000	200,000	3,960,756	3,569,542	8,376,043	8,376,043	13,072,595	12,533,895
Net surplus/(deficit)	-	-	(1,390,470)	1,414,470	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,390,470)	1,414,470
Net revaluation increment	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,523,670	391,214	-	-	1,523,670	391,214
<b>Transactions with owner:</b>												
Distributions to owner:												
Returns on Capital												
Capital Use Charge												
Contributions by owner:												
Restructuring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		16										16
				(1,267,000)								(1,267,000)
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>	4,204,004	4,204,004	(5,058,678)	(3,668,208)	200,000	200,000	5,484,426	3,960,756	8,376,043	8,376,043	13,205,795	13,072,595
Less : outside equity interests	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total equity attributable to the Australian Government</b>	4,204,004	4,204,004	(5,058,678)	(3,668,208)	200,000	200,000	5,484,426	3,960,756	8,376,043	8,376,043	13,205,795	13,072,595

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**15 CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION**

Reconciliation of Operating Surplus / (Deficit) to Net Cash from Operating Activities

	2004	2003
<b>Reconciliation of operating surplus to net cash from operating activities:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<i>Operating surplus / (deficit)</i>	(1,390,470)	1,414,470
<i>Non-cash items</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation	925,807	918,505
Write-down of assets		13,609
Gain on disposal of assets	(920)	(261)
Other	(16,883)	
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities</i>		
(Increase) / decrease in receivables (other than loans)	(419,713)	374,434
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	27,920	(56,221)
(Increase) / decrease in other assets	(14,671)	(8,721)
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	(209,131)	241,009
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	(142,472)	(837,725)
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	<u>2,336,575</u>	<u>(298,697)</u>
<b>Net cash from / (used by) operating activities</b>	<b><u>1,096,042</u></b>	<b><u>1,760,402</u></b>

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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**16 REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS**

Remuneration - members of the Authority

The number of members of the Authority included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands:

	2004	2003
\$Nil - \$9,999	0	0
\$10,000 - \$19,999	3	3
\$170,000 - \$179,999	0	0
\$230,000 - \$239,999	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total number of members of the Authority	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	\$	\$
Aggregate amount of superannuation payments in connection with the retirement of members	23,993	17,831
Other remuneration received or due and receivable by members of the Authority	<u>251,729</u>	<u>224,739</u>
<b>Total remuneration received or due and receivable by members of the Authority</b>	<u><b>275,722</b></u>	<u><b>242,570</b></u>

The members of the Authority consist of a full-time Chair and three part-time members. The full-time Chair is also the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority. Members are appointed by the Governor-General and receive remuneration as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal.

**17 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

Members of the Authority

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

Hon Virginia Chadwick (full-time Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer);  
 Dr Evelyn Scott AO (part-time member);  
 Ms Fay Barker (part-time member);  
 Dr Leo Keliher (part-time member).

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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**Acting Member and Chairperson appointments during the financial year**

During periods of absence of the Chairperson, the Minister appointed the Authority's Executive Officer, Mr John Tanzer, to act as a Member and as Chairperson from 5 April 2004 to 19 April 2004 and from 25 June 2004 to 7 July 2004.

**Remuneration**

The aggregate remuneration of members is disclosed at Note 16.

**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 16 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.

**18 REMUNERATION OF OFFICERS**

The number of officers who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$100,000 or more:

	2004	2003
\$100,000 - \$109,999	3	3
\$110,000 - \$119,999	1	2
\$120,000 - \$129,999	1	0
\$130,000 - \$139,999	1	0
\$150,000 - \$159,999	0	2
\$160,000 - \$169,999	1	2
\$170,000 - \$179,999	1	0
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	0
Total	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>

	\$	\$
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of officers shown above:	<u>1,198,646</u>	<u>1,185,674</u>

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	2004	2003
	\$	\$
The aggregate amount of separation and redundancy/termination benefit payments during the year to officers shown above:	<u>0</u>	<u>85,651</u>

The officer remuneration includes all officers concerned with or taking part in the management of the Authority during 2003-2004 except the Chairperson. Details in relation to the Chairperson have been incorporated into Note 16 Remuneration – Members of the Authority.

19 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period.		
The fair value of services provided was:	41,500	41,000

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

**20 CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THE GREAT BARRIER REEF WORLD HERITAGE AREA**

The Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef) was established to provide strategic scientific information, education and training to enhance reef-based industry and management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. As at 30 June 2004, the Authority's commitment to the CRC Reef, in cash contributions, 'in kind' contributions and amounts payable from EMC collections was:

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Within one year	2,325,000	2,325,000
From one to two years	2,325,000	2,325,000
From two to five years	0	2,325,000
	<u>4,650,000</u>	<u>6,975,000</u>

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21 CASH BONDS

As a condition of some permits, a bond is required to be lodged with the Authority. Some permit holders have provided a cash bond in lieu of a bank guarantee.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 2004

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Cash at bank 1 July	131,434	183,512
RECEIPTS : Cash Bonds	497,700	100,000
Interest	13,345	4,194
	<u>642,479</u>	<u>287,706</u>
PAYMENTS : Return of Bonds	50,000	156,243
Bank fees	27	29
Cash at bank 30 June	<u>592,452</u>	<u>131,434</u>

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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**22 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

**22A 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)
<b>Financial Assets</b>		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	10A	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 banker. Interest is earned on the daily balance at the prevailing daily rate and is paid monthly.
Term deposits	10A	Term deposits are recognised at cost. Interest is accrued as it is earned.	Term deposits are with the Authority's bank, and earn an effective rate of interest of 5.00% (2003: 4.50%) payable quarterly.
Receivables for goods and services	10B	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 net 28 days (2002-03: 28 days)
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	10B	The amount receivable is recognised at the nominal amount due as at 30 June 2004. The amount arises from EMC collections due to be paid to the Authority as Special Appropriation.	The EMC is collected by the Authority as agent for the Commonwealth.
Interest receivable	10B	Interest is accrued as it is earned.	Interest is received monthly.
Investments	10C	These shares are carried at market value. Dividend income is recognised when declared by the investee.	The shares held are ordinary shares.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
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**22 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)**

**22A 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)
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>			
Trade creditors	13A	Financial liabilities are recognised when a present obligation to another party is entered into and the amount of the liability can be reliably measured  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 (and irrespective of having been invoiced).	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.
Other payables	13B	Other amounts payable are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amount at which liabilities will be settled.	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.
Capital use charge payable	13C	Capital use charge payable is recognised at the nominal amounts, being the amount at which liabilities will be settled.	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.

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**22 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)**

**22B Interest Rate Risk**

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate 30 day terms		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Effective Interest Rate	
		2004 \$	2003 \$	2004 \$	2003 \$	2004 \$	2003 \$	2004 \$	2003 \$	2004 %	2003 %
<b>Financial Assets (Recognised)</b>											
Cash at bank & deposits at call	10A	1,089,151	553,263	-	-	-	-	1,089,151	553,263	4.5	4
Cash on hand	10A	-	-	-	-	18,389	49,660	18,389	49,660	n/a	n/a
Term deposit	10A	-	-	2,268,644	2,165,166	-	-	2,268,644	2,165,166	5	4.5
Receivables for goods & services	10B	-	-	-	-	145,877	371,007	145,877	371,007	n/a	n/a
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	10B	-	-	-	-	953,112	507,091	953,112	507,091	n/a	n/a
Other debtors	10B	35,747	39,093	-	-	1,844,576	1,642,408	1,880,323	1,681,501	4.5	4
Investments	10C	-	-	-	-	15,780	7,986	15,780	7,986	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Financial Assets (Recognised)</b>		<b>1,124,898</b>	<b>592,356</b>	<b>2,268,644</b>	<b>2,165,166</b>	<b>2,977,734</b>	<b>2,578,152</b>	<b>6,371,276</b>	<b>5,335,674</b>		
<b>Total Assets</b>								<b>20,193,080</b>	<b>18,201,908</b>		

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2004**

**22 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)**

**22C Interest Rate Risk**

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate 1 year or less		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Effective Interest Rate	
		2004 \$	2003 \$	2004 \$	2003 \$	2004 \$	2003 \$	2004 \$	2003 \$	2004 %	2003 %
<b>Financial Liabilities (Recognised)</b>											
Trade creditors	13A	-	-	-	-	1,109,441	1,251,913	1,109,441	1,251,913	n/a	n/a
Other payables	13B	-	-	-	-	2,983,260	646,685	2,983,260	646,685	n/a	n/a
Capital use charge payable	13C	-	-	-	-	-	127,000	-	127,000	n/a	n/a
<b>Total Financial Liabilities (Recognised)</b>		-	-	-	-	4,092,701	2,025,598	4,092,701	2,025,598		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		-	-	-	-	6,987,285	5,129,313	6,987,285	5,129,313		

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 2004

22 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)

22D Net Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	Note	2004		2003	
		Total carrying amount	Aggregate net fair value	Total carrying amount	Aggregate net fair value
		\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash at bank and deposits at call	10A	1,089,151	1,089,151	553,263	553,263
Cash on hand	10A	18,389	18,389	49,660	49,660
Term deposit	10A	2,268,644	2,268,644	2,165,166	2,165,166
Receivables for goods and services	10B	145,877	145,877	371,007	371,007
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	10B	953,112	953,112	507,091	507,091
Other debtors	10B	1,880,323	1,880,323	1,681,501	1,681,501
Investments	10C	15,780	15,780	7,986	7,986
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>		<u>6,371,276</u>	<u>6,371,276</u>	<u>5,335,674</u>	<u>5,335,674</u>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Trade creditors	13A	1,109,441	1,109,441	1,251,913	1,251,913
Other payables	13B	2,983,260	2,983,260	646,685	646,685
Capital use charge	13C	0	0	127,000	127,000
<b>Total Financial</b>		<u>4,092,701</u>	<u>4,092,701</u>	<u>2,025,598</u>	<u>2,025,598</u>

*Financial Assets*

The net fair values of cash at bank, cash on hand, deposits at call and term deposits approximate their carrying amounts.

The net fair values of receivables for goods and services, amounts receivable from the Commonwealth and other debtors approximate their carrying amounts.

The net fair value for listed equity investments is the quoted market price at reporting date, adjusted for the transaction costs necessary for realisation.

*Financial Liabilities*

The net fair values of trade creditors and other payables, all of which are short-term in nature are approximated by their carrying amounts.

The net fair value of capital use charge is approximated by the carrying amount.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

**22E 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 Financial Position.

The Authority has no significant exposures to any concentrations of credit risk. All figures for credit risk referred to do not take into account the value of any collateral or other security.

