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ANNUAL REPORT

GREAT BARRIER REEF  
MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

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**GREAT BARRIER REEF**  
MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

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## **GREAT BARRIER REEF**

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

28 October 1998

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

Dear Minister

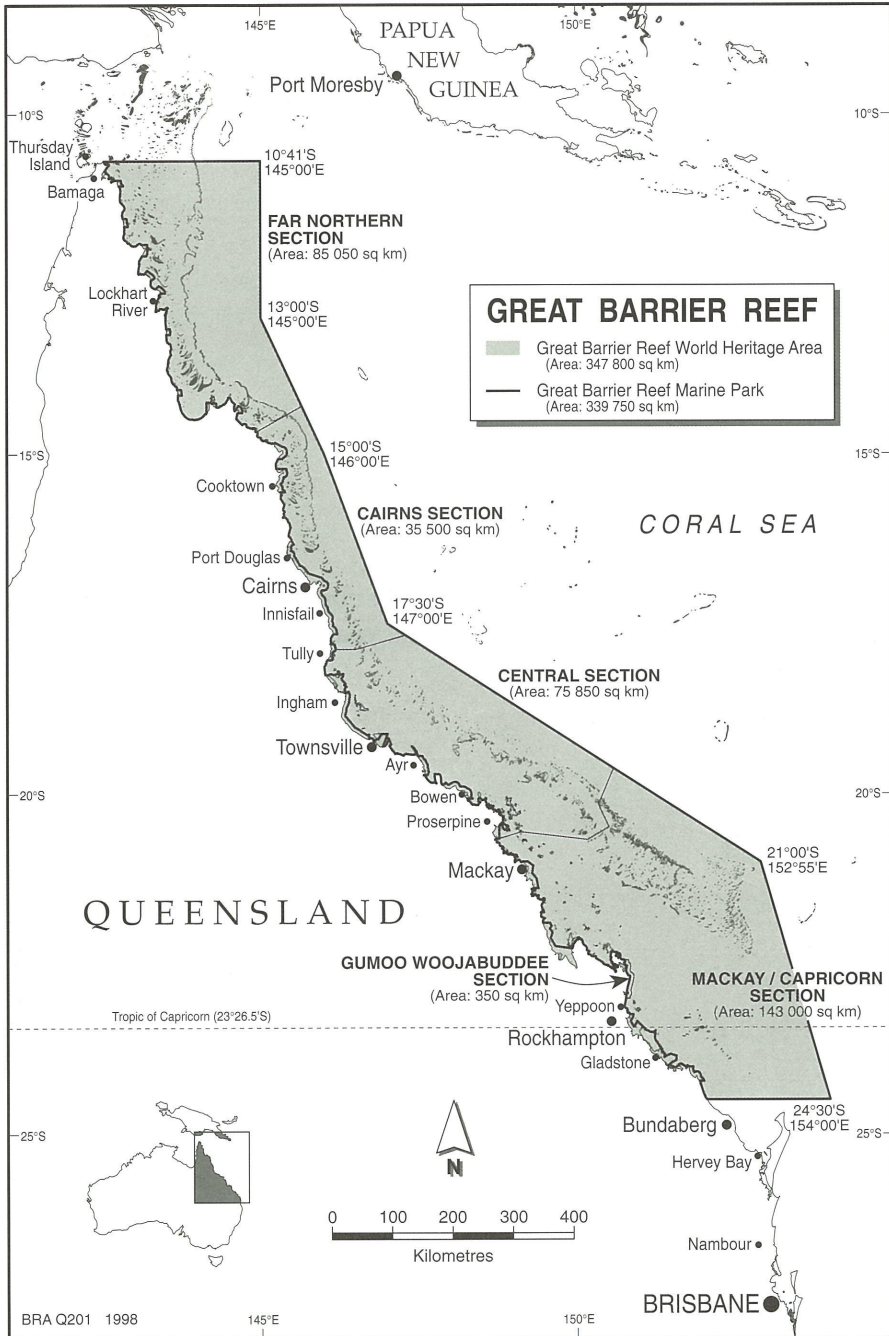
In accordance with section 63 of the *Audit Act 1901*, I submit the Annual Report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 1998.

Yours sincerely

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

Ian McPhail  
Chairperson

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The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area extends from the tip of Cape York to just north of Fraser Island, and from the low water mark on the Queensland coast to beyond the edge of the continental shelf. The World Heritage Area is 347 800 square kilometres in area and includes the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (97.7% of the World Heritage Area), Queensland waters not in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (1.7%), and islands (0.6%). It is important to note that not all of the World Heritage Area is in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In some places the coastal boundary of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is five nautical miles from the low water mark.

As specified in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the Authority is responsible for the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This year, the Authority and other relevant Commonwealth Government agencies signed an agreement formalising the Authority's position as the lead agency for Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area issues.

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# Report from the Chairperson

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*The Great Barrier Reef is an immense, unique environment of global aesthetic and scientific significance comparable to any of the largest reef structures that have existed in the last 450 million years of the geological past.*

(David Hopley and Peter Davis 1986)

Within this Annual Report there is comment upon a wide range of topics that highlight the rich array of issues involved in the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the fractionally but significantly larger Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Our day-to-day tasks involve us in a multi-jurisdictional, multi-sectoral, multi-agency and multiple stakeholder context. Implications of the World Heritage Convention and United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concern the Authority in one dimension while the consequences of terrestrial activities that are within the sovereignty of the State of Queensland and outside our direct jurisdiction form another. In the midst of this complexity, the principal task of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is to protect the region and to provide for its reasonable use. The Marine Park Authority is a crucible for successful and sustainable resource use; not only as one of the great natural assets of this world, a World Heritage Area, or a multiple use protected area, but for any part of this planet. If it is not possible to have adequate protection of the natural system and assuredly sustainable use within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, then it is

difficult to contemplate where else on this earth it might be possible. The obligation is substantial and can only be discharged by the support of the broad Australian and regional community, willing acceptance by the commercial and recreational users of the need to approach the resources in a sustainable manner, the active involvement of stakeholders in the planning and management of the region, and strong political leadership from the Commonwealth and State governments.

An absolute obligation has been placed by the Commonwealth Parliament on the Minister and the Authority to protect the Great Barrier Reef, while providing for its reasonable use. To meet this requirement the Authority has set out to define the contemporary tasks and to focus our activities into the new century. In 1996, in 'The Changing Environment of Managing Use in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area' (ABARE Outlook Conference), I outlined a set of critical issues on which the Marine Park Authority would focus. These issues are conservation, world heritage and endangered species; tourism and recreation use; the effects of fishing; shipping and oil spills; coastal development and water quality; and indigenous matters. These flow naturally from the 25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area which is the base document for approaching the management of the Great Barrier Reef. Further, in 1997, the Authority in conjunction with Environment Australia and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, commissioned a study by Mr Bing Lucas et al. 'The Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area' which has elaborated the World Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef, and provided a strong scientific basis for policy development.

On the basis of the insights provided through this material, the Authority has substantially restructured to reflect these critical issues. During this year Mr Richard Kenchington, a long-time member of the Authority's staff, and Mr John Tanzer, previously Chair of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, were appointed as Executive Directors. With them we have proceeded to develop a structure for the Authority which emphasises the critical policy components: Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage; Fisheries; Water Quality and Coastal Development; and Tourism and Recreation. Indigenous matters are seen to be a component of each of these groups and will be comprehended in each. Complementing these critical issues groups are the cross-cutting Executive and Secretariat, the Canberra-based Parliamentary and Ministerial Liaison unit, the Program Delivery Group, the Corporate Services Group and the Information Support Group. The Aquarium is a stand-alone business unit whose specialist skills are being applied more widely across the organisation. An active process of recruiting the Directors for these groups has been commenced, and by the end of this year a number of appointments were close to finalisation. We set a demanding timetable for this restructure, and the Senior Executive was impressed and grateful for the strong support given by staff to the process. In particular Ms Suzie Davies, Mr Simon Woodley and Mr Ian Burston led the restructure team in a dynamic manner, and in close and sympathetic association with staff. As a result of a 10%

budget reduction there was a need for some loss of staff, and a number of our colleagues applied for voluntary redundancies. Amongst these were some long-standing members of the Authority and their experience and wise counsel will be sadly missed.

Each of the critical issues groups will have an external advisory group to ensure close stakeholder contact and a full and complete exploration of topics. These will complement the statutory Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee which contains a range of representatives from peak bodies and governments and which provides another range of strong advice. The local Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees (RMRACs) are currently being reviewed with an intent to make sure they are operating as effectively as possible. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has a strong history of public consultation, and these changes are intended to provide an even sharper focus to ensure that the outputs of the Authority are accurate, timely and supported to the greatest extent possible by stakeholders.

Reinforcing these new alignments, the Authority is preparing a three-year strategic work program. This will include for each of the areas a statement of broad outcome, objectives, and strategies to achieve these with outputs, performance indicators and resources to enable clear accountability. The program will be submitted to the Minister by 30 September 1998. In preparing this program, not only does it act as a program budgeting and accountability tool, it also links with the new accrual and outcomes/outputs approach of the Department of Finance and Administration. Regardless of these linkages to broader government policy the fundamental value to the Authority is the strong focus and achievement orientation that they provide.

Restructuring of organisations in times of change is no unusual thing. Our purpose is to ensure that the Marine Park Authority remains effective, responsive and relevant into the next century.

Although these comments have highlighted managerial changes being made by the Authority, it has in fact been a highly significant year in a number of important areas.

## **Dugong Protection**

Senator Hill, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, provided strong leadership to establish in association with his state ministerial colleagues a chain of Dugong Protection Areas. In two areas netting was banned totally, while in the other Dugong Protection Areas 'A', severe restrictions on netting were introduced. In Dugong Protection Areas 'B' major changes to netting practice were agreed and introduced. The implementation of the new system was carried out by the Queensland Government under its nature conservation and fisheries legislation. Importantly, recognising the impact on individual fishers and the risk of displaced

effort, the two governments agreed to provide funding for an adjustment package to affected fishers.

The matter was hard debated, and there was much public argument about the merits of the proposal. The Authority and the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council were convinced that the reduction in the estimated numbers of dugong had reached a stage where positive action was required. They also accepted that netting was not the only contributor to the problem, and that action had been taken, or is needed, on a number of fronts to ensure that mortality rates remain as close to natural as possible.

Throughout it all, the Authority and its staff were open and transparent in the provision to all parties of information and reports.

## **Plans of Management**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority accepted new plans of management for the two most highly used areas of the park. In the Cairns and Whitsunday areas new planning principles were introduced that considered access in terms of settings; those areas that should be identified for low, moderate or high use. Each of the plans had very strong community origins, with the Cairns Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee being heavily involved in the original Moorings and Anchoring Plan while the Whitsunday Coastal Advisory Committee was instrumental in the public consultation process in that area. Because the plans are so innovative, the process of implementation entails considerable discussion. There is a fundamental requirement that there should be equity and fairness, and accordingly stakeholders are being consulted carefully by two Authority Task Forces to ensure minimum displacement. However, use patterns in both areas had become such that decisive steps had to be taken, and these plans represent a new approach to these demands.

## **Fisheries**

Sustainability in the harvesting of fish and other commercial species from the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is clearly of critical importance. Valuable commercial fisheries and a widespread and increasingly sophisticated recreational fishing use, direct the Authority toward a close involvement in the development of management policies. The impacts of fishing draw attention to issues of habitat change, sustainable harvests, and impacts on non-target and endangered species.