**23 AVERAGE STAFFING LEVELS**

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
The number of full-time equivalents employed for the year:	<b>179</b>	<b>171</b>

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for year ending 30 June 2004*

**24 Appropriations**

**Appropriations: Bills 1 & 3**

Particulars	Departmental Outputs		Loans		Equity		Total	
	2004 \$'000's	2003 \$'000's	2004 \$'000's	2003 \$'000's	2004 \$'000's	2003 \$'000's	2004 \$'000's	2003 \$'000's
<b>Year ended 30 June 2004</b>								
Balance carried forward from previous year	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Appropriation Acts 1 and 3	16,117	17,369	-	-	-	-	16,117	17,369
Available for payment of CRF	16,117	17,369	-	-	-	-	16,117	17,369
Payments made out of CRF	16,117	17,369	-	-	-	-	16,117	17,369
<b>Balance carried forward to next year</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Represented by:								
Appropriations Receivable	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0

**Special Appropriations**

Special Appropriation is appropriated in accordance with Section 391 of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act for the operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.	Departmental Outputs		Total	
	2004 \$'000's	2003 \$'000's	2004 \$'000's	2003 \$'000's
<b>Year ended 30 June 2004</b>				
Balance Carried forward from previous year	507	570	507	570
Special Appropriation	7,519	6,667	7,519	6,667
Available for payment of CRF	8,026	7,237	8,026	7,237
Payments made out of CRF	7,000	6,700	7,000	6,700
Refunds paid out of CRF	73	30	73	30
<b>Balance carried forward to next year</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>507</b>
Represented by:				
Appropriations Receivable	953	507	953	507

This table reports on appropriations made by the Parliament from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) to the Authority. When received by the Authority, the payments made are legally the money of the Authority and do not represent any balance remaining in the CRF.

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

**25 REPORTING BY OUTCOMES**

25A The Authority is included in Outcome 1 of the Environment and Heritage Portfolio. The specific sub-outcome for the Authority is the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

25B Net Costs of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1	
	2004 \$'000	2003 \$'000
Departmental expenses	31,945	32,129
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>31,945</b>	<b>32,129</b>
<i>Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non-government sector</i>		
Departmental	3,583	4,518
<b>Total costs recovered</b>	<b>3,583</b>	<b>4,518</b>
<i>Other external revenues</i>		
Departmental		
Sale of goods and services - to related entities	42	104
Interest	231	257
Revenue from sale of assets	1	0
Industry contributions	248	270
Other	4,337	4,389
Total Departmental	4,859	5,020
<b>Total other external revenues</b>	<b>4,859</b>	<b>5,020</b>
<b>Net Cost/(contribution) of outcome</b>	<b>23,503</b>	<b>22,591</b>

The net costs shown include intra-government costs that would be eliminated in calculating the actual Budget outcome.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
**FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

	Notes	2004 \$	2003 \$
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>			
Appropriations from State Government		3,914,963	4,718,469
Funding from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		3,914,962	4,718,468
Other		100,125	310,933
Gain on disposal of assets		338,100	24,756
<b>Total revenues from ordinary activities</b>		<b>8,268,150</b>	<b>9,772,626</b>
<b>Expenses from ordinary activities</b>			
Employee expenses		4,903,606	5,650,459
Supplies and services		3,115,865	3,728,064
Depreciation	2	540,010	539,603
Assets written off or scrapped		5,273	4,852
Loss on disposal of assets		12,753	2,429
<b>Total expenses from ordinary activities</b>		<b>8,577,507</b>	<b>9,925,407</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>(309,357)</b>	<b>(152,781)</b>
Increase (decrease) in asset revaluation reserve	7	172,414	1,371,903
Net amount of each revenue, expense, valuation or other adjustment not disclosed above recognised as a direct adjustment to equity		..	(105)
<b>Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners</b>		<b>(136,943)</b>	<b>1,219,017</b>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2004**

	Notes	2004 \$	2003 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash assets	3	467,730	684,160
Receivables	4	136,984	85,642
Prepayments		47,052	41,343
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>651,766</u>	<u>811,145</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	4,891,376	5,073,565
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>4,891,376</u>	<u>5,073,565</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>5,543,142</u>	<u>5,884,710</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables	6	115,637	320,262
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>115,637</u>	<u>320,262</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>115,637</u>	<u>320,262</u>
<b>NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>5,427,505</u>	<u>5,564,448</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surpluses	7	3,225,983	3,535,340
Reserves			
- Asset revaluation reserve	7	2,201,522	2,029,108
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>5,427,505</u>	<u>5,564,448</u>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK  
 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004**

	Notes	2004 \$	2003 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Inflows:</b>			
Appropriations from State Government		3,914,963	4,429,971
Payments from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		3,914,962	4,429,971
Other		81,474	312,199
GST collected on sales		61,685	21,571
GST input tax credits received		226,648	274,969
<b>Outflows:</b>			
Employee costs		(4,888,799)	(5,630,144)
Supplies and services		(3,345,478)	(3,431,071)
GST paid on purchases		(260,621)	(270,574)
GST remitted to ATO		(61,169)	(29,607)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>8</b>	<b><u>(356,335)</u></b>	<b><u>107,285</u></b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Inflows:</b>			
Sales of property, plant and equipment		513,843	28,163
<b>Outflows:</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(373,938)	(201,221)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		<b><u>139,905</u></b>	<b><u>(173,058)</u></b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>(216,430)</b>	<b>(65,773)</b>
<b>Cash at beginning of financial year</b>		<b>684,160</b>	<b>749,933</b>
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	<b>3</b>	<b><u>467,730</u></b>	<b><u>684,160</u></b>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2003-04**

**Note 1 Summary 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, Finance Minister's Orders "*Schedule 1: Requirements for the preparation of Financial Statements of Australian Government Entities*" and 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.

Accounting policies are materially consistent with those for the previous year.

**(b) Funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments**

Funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments is recognised as revenue in the same reporting period as expenses have been incurred.

**(c) Cash Assets**

For the purposes of the Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Cash Flows, cash assets include all cash and cheques received but not banked as at 30 June.

**(d) Receivables**

Trade debtors are recognised at the nominal amounts due at the time of sale or service delivery. Settlement on these amounts is required within 30 days from invoice date.

The collectability of receivables is assessed periodically with provision being made for doubtful debts. All known bad debts have been written off at 30 June.

**(e) Acquisition of Assets**

Actual cost is used for the initial recording of all asset acquisitions. Cost is determined as the value given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including all other costs incurred in getting the asset ready for use, including architects' fees and engineering design fees.

**(f) Property, Plant and Equipment**

All items of property, plant and equipment, except intangibles, with a cost or other value in excess of \$5,000 for buildings and infrastructure and in excess of \$1,000 for plant and equipment are recognised for financial reporting purposes in the year of acquisition. Items with a lesser value are expensed in the year of acquisition.

**(g) Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment**

Property, plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis so as to allocate the net cost or revalued amount of each asset, less its estimated residual value, progressively over its estimated useful life.

Assets under construction (work-in-progress) are not depreciated until they reach service delivery capacity.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2003-04 (continued)**

Where assets have separately identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned useful lives distinct from the asset to which they relate and are depreciated accordingly.

Any expenditure that increases the originally assessed capacity or service potential of an asset is capitalised and the new depreciable amount is depreciated over the remaining useful life of the asset.

For each class of depreciable asset the following depreciation rates were used:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Buildings	3% to 10%
Infrastructure	5% to 20%
Vessels > \$250,000	7%
Plant and Equipment	7% to 33%

The lives of these assets were reviewed during the year and updated where applicable, in accordance with AASB 1021 *Depreciation*.

**(h) Revaluations of Non-Current Physical Assets**

Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1041 *Revaluation of Non-Current Assets* requires that all non-current physical assets be measured at either fair value or cost. Queensland Treasury's *Non-Current Asset Accounting Guidelines for the Queensland Public Sector* requires land, buildings, infrastructure, heritage and cultural assets to be recorded at fair value with all other classes of assets to be recorded at cost. Accordingly, the carrying amount of vessels less than \$250,000 at 1 July 2003 are deemed to be their cost valuation (AASB 1041 paragraph 8.7(a) refers). Other plant and equipment has previously been recognised at cost.

Non-current physical assets measured at fair value are comprehensively revalued at least once every five years with interim valuations, using appropriate indicies, being otherwise performed on an annual basis where there has been a material variation in the index.

**(i) Payables**

Trade creditors are recognised upon receipt of the goods or services ordered and are measured at the agreed purchase/contract price, gross of applicable trade and other discounts. Amounts owing are unsecured and are generally settled on 30 day terms.

**(j) Employee entitlements**

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

**(k) Comparatives**

Comparative information has been restated where necessary to be consistent with disclosures in the current reporting period.

**(l) Taxation**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park's activities are exempt from Commonwealth taxation except for Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and Goods and Services Tax (GST). As such, input tax credits receivable and GST payable from/to the Australian Taxation Office are recognised and accrued.



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2003-04 (continued)**

**(m) Gains and Losses**

Recorded gains and losses include gain and loss on disposal of capitalised and non capitalised assets.

**(n) Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards**

The Financial Reporting Council has determined that all entities preparing general purpose financial statements will apply the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which includes the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, has established a Work Group to assist in the implementation of the new reporting requirements. All pending Australian Equivalents to IFRSs are being progressively reviewed for possible implications on policies, procedures, systems and financial impacts arising from such changes.

To date, the Agency has identified only one key difference in accounting policies which will arise from the adoption of Australian Equivalents to IFRSs that will impact on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and that is in relation to the introduction of pending AASB 136 Impairment of Assets. This standard will require an annual impairment test to be performed on all non-current physical and intangible assets. This may result in a write-down of the value of plant and equipment. The dollar values of this change cannot be reliably estimated at the date of this report.

Policy decisions made at a whole-of-Government level in relation to the limiting of options in the Australian Equivalent to IFRSs may have additional impacts on financial reports prepared using these Standards.

**Note 2 Depreciation Expense**

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Depreciation incurred in respect of:		
Plant and equipment	220,461	72,390
Vessels	152,336	314,151
Buildings and Infrastructure	167,213	153,062
<b>Total</b>	<b>540,010</b>	<b>539,603</b>

**Note 3 Cash Assets**

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Unexpended funds	466,990	683,360
Imprest Accountable Advances	740	800
<b>Total</b>	<b>467,730</b>	<b>684,160</b>



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2003-04 (continued)**

**Note 4 Receivables**

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
<i>Current</i>		
Trade debtors	54,294	108,828
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	..	(76,244)
Accountable Advances – Travel	394	4,734
GST Input Tax Credits	82,296	48,324
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,984</b>	<b>85,642</b>

**Note 5 Property, Plant and Equipment**

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
<b>Buildings and Infrastructure</b>		
At valuation	3,812,835	3,549,700
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,298,976)	(1,059,324)
Capital works in progress	55,280	42,273
<b>Vessels &gt; \$250,000</b>		
At cost	3,569,573	4,785,035
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2,431,137)	(3,357,951)
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>		
At cost	2,513,665	2,471,280
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,329,864)	(1,357,448)
<b>Total Property, plant &amp; equipment – Net book value</b>	<b>4,891,376</b>	<b>5,073,565</b>

	Buildings & Infrastructure	Work in Progress	Vessels > \$250,000	Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Carrying amount at start of year	2,490,375	42,273	1,427,084	1,113,833	5,073,565
Acquisitions	9,685	137,086	20,970	289,876	457,617
Donations received	..	..	..	9,969	9,969
Disposals	..	..	(157,282)	(124,871)	(282,153)
Transfers between classes	8,590	(124,079)	..	115,489	..
Revaluation	172,415	..	..	..	172,415
Increments/(Decrements)					
Depreciation	(167,213)	..	(152,336)	(220,488)	(540,037)
Carrying amount at end of year	2,513,852	55,280	1,138,436	1,183,808	4,891,376



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2003-04 (continued)

**Note 6 Payables**

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
Trade creditors	70,491	290,438
Salary and Wages payable	44,063	29,255
GST payable	1,081	566
Payroll Tax payable	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,637</b>	<b>320,262</b>

**Note 7 Changes in Equity**

	<i>Retained Surpluses</i>		<i>Asset Revaluation Reserve</i>	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	3,535,340	3,687,137	2,029,108	657,205
Prior year adjustment due to incorrect GST receivable	..	(105)	..	..
Revaluation	..	..	172,414	1,371,903
Assets not previously recognised	..	1,089	..	..
Net surplus or deficit	(309,357)	(152,781)	..	..
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>3,225,983</b>	<b>3,535,340</b>	<b>2,201,522</b>	<b>2,029,108</b>

**Note 8 Reconciliation of Net Surplus/Deficit to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities**

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
<b>Surplus/deficit from ordinary activities</b>	<b>(359,845)</b>	<b>(152,781)</b>
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation	540,037	539,604
(Gain)/loss on disposal of property, plant & equipment	(323,459)	(22,327)
Assets written off/scrapped	8,442	4,852
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	72,221	(70,583)
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	(5,710)	(5,646)
Increase/(decrease) in provision for doubtful debts	(76,244)	76,244
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(211,777)	314,917
Increase/(decrease) in unearned revenue	..	(576,995)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(356,335)</b>	<b>107,285</b>

**Note 9 Contingent Liabilities**

There were no known contingent liabilities of a significant nature as at 30 June 2004 (2003 \$nil).

**Insurance**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is included in the insurance coverage of the Environmental Protection Agency. This policy is with the Queensland Government Insurance Fund (QGIF). The maximum exposure in relation to personal injury claims is a \$10,000 excess with a \$2,000 excess applicable to other claims.

**Note 10 Commitments**

There were no known commitments of a significant nature as at 30 June 2004 (2003 \$nil).



**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2003-04 (continued)**

**Note 11 Financial Instruments**

**Interest Rate Risk Exposure**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective interest rates of financial assets and financial liabilities are shown in the following table.

	Floating Rate	1 year or less	1 to 5 years	Greater than 5 years	Non Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average Rate:
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
<b>Financial Assets</b>							
Cash	467,730	-	-	-	-	467,730	4.15
Receivables	-	-	-	-	136,984	136,984	NA
	467,730	-	-	-	136,984	604,714	4.15
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>							
Payables	-	-	-	-	115,637	115,637	NA
	-	-	-	-	115,637	115,637	NA

- Floating interest rate represents the most recently administered market rate applicable to the instrument at 30 June 2004.
- The fixed rate represents weighted average market interest rate.

**Credit Risk Exposure**

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets net of any provisions for doubtful debts as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position.

No significant credit risks have been identified.

**Net Fair Values**

The net fair value is determined as follows:

- The net fair value of cash and cash equivalents and non-interest bearing monetary financial assets and financial liabilities approximate their carrying amounts.
- The net fair value of other monetary financial assets and financial liabilities is based on market prices where a market exists, or is determined by discounting expected future cash flows by the current interest rate for financial assets and liabilities with similar risk profiles.

The carrying amounts and estimated net fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities held at balance date are given below:

Financial Instruments	Total Carrying Amount		Net Fair Value	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial Assets</b>				
Cash	467,730	684,160	467,730	684,160
Receivables	136,984	85,642	136,984	85,642
<b>Total</b>	<b>604,714</b>	<b>769,802</b>	<b>604,714</b>	<b>769,802</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>				
Payables	115,637	320,262	115,637	320,262
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,637</b>	<b>320,262</b>	<b>115,637</b>	<b>320,262</b>



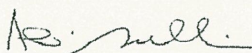
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2004*

**26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT**

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

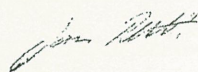
The foregoing Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to and forming part of the financial statements have been prepared as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. We certify that:

- (i) 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
- (ii) 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
- (iii) in our opinion:
  - a. the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
  - b. 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 2003 to 30 June 2004, and of the financial position as at 30 June 2004.



N. O'Sullivan  
Acting Director, Financial Services

Date: 23 August 2004



J. Purtil  
Director-General

Date: 23 August 2004



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2004

26 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Scope

*The financial statements*

The financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park consist of the statement of financial performance, 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 officer responsible for the financial administration of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, for the year ended 30 June 2004.

*The Director-General's responsibility*

The Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial statements, the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

*Audit approach*

As required by law, an independent audit was conducted in accordance with *QAO Auditing Standards* to enable me to provide an independent opinion whether in all material respects the financial statements are presented fairly, in accordance with the prescribed requirements, including any mandatory financial reporting requirements as approved by the Treasurer for application in Queensland.

Audit procedures included -

- examining information on a test/sample basis to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements,
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park,
- reviewing the overall presentation of information in the financial statements.

Independence

The *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* promotes the independence of the Auditor-General and QAO authorised auditors.

The Auditor-General is the auditor of all public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament.

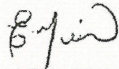
The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which powers are to be exercised.

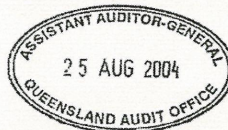
The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

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 -

- (a) I have received all the information and explanations which I have required; and
- (b) in my opinion -
  - (i) the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
  - (ii) the statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view, in accordance with the prescribed accounting standards of the transactions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the financial year 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 and of the financial position as at the end of that year.

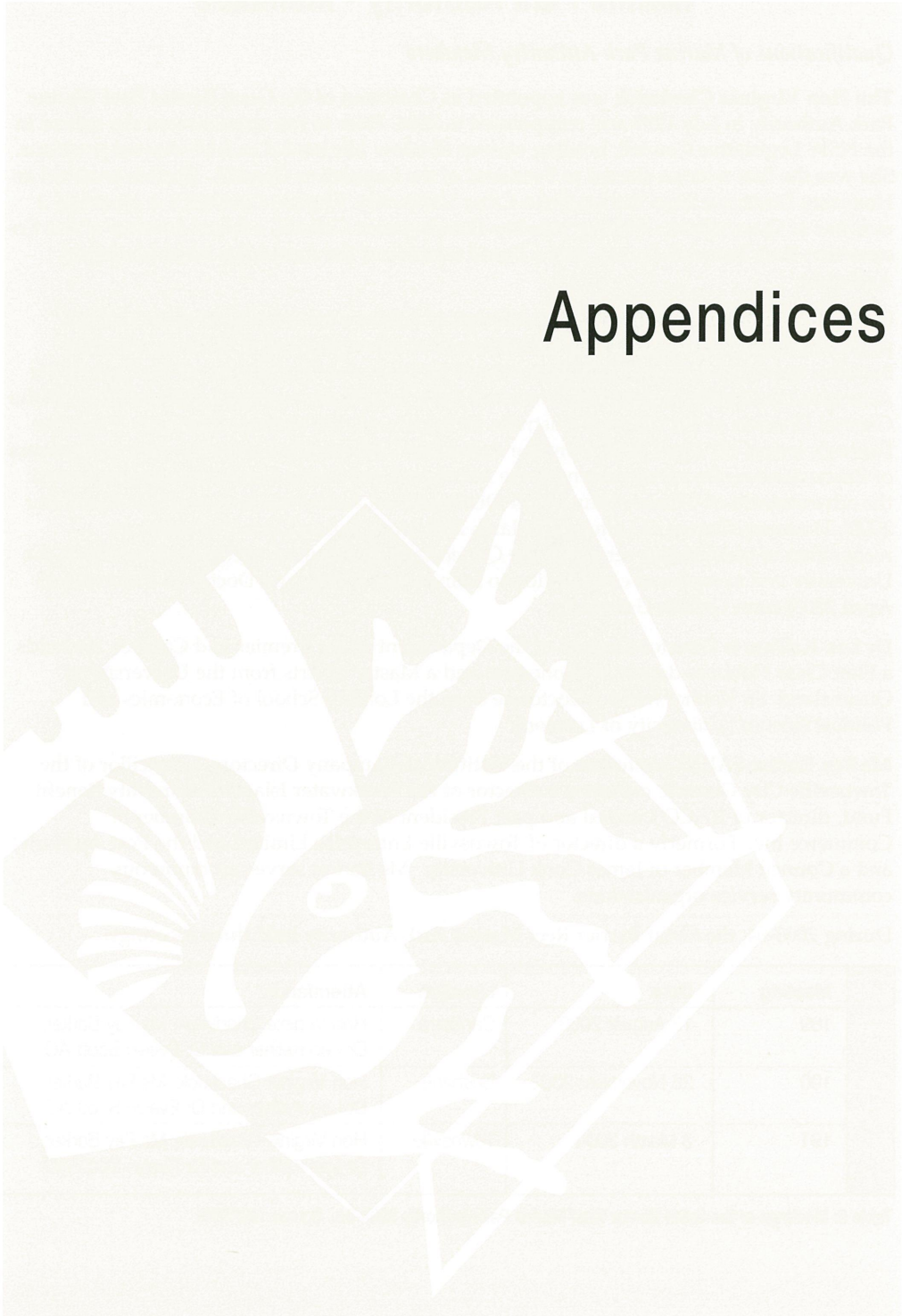
  
E A MUIR, FCPA  
Assistant Auditor-General  
(Delegate of the Auditor-General)



Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

# SECTION E

## Appendices



# Appendix 1: The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority - Members

## *Qualifications of Marine Park Authority Members*

**The Hon Virginia Chadwick** was appointed as Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in July 1999 and reappointed in 2004. Prior to her appointment she served in the NSW Legislative Council, holding various Shadow Ministerial and Ministerial positions. She was the first woman elected as President of the Legislative Council. She has received an Honorary Doctorate from the Southern Cross University. Virginia Chadwick is currently a member of Queensland's Fishing Industry Development Council, a Board member of the Co-operative Reef Research Centre, and a Board member of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

**Dr Evelyn Scott** has been involved in Aboriginal Affairs over the past 30 years and has played an instrumental role in the establishment of Aboriginal Legal Services, Housing Societies and Medical Services in Queensland. Dr Scott was Chairperson of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation until 31 December 2000. In 2003 she was awarded an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia. Dr Scott's awards include: Honorary Doctorate [honoris causa] [27 April 2000] from the Australian Catholic University for work in the areas of Reconciliation, the advancement of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the advancement of Women; John Miller Distinguished Achievement Award [21 November 2000]; Honorary Doctor of Letters [22 March 2001] from James Cook University in recognition of outstanding service to the Queensland community, exceptional service to the University and exceptional contribution to human well-being; and Doctor of University [3 April 2003] from Griffith University.