The Authority is heavily committed to fisheries management processes established by the Queensland Government. As well it is conducting with the wide support of industry and governments, a major experiment on the effects of trawling which has now reached final report stage, and an experiment on the effects of reef line-fishing which has reached halfway in the study. The purpose of these studies is to identify

impacts on habitat, and threshold or sustainable levels of exploitation.

However, the Authority commends steps taken by the Queensland Government to introduce turtle excluder devices and bycatch reduction devices on trawl nets. The Commonwealth minister in welcoming this advance has requested that these become compulsory throughout the Great Barrier Reef by March 2000. In turn the Authority applauds the pilot introduction of Vessel Monitoring Systems which will provide real-time information as to vessel location. This has great benefit in establishing fishing patterns and incursions into non-fishing zones. Consequently the Authority will work with Queensland on their broad introduction into the Great Barrier Reef.

Measures such as these have significant cost implications and the Authority will continue to discuss these closely with the industry organisation and our Queensland partners. However, assuredly sustainable use of the fish resources of the Great Barrier Reef is critically important, and the absolute prescription in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* to protect the Great Barrier Reef requires the Authority to ensure that the harvest is always sustainable and the natural system is properly protected.

## **Protected Areas**

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a protected area, and overall accords with Category 6 of the IUCN classification. This category provides for multiple use under established management regimes. Although this category frequently draws criticisms from those who believe legitimacy comes from high levels of protection, the size of the Great Barrier Reef, means that almost the entire ecosystem is included within its boundaries. This is of enormous importance, as this makes it a major test site for ecosystem management. However, within the region there is a hierarchy of protection, and a full review is under way to determine suitable additions to highly protected areas of the Great Barrier Reef. At present some 20% of the reefs are highly protected, but only 4% of the total area. The lagoonal or soft bottomed communities and coastal habitats are under-represented. A major review with broad consultation and expert involvement is under way, and it is intended that it will reach a conclusion within the next two years.

## **Coastal Development**

With a coastline thousands of kilometres in length, bordered by scenically attractive coastline, highly productive cane and horticultural lands, and six major export ports, water quality, coastal developments and residential growth are all matters whose impact must be carefully considered. The Authority is heavily involved in a range of cooperative activities to improve land management and is frequently involved in public debates over land use issues. Land clearance, conversion of coastal wetlands, mangrove clearance, dams and schemes that alter river flows are

all matters that impact on the viability of the coastal zone as a fish nursery and as a filter for silts, nutrients and heavy metals from moving into the Great Barrier Reef. It is in this arena where jurisdictional rights are limited that the Authority must work most closely with its Queensland and stakeholder partners.

A series of major coastal developments, many with approvals dating back to the 1980s, are coming on stream or are expected to, in the next few years. The Authority's interest is both to consider immediate environmental impact and cumulative impact on the system as a whole. Each of these will be considered on an individual basis but the principles applied in their assessment will include those of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*, the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974* as well as the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Again this year many resources and much time have been devoted to Port Hinchinbrook. The Authority on behalf of the Minister is managing the Commonwealth's interest in the Deed of Agreement signed between the parties involved. The high level of parliamentary and public interest in this project has meant a very considerable effort beyond the task associated with the site development.

Other major developments such as the proposed resort on Keswick Island and the development of Magnetic Quays on Magnetic Island have been important.

The Authority strongly supports the Queensland coastal management process, because in the long term, good planning will be the only way development projects can be judged in a sensible framework. The present project-by-project approach places the Authority in a reactive position and creates an impression of opposition. This is not our view. Major developments can and will occur, but there is an urgent need to have them judged within a sound community-agreed plan.

## Reviews

In this year the Australian National Audit Office presented its report on Commonwealth Management of the Great Barrier Reef while the Department of Finance and Administration provided advice to the Minister on the most effective way to introduce the savings required following the reduction in the Environmental Management Charge. Each of the reports acknowledged the complexity of issues involved in the management of such a large multi-jurisdictional and multi-sectoral region of Australia. Each of the reports provided constructive and helpful recommendations.

Nationally and internationally the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is held up as a leader of integrated marine management. Nevertheless there is a healthy and active debate as to the continuing improvement of the organisation, and the most effective discharge of its functions. I believe that in the restructuring and the

re-focusing of the Authority that has now been completed there is a sound basis for the successful management of the critical issues that face the Great Barrier Reef into the next century.

I welcome Mr John Lyons as a new member of the Authority, and thank him and my colleagues for their dedicated effort and deep commitment to our statutory objectives. Also, the new Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee is demonstrating an enthusiasm for the issues, and is bringing a rich stakeholder experience to the table.

I am grateful to the Authority and Consultative Committee members, but I am particularly appreciative of my colleagues on the staff of the Authority. They have worked with great dedication through a year of major policy and operational issues, and committed themselves wholeheartedly to the re-orientation of the organisation. I thank them.

# The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

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

During 1997–98, the Minister for the Environment, Senator the Hon Robert Hill, held portfolio responsibility for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

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

## Goal and Aims

The Authority’s goal is to provide for the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Authority’s goal is inclusive, encompassing a wide range of opportunities. However, implicit in the goal is the primary obligation to ensure conservation of the Great Barrier Reef. All other activities are dependent on this over-riding responsibility.

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

- To protect the natural qualities of the Great Barrier Reef, while providing for reasonable use of the Reef Region.
- To involve the community meaningfully in the care and development of the Marine Park.
- To achieve competence and fairness in the care and development of the Marine Park through the conduct of research, and the deliberate acquisition, use and dissemination of relevant information from research and other sources.
- To provide for economic development consistent with meeting the goal and other aims of the Authority.
- To achieve integrated management of the Great Barrier Reef through active leadership and through constantly seeking improvements in coordinated management.
- To achieve management of the Marine Park primarily through the community’s commitment to the protection of the Great Barrier Reef and its understanding and acceptance of the provisions of zoning, regulations and management practices.
- To provide recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional affiliations and rights in management of the Marine Park.
- To minimise costs of caring for and developing the Marine Park consistent with meeting the goal and other aims of the Authority.
- To minimise regulation of, and interference in, human activities, consistent with meeting the goal and other aims of the Authority.

- To achieve its goal and other aims by employing people of high calibre, assisting them to reach their full potential, providing a rewarding, useful and caring work environment, and encouraging them to pursue relevant training and development opportunities.
- To make the Authority's expertise available nationally and internationally.
- To adapt actively the Marine Park and the operations of the Authority to changing circumstances.

## Membership of the Authority

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

As at 30 June 1998, the members of the Authority were **Dr Ian McPhail, Mr John Lyons, Mrs Evelyn Scott and Mr Tom Tolhurst**. The member nominated by Queensland is Mr Tolhurst. Mrs Scott is the member representing the interests of Aboriginal communities.

Dr McPhail is full-time Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the Authority.



*Members of the Authority from left: Mrs Evelyn Scott, Dr Ian McPhail, Mr John Lyons. Insert, Mr Tom Tolhurst.*

He was appointed for a five-year term commencing 20 December 1994. Mr Lyons, who was chairman of the Bi-Centennial Fund Great Barrier Reef Wonderland in 1987, is an accountant practising in Townsville. His three-year term commenced 28 April 1998. Mrs Scott was appointed for a three-year term commencing 17 June 1997. She now also chairs the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. Mr Tolhurst's three-year term commenced 20 March 1997. Throughout 1997–98, Mr Tolhurst was Director-General of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage.

Professor Rhondda Jones, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of James Cook University, concluded her latest three-year appointment on 26 February 1998. Professor Jones had served as a member since 1989.

Persons appointed to act as Chairperson or member during the year are listed in Note 21(b) on 'Related Parties' in the Financial Statements.

During 1997–98, the Authority held five meetings.

Date	Location	Date	Location
16 July 1997	Rockhampton	4 April 1998	Brisbane
19 September 1997	Townsville	26 June 1998	Townsville
5 December 1997	Cairns		

## Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997

The *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, which came into effect on 1 January 1998, provides reporting, accountability and other rules for Commonwealth authorities including the Marine Park Authority. The Authority is neither a Government Business Enterprise nor a Statutory Marketing Authority, which are special classes of Commonwealth authority recognised in the Act. Under the Act, the Authority, its directors (members) and officers (as defined by the Act) have new obligations. The Audit (Transitional and Miscellaneous) Regulations 1997 contain transitional provisions that qualify, for 1997–98, the nature of some of those obligations.

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

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

The Finance Minister has made no request of directors for reports, documents or information.

The Authority has taken no action to indemnify its officers or to take out indemnity insurance for its officers. The Minister for Finance and Administration has agreed that, until 30 September 1998, the Commonwealth will indemnify 'officers' in respect of legal costs as applies generally to Commonwealth officials, but only where legal costs are not covered by commercial insurance or indemnities already provided by the 'Authority'.

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

## **Audit Committee of the Authority**

The *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* requires the directors of the Authority to establish and maintain an audit committee. In September 1997, the Authority decided to establish such a committee. The following persons were appointed as inaugural members:

Mr Matt Pope, chairperson, a practising Townsville barrister,

Mr John Tanzer, member, an Executive Director on the Authority's staff,

Mr Tom Tolhurst, member, and a part-time member of the Authority.

During 1997–98, the Audit Committee held three meetings.

Date	Location
6 February	Townsville
20 May 1998	Townsville
16 June 1998	Townsville

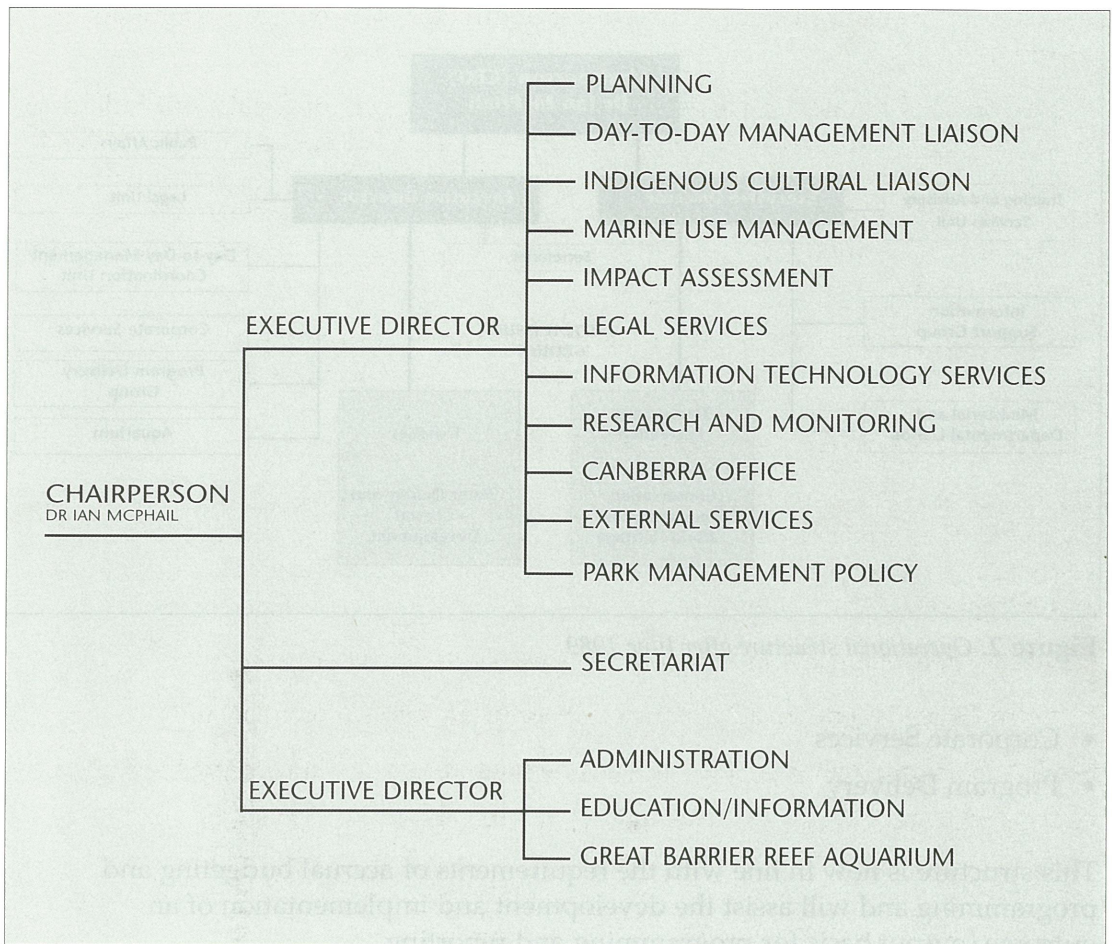
## **Offices of the Authority**

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

Staff of the Townsville office, which includes the staff of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, numbered 122 at 30 June 1998. There were 8 staff working from the Canberra office at 30 June 1998.