**Dr Leo Keliher** is Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. He holds a First Class Honours degree in Economics and a Master of Arts from the University of Queensland. Dr Keliher holds a Doctorate from the London School of Economics and Political Science [University of London].

**Ms Fay Barker** FAICD is a fellow of the Institute of Company Directors, Councillor of the Townsville City Council, currently a director of the Breakwater Island Community Benefit Fund, director of RACQ Limited and past President of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce Inc. Formerly a director of Townsville Enterprise Limited and the Port Authority and a Council Member of James Cook University. Ms Barker serves on numerous community service organisations.

During 2003-04, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority held three meetings:

	Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
	189	13 August 2003	Canberra	Hon Virginia Chadwick, Ms Fay Barker, Dr Leo Keliher and Dr Evelyn Scott AO
	190	26 November 2003	Brisbane	Hon Virginia Chadwick, Ms Fay Barker, Dr Leo Keliher and Dr Evelyn Scott AO
	191	3 March 2004	Townsville	Hon Virginia Chadwick, Ms Fay Barker, Dr Leo Keliher and Dr Evelyn Scott AO

Table 5: Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.

## Appendix 2: The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority - Committees

### GREAT BARRIER REEF - Ministerial Council

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council was established in 1979 to coordinate Australian and Queensland Government policy on reef matters at Ministerial level. The Council comprises four Ministers, two from each Government. Senator the Hon Ian Campbell, Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage, is Convenor of the Council.

During 2003-04, the other members of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council were: the Hon Joe Hockey MP, Commonwealth Minister for Tourism and Small Business; the Hon Jon Mickel MP, Queensland Minister for Environment; and the Hon Margaret Keech MP, Queensland Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development.

The Council did not meet during the 2003-04 year.

### 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 GBRMPA 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 and Torres Strait Islander communities. It consists of members appointed by the Minister for a three-year term and a member of the GBRMPA appointed by the GBRMPA for an indefinite term.

Name	Organisation/Affiliation
Dr Russell Reichelt	Chairman
Hon Virginia Chadwick	GBRMPA
Mr Tony Charters	Tourism
Mr Noel Dawson	Chairman, Water Quality and Coastal Development Reef Advisory Committee
Mr Alan Feely	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service [appointed 4 March 2004]
Mr Peter Frawley	Chairman, Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee
Dr Ian McPhail	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service [resigned 20 October 2003]
Mr Bob Muir	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests
Mr Peter Neville	Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
Mrs Jenny Pryor	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests
Ms Diane Tarte	Chairman, Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee
Mr Terry Wall	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Mr Bill Whiteman	Chairman, Hinchinbrook Local Marine Advisory Committee
Mr Simon Woodley	Chairman, Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage Reef Advisory Committee

Table 6: Members of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.

During 2003-04, the Consultative Committee held two meetings:

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
GBRCC 69	13 August 2003	Canberra	11/13
GBRCC 70	16 December 2003	Townsville	9/12

Table 7: Consultative Committee meetings 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.

## GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY – Audit Committee

The following people were members of the Audit Committee during 2003-04:

- Mr Barry Sheedy, Chairman, an accountant practising in Mackay;
- Ms Fay Barker FAICD, member, part-time member of the GBRMPA;
- Dr Leo Keliher, member, part-time member of the GBRMPA;
- Mr Andrew Skeat, member, and Executive Director on the Authority's staff; and
- Mr John Tanzer, member, and Executive Director on the Authority's staff.

During 2003-04, the Audit Committee held four meetings.

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
AC 23	4 August 2003	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker, Mr Andrew Skeat
AC 24	3 September 2003	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy [via telephone], Ms Fay Barker, Mr Andrew Skeat, Mr John Tanzer
AC 25	8 December 2003	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker, Mr Andrew Skeat, Mr John Tanzer
AC 26	7 June 2004	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker, Mr John Tanzer

Table 8: Meetings of the GBRMPA Audit Committee 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.

Business activities of the audit committee concerned:

- Annual financial statements;
- Environmental Management Charge;
- Day-to-Day Management;
- Reef HQ operations; and
- Various internal audit reports.

### *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 seven 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.

## **GREAT BARRIER REEF - Reef Advisory Committees**

### *Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage*

The Reef Advisory Committee for Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage met on 7-8 August 2003, 9-10 December 2003, and 18-19 March 2004. The committee, comprising 14 members including an independent chairman, provided valuable guidance on a variety of matters, in particular the Representative Areas Program, Species Conservation issues and the traditional use of marine resources.

### *Water Quality and Coastal Development*

The Reef Advisory Committee for Water Quality and Coastal Development met on 26-27 November 2003 and 11-12 March 2004. The committee, comprising 22 members including an independent chairman, provided a great deal of advice on the main issues of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and the strategic approach to water quality issues by the GBRMPA. Advice was also given on aquaculture, sewage management in the Marine Park, the Water Quality Strategic Direction document and annual work program, including the GBRMPA's Implementation Plan for the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

### *Fisheries*

The Reef Advisory Committee for Fisheries met on 25-26 March 2004. The committee, comprising 15 members including an independent chairman, provided advice on the following areas: the east coast trawl fishery and general effort review; assessment of fisheries in the Marine Park that have export components; the commercial collection of sea cucumber and coral; the reef line fishery; the inshore finfish fishery; and the development of Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements.

### *Tourism and Recreation*

The Reef Advisory Committee for Tourism and Recreation met on 1-2 September 2003 and 3-4 March 2004. The committee comprises 20 members, including an independent chairman. The committee provided valuable guidance on a variety of matters, in particular permit allocation, latency and tenure, and industry certification arrangements.

## **GREAT BARRIER REEF - Local Marine Advisory Committees**

There are ten Local Marine Advisory Committees [LMACs] in operation in regional centres adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef between Cooktown and Gladstone.

The Local Marine Advisory Committees are:-

- Cape York Marine Advisory Group
- Port Douglas LMAC
- Cairns LMAC
- Mission Beach LMAC
- Hinchinbrook LMAC
- Townsville LMAC
- Whitsunday LMAC
- Mackay LMAC
- Capricorn Coast LMAC
- Gladstone Region LMAC

LMACs provide a forum for the local community and representative stakeholder groups to discuss marine resource management issues and advise the Authority accordingly. They provide an opportunity for resource management agencies to meet with the local community and address local concerns. The committees also provide information to the public in regard to issues affecting the local marine and coastal regions, thus facilitating communication between user groups and the local community. Members usually have an interest in marine resource issues and may be independent, or represent a constituent group. The committees meet every two months, with the main operating expenses covered by the GBRMPA. The graph over page [Figure 23] shows the largest committees are based at Mackay and Townsville.

LMACs participated in and made a significant contribution to public awareness and participation in the Representative Areas Program process. They played a key role in the information gathering stage and the negotiation process to achieve a level of consensus in the planning outcomes. This was the main area of focus for all the LMACs in the last year. Water quality in the Great Barrier Reef has been identified as a high priority by all LMACs. The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan provides an excellent opportunity to focus community participation and support. To ensure that coastal water quality issues are addressed by Natural Resource Management [NRM] bodies, a number of LMACs have established links with the NRM bodies and have given input to the development of the NRM plans.

Ten LMAC chairmen and representatives attended the GBRMPA and CRC Reef Research Centre hosted 'Catchment to Reef Conference' in Townsville from 9-11 March 2004. The conference presented a comprehensive summary of current water quality impacts on the Great Barrier Reef environment. A Representative Areas Program [RAP] briefing meeting was held 29 November 2003 to discuss the progress of the RAP and its implementation. The meeting was attended by 18 LMAC chairmen and representatives, Chairmen from Regional Advisory Committees [RACs], chairman of the Consultative Committee, a representative from the Minister's office and 12 GBRMPA Senior Management Team members.

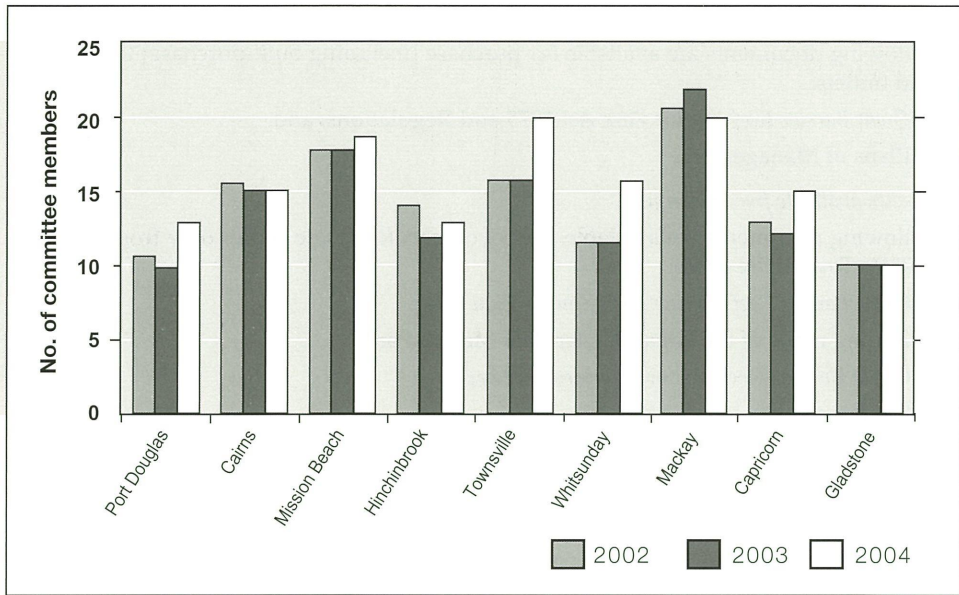


Figure 23: LMAC Membership 2002-2004. Source: GBRMPA.

In total, there are currently 144 LMAC members, averaging 15 members per LMAC, which is up by 0.5 per cent from 2002. This figure does not include the Cooktown committee.

### **GREAT BARRIER REEF - Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee**

The Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee was not required to meet during the 2003-04 financial year.

## Appendix 3: Freedom of Information Statement

### *Documents available for purchase*

The following documents are available for purchase [including bulk-purchase] through selected outlets:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and Regulations; and
- Plans of Management.

### *Documents available free of charge*

The following documents are available, free of charge, for single copies only from the GBRMPA's Townsville office:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*;
- Zoning maps of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- Great Barrier Reef General Reference Map;
- Strategic Plan;
- Environmental Management Charge information booklets;
- Media releases and communiqués;
- Various information brochures, posters, bulletins and leaflets; and
- Research reports and workshop proceedings.

### *Facilities for access*

The Townsville office holds most documents relating to GBRMPA decisions and operations as well as that of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee. It is possible to arrange access to documents, available under the provisions of the *Freedom of information Act 1982*, through either the Canberra or Townsville office. Staff are available to provide assistance in relation to any aspect of freedom of information requests.

Members of the public may make inquiries in relation to freedom of information matters, and inspect documents to which access has been granted, at either office. Business hours are 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Formal requests for access to documents must be directed to the officers listed on the following page. Information about facilities for access by disabled people can be obtained by contacting the Freedom of Information Officer at the Townsville office.

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

- Computer printer;
- Microfiche reader;
- Slide projectors;
- Video and audio tape records;
- Photocopy machine; and
- Reading areas.

### *Freedom of Information procedures and initial contact points*

Inquiries may be made in writing, by telephone or in person at any time of the official freedom of information access points listed below. It is recommended that inquirers provide a telephone number.

### **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**

2-68 Flinders Street  
Townsville QLD 4810  
Telephone: [07] 4750 0700  
Facsimile: [07] 4772 6093

PO Box 1379  
Townsville QLD 4810

### **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**

Ground Floor  
John Gorton Building  
King Edward Terrace  
Parkes ACT 2600  
Telephone: [02] 6274 1922  
Facsimile: [02] 6274 1509

GPO Box 791  
Canberra ACT 2601

If any difficulty arises in identifying a document or in providing access in the form requested, an officer of the GBRMPA 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 freedom of information access points. The authorised decision-makers under the *Freedom of Information Act* for the GBRMPA, with official addresses for the lodging of requests, are:

#### **The Chairman**

Great Barrier Reef Marine  
Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
Townsville QLD 4810

#### **The Executive Director**

Great Barrier Reef Marine  
Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
Townsville QLD 4810

#### **Director of Corporate Services**

Great Barrier Reef Marine  
Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
Townsville QLD 4810

## Appendix 4: Consultancy Services

Twenty-eight consultancy contracts over \$10,000 were made during 2003-04. Total expenditure on consultancy services over \$10,000 was \$515,087. A large proportion of research is now outsourced to the CRC Reef Research Centre principally through financial contribution of \$13.2 million over seven years commencing in 1999-2000. Field management of the Marine Park is implemented through day-to-day management programs, the majority of which are carried out by Queensland Government agencies.

AEC Group Limited	28 082.00
Armsign	38 080.00
Art Design	1 320.00
Boab Interactive Pty Ltd	48 203.00
Dessein Graphics	1 768.00
Digi Men	882.00
Digital Dimensions	8 756.00
Extremely Graphic	6 945.00
Fish n Four Productions	4 000.00
Grafik Switch	12 678.00
Paul Lennon	810.00
Redsuit Advertising	2 230.19
Reel Image Pty Ltd	1 741.90
RMIT Publishing	135.00
Rowland Communication Group	34 116.50
Sas Creative Pty Ltd	310.00
Sign Time	68.00
Trish Hart	4 945.00
Work of Art Graphic Design	3 845.00
WWd	5 520.00

Table 9: Creative agencies used 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.

AEC Group Limited	23 020.45
McGregor Marketing Group	5 160.00

Table 10: Market research and polling organisations used 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.

Nil	Nil
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Table 11: Direct mail organisations used 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.

Australian Posters	13 866.00
Boating Industry Association	660.00
Bread and Butter Pty Ltd	1 000.00
Coast magazine	1 000.00
Coastline Newspaper Group	722.73
FNQ Broadcasters Townsville Pty Ltd	990.00
HMA Blaze Pty Ltd	310 186.87
Island Impressions	4 148.00
Jason Travel	695.00
Look Before You Book Ltd	1 800.00
Nationwide Business Directory of Australia	495.00
North Australian Publishing Company	4 705.28
Northern Services	170.09
The North Queensland Newspaper Co Ltd	5 648.84
NQ Field Days	513.64
Paradise Outdoor Advertising	13 441.00
Qld Amateur Fisherman	1 723.00
QANTAS	590.00
Redsuit Advertising	3 999.00
Reflections Media Pty Ltd	2 080.00
Rural Press	350.00
Sensis Pty Ltd	150.00
Sunferries	931.82
Sunfish Queensland Inc	831.82
TNQ Brochure	454.44
Tourism Queensland	2175.92
Tourism Holding	300.00
Townsville Enterprise	7 767.72
WIN Television Qld Pty Ltd	6 762.00

Table 12: Media advertising organisations used 2003-04. Source: GBRMPA.

## Appendix 5: Staffing Overview

### Diversity

Classification	ONGOING EMPLOYEES					NON-ONGOING EMPLOYEES				
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total
	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T		F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T	
APS1	3	0.67	1	0	4.67	1	0	0	0	1
APS2	16	0.6	8	0	24.6	0	0	0	0	0
APS3	17	0.64	8	0	25.64	3	0	0	0	3
APS4	11	0	3	0	14	3	0	1	0	4
APS5	12	1.11	4	0	17.11	0	0	0	0	0
APS6	11	0	25	0	36	0	0	2	0	2
EXEC1	7	2.18	17	0	26.18	0	0	0	0	0
EXEC2	2	0	10	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SES 2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2
CEO	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>161.2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
Total number of employees = 175.2										

Table 13: Employees of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 2004. Source: GBRMPA.

[APS—Australian Public Service Officer; Exec—Executive Level; SES—Senior Executive Service; CEO—Chief Executive Officer]

Classification	Women	NESB1	NESB2	NESB	ATSI	PWD
APS1[6]	5 [83%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]
APS2[24]	16 (67%)	2 [8%]	3 [13%]	0 [0%]	3 [13%]	1 [4%]
APS3[29]	21 [72%]	2 [7%]	2 [7%]	1 [3%]	0 [0%]	2 [7%]
APS4[19]	15 [79%]	0 [0%]	1 [5%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	3 [16%]
APS5[18]	14 [78%]	3 [17%]	2 [11%]	2 [11%]	2 [11%]	0 [0%]
APS6[38]	11 [29%]	7 [18%]	7 [18%]	3 [8%]	1 [3%]	2 [5%]
EXEC1[27]	10 [37%]	2 [7%]	2 [7%]	1 [4%]	1 [4%]	0 [0%]
EXEC2[12]	2 [17%]	2 [17%]	0 [0%]	1 [8%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]
SES1[1]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]
SES2[3]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]
CEO[1]	1 [100%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]	0 [0%]

Table 14 : Representation of EEO groups within salary levels as at 30 June 2004. Source: GBRMPA.

[NESB1—Non-English Speaking Background, second generation [Mother]; NESB2—Non-English Speaking Background [Father];

NESB—Non-English Speaking Background, first generation; ATSI—Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; PWD—People with a disability]

## Appendix 6: Occupational Health and Safety

### *Commitment*

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and visitors to the workplace. The Authority has in place an agreement and policy framework that sets out the consultative and policy arrangements that support sound workplace practices. Employees are able to discuss and refer workplace issues to their health and safety representatives or Occupational Health & Safety [OH&S] Committee or to have them dealt with through their supervisor.

### *Activities*

The GBRMPA has undertaken a number of initiatives to strengthen its compliance to OH&S legislation, regulations and codes. The Authority conducted a program of risk assessment exercises and audits in its Reef HQ facility concentrating on laboratory safety, chemical storage and dangerous goods. The Authority has developed new guidelines on substance abuse in the workplace, avian influenza, an on-line hazard report, revised Hazard Management policy, an OH&S Manual for employees and supervisors and shorter ergonomic guides.

The GBRMPA has provided 20 employees with the services of an Occupational Therapist to assist with ergonomics education and advice on safe working procedures. Employees have accessed a range of training to assist them to better manage health and safety at work.

### *Statistics*

In 2003-04, employees of the GBRMPA lodged 17 incident reports. Most were of a minor nature. Three compensation claims were made by employees of the GBRMPA; two have been accepted, one is undetermined.

## Appendix 7: The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Staff Papers

The following staff papers were published or presented during 2003-04. Copies of the papers are available from either the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority web site [<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au>] or from Library and Image Services.

Atkinson, M. and Owens, R. 2004, 'Management dynamics in a world heritage area: the coral collection fishery in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park' [abstract], in *Abstracts, 10th International Coral Reef Symposium: stability and degradation of coral reef ecosystems, June 28 to July 2, 2004, Okinawa, Japan*, ICRS 2004, International Society for Reef Studies, Japanese Coral Reef Society, Okinawa, p. 97.

Bass, D. 2004, 'Success stories of community involvement in the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park' [abstract], paper presented to Coast to Coast '04: Australia's National Coastal Conference, Hobart, Tasmania, 19-23 April 2004.

Baxter, T. and Bishop, M. 2004, 'Fin(d)ing Nemo? Partnerships in compliance and enforcement on the Great Barrier Reef', paper presented to Hilltops-2-Oceans (H2O) Initiative Global H2O Partnership Conference, Cairns, 11-14 May 2004.

Benzaken, D. and Morris, S. 2004, 'From catchment to reef: a case study of integrating catchment, coastal and oceans management', paper presented to Coast to Coast '04: Australia's National Coastal Conference, Hobart, Tasmania, 19-23 April 2004.

Chadwick, V. 2004, 'Opening address to Global H2O Conference', paper presented to Hilltops-2-Oceans (H2O) Initiative Global H2O Partnership Conference, Cairns, 11-14 May 2004.

Chin, A. 2003, 'Sharks and rays in the Great Barrier Reef: an extract from the Great Barrier Reef on-line', paper presented to Australian Coral Reef Society Annual Meeting, Townsville, 26-29 September 2003.

Chin, A. and Marshall, P. 2003, 'Reactive monitoring at Nelly Bay Harbour using environmental monitoring to manage marine construction activities', in *Monitoring coral reef marine protected areas: a practical guide on how monitoring can support effective management of MPAs*, eds C. Wilkinson, A. Green, J. Almany and S. Dionne, Australian Institute of Marine Science and the IUCN Marine Program, Townsville, pp. 34-35.

Day, J. 2003, 'The Great Barrier Reef: an overview', paper presented to Workshop on the Governance of High Seas Biodiversity Conservation and Workshop on Ecosystem based Management (EBM), Cairns, Australia, 16-20 June 2003.