## **Review and Restructure**

Following several external reviews and an extensive internal assessment, a decision was made in late 1997 to move to a new issues-based structure to be effective from 1 July 1998. The purpose of the restructure was to provide a tighter focus for the



**Figure 1.** Operational structure in June 1989

organisation by concentrating on the major critical issues to be addressed and further, to ensure clear internal reporting lines and accountability.

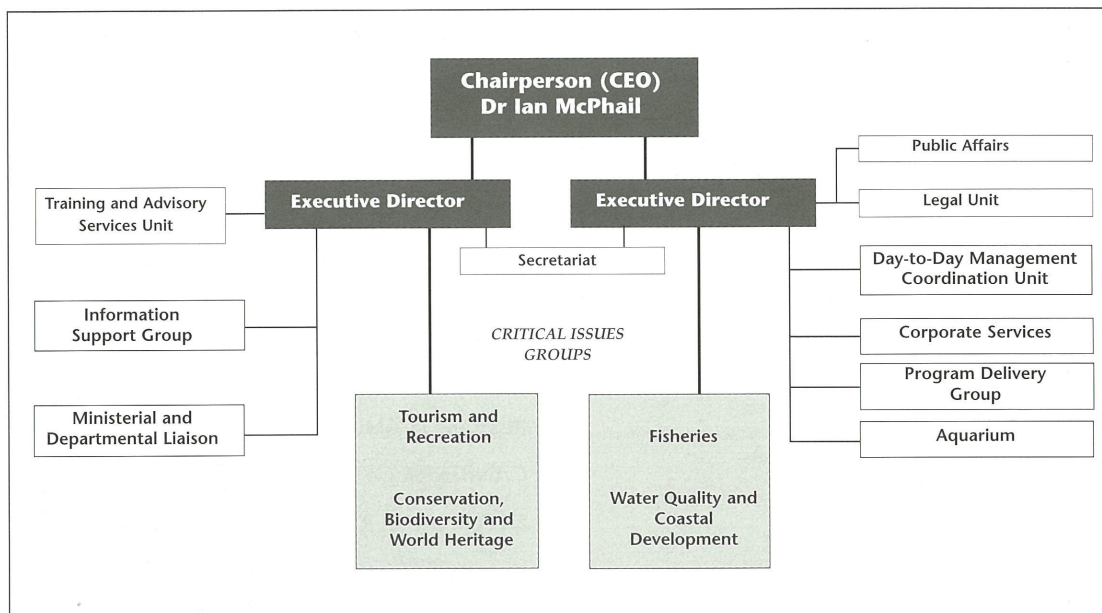
Considerable effort was expended to design a matrix-based organisational structure and recruit a senior management team consisting of a director for each of the four Critical Issues Groups to address the priority policy areas and a director for each of three service groups.

### The Critical Issues Groups are:

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

and the three service groups are:

- Information Support



**Figure 2.** Operational structure after June 1989

- Corporate Services
- Program Delivery

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

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

## Executive Group

The executive group of the Authority assists and advises the Chairperson in carrying out the functions of the Authority and provides a forum for discussing and coordinating programs, recommending priorities and direction, and reviewing program performance. A major consequence of the Authority's restructure has been the redesign of the group, now known as the Senior Management Team, which comprises the Chairperson, the Executive Directors and the Directors.

## Executive and Secretariat

The Authority has designated its two Executive Directors as secretaries to the Authority. The staff of the Executive and Secretariat (now functioning as separate units) provided executive support for the Chairperson and the Executive Directors and secretariats for the Authority, its Audit Committee, the executive group, the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee and the Tourism Advisory Group. The

Executive and Secretariat staff facilitate communication between other staff and these committees.

## Subsidiaries

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

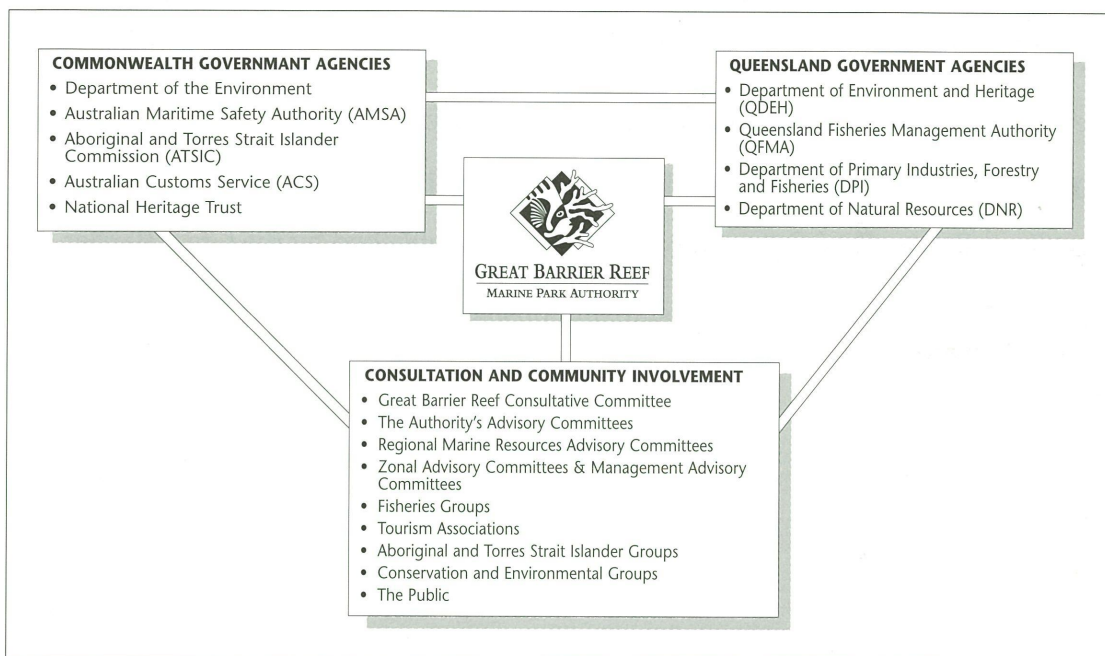


Figure 2. External relationships

## Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council was established in 1979 to coordinate policy on the Reef between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments at Ministerial level. The Council comprises four Ministers, two from each Government. Senator Robert Hill, Minister for the Environment, is convener of the Council.

During 1997–98, the other members of the Council were the Hon John Moore, Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism, the Queensland Environment Minister, the Hon Brian Littleproud, and the Queensland Tourism Minister, the Hon Bruce Davidson. The Hon Trevor Perrett, Queensland Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry also attended the Council meetings to participate in discussions relating to his responsibilities for fisheries management.

The Council met on 14 August 1997 in Brisbane and by telephone on 16 December 1997. Both meetings were devoted to discussing the implementation of Dugong Protection Areas in the Great Barrier Reef. The Council agreed to create a two-tiered system of dugong sanctuaries as part of an emergency strategy to halt the decline in dugong numbers in the southern Great Barrier Reef region.

Measures for dugong protection entered into force on 12 January 1998. Under these measures, forms of mesh netting which represent a risk to dugong will be prohibited in Zone 'A' Dugong Protection Areas. In Zone 'B' areas, relevant fishing practices will be modified. Other threats to dugong are also being addressed.

Through the Ministerial Council, the Commonwealth and Queensland governments have provided funds for ex gratia payments to fishers who were adversely affected by the decision to ban netting in some areas.

Generally, the Ministerial Council meets about every 12 months.

## **Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee**

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

# Key Issues for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area

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Through developing the Vision, Principals for Management and Corporate Values, and with guidance from the 25 Year Strategic Plan, it has been possible to identify a series of issues which are crucial for the wellbeing of the Marine Park and World Heritage Area and for the management of use. These key issues are:

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

# CONSERVATION

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## Description

Implicit in the Authority's goal is the primary obligation to ensure conservation of the Great Barrier Reef. Ensuring the conservation of the natural and cultural values of the Reef is therefore a critical and high priority issue. The three main strategies currently being undertaken are the protection of threatened species, the identification and protection of representative areas of the broadscale habitats occurring within the Great Barrier Reef region, and improvements in our understanding of the effects of large-scale natural disturbances on the Reef.

## Threatened Species

### Strategic Direction

The effectiveness of measures for the protection of dugong and turtle populations needs to be kept under review. For threatened mammals, turtles and seabirds, the Authority is one of a number of agencies involved in identifying threats, and coordinating and facilitating conservation programs. Success will depend upon close working arrangements with the other agencies and interest groups.

Measures for the protection of dugong and turtle populations need to be improved, including consideration of greater constraints on commercial fishing and traditional hunting practices. It is important that seabirds are better protected through the management of threatening activities. There is also an ongoing need to assess which species are 'potentially threatened' and to develop management strategies as a precaution.

Specific targets included maintenance of a strong inter-agency approach to the management of threatened species, together with continuous assessment of their status and management. In particular, dugong and turtle species were priority conservation tasks. An additional target was further development of an approach to defining 'potentially threatened' species.

# Performance Analysis

## Dugongs

There was significant progress to enhance the prospect of recovery and conservation of dugong numbers in the World Heritage Area, and especially in Reef waters south of Cooktown. The management actions of previous years culminated in 1997 with a number of decisions by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council to better protect dugong. These decisions were made on the basis of scientific and fisheries management evidence.

A major outcome was the establishment by the Ministerial Council of 16 Dugong Protection Areas. The implementation of a two-tiered system of sanctuaries was a milestone in efforts to save the dugong in the southern Great Barrier Reef. Zone 'A' sanctuaries represent the most significant dugong habitat and forms of mesh netting that represent a significant risk to dugongs were prohibited in January 1998. In Zone 'B' sanctuaries a number of restrictions in relation to mesh netting practices have been implemented to minimise risks to dugongs.

Other decisions by the Ministerial Council included minimising the impact of netting restrictions on the fishing industry with appropriate payments to fishers directly affected, and review of shark netting for bather safety. It was also decided to re-apply boat restrictions in dugong habitat areas of the Hinchinbrook region.