Day, J. 2004, 'The ecosystem approach for large scale environmental protection and sustainable use: an example from the Great Barrier Reef', paper presented to Conference on International Co-operation for the Baltic Sea Environment: Past Present and Future, Riga, Latvia, 22-24 March 2004.

Day, J., Fernandes, L., Lewis, A. and Innes, J. 2003, 'RAP - an ecosystem approach to biodiversity protection planning', paper presented to Second International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium, Manila, Philippines, 24-27 March 2003.

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Fabricius, K., De'ath, G., McCook, L., Turak, E. and Williams, D. 2004, 'Coral, algae and fish communities on inshore reefs of the Great Barrier Reef: ecological gradients along water quality gradients' [abstract], in *Catchment to Reef: water quality issues in the Great Barrier Reef Region, 9-11 March 2004, Townsville: conference abstracts*, eds D. Haynes and B. Schaffelke, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report 53, p. 24.

Fernandes, L., Day, J., Jago, B., Hall, J., Sampson, K., Cameron, D., Innes, J., Tanzer, J., Lewis, A., Lowe, D., Gorman, K. and Kingston, B. 2004, 'Weaving an ideal design of MPAs into the real world: the Great Barrier Reef case study' [abstract], in *Abstracts, 10th International Coral Reef Symposium: stability and degradation of coral reef ecosystems, June 28 to July 2, 2004*, ICRS 2004, International Society for Reef Studies, Japanese Coral Reef Society, Okinawa, p. 207.

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Greiner, R., Herr, A., Brodie, J., Haynes, D., Audas, D., Roth, C. 2004, 'A triple-bottom-line assessment of basins within the Great Barrier Reef catchment in relation to their sediment, nutrient and pesticide discharges and potential impact on the Great Barrier Reef' [abstract], in *Catchment to Reef: water quality issues in the Great Barrier Reef Region, 9-11 March 2004, Townsville: conference abstracts*, eds D. Haynes and B. Schaffelke, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report 53, p. 31.

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Skeat, A. 2003, 'Managing the Great Barrier Reef: what does it mean for tourism?', paper presented to Protecting the Great Barrier Reef's Tourism Future, Pre-Conference Forum for Tourism Futures Conference, Sunshine Coast Queensland, 22 July 2003.

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Skeat, A. 2003, 'The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area', presented to His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn of Thailand and her Royal Highness Princess Mahidol, Townsville, 18 August 2003.

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- Skeat, H. 2003, 'Recognising and Rewarding High Standards in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', paper presented to the National Tourism Accreditation Forum, Tourism Futures Conference, 22 July 2003.
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Yorkston, H. 2004, 'Management of water quality in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and its catchment', paper presented to International Forum on Restoration of Irreplaceable Sea and Coral Reefs by Stopping Soil Erosion and Improving Water Quality, Ishigaki City, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan, 5 March 2004.

## Appendix 8: Ecologically Sustainable Development and Environmental Performance

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* [the EPBC Act] requires Australian Government organisations to include in their annual reports details of the organisation's contribution to ecologically sustainable development as well as the environmental performance of the organisation. Section 516A also promotes development of a framework which integrates environmental, economic and social considerations and helps improve the environmental and ecologically sustainable development performance of Australian Government organisations.

The following is a summary of activities by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in 2003–04 in accordance with section 516A subsection 6 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

### **1. How the activities of the organisation, and the administration of legislation by the organisation, accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development [section 516A(6)(a)].**

#### *Activities which generally recognise and promote ecologically sustainable development:*

Sections 5, 7 and 7A of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* provide the statutory objectives and functions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Within this statutory framework, the Authority's goal is 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.

During 2003-04, the GBRMPA addressed and promoted critical ecologically sustainable development [ESD] issues in respect of the Great Barrier Reef. These activities included:

- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef by the issue of the new Zoning Plan as a result of the Representative Areas Program and extensive community and stakeholder consultation [*See Output 1.1 - Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage*];
- In October 2003 the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP, and the Premier of Queensland, the Hon Peter Beattie MP, launched the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan. The plan cements an intergovernmental agreement that aims to halt and reverse the decline in water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef within 10 years. The GBRMPA has collaborated closely with other Australian Government agencies and the Queensland Government supporting Natural Resource Management [NRM] bodies in drafting regional NRM plans to implement that agreement [*See Output 1.2 Water Quality and Coastal Development*];
- In conjunction with the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage, and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, the Authority has contributed to the introduction of a wide range of fisheries management initiatives during 2003-04 [*See Output 1.3 - Fisheries*]; and
- In partnership with Australian and Queensland Government enforcement agencies, the Authority improved its strategic compliance operations during 2003-04 through development of multi-agency tasking plans and enhanced surveillance [*See Output 1.5.1 - Field Management of the Marine Park*].

*Activities that integrate environmental, social, economic and equitable consideration:*

Section 39ZA of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* provides that the Authority may, when developing or implementing management plans, make arrangements with community groups that have special interests in areas of the Marine Park. In addition, during 2003-04, the Authority:

- Fostered strong partnerships with the Authority's community of stakeholders [including industry bodies, research bodies, Traditional Owners, conservation agencies, other non-government organisations, government agencies, and the wider community itself] through direct consultation, and through specialist and representative community bodies such as the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee, Reef Advisory Committees, and Local Marine Advisory Committees;
- Integrated stakeholder interests in the Authority's decision-making processes [including statutory consideration of permit applications and the development of zoning plans and plans of management] under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*; and
- Participated in national and international processes for the protection and management of Australia's marine environment, including attendance at the International Coral Reef Symposium in Japan, and attendance at the World Protected Areas Congress.

*Activities that employ, or promote the use of the precautionary principle:*

Section 39Z of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* is an express statutory provision which requires the Authority to inform itself by reference to the precautionary principle in protecting World Heritage values and in making decisions in relation to management plans.

On 15 April 2004, the GBRMPA released the Hinchinbrook Plan of Management under Section 39 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. This statutory plan of management for the world renowned Hinchinbrook area, is designed to protect the outstanding natural values of this region, while allowing recreational and tourism use to develop in an ecologically sustainable manner.

*Activities that aim to promote conservation of the environment for the benefit of future generations:*

Section 7A of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* provides for the Authority to provide assistance to the institution or person in matters relating to environmental management, including the carrying out of research or investigations, the provision of educational, advisory or informational services, and the making available of facilities. During 2003-04 the Authority;

- Developed a visionary new Zoning Plan which provides a sustainable framework for the conservation and use of the resources of the Great Barrier Reef, now and into the future. The new regulatory framework brings great benefits to the conservation of the entire Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, as well as providing benefits for all users and industries dependent on the Great Barrier Reef and for future generations;
- Launched and updated The State of the Great Barrier Reef On-line website;
- Maintained its collaborative partnership arrangements with the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the United States Government National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency to improve scientific understanding of the impact of global climate change on the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem;

- Established a new research partnership with the Centre for Coral Reef Biodiversity aimed at improving knowledge of Reef resilience in the face of increasing impacts such as climate change;
- Maintained its collaborative partnership arrangement with the CRC Reef Research Centre, which was tasked with the bulk of the Authority's major research programs;
- Provided funding for tertiary student research relevant to the management of the Great Barrier Reef through the GBRMPA Science for Management Research Grants scheme;
- Continued the Reef Guardian Schools Program, an innovative program that encourages teachers, students and parents to become involved in protecting our environment and the Great Barrier Reef. In 2003, 25 schools participated in the successful pilot program and more than 117 schools have registered to be involved in the program in 2004; and
- Actively participated in the National Environmental Education Network [NEEN] with representatives from Australian, State and Territory agencies to share information about the diversity of environmental education in our core business areas and, where appropriate to develop consistent approaches with other States and Territories. NEEN's most significant project to date has been in the development of the */Sustainable/ Schools/* initiative which seeks to integrate existing resources [ie Reef Guardian Schools Program] into a wholistic program with measurable ecologically sustainable development outcomes in curriculum, financial and environmental areas.

*Activities that ensure that biodiversity and ecological integrity are fundamental to decision-making:*

The Authority's principal activity during 2003-04 was the implementation of the Representative Areas Program. The resultant new Zoning Plan for the Marine Park came into effect on 1 July 2004. The Zoning Plan protects representative examples of each broad habitat type identified in the Marine Park in 'no-take' [or Marine National Park] zones increasing protected areas from 4.6 per cent to 33.3 per cent. The approach taken in the RAP is now recognised as one of the most comprehensive, innovative and exciting global advances in marine ecosystem conservation and systematic protection of marine biodiversity.

In collaboration with its partners, the GBRMPA is closely involved in identifying threats to threatened marine species, and coordinating and facilitating conservation programs for protection and species recovery. The conservation of dugongs, turtles, dolphins and whales continues to be a priority, and the Authority has been at the forefront of promoting a strong interagency approach to the management of threatened marine species. During 2003-04 the Marine Park Authority approved a five-year Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement Program. The program recognises the critical cultural importance of dugongs and turtles to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people. The GBRMPA Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit and the Species Conservation Group continued to work closely with Traditional Owner groups throughout the region on threatened species management.

*Activities that aim to improve valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms:*

The GBRMPA has put in place arrangements to recognise and reward high-standard tourism operators through external certification schemes. An industry incentive-based scheme for the accreditation of high quality, environmentally sustainable tourist programs, the Eco Certification Program run by Ecotourism Australia was launched.

**2. How the outcomes specified in a relevant Appropriations Act contribute to ecologically sustainable development [section 516A(6)(b)].**

The Department of the Environment and Heritage Portfolio Budget Statement, Part C, Section 2- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority - lists seven Outcomes for the GBRMPA for 2003-04, as follows:

<b>Conservation, Biodiversity &amp; World Heritage</b>	Natural and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park protected and World Heritage obligations are met
<b>Water Quality</b>	Protection of the Great Barrier Reef from the adverse effects of water pollution and coastal development
<b>Fisheries</b>	Ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area
<b>Tourism and Recreation</b>	Tourism and recreation opportunities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that are high quality and ecologically sustainable
<b>Park Management</b>	Field management of the Marine Park
	Planning and Impact Management of the Marine Park
	Liaison with Indigenous groups and community involvement in management
<b>Information for Park Management</b>	Scientific and technical information available for Management
<b>Reef Education &amp; Communication</b>	Improved Australia-wide profile and community understanding of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and its management

**Table 15: GBRMPA groups and Outcomes 2003-04.** Source: Environment and Heritage Portfolio, Budget Initiatives and Explanations of Appropriations 2003-2004, Budget Related Paper No. 1.7 2003.

The above seven Outcomes contribute to the GBRMPA goal: the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity.