Increased surveillance effort was focused on Dugong Protection Areas. Greater enforcement was targeted through a review of penalties for illegal take. A dugong stranding reporting network was established. Analysis of pollutant levels in dugong carcasses provided information relevant to dugong health and also water quality management.

As part of the dugong conservation program, cooperative management arrangements have been established with indigenous peoples. Community-based permits for traditional hunting were also continued. Ministerial Council confirmed that dugong hunting permits will not be issued in the southern Great Barrier Reef during the current dugong decline.

Extension and education activities for key interest groups and the public have continued to increase support for protection of the dugong and its habitat. A targeted education program has raised awareness of dugong conservation issues with indigenous communities south of Cooktown.

Progress was made on the development of a Dugong Research Strategy and establishment of a Dugong Watch program. Research into seagrass habitat issues has been identified as an information need to support more effective management. Such research and monitoring activities will help assess and improve the effectiveness of the management decisions.

## Turtles

Progress was made on a turtle conservation program, in particular in relation to

incidental capture of turtles in nets. In consultation with fisheries management agencies and industry, the Authority has proposed a substantial reduction in the total take of bycatch in trawl nets.

Proposed means of accomplishing bycatch reduction targets included mandatory use of Bycatch Reduction Devices (which include Turtle Excluder Devices) on trawlers operating within the Marine Park, with immediate implementation for known critical areas and implementation by early 1999 for all other areas of the Marine Park. Education programs on the use of Bycatch Reduction Devices, monitoring of the effectiveness of these devices, and on-board monitoring of bycatch were also proposed.

As part of a coordinated management approach, the Authority worked closely with the Queensland Departments of Environment and Heritage and Primary Industries to identify significant turtle habitats and areas where turtles are at increased risk from net capture. That appraisal is now being considered by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority East Coast Trawl Management Advisory Committee.

### Other species

During the year, work continued on status monitoring and management policy formulation for other known threatened species. To better protect whale and dolphin (cetacean) populations, development of a policy for cetaceans within the Marine Park commenced. The Whitsundays and Cairns Area plans of management restricted the issue of commercial whale watching permits to the levels existing in the planning areas at the time of finalisation of the plans.

Collaboration continued with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage and the Environment Australia Biodiversity Group in relation to seabird monitoring and management within the World Heritage Area and adjacent waters. Further progress was made in developing an inventory of threatened fauna in the Marine Park.

## Representative Areas

### Strategic Direction

Establishment of a comprehensive system of adequately sized and protected representative areas will be significant in ensuring the long-term ecological viability of the Marine Park. It will contribute to maintenance of ecological processes and systems, and protection of the biodiversity of the World Heritage Area.

The representative areas program is being developed against a background of international commitments, national strategies and agreements, and legislation. The aim is to develop a viable and adequate system of representative areas and ensure that they are free from structures and extractive uses and managed in a manner that constrains human use and/or impacts.

Specific targets included the development of a representative areas program, assessment of the significance and status of major habitats and biological communities, and increased understanding of the nature and distribution of these habitats and communities.

## **Performance Analysis**

Consultation continued with scientific advisers and key stakeholders using the Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia as a first approximation for a planning framework. This classification system identifies bioregions with distinct biological and physical features and has been endorsed by Commonwealth and State nature conservation agencies to assist in the planning and conservation of marine protected areas.

Further information on biological communities and habitats was mapped using best available information. A program to determine the socioeconomic implications of a representative areas system also commenced.

The recently published report on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area supported the implementation of a protected areas system. The report recommended that representative areas be distributed throughout the entire Reef to ensure the conservation of World Heritage natural attributes.

# **Crown-of-thorns Starfish and other Large-scale Perturbations**

## **Strategic Direction**

Large-scale disturbances such as cyclones, coral bleaching, outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish have marked effects on the ecology of coral reefs. Understanding the ecological role of these perturbations is crucial for the sustainable management of coral reef systems. Management actions in response to these phenomena need to be based on a sound understanding of both the causes and consequences of events, including the possible role of some human activities in affecting their frequency and intensity.

The major target was an improved understanding of long-term ecological perturbations in order to assess the actual level of human-induced impacts against the natural variability of reef ecosystems. In particular, the causes and consequences of crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks and the effectiveness of local-scale starfish controls were targeted. An additional target was active participation of tourism operators and day-to-day managers in program activities.

## Performance Analysis

### Crown-of-thorns starfish

Active outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish have now been recorded from Lizard Island, north of Cooktown, to Lodestone Reef near Townsville. Analysis of age structures has indicated that the current cycle of outbreaks shows a larger scale synchrony over several degrees of latitude, in contrast to previous outbreaks which are thought to have followed a gradual spread from north to south.

Intensive surveys and monitoring of the crown-of-thorns starfish have helped tourism operators gain a much earlier warning of impending outbreaks, thereby enabling them to undertake more effective control measures. Five training workshops were conducted with tourism operators to update them on the current status of crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks and techniques for controlling starfish at local scales.

### Coral bleaching

A major coral bleaching event took place on the Great Barrier Reef between February and June 1998. Dedicated aerial surveys showed that coral bleaching was high to extreme on most inshore fringing reefs along the entire length of the Great Barrier Reef, but only mild to moderate on most mid- and outer-shelf reefs. Tourism operators, scientists, members of the public and other agencies were heavily involved in documenting the event and contributed valuable information on the extent and intensity of bleaching.

Results of long-term temperature monitoring indicated that the likely cause of the bleaching was elevated sea temperature, possibly exacerbated in the central Great Barrier Reef by high river run-off. Solar radiation may also have been a contributing factor.

Overall levels of coral mortality as a result of the bleaching have not yet been determined, but are likely to be high (> 80%) on the worst affected reefs. A conservative approach was used in environmental impact and permit assessments during the time of bleaching to reduce the risk of causing further stress to corals. The effect of additional human-induced stress on corals during bleaching events remains largely unknown.

# TOURISM AND RECREATION

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## Description

Tourism is the main commercial use of the Marine Park, each year bringing over 1.6 million visitors to the area. Ensuring that the ecological impacts of tourism and recreation activities are effectively managed is a major concern for the Authority. The importance of addressing issues related to reducing the individual and cumulative impacts of tourism use and minimising displacement effects on other users is reflected in the identification of tourism and recreation as one of the highest priority key issues.

## Strategic Direction

In response to continued expansion of the tourism industry, the Authority has implemented a more strategic management program for tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The program has developed a sound regulatory framework using tools such as zoning plans and plans of management for the Marine Park.

Crucial to the success of the management approach is the strengthening of working relationships with the marine tourism industry. In particular, the Authority is encouraging appropriate self-regulation by the tourism industry through development of cooperative partnerships based on mutually agreed objectives and responsibilities including formal agreements and codes of best practice.

## Performance Analysis

### Management planning

A major outcome for tourism use management in 1997–98 was the gazettal of plans of management for the high-use Cairns and Whitsunday areas. These two statutory management plans were developed in comprehensive consultation with all major stakeholders and will provide the basis for more efficient permitting and effective tourism management in these areas. Development of plans of management for the Capricorn–Bunker group and the Hinchinbrook area has now commenced.

A joint working group has been established with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage to coordinate the implementation of the Cairns and

Whitsundays plans of management and the introduction of standard permits. In support of the management plans, reef protection 'no anchoring' markers have been installed in the Whitsundays.

The management approaches adopted in the plans of management were reviewed by tourism operators in the Cairns and Whitsunday areas. In Cairns, Port Douglas and the Whitsundays, the Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees have assisted in planning, helping to ensure effective dissemination of information and feedback from the local community.

### Permitting

Reef-wide work has continued on improving the effectiveness of the tools employed to manage tourism use in the Marine Park. A draft standard tourism program permits system was developed during 1997–98 to reflect the provisions of the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management. This system is a precursor to a more simplified system of licensing for most tourism operations Reef-wide.

One component of the proposed standard permits system will be a manual of operation. The Reef Operators Manual will provide all permitted Marine Park tourism operators with essential information relevant to the operation of their permits, including requirements for operating within a plan of management area and best environmental practices. It will enable the simplification of the existing permit structure. The Reef Operators Manual concept has been revised to accommodate interim needs associated with the transition to the new permits system.

### Bareboat accreditation and training

A pilot accreditation program for the Whitsunday bareboat industry has been developed in cooperation with industry representatives and relevant Queensland Government departments. The program details clear operating and client-briefing standards and includes an implementation, monitoring and auditing process. It is intended that linkages be developed between accreditation and Marine Park permits.

Work has begun on a modular training package for bareboat industry staff. The training will set baseline communication skills and levels of knowledge of marine safety, emergency procedures, Marine Park management and local area information.

The Authority has assisted Queensland Transport in updating an existing instructional video for bareboat clients. The video incorporates Marine Park and best environmental practice messages. Further development of interpretive materials by the Whitsunday bareboat industry will be supported to promote greater awareness of environmental values and management practices by users in the Whitsundays.

### Industry involvement

Active industry participation supported the new tourism use management strategies. The expertise-based Tourism Advisory Group met once during 1997–98

to discuss implementation of the recommendations of the Review of the Marine Tourism Industry in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, the proposals contained in the plans of management, standard permit system and other issues related to tourism use. In addition, an affiliation has been initiated through the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators to provide a tourism industry perspective on the use, presentation and appreciation of the World Heritage Area.

In response to feedback from the marine tourism industry, the Marine Park Tourism Staff Certificate Course was reviewed. As a result, the training package will be revised to adapt to industry requirements and will include implementation and trainer evaluation components. The training network established along the coast continued to provide an important means to increase tourist appreciation and understanding of the World Heritage Area.

The working partnership with the Reef tourism industry in the Cairns area was strengthened through the tourism industry's Reef Tourism 2005 project. This project, involving tourism operators and Commonwealth and State agencies, provided an effective means to extend existing operator training and education activities. Through involvement in such cooperative partnerships, the Authority can encourage the adoption of self-regulatory mechanisms that complement regulatory management.

## FISHERIES

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### Description

Fishing is an important industry for the Queensland and Australian economies and relies on wise management of both the fish resources and the habitat. The Authority recognises that fishing has significant ecological effects that can impact on World Heritage and nature conservation values. In conjunction with the Queensland Government fisheries management agencies and the fishing industry, the Authority seeks to ensure that all fishing activities in the Marine Park are ecologically sustainable.

## Strategic Direction

Fisheries management in the World Heritage Area should be consistent with World Heritage obligations as well as nature conservation, cultural, heritage and use values. Common to the charter of all resource management agencies involved in Queensland fisheries management are the principles of conservation, ecologically sustainable use, protection of critical areas, equitable resource use, and an integrated management approach involving consultation with the major users and interest groups. Marine Park and fisheries managers need to work closely to integrate ecosystem and fisheries management.

A major specific target was a better understanding of the impacts of fishing on the World Heritage Area. Other targets included better enforcement of fishing controls, and protection of threatened species and their habitat from the effects of fishing.

## Performance Analysis

### Fishing and its ecological effects

A five-year study on the effects of prawn trawling in the Far Northern Section of the Marine Park has been finalised, improving the understanding of the environmental impacts of trawling. Implications for management are being evaluated and progressed to develop both fisheries and Marine Park management strategies to reduce the effects of trawling on the environment and to ensure that trawling is sustainable.

The first year of a study on recovery dynamics of trawled habitats in the Far Northern Section has been completed. This follow-on research will provide a guide to the time necessary for a trawled area to recover to a natural state after prawn trawling has ceased.

The report from the first year of research on the effects of line fishing on the Great Barrier Reef detailed the impact on fish stocks from opening previously closed reefs to fishing. The study will provide Marine Park and fisheries managers with an evaluation of current and potential management strategies to ensure sustainable fishing.

The Bramble Reef replenishment area study has provided a valuable long-term dataset on the status of fish stocks and juvenile fish recruitment on Bramble and surrounding reefs. Implications for management included the need to adopt appropriate strategies for re-opening a replenished reef to fishing.

An extensive review of information pertaining to spawning aggregations of fish on the Great Barrier Reef was completed. This study has provided a valuable source of information for Marine Park managers to develop management strategies to protect breeding fish from human impacts. Such management strategies will be implemented in association with fish spawning seasonal closures proposed by the Queensland Government fisheries management agencies.

Information has been constantly gathered for core databases on the distribution of fishing catch and effort, and reefal and lagoonal community distribution and abundance. Reliable databases of these types of information have provided a better understanding of spatial patterns of fish distribution and fishing effort, and are essential to a more holistic approach to ecosystem management.

### Fisheries management planning

In working towards ecologically sustainable fishing, the Authority has continued to be actively involved in the fisheries management planning process. It was represented on the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority's (QFMA) Trawl, Harvest and Reef Management Advisory Committees and a number of Queensland's Zonal and Regional Advisory Committees. It is contributing to the development of specific fisheries management plans through participation in working groups.

### Dugong and turtle conservation

The introduction of a system of Dugong Protection Areas involved a cooperative management approach between Commonwealth and State governments to decrease the risk to dugong from fishing. Critical areas for dugong breeding and feeding have been identified through research surveys and a risk assessment of certain fishing gear designs on dugong survival was completed. A number of restrictions on mesh netting practices have been implemented in Dugong Protection Areas to minimise risks to dugongs.

In support of turtle conservation, key sites where turtles are at increased risk of capture in trawl nets have been identified and communicated to the Trawl Management Advisory Committee. On present indications, the Trawl Fishery Management Plan appears likely to require the mandatory use of turtle excluder devices in many places of the World Heritage Area including these key sites.

### Compliance

Strategies have been developed to dramatically improve compliance with Marine Park zoning. This includes public information and education programs and the introduction of computer-based and satellite-linked monitoring and communications technology in association with the Vessel Monitoring System developed by Queensland Government fisheries management agencies for scallop and prawn trawlers. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is also ensuring that fishing within Marine Park closed areas is considered a serious fisheries offence under the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority fisheries management plans and that appropriate penalties apply to offenders.

# WATER QUALITY

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## Description

Maintenance of water quality to ensure the preservation of Reef ecosystems and economic activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a high priority issue. Degradation of water quality will lead to ecosystem change and loss. Major sources of water pollution in the Marine Park are the adjacent catchments (sediment, nutrients and pesticides) and shipping in the Great Barrier Reef (oil and ballast water).

## Strategic Direction

The priority water quality issues have been identified as sediment and nutrient run-off from agricultural and urban lands, sewage discharges from towns and resorts near the Reef, loss of coastal freshwater wetlands and riparian vegetation, potential large-scale oil spills, and ballast water discharges leading to introduction of exotic marine species. Lesser priorities include antifouling residues, vessel sewage discharges, pesticide residues from agricultural and urban use, and aquaculture discharges.

A major target was better knowledge of temporal and spatial variability of water quality through long-term monitoring and assessment. Reduction of sediment and nutrient input from the land to the Great Barrier Reef was targeted by active involvement in integrated catchment management and provision of information on sustainable agricultural practices.

## Performance Analysis

### Long-term monitoring

Data collected from the first four years of the long-term water quality monitoring program demonstrated persistent cross-shelf and regional differences in chlorophyll concentrations (an indicator of eutrophication). Chlorophyll concentrations at inshore stations were twice the offshore values and had greater variability.

Chlorophyll concentrations were greatest in the south of the Great Barrier Reef particularly in Keppel Bay and the Capricorn–Bunker group. This result correlates

with the high occurrence of *Trichodesmium* blooms in these areas. Seasonal differences in chlorophyll concentrations were discernible at the offshore stations with generally higher levels in summer than winter. Inshore seasonal variability was obscured by high temporal variability.

Preliminary analysis of the inter-annual patterns indicated a decline in chlorophyll concentrations at offshore stations. This finding correlates well with a persistent drought between 1991 and 1995 and regional river run-off lower than the long-term average. Variability in the inshore regions was related to seasonal run-off.

The increased knowledge on natural variability of water quality provided by the long-term monitoring program has provided a better baseline against which future changes in water quality can be evaluated. Further refinement of the sampling design will permit closer correlation to be drawn between land-use changes and Reef water quality.

The first year of a collaborative project on water quality effects on corals has been completed. Results to date have indicated that elevated nutrient concentrations significantly reduce many aspects of the sexual reproductive process in many reef corals. Major advances have also been made in understanding how high temperatures affect coral zooxanthellae, and how these impacts may be rapidly measured in the field using portable, compact instrumentation.

### Flood plumes

To date, a multi-institutional research program has mapped five cyclones and their associated flood waters between 1994 and 1998. The composition of flood plumes can be quite variable between years and between catchments.

In 1997–98 the flood monitoring program was expanded to quantify effects of terrestrial run-off on inshore coral reefs. Further work will also ascertain the spatial and temporal distribution and composition of terrestrially-derived material contained in the plumes. Such information is especially important considering rivers are the dominant means of input of terrestrial nutrients and sediment to the Reef.

### Pollutant monitoring

Sediment and seagrass samples from 15 intertidal sites have been analysed for the presence of heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, and toxic organic contaminants. The sampling sites are under a range of urban and agricultural influences. They include many of the recently created Dugong Protection Areas and other critical dugong habitat, thus providing important information for the dugong conservation program.

The results indicated that some areas have been subject to water pollution. Low levels of the herbicides atrazine and diuron were detected in some samples. Low concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons appeared to be widespread along the Queensland coast, as did polychlorinated biphenyls and dioxins.

## Dugong carcass sampling

A stranding network has been established to monitor dugong carcass numbers and to collect tissue samples from dead dugongs. Carcass recovery has been carried out in conjunction with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage and James Cook University.

Tissue from three carcasses recovered in late 1996 showed elevated levels of arsenic, chromium, manganese and nickel. Low levels of pesticides were also present. Elevated levels of total dioxin concentrations were found, however the relative toxicity of these levels was similar to those found in other marine mammals. Pollutants are likely to be accumulated as the animals feed on seagrasses.

## Grazing management

A 10-year study has commenced on the effect of different grazing management strategies on soil and nutrient loss in semi-arid savannas of north Queensland. Conducted by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, this project seeks to develop grazing management strategies which will minimise soil and nutrient loss and ensure long-term viability of rangelands.

## Extension

Close links with research and monitoring programs combined with the collation of new and relevant information have expanded the role of extension and education in water quality management. A better understanding of the influence of land-use management on water quality has brought a greater emphasis on involvement of the whole community in water quality management of the World Heritage Area.

The emphasis of the extension program has been the connectivity of ecosystems that drain into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon and the impacts of land run-off on the marine environment. Community groups and educational institutions have been strategically targeted for the extension of the 'ecosystem connectivity' theme. A major extension event was the Sugar Environment Forum, which was successful in raising the profile of the connectivity of ecosystems that drain into the lagoon.

The 1997 Babinda Wetlands Workshop highlighted the importance of the protection of coastal wetlands for Reef water quality management. The workshop proceedings include a summary of the consensus view of participants on wetland conservation strategies. The conference was particularly successful in increasing the marine industry's awareness of the importance of water quality management to their long-term sustainability.

In developing the water quality extension strategy to encompass catchment to reef concepts, the Authority collaborated with State land management agencies to promote rural development protocols that offer better protection for the ecological integrity of the estuarine and marine environment. Strategic assessment of the development of the Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package and involvement in the assessment process associated with the development of major dams within the Fitzroy catchment contributed to better long-term management of water quality.

Support of the new Sugar Industry Environmental Code of Practice and collaboration with the water allocation and management programs in catchments adjacent to the Reef have also been successful in furthering communication networks with stakeholders. More effective networks will improve the process of managing land use to reduce downstream impacts.

A network of environmentally aware, innovative graziers has been established. These graziers have been sponsored to present new concepts in vegetation and pasture management for erosion control to other producers within relevant catchments. Such activities supported the introduction of practices which minimise pollutant input to the World Heritage Area.

## SHIPPING AND MARITIME POLLUTION RESPONSE

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### Description

The potential for adverse environmental impact from shipping is high. The two main risks are from the discharge of pollutants derived from vessel operations and the loss of cargo or fuel as a result of an accident.

### Strategic Direction

The Authority will continue to focus on improving preventative strategies whilst maintaining existing obligations to respond to pollution events. In addition, liaison and coordination between the agencies responsible for shipping management will be fostered to reduce the risk of shipping-related pollution.

Specific targets of the Authority were maintenance of a strong inter-agency approach to the management of shipping and reduction of the risk of pollution from shipping. A coordinated inter-agency and industry response to shipping-related pollution was also targeted.

### Performance Analysis

#### Shipping management

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Queensland Transport recently implemented a Reef Reporting System for mandatory vessel reporting and this has provided the first complete dataset on shipping patterns through the inner route of

the Great Barrier Reef. Approximately 1500 ships (over 50 metres in length) used the inner route and various reef passages during a six-month period. Five per cent of these vessels were oil tankers, a figure which is half of that previously estimated. Better data on vessel movements will facilitate more effective risk management of shipping.

A technical assessment of merchant and cruise shipping activities within the Whitsunday islands area was commissioned by the Authority and conducted by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. The study provided guidance on the assessment of appropriate anchorages for cruise ships and management options for merchant shipping continuing to use the Whitsunday Passage. This assessment was a key resource used in the development of the Whitsundays Plan of Management by the Authority.

### Oil spill response

Development commenced of a comprehensive oil spill contingency plan to effectively deliver the Scientific Support Coordinator role as described in REEFPLAN, the marine pollution contingency plan for the Great Barrier Reef. Produced by the Authority and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, the plan will include targeted training and exercising components which have been lacking in previous years.

Development of a crisis management plan for maritime emergencies such as oil spills also commenced. The crisis management plan is designed to provide a framework for the Authority to meet the various public and political requirements presented by a significant maritime emergency, whilst continuing core business activities. The draft crisis management plan will require significant reworking in the wake of the Authority's organisational restructure.

Training of response personnel at state and national levels continued with Authority officers providing lectures at workshops for Oil Spill Equipment Operators and Advanced On-Scene Coordinators' workshops. The Authority was also involved in the development and conduct of the third in a series of national exercises. The experience gained from participation in Exercise Barossa will be translated into the Authority's own training and exercise program.

The Authority maintained its commitment to national pollution response capabilities through continued involvement in key National Plan committees. The Incident Control System Working Group is currently planning for the Australia-wide implementation of the new response management structure which will provide the basis for future response operations on the Reef. Involvement in the Training Working Group has seen the Authority taking the lead in developing programs for monitoring of oil spill dispersant effectiveness. The Authority was also involved in a review of the National Plan training program which will set training standards for the future.

Research continued (with the Authority acting as Study Manager) on the

management of oil spill impacts on mangroves and saltmarsh communities through the use of bioremediation. The results of the field trials completed during 1997–98 will be applied to reduce the environmental impact of oil spills.