All Outcomes contribute directly to ecologically sustainable development by protecting and conserving the Great Barrier Reef. The major focus of the Outcomes is on protection of natural, cultural, and World Heritage values, and sustainable use of the Marine Park. The Outcomes contribute to protecting biodiversity and ecological systems and to maintaining the health, diversity and productivity of the Great Barrier Reef for future generations. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

**3. Effect of the organisation's activities on the environment [section 516A(6)(c)].**

The Authority has the responsibility of managing the world's largest living ecosystem, the world's largest World Heritage Area, and Australia's largest declared marine protected area. The Authority manages the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as a multiple use marine park, and permits such uses as are ecologically sustainable, and as are permitted by legislation.

Potential large-scale pollution threats to the Great Barrier Reef are managed by a range of statutory protective mechanisms. The Authority's statutes prohibit mining in the Marine Park. Commercial shipping is managed by a wide range of maritime measures including shipping channel restrictions, compulsory pilotage and interagency incident response protocols. The GBRMPA has significant responsibilities for ensuring the conservation of fish stocks, and the environment that sustains them.

In conjunction with its agency partners, the Authority has significantly improved its strategic compliance and enforcement activities. Serious marine pollution and fisheries offences carry maximum legal penalties of more than \$1 million for corporations found guilty of such crimes.

#### **4. Measures being taken by the organisation to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment [section 516A(6)(d)].**

The GBRMPA maintains a strong commitment to continuous improvement of its own environmental performance. The GBRMPA conducts environmental audits of its operations to maximise efficient use of resources, reduction of waste, and building of environmental awareness among its staff of employees and volunteers. Activities undertaken in the last year include:

- Operation of a Green Office Committee to raise awareness of environmental management within the office;
- Office machines [photocopiers, printers] are automatically programmed to save power;
- Printers are programmed to duplex documents to reduce paper usage;
- Printer toner cartridges are remanufactured and photocopier toner cartridges sent to Planet Ark for recycling;
- Staff are actively involved in recycling office paper with paper and cardboard being collected by a local recycling company;
- Packaging and envelopes are recycled;
- Corporate publications are printed on recycled paper if feasible;
- Wherever possible documents are provided electronically to reduce paper usage;
- Recycled paper is used in toilets [toilet paper and hand towels];
- All refrigerators are CFC-free;
- Toilets have been converted to dual flush as a water conservation measure; and
- Vehicle leasing decisions take into account Australian Greenhouse Office specifications on fuel consumption targets.

#### **5. Mechanisms for reviewing and increasing the effectiveness of these measures [section 516A(6)(e)].**

The Authority has committed to, and continues to, progress the development of an Environmental Management System [EMS], which has been incorporated as an implementation requirement under the GBRMPA 2003 Certified Agreement.

Through a structured Environmental Management System, [which GBRMPA proposes to be certified to the international standard ISO 14001], the Authority will monitor a range of its operational activities including energy management, transport, waste management, purchasing and water management. The system will provide a framework for considering and minimising environmental impacts within the context of continual improvement.

## Appendix 9: Australian Government Disability Strategy

The Australian Government Disability Strategy recognises that the Government has an impact on the lives of people with disabilities. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has developed a disability action plan which provides for reporting requirements identified in the Strategy. The GBRMPA has identified that it performs the roles of policy adviser, provider, regulator and employer.

### *Policy adviser*

In its role as a policy adviser, the GBRMPA is the principal adviser to the Australian Government on the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Public consultation and participation are integral in the management of the Great Barrier Reef. The GBRMPA recognises its responsibility to ensure new policies are developed in consultation with people with a disability where appropriate. Where possible public meetings are held in venues with disability access. Public websites and public web entry points have been created in accordance with the accessibility requirements of the Government Online strategy.

### *Provider*

In the provider role, the GBRMPA manages Commonwealth marine parks and Reef HQ.

Access is provided to the majority of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for tourism and recreational activities. Information about the Marine Park is available in accessible formats on the GBRMPA's website at <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au> and in hard copy from the Townsville office and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service offices situated along the coast. The GBRMPA's library has been designed to enable disability access and library staff provide assistance to people with disabilities. The GBRMPA's library services provide access to information on CD-ROM and on-line catalogues.

Due to the limitations of a marine-based park, access for people with a disability to the Marine Park varies. Reef HQ provides a land-based reef experience for people who would otherwise be unable to access the Marine Park. Townsville Enterprise, the regional tourism body has recognised Reef HQ in its publications as a user-friendly centre for people with disabilities. Improved disability access, tactile and audiovisual displays have been incorporated into the current refurbishment of Reef HQ. Reef HQ provides interpretive facilities, on request, for people with disabilities.

### *Regulator*

Under its regulatory role, the GBRMPA administers the:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975;*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983;*
- *Great Barrier Reef Region [Prohibition of Mining] Regulations 1999;*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [Aquaculture] Regulations 2000;*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [Environmental Management Charge-General] Act 1993;* and
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park [Environmental Management Charge-Excise] Act 1993*

Commonwealth legislation specific to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is accessible to the public through the GBRMPA website at [http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/about\\_gbrmpa/legislation\\_regulations](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_gbrmpa/legislation_regulations), and brochures and fact sheets are provided on request through the GBRMPA Public Information Unit. Public notifications are also made in the Commonwealth Government Gazette and, depending on the needs of the person requesting the information, specific requests may be responded to by fax, email or normal postal services.

Under section 32 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the GBRMPA is required to provide opportunities for interested people to comment and gain information in relation to changes to the zoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This consultative process is achieved through a variety of media including internet, mail outs, public meetings and public service announcements on both radio and television.

This process also occurs in relation to preparation of plans of management under section 39ZE of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Preparation of an annual report on the operation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* is required under section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. The report is also available on the Internet in an accessible format.

#### *Employer*

The GBRMPA works across a number of areas to ensure it provides fair and equitable employment opportunities for all members of the community. The GBRMPA's employment policies, procedures and practices comply with the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. Recruitment information for potential job applicants is made available in various ways depending on the needs of the individual.

Recruitment opportunities advertised in the *Commonwealth of Australia Public Service Gazette* and the press are accessible through the Internet.

The 2003-04 Annual Workplace Diversity data identifies 5 per cent of employees as having some form of disability. The actual number of employees with disabilities is expected to be higher than this figure due to non-disclosure. The GBRMPA's rate of employment of people with disabilities is similar to that of the broader APS [quoted as 4.2 per cent in the 1999-2000 *Workplace Diversity Report* published by the Public Service and Merit Protection Commission].

Within the Authority, the GBRMPA applies the principle of reasonable adjustment. For example, work is arranged to suit individual requirements and the necessary equipment, such as large computer screens or more appropriate keyboards, is provided. Flexible work arrangements are put in place as necessary to suit the needs of the individual. The main building, Reef HQ, conference rooms and meeting rooms are wheelchair accessible.

Training and development programs are accessible to staff with disabilities and, where appropriate, contain information on disability issues.

Complaints and grievance mechanisms are in place and available to all staff.

The GBRMPA has networks of harassment and diversity contact officers, and appropriate policies and mechanisms are in place should staff have concerns or issues needing to be addressed and resolved. GBRMPA employees also have access to an employee assistance program to discuss issues and concerns and to the Australian Public Service Commission for external reviews of actions.

## Appendix 10: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Funded Research and Investigations for 2003-04

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority supports the following research through funding arrangements.

### Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

Abundance estimates of large and sedentary fishes  
A conceptual and operational understanding of resource dependency  
A modelling study for assessment of tropical cyclone ocean hazards  
A review of seagrass and sediment nutrient status in the central region of the GBRWHA  
A scientific basis for reducing the impact of vessel traffic on sea turtles  
Assessing land based threats and impacts: nutrient supply fluxes  
Assessing the effects of herbicide diuron on inshore coral  
Assessment and review of links between crown-of-thorn starfish outbreaks on the Great Barrier Reef and water quality changes associated with land use change in the Great Barrier Reef catchment  
Ballast water pilot treatment study  
Chrysophyte [golden algae] nuisance blooms in the Great Barrier Reef region: causes and solutions  
Climate and oceanographic change from high-resolution records in large fossils Porties, Magnetic Island, Queensland  
Connectivity between coastal/estuarine and reefal fish assemblages  
Conservation genetics of sea snakes in Australian waters, with emphasis on the GBRWHA  
Cultural heritage management of two World Heritage communities  
Cultural heritage of the GBRWHA  
Determinants of stakeholder compliance GBRWHA  
Determining optimal capacity where latent effort exists  
Development of co-management arrangements at regional and local scales: an adaptive management approach  
Driving innovation in environmental performance in the Queensland fishing industry  
Ecology and conservation biology of coastal dolphins  
Effects of water quality on the distribution of corals on coral reefs  
Enhancing the ecological basis for conservation management of dugongs using innovative satellite tracking technologies  
Enhancing the ecological basis for managing dugongs in the GBRWHA  
Exploitation of dynamics and biological characteristics of east coast Spanish mackerel harvested by the recreational and commercial sectors  
Exploring reef futures  
Extension of fine-scale circulation modelling to the entire Great Barrier Reef region  
Factors affecting coral fitness in an experimental reef mesocosm  
Fairway Channel wave analysis  
Fine-scale wave modelling in coral reef regions  
Forecasting fishing impacts on the population biology of the red bass *Lutjanus bohar*  
Great Barrier Reef: destination image and competitiveness  
Hydrodynamic, sediment and dredge modelling of ports

Identification and monitoring of habitats critical to the GBRWHA in or adjacent to shipping lanes and coastal ports  
 Identification of Cubomedusae responsible for Irukandji syndrome using molecular and morphological characters  
 Identifying critical marine plant habitats within the GBRWHA  
 Impacts of terrestrial run-off on inshore reefs  
 Improving the sustainability of visitor-wildlife interaction  
 Interactive atlas of winds and waves of the GBRWHA  
 Introduced marine species survey – Port of Gove  
 Irukandji syndrome: definition, physiological progression and optimal treatment  
 Long-term monitoring of chlorophyll a  
 Long-term monitoring of coral reefs of the GBRWHA  
 Long-term monitoring of sea temperatures at PCQ ports  
 Mapping bycatch and seabed benthos assemblages in the Great Barrier Reef region for environmental risk assessment and sustainable management of the Queensland east coast trawl fishery  
 Marine flora, fauna and marine pests surveys – Cairns Port  
 Marine modelling synthesis, application and development  
 Measuring the success of conservation strategies to protect scleractinian corals on the Great Barrier Reef  
 Measurement uncertainty and post-capture changes in sizes of coral trout  
 Modelling multi-species fishery dynamics  
 Modelling multi-species targeting of fishing effort in the Queensland coral reef finfish fishery  
 Molecular diagnostic techniques for Asian Green Mussel  
 National strategy for increasing the survival of released line-caught fish; Investigating survival of fish released in Australia's tropical and subtropical line fisheries  
 Otoliths in the tropics – theory and methods  
 Ownership of genetic resources in the GBRWHA, its ecotone and the exclusive economic zone  
 Perceived and actual differences in recreational line catch trends in estuaries open and closed to commercial fishing in north Queensland  
 Population dynamics and stock structure of red throat emperor and others  
 Population dynamics of tropical snapper  
 Population genetics of roseate tern populations in Australia and preliminary investigation of genetic relationships among roseate tern subspecies  
 Port surveys  
 Possible removal of N&P from waste water using Struvite  
 Predator-prey dynamics in coral reef fish: potential implications of predator removal by fishing  
 Queensland east coast storm tide statistics – web presentation of data  
 Regional dynamics in the marine climate of the GBRWHA  
 Review and assessment of the Australian east coast spotted mackerel stock  
 Review and refinement of most appropriate coordinated and cost-effective methods and priorities for determining dugong population numbers and distribution in Queensland the Torres Strait