## COASTAL DEVELOPMENT AND PORTS

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### Description

The land uses of coastal areas adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef are an important determinant of the health of the marine area. Residential coastal populations continue to expand and there has been increased pressure for development of additional water resources infrastructure to support expansion of grazing and agricultural industries. There is also a growing community recognition of the value of coastal cultural landscapes. Strategic involvement in coastal land-use planning and management is crucial given the high potential for impacts from coastal development and ports.

### Strategic Direction

Impacts of concern arise from integrated resort developments incorporating marinas and large residential components, clearing of catchments and coastal wetlands, urban development, grazing, crop production involving large nutrient input, and the development and operation of ports and harbours. The scale and location of coastal urban development require assessment in terms of their complementarity with Marine Park planning and management regimes. It is essential that the Authority negotiates and works in partnership with the Queensland Government and local governments to improve processes for managing coastal developments and land use, in order to minimise impacts on the World Heritage Area.

Specific targets included development of effective management strategies to minimise the impacts of coastal development and land use, and joint development with State and local governments of suitable policies which recognise the special status of their adjacent marine environment.

## **Performance Analysis**

### Impacts of coastal development

A project on the potential impacts of coastal urban development on the World Heritage Area was finalised. Undertaken jointly by the Authority and two local government regional associations, it provided detailed information on the attributes associated with World Heritage Area value and will provide a basis for further developing partnerships with local governments adjacent to the World Heritage Area. Extension activities with local government have raised awareness of the impacts of coastal development and land use on Reef water quality and the flow-on effects on the marine environment.

### Impact assessment

The Authority continued to provide input into impact assessment processes for proposed developments in coastal areas adjacent to the World Heritage Area, providing a Marine Park focus. A steady increase in the number of land-based proposals, including some with prior local government approvals dating back to the mid-1970s, justified allocation of additional resources to respond to coastal development concerns. A dedicated two-year project position was funded in 1997–98 and has focused on developing policies and strategies in response to coastal development issues.

New planning legislation was introduced in Queensland in 1998. The *Integrated Planning Act 1997* sets in place a radically different, applicant-driven, planning and development assessment regime, including a new system of impact assessment. Since the introduction of the new legislation, the Authority has been working to maintain its current level of involvement with individual development assessment processes to ensure responsible environmental management of areas that may affect the Marine Park.

### Regional management planning

To better integrate development assessment processes with the Queensland Government and local governments, the Authority has maintained links with existing regional management and planning strategies. The Authority was represented on the Steering Committee and the Working Group for the Wet Tropical Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan being developed by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage for the coast between Mission Beach and Port Douglas.

A regional coastal management plan is also being developed for the Hinchinbrook area. Such cooperative planning activities will help minimise the impacts of coastal development on the World Heritage Area.

While the Cardwell/Hinchinbrook Regional Coastal Management Plan is being developed, a memorandum of understanding between the Commonwealth and State governments allows for interim management arrangements to be implemented to manage activities that may conflict with the outcomes of the regional plan. To date, interim management arrangements have been introduced allowing for the implementation of improved measures to conserve dugongs, placement of conditions on the expansion of new and existing permitted activities in the area, and protection of wetland habitats adjacent to the coast from further developmental impacts.

The Authority maintained its focus on developing partnerships with State agencies and local governments to maximise the complementarity between Marine Park planning and land-use planning. Greater integration of planning processes will help minimise the potential for conflicting management approaches. These programs which better protect the marine environment from land-based activities have continued to contribute to Australia's international coastal and marine environmental obligations.

## WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

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### Description

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is the world's largest World Heritage area. The Authority seeks to ensure the conservation and presentation of the World Heritage values in the Great Barrier Reef primarily through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Some of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area lies outside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Authority been assigned the lead agency role for Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area issues. Decision making and management practices need to ensure the conservation and presentation of World Heritage values.

## Strategic Direction

In recent years, there has been increasing emphasis on managing the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to maintain its ecological integrity and scenic attributes. At the same time, the need for a better understanding and definition of World Heritage attributes has become essential following recognition of the Authority's obligations in connection with the World Heritage Convention and changes to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act.

Specific targets were definition of World Heritage values and development of procedures for their consideration in decision making. An additional target was the maintenance of a strong inter-agency approach to World Heritage Area management.

## Performance Analysis

### World Heritage values

A significant achievement was the publication of a report on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The report provided an expansion and clarification of the basis upon which the area within the Great Barrier Reef Region is justified as a natural heritage property for inscription upon the World Heritage List. The report concluded that the listing was justified due to the scale of the World Heritage Area and the potential for effective management.

The 12 recommendations from the report are currently being reviewed. It was recommended that the legislation underpinning resource use and management be amended to require the consideration of the World Heritage values in planning and decision-making processes. Other recommendations concerned the boundaries of the World Heritage Area in relation to Marine Park boundaries and Coral Sea reefs. The establishment of representative examples of all habitats which should be managed as protected areas was also highlighted, and such a program has already begun as part of the conservation key issue.

The report recognised gaps in scientific knowledge of the region and natural heritage attributes concerned with aesthetics and natural beauty. It recommended more research to document and better understand aesthetic values of the natural heritage attributes of the area so that they can be incorporated into management and planning.

Investigation of the cultural heritage attributes of the World Heritage Area and its possible renomination as a cultural landscape were also recommended by the report.

External comments on the report were basically supportive of the recommendations. It was felt by some respondents that the recommendations were outside the terms of reference of the study, as some recommendations address potential threats to the integrity of World Heritage natural attributes rather than the attributes themselves.

A clearly articulated policy on World Heritage attributes is an important prerequisite to more extensive coordination with Queensland and local governments on the planning and management of coastal development adjacent to the World Heritage Area. The better understanding of World Heritage attributes deriving from the report will support more effective management of coastal development issues. A scoping study investigating the potential impacts on the World Heritage Area from coastal development has been completed.

### State of the Reef

The Authority has nearly completed 'The State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report', with release scheduled for November 1998. For the first time, the report draws together information on the status of and pressures on the major biological resources of the World Heritage Area and details the management responses. Follow-up reports will be produced every five years, and will document any changes in the conservation status of the World Heritage Area.

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RELATIONSHIPS

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### **Description**

There are significant indigenous cultural values in the Great Barrier Reef area, predating non-indigenous involvement. Contemporary indigenous peoples are attempting to retain their cultural association, values and use of the area in the face of increasing pressure from coastal development, commercial fishing, private recreational use and rapidly increasing tourism use.

### **Strategic Direction**

The Authority will explore and seek to implement mechanisms for increasing the involvement of indigenous peoples in the management of the Marine Park. It is important that evolving issues relating to Native Title in the Great Barrier Reef Region are dealt with effectively. In addition, the cultural and traditional values

associated with the World Heritage Area need to be better identified and maintained.

Specific targets for the Authority have included equitable indigenous involvement in planning and management of the Marine Park, and maintenance of traditional subsistence activities within the bounds of ecological sustainability. A further target was greater community recognition of the indigenous values of the World Heritage Area.

## **Performance Analysis**

Continued effort by the Indigenous Cultural Liaison Unit has maintained good working relationships between the Authority and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative groups and communities. The Authority also maintained its strategy of employing indigenous peoples throughout the organisation.

### Involvement in management

Resource use by indigenous peoples is increasingly being taken into account in planning processes. The recently released revised zoning plan for the Far Northern Section specifically addressed the interests of indigenous peoples. In the context of regional planning, there has been growing recognition of the value of cultural landscapes to indigenous communities and the need for their consideration in coastal land-use planning.

The Community Ranger program allows more active indigenous involvement in management and monitoring within traditional areas. Community ranger training programs have been implemented at Port Douglas, Green and Fitzroy islands, and the traineeship programs in Port Douglas and Keppel Bay were maintained. However, the training program in the Whitsundays has not been continued due to funding constraints. A draft Community Ranger Strategy has been prepared for the Far Northern Region (QDEH), and communication training for community rangers has been developed and implemented in that area. Whilst some progress has been made, the long term-future for the Community Ranger program is jeopardised by the nature of short-term funding.

Community-based hunting permit programs continued. This program provides for the management and protection of traditional activities within the bounds of ecological sustainability and helps ensure long-term viability of threatened species.

### Dugong conservation

Extension work has continued to raise awareness by indigenous communities of dugong conservation needs in the southern Great Barrier Reef. Phase one of an education campaign designed to apprise indigenous peoples of the plight of dugongs and measures being taken to protect them was delivered in all communities south of Cooktown.

As part of the dugong conservation program, extensive consultation has been

undertaken with indigenous communities. In particular, cooperative management arrangements and indigenous involvement in dugong management within traditional areas have been further pursued. The Kuku Yalangi people of Mossman Gorge completed and implemented a hunting management strategy in 1997–98.

### Indigenous values

A study on the cultural and heritage values of the Shoalwater Bay area has been initiated. The need to better document cultural heritage attributes of the World Heritage Area is being considered as part of a series of recommendations arising from the report on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

# Corporate Operations

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The following issues are considered fundamental for the Authority, to enable it to effectively meet its responsibilities in management of the Great Barrier Reef.

- Day-to-day management
- Park management tools
- Information for management
- Education and partnerships
- Corporate resources management.

# DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

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## Description

Field management of the Marine Park is achieved through a partnership between the Authority and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage. The Day-to-Day Management Group is a specialist team, consisting of Authority and Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage staff, established to implement management of marine parks and island national parks within the Great Barrier Reef Region. This work is supported by arrangements with other agencies for provision of aerial surveillance, compliance and enforcement services.

## Strategic Direction

Ensuring that there is effective and efficient day-to-day management is a continuing priority for the Authority. Demands on day-to-day management continue to increase in direct proportion to increasing use of the Marine Park. Therefore the focus is largely on finding ways to maintain core programs, such as education and surveillance, while finding resources to implement new priorities. Allocation of resources to establish programs addressing impact assessment and site management, cultural heritage protection and community ranger operations is an ongoing challenge.

The major target was an adequate field and administrative presence to address the key management issues. Tourism, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander involvement in management, and conservation of threatened species were identified as high priority issues for day-to-day management.

More specific tasks were a review with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage of the basis of agreement for day-to-day management and more effective day-to-day management activities through implementation of programs which strengthen links between the Authority and partner agencies. Provision of effective surveillance and enforcement was an ongoing task.

## Performance Analysis

### Coordination

Overall, the day-to-day management staffing level was approximately 110 staff located in 14 centres from Gladstone to Port Douglas.

Day-to-day management programming will be improved through the development of a three-year business strategy. The strategy for the period 1998–99 to 2000–01 reflects a formal risk assessment approach as recommended by the Australian National Audit Office.

A significant milestone in improving the coordination and cost effectiveness of service delivery was the establishment of a new Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit in Townsville. The establishment of the unit followed a review of the existing coordination mechanisms. This review identified that efficiencies could be gained by combining the independent coordination groups that have previously been located in the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage's Brisbane office and the Authority's Townsville office. The new coordination unit will comprise eight staff: four State and four Commonwealth employees.

The establishment of operations bases in key centres is crucial for effective day-to-day management activities. Although essentially a long-term program, very considerable progress was made over the past 12 months with the establishment of the Abel Point and Rosslyn Bay marine operations bases, servicing key areas including the Whitsundays, and the Keppel Islands and Shoalwater Bay.

### Tourism management

Day-to-day management activities have contributed to the management of reef tourism and its impacts. Development of plans of management for high-use areas has involved significant local input from day-to-day management staff. A concerted effort by staff combined with the introduction of the policies developed through the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management has effectively overcome the permits backlogs for those areas.

In support of management planning, reef protection 'no anchoring' markers have been installed in the Whitsundays and at Brook Island, and are also being trialled at Lady Elliot Island. Installation of an additional 46 public moorings has been initiated in the Whitsundays (43) and Brook Islands (3), supported by Commonwealth-funded grants totalling \$250 000 from the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories (Coastcare) and the Department of Industry, Science and Tourism (National Tourism Development Program). Installation of 20 of the new moorings was completed with the remainder expected to be installed by August 1998.

### Indigenous involvement

Day-to-day management programs have contributed to more effective involvement of indigenous peoples in planning, monitoring and management. Staff have

undertaken extensive consultation with communities to discuss cooperative arrangements and indigenous involvement in dugong management within traditional hunting areas.

Community ranger training programs have been implemented at Green and Fitzroy islands, and the traineeship programs in Keppel Bay and Low Isles/Port Douglas were maintained. However, the long-running training program in the Whitsundays has not been continued due to funding constraints. A draft Community Ranger Strategy was prepared for the Far Northern Region, and communication training for community rangers has been developed and implemented in that area.

### Conservation of threatened species

In support of dugong conservation measures in the southern Great Barrier Reef, priority was given to enforcement of Dugong Protection Areas. This enforcement action resulted in confiscation of illegal nets and a number of breaches of netting restrictions under State fisheries legislation are pending prosecution. A detailed program for additional work was prepared by an inter-agency group for consideration by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council.

Extensive consultation was undertaken with indigenous communities and assistance was provided to conservation groups in establishing the Dugong Watch program. Dugong mortalities have been investigated, and autopsies and pathological investigations have been undertaken jointly with the Queensland Departments of Environment and Heritage and Primary Industries to better understand the factors affecting dugong mortality.

Recovery of seabird populations at Michaelmas Cay and oil spill contingency planning were also priority conservation issues. The contingency plan for oil spills was updated. Routine monitoring of significant nesting islands for turtles and seabirds continued.

### Surveillance and enforcement

Dedicated Marine Park vessel patrols and aerial surveillance flights were both down on the previous year, running at approximately 83% of annual targets in both cases. Vessel operations were constrained by the need to reduce overtime payments to keep within budget, some exceptional periods of very rough weather, and unavailability of suitable charter vessels on a number of occasions.

Aerial surveillance undertaken by the Australian Customs Service as part of its Coastwatch operation continued to provide regular coverage of the outer reefs. However, the complementary but more targeted enforcement and monitoring program undertaken by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage was constrained by the increased cost of operations, particularly the extra costs associated with a shift in effort from offshore Cairns to the more remote northern sector.

Three hundred and forty reported Marine Park infringements were investigated during the year, of which 61 were processed through the courts resulting in fines

totalling \$47 000. A similar number of reported infringements remain under investigation.

## PARK MANAGEMENT TOOLS

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### Description

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

### Strategic Direction

As use of the Marine Park continues to increase, it is important that the management tools be improved and developed to better manage use, especially in intensively used areas such as offshore Cairns and the Whitsundays. Upgrading of the permitting system, including the development of a simplified permit system and an improved database system, was identified as an important step in this direction. In addition, increased focus on World Heritage issues and coastal developments has broadened the scope of matters addressed by the Authority.

Specific targets included planning processes that address Reef-wide and site-specific issues, and integrated planning systems with other agencies. Common policies for management of the impacts of similar activities, a better permit system, and a review of the effectiveness of park management tools were also targeted.

### Performance Analysis

#### Planning

A number of statutory planning projects has been undertaken to address both long- and short-term management issues. After extensive consultation, statutory management plans for the intensively used Cairns and Whitsunday areas were released for public comment in August and December 1997 respectively. The final plans were gazetted on 22 June 1998 and will be progressively implemented during 1998–99. The plans have been developed to ensure that existing and future use of the areas is ecologically sustainable and does not have an unacceptable impact on identified natural and cultural values.

A revised zoning plan was prepared for the Far Northern Section as an outcome of the review of management of the Section. The plan was produced in consultation with the Queensland Government and interest groups, and was released for public comment in December 1997. The Section is regarded as the most remote and biologically diverse of all Marine Park Sections. The management intent is primarily the protection of biodiversity, whilst recognising the interests of indigenous peoples, maintaining the remote and undeveloped character of the Section, and providing for ecologically sustainable use.

A new section of the Marine Park, the Gumoo Wojobuddee Section, was declared in December 1997. The first phase of public input into the preparation of a zoning plan was completed and drafting of the plan has begun.

Work continued on the regional management plan for the Hinchinbrook area. This area is renowned for its wilderness qualities and the adjacent Port Hinchinbrook integrated resort proposal. The plan will incorporate a statutory plan of management for the Hinchinbrook area of the Marine Park. Interim management arrangements were set in place in May 1998, and a plain English version of the regional plan is being prepared for public comment. Implementation of the regional plan will minimise the impacts on the World Heritage Area of coastal development in the area.

A plan of management is being developed for the Capricorn\_Bunker group, covering an area of 16 cays, 22 reefs and surrounding waters. The first phase of public input was conducted from August to October 1997. The plan will enhance conservation measures for threatened species such as seabirds and turtles which feed and breed in the area.

### Permitting

Major progress was achieved during the year on the development of a more simplified permitting system. When completed in late 1998, the new system, coupled with the development of comprehensive plans of management for heavily used areas, is expected to contribute significantly to improving the permitting and management process within the Marine Park.

During the year, 794 permits were granted for a range of activities in the Marine Park. This number was approximately a 3% increase on the number of permits granted in the previous year. A total of 352 tourist program permits were granted, an increase of approximately 13% on 1996-97. A further 127 permits were transferred during the year. Officers of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, as delegates for the Authority for collecting, moorings and educational permits, granted a total of 125 permits during the year.

### Impact assessment

The Authority continued its role as lead agency for Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area issues. On behalf of the Commonwealth environment portfolio, it

coordinated and provided responses to Commonwealth, State and Local Government approval processes for major projects in areas within or adjacent to the World Heritage Area.

The Authority has had to invest considerable resources in recovering Freedom of Information documents, undertaking an advocacy role in the review of decisions through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, and addressing legal, ministerial and technical matters relating to the environmental impacts of the Port Hinchinbrook project.

### Policy

Emphasis continued on the development of policies relating to the management and control of impacts upon the Marine Park. Liaison continued with the CRC Reef Research Centre regarding risk assessment and engineering structures on the Reef. Guidelines for pontoons, marinas and mariculture were reviewed.

### Environmental Management Charge

The Commonwealth Government's decision to increase the Environmental Management Charge became effective from 1 April 1998. Aside from the core activities of day-to-day management of EMC collection, the introduction of this increase along with the accompanying exemptions was the primary work focus.

Whilst the EMC administrative system has remained almost the same as it was prior to the increase, some aspects of the charging returns had to be significantly modified. In particular, the operators' logbook has been changed to cope with the new exemptions.

The Authority commenced a review of the EMC returns database with a view to improving its accuracy and usefulness as a tool to monitor reef visitor usage. A project to develop an EMC Compliance Strategy commenced during the year. A survey of EMC record keeping by operators in January–February 1998 suggested that compliance was generally not a major problem. However, if compliance falls as a result of the charge increase, revenue targets will not be met. An approved strategy to measure and deal with non-compliance will be a high priority for 1998–99.

**Table 1.** *Permits granted since 1994–95 for activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*

Permit Type	Number Granted			
	1994–95	1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
Tourist programs	301	343	311	352
Inc. aircraft operations	5	13	14	11
Inc. cruise ship operations	9	4	6	4
Research programs	191	227	160	152
Education programs	45	66	44	46
Moorings	4	4	35	25
Collecting	81	127	60	54
Traditional hunting	32	23	57	52
Farming of marine resources	1	0	2	1
Sea dumping	0	2	0	0
Offshore structures	2	7	17	14
Removal of dangerous animals	2	13	14	12
Waste discharge	2	4	8	6
Tourist facilities	6	5	6	8
Other activities	27	16	40	57
<b>Total permits granted</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>794</b>

## INFORMATION FOR MANAGEMENT

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### Description

Having the best available information for decision making is essential to high quality, scientifically based management of the World Heritage Area.

Research and monitoring programs need to focus on the key issues faced by the Authority.

### Strategic Direction

The Authority will pursue a strategic and coordinated approach to information acquisition, management, analysis, interpretation, dissemination and application.

Such an approach needs to be supported by information technology services which are responsive to changing technologies and corporate priorities.

Specific targets included information systems and services which meet organisational needs, efficiency gains from effective application of information technology, and cooperation with other organisations. Additional targets were research and monitoring activities which increase understanding of Reef ecosystems, and quality scientific information and advice for Marine Park management.

## **Performance Analysis**

### State of the Reef

The first State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report neared completion, with publication scheduled for November 1998. Staff commitments delayed the production of the report until May 1998 when a full-time project officer was appointed. Subsequent reports at five-yearly intervals will provide Marine Park and natural resource managers with information on the conservation status of the World Heritage Area.

Production of a series of updates on key issues has been undertaken as part of the State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Report. Updates on the resource status for fish, mammals, soft bottom benthos, reptiles, mangroves and terrestrial plants were completed by June 1998, with revisions and further new sections scheduled for completion in August 1998.

### Information access

Intranet services have been developed with a focus on client productivity and efficient integrated access to the Authority's data and information resources. Executive Summaries and bibliographic details for all archived research and monitoring reports have been prepared and more than half of this information is now available to staff on the internal web. A new library cataloguing software was installed and all serials and monographs on the shelves have been entered into the system and can be searched for and accessed on the Intranet.

The infrastructure to provide effective information access with the appropriate levels of security has been put in place for day-to-day management partners. When implemented, it will facilitate information sharing and more efficient application to management and policy formation processes.

World Wide Web access has been provided to all major datasets including the Library Cartographic Database, Registry Database, Video Sequences Database, Long-term Temperature Monitoring results, and the Island and Reef Information System. Restricted access is available to the Permits Database, Aerial Surveillance Database, and the EMC Returns Summary Data.

## Information planning

The development of a strategic information plan commenced in 1997–98 but was suspended due to delays in the appointment of key personnel associated with the organisational restructure. Creation and filling of the new positions in a restructured Information Support Group will provide the necessary expertise to develop an effective strategic information plan.

## Information technology

A decentralised information technology program was implemented to ensure that staff are able to continue to work efficiently with their computers in the event of a network failure. In addition, levels of redundancy have been built into the network infrastructure to ensure alternatives are available if there is a delay in obtaining replacement hardware. Pressures on the recurrent budget have caused ageing of some desktop systems, particularly hardware, and have restricted staff opportunities for gaining greater productivity from the latest technology.

Information technology support structures were reviewed and appropriate structures are being implemented. These modifications will ensure cost-effective support for the current technological environment.

Based on information from a staff survey last year, a program was developed to improve the level of information technology literacy in the organisation. Implementation of this program has resulted in increased productivity through the use of information technology. This program aims to continuously improve the level of information technology literacy of staff as new technology becomes available.

Base datasets used for geographical information systems applications have been reviewed and corrected to give an improved level of accuracy. Other datasets previously unavailable for GIS applications have been extended to include appropriate spatial references.

Client surveys have indicated a very high level of user satisfaction with the Authority's information technology services. Assessment of financial and human resource data indicated that service delivery was achieving high levels of efficiency. A Year 2000 program was developed and rigorous assessment undertaken. All programs undertaken have achieved a very high level of compliance and the Authority is in the top decile in comparison with industry data.