Review and refinement of the Queensland marine mammal and turtle strandings and mortality program focussed in the GBRWHA  
 Role of environmental factors in distribution of breeding seabird populations in the GBRWHA  
 Seabed biodiversity on the continental shelf of the GBRWHA  
 Seagrass monitoring of Port of Skardon River  
 Serranid biology  
 Social assessment of recreational fishing in the Great Barrier Reef region  
 Spatial allocation of Great Barrier Reef use, phase two  
 Spatial variation in population dynamics of red throat emperor  
 Sponge aquaculture for Indigenous communities  
 Status of nearshore reefs of the Great Barrier Reef 2003-2004  
 Stock structure of commercially important serranid species in the Great Barrier Reef and adjacent reef systems  
 Stock structure of common coral trout, *Plectropomus leopardus*, in the GBRWHA  
 Supporting development of cooperative management in the GBRWHA, by GBRMPA and Indigenous peoples  
 Terrestrial runoff into the GBRWHA – a synthesis  
 The accumulation of larvae by oceanographic features: do they cause recruitment and biodiversity hotspots?  
 The collection of Irukandji jellyfish from onshore and offshore coastal Queensland for taxonomy and toxinology research  
 The effects of line fishing on the Great Barrier Reef  
 The impacts of anthropogenic noise on coastal marine mammals: dugongs and dolphins  
 The social and economic values associated with Indigenous use of marine resources, stage one  
 Towards cooperative management of Indigenous hunting by a remote community in the GBRWHA  
 Towards ecologically sustainable dwarf minke whale tourism  
 Towards sustainable environmental experiences for the live aboard diving industry on the Great Barrier Reef  
 Understanding the social characteristics of Queensland's recreational anglers  
 Understanding tourist use of the GBRWHA  
 Visitor strategic response project  
 Water quality in underdeveloped and pristine areas of the Great Barrier Reef catchment

#### **University of Queensland**

Development of TOX-Y-PAM algal bioassay  
 Research into coral disease on the Great Barrier Reef  
 The development of PAM chlorophyll fluorometry as a management tool for non-intrusive sublethal stress assessment in corals on the Great Barrier Reef

#### **James Cook University**

Dwarf minke whale tourism monitoring program  
 Environmental history of the Great Barrier Reef since European settlement: implications for contemporary management

Genetic structure of Australian dugong populations: a tool for management planning  
Resilience of coral reefs

**Robin Aiello, Consultant**

Eye on the reef program

**Sea Research**

Inshore coral reef monitoring

The dynamics of Cairns section fringing reefs 2004

**Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service**

Monitoring marine turtle nesting and foraging populations of the GBRMP and adjacent  
Queensland marine parks

Shoalwater Bay green turtle monitoring

**CSIRO**

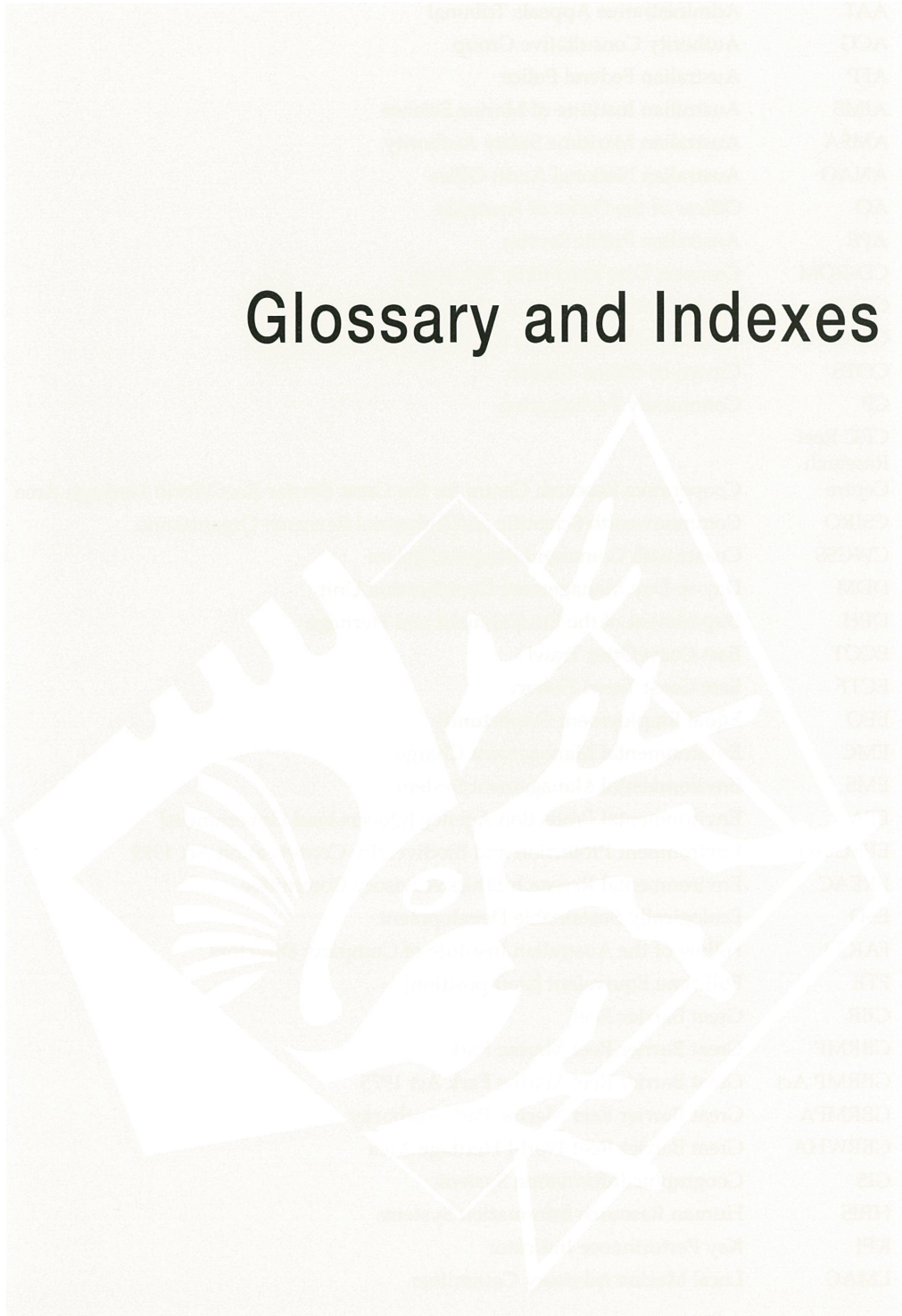
Recovery of seabed habitat from the impact of prawn trawling

**Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries**

The impact of variable stocking rates on the loss of sediments and nutrients from dryland  
and grazing savannahs

# SECTION F

## Glossary and Indexes



## Glossary

AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
ACG	Authority Consultative Group
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
AO	Officer of the Order of Australia
APS	Australian Public Service
CD-ROM	Compact Disc Read Only Memory
CDPP	Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions
COMPAC	Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas Committee
COTS	Crown-of-thorns starfish
CP	Community Participation
CRC Reef Research Centre	Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CWCSS	Coastwatch Command Support System
DDM	Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit
DEH	Department of the Environment and Heritage
ECOT	East Coast Otter Trawl
ECTF	East Coast Trawl Fishery
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EMC	Environmental Management Charge
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency [Queensland Government]
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
EREAC	Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
FAICD	Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors
FTE	Full-time Equivalent [staff position]
GBR	Great Barrier Reef
GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
GBRMP Act	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GBRWhA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HRIS	Human Resource Information Systems
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LMAC	Local Marine Advisory Committee

LTMP	Long Term Monitoring Program
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
MPA	Marine Park Authority
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee
NEEN	National Environment Education Network
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
OPAC	Operations Policy and Advisory Committee
PASC	Programs and Scheduling Committee
PEMS	Protected Environment Management System
POM	Plan of Management
QBFP	Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol
QDNRME	Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
QDPI&F	Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
QEPA	Queensland Environmental Protection Agency
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
QPWS	Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service
QPS	Queensland Police Service
RAC	Regional Advisory Committees
RACQ	Royal Automobile Club Queensland
RAP	Representative Areas Program
SDC	Spatial Data Centre
TUMRA	Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

# Compliance Index

Location of information provided in accordance with the Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments, Executive Agencies and FMA ACT Bodies, issued by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in June 2004.

Note: na indicates that the relevant material was not applicable to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during 2003-2004.

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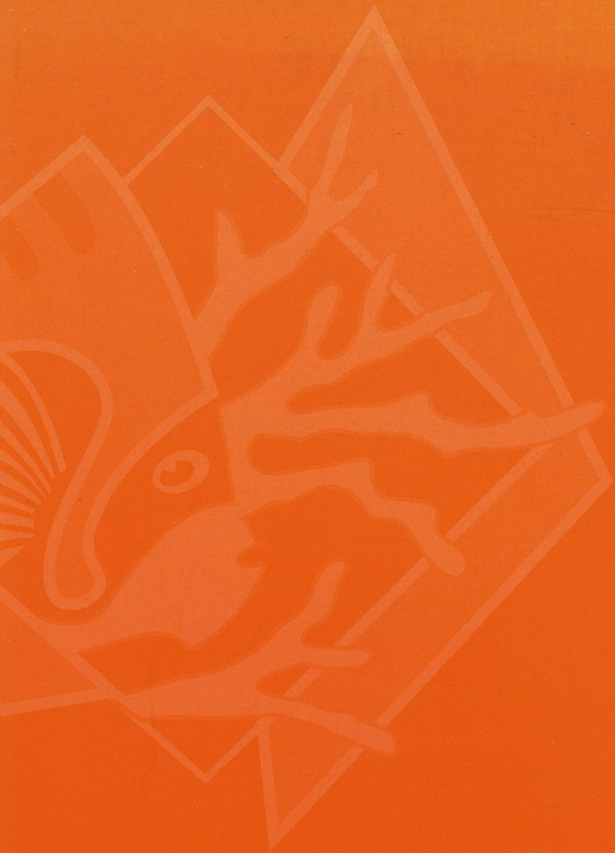
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