## Monitoring and research

In response to a major coral bleaching event in early 1998, the Authority conducted aerial surveys along the Great Barrier Reef to document the extent and severity of the event. It also coordinated and supported a number of other bleaching-related studies conducted by other institutions.

Results from monitoring and research on bleaching will improve the understanding of ecosystem response to a large-scale natural disturbance. Accurate and timely knowledge of the bleaching event allowed Marine Park managers to apply a more

conservative approach to environmental impact and permit assessments during the event to reduce the potential for further coral stress.

Advice on monitoring of dredging at Oyster Point during the creation of the boat channel was provided through a Technical Advisory Committee and Immediate Response Group. The research and monitoring program for the Shoalwater Bay area continued in 1997–98, with a study on the recreational use of the area by cruising yachts now reaching completion. Projects on the distribution of macroalgae, and the cultural and heritage values of the area have been initiated. In support of dugong conservation, a Dugong Research Strategy was developed and an advisory group was established with representatives from several organisations.

A volunteer monitoring program (Eye on the Reef) was trialled and evaluated in the Cairns–Port Douglas area. This program encourages commercial tourism operators to report on conditions prevailing in the vicinity of their operations. Ongoing monitoring will assist both the operators and the Authority in detecting unusual events or major perturbations.

A considerable proportion of the research relevant to Reef management continued to be conducted through the CRC Reef Research Centre. The Authority provided direction and feedback on the Centre's research activities through representation on the CRC Board, as a member of the User Advisory Group, and through the appointment of management associates to most research programs. It participated actively in reviewing the roles of management associates and proposing new research programs. Such input promotes the conduct of research which supports scientifically based management.

## EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

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### Description

A community and Reef user-groups that understand the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area and support the protection of its natural and cultural values are essential to effective management. A strong corporate image and sound partnerships between management agencies and other relevant government bodies, indigenous peoples and community organisations are also important in achieving the Authority's objectives.

As a complement to the Authority's information, education, extension and consultation activities, the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium presents and promotes understanding of the Reef and its management. The External Services Section provides the Authority's expertise nationally and internationally, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Education, Extension and Consultation

### Strategic Direction

Sound partnerships and community support will be of particular importance in working together to achieve the objectives of the 25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Effective working relationships based on strategic and topical information, education and liaison systems are crucial to the success of the new issues-based management framework.

Specific targets included an increased understanding of Marine Park issues by the public and users, further development of partnerships with other government and community organisations, and achievement of more stakeholder input into planning and management.

### Performance Analysis

Activities undertaken during the year have played an integral support role in the development and implementation of Marine Park planning projects and management of the key issues. Major effort concentrated on targeted education programs, tailored extension activities, and facilitation of stakeholder consultation and input.

### Planning

A comprehensive communications strategy was developed in conjunction with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage for the release of the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management and the revised Far Northern Section Zoning Plan. Plain English versions of the three plans were produced for recreational users and the tourism industry. These activities ensured that the Authority had a comprehensive program for receiving feedback from affected stakeholder groups, improving community and industry involvement in planning.

The success of the public participation program for the Far Northern Section zoning

review was demonstrated by the range of interest groups and individuals involved. One hundred and twenty-five written representations were received.

The network of Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees adjacent to the three planning areas was the principal conduit for dissemination of information about the plans and receipt of feedback from local communities. Presentation kits were also produced for meetings with specific sectoral groups, and guidelines produced on how to prepare a submission to a Plan. Following release of the plans, a program of promoting and explaining the implications of the strategies for stakeholder groups has commenced to support more effective implementation.

Community and local interest group participation in the marine planning process for the Hinchinbrook area was facilitated successfully through three Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees. Issues papers and workshops ensured an outcome that reflected the variety of views and the areas of mutual interest.

Ongoing consultation occurred with the fishing industry in all areas affected by the plans of management, except for the Whitsundays where liaison was more restricted as commercial fishing issues were minor. Wharf visits to discuss planning programs provided an effective means for increasing industry knowledge of new management strategies.

### Tourism management

Launched nearly three years ago, the Marine Park Tourism Staff Certificate Course was recently endorsed by the marine tourism industry as being extremely beneficial for staff. In response to industry feedback, the course was reviewed and will be upgraded to further adapt to industry requirements. The revised program will include trainer evaluation and changes to course delivery.

A network of over 20 qualified trainers is now in place from Rockhampton to Port Douglas. Many Queensland secondary schools have adopted the program as part of the marine studies curriculum and 27 high school trainers have now been accredited. Formal teaching of this program in the school system raises the profile of the Marine Park and management issues with young people.

An information manual incorporating essential information relevant to permits for tourism operations has been prepared. A Reef Operator Manual which will help ensure that tourism operators are informed of their obligations whilst operating in the Marine Park will be completed in 1999.

Development of an accreditation and training package for the Whitsunday bareboat industry has commenced. A Curriculum Advisory Committee with representation from the bareboat industry, and with input from three State Government departments has been established to guide development of the package. Industry involvement in the development of the package has raised awareness of management issues and will promote more effective management of a major tourism use of the Marine Park.

## Conservation

A strategy for education of the community about Dugong Protection Areas was implemented. The key interest groups are now aware of the dugong conservation measures and the public is generally aware that the dugong is a conservation issue. Indigenous communities south of Cooktown were targeted with a culturally appropriate education campaign.

An e-mail networking system and phone link-ups have enabled efficient communication with all interested conservation groups. Working groups of conservation groups have been set up to address key conservation issues, particularly fishing and water quality. Information exchange was facilitated between local, state and national conservation groups, and a joint position paper on representative areas will be developed.

## Water quality

Education and extension activities have continued to promote better understanding of the influence of land-use management on Reef water quality. Community groups and educational institutions were strategically targeted with an extension program emphasising the connectivity of ecosystems that drain into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. Collaboration with water allocation and land management programs supported the introduction of practices which minimise pollutant input to the World Heritage Area.

## Fisheries management

Close contact with the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority has been achieved through formal and informal meetings. Specific fisheries management working groups have also met in different locations for a variety of tasks. Relationships with the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority have improved through these processes, but there is a need to formalise communication with the Authority's fisheries group.

## Public Education

To keep the broader community informed of the Authority's programs, a public education strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was completed. It is now assisting the effective and efficient delivery of public education in the regions of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage. Results from a major study into public knowledge and attitudes towards the World Heritage Area have assisted in the targeting of education and extension programs.

## Community consultation

Now in their sixth year, the Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees have continued to provide a forum for community consultation and involvement in Marine Park management. They were reviewed during the year and the recommended changes will consolidate the role of RMRACs as active participants in Reef management.

Members of the ten RMRACs have contributed to management of a number of key issues. Achievements included the implementation of a major dugong educational program, facilitation of the Babinda wetlands conference, and involvement in reviewing local land-based impacts on the Reef. In the north, the issue of acid sulphate soils provided an opportunity for local RMRACs to play an educational role in raising community awareness on the insidious nature of this environmental concern.

## Aquarium

### Strategic Direction

To ensure that the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium remains Australia's premier reef interpretation and education centre, its management will focus on further development of educational displays and programs. Targeted marketing, improvement of the visitor experience, and effective financial management are required to strengthen business performance. The major target was the operation of an effective interpretive facility with high quality presentation of the Great Barrier Reef to communicate the Government's reef education and conservation messages.

### Performance Analysis

The Aquarium won the 1998 Townsville North Queensland Tourism Awards in the categories of Major Attraction and General Tourism Services and was a finalist in the Queensland Tourism Awards. These awards acknowledge business excellence and contribution to the development of the tourism industry. Endorsement from the tourism industry helped promote both the facility and the Reef.

#### Business performance

The Aquarium's immediate trading environment deteriorated significantly during the year. A further reduction in the commercial tenancies in the adjoining Wonderland complex and withdrawal of the ferry service from the site resulted in a significant reduction in valuable exposure and passing trade.

Despite extremely adverse trading conditions, the Aquarium achieved a cost recovery (before unfunded charges) from self-generated revenue of 80% and a modest budget surplus for the third consecutive year. This operating result further strengthened the already sound overall cash position. The staffing level remained static and was equivalent to 30 full-time staff.

Ticketed visitation fell by 9.6% compared to the previous year while the total number of visitors was 124 168 for 97-98. The termination of ferry operations to Magnetic Island from the complex in November and the January floods resulted in a significant drop in visitor numbers in the second half of 1997-98. The average ticket price improved through better management of discounts and agent commissions.

revenue (excluding appropriation) for the year increased significantly compared to the previous year. Revenue from venue hire operations exceeded budget projections and was 55% higher than the previous year. Sponsorship by cash and in kind was equivalent to \$40 000, including a collecting boat, dive equipment and studio production time.

Considerable effort during 1997–98 was concentrated on improving business performance, in particular non-admissions revenue generating programs. The enlargement of the Aquarium Shop and the inclusion of additional stock lines permitted the Shop to overcome adverse trading conditions and exceed budget revenue projections, the highest annual retail revenue to date.

### Education

The Aquarium's education program played a major role in raising awareness and knowledge of the Reef within the formal education sector. The successful day program was maintained together with continued development of the sleepover program. Compared to last year, the day program increased in volume of students by 7.5% and the sleepover program showed a 15% increase.

A new initiative, the Coral Cart, was introduced to target a segment of the education market which typically does not travel to attractions. The Coral Cart travelled to daycare centres, kindergartens and pre-schools, reaching a further 1300 students in the first six months of operation.

### Exhibits

Two new exhibits opened during the year, further enhancing the Aquarium experience. The 'O' Files focused on the International Year of the Ocean. The S.S. *Yongala* Sunken Haven made a major improvement to the Predator Exhibit with the sinking of a replica of the bow of the locally famous S.S. *Yongala* wreck. This exhibit demonstrated the high level of skill which Aquarium staff have developed in meeting the needs of visitor interest, local historical links, use of space and managing resources.

### Marketing and promotions

Promotional activities continued to be refined to identified market segments with growth potential such as regional Queensland, independent travellers, seniors and tour group companies. An upgraded visitor evaluation program produced more reliable and current market data. The Aquarium made a significant contribution to re-branding the region and promoting Townsville through cooperative campaigns and representations at trade shows, as well as regular sales calls to retail travel agents.

The Aquarium attracted a large number of media and travel trade familiarisations. Publicity from news media exposure was valued at \$160 000, while a survey of the travel trade confirmed a high awareness level of the Aquarium but a weakness in perception of product differentiation. This finding has set the direction for future product development and promotional focus.

Public program initiatives included the Lucky the Turtle puppet show for children, the Great Ocean Science Show during Science Week and an underwater dive show in the Predator Exhibit. The Lucky the Turtle concept was developed to include a larger-than-life mascot. The mascot has become one of the highlights of the entertainment for the North Queensland Cowboys' football games. It also attended a number of community events, raising the Aquarium's profile in new markets.

### Community support

Targeting the local population through the membership program has proved successful with a 25% increase in members compared to the previous year. Cross promotional campaigns and delivery of a consistently high quality product have contributed to this achievement. Five per cent of Townsville's population are Aquarium members (7500), the largest on a per capita basis for any federally funded museum in Australia. The membership renewal rate for 1997–98 was maintained at 40%.

Volunteers continued to play a crucial role in Aquarium operations, providing 25 500 annual service hours (15 person years of service – also a notional benchmark). The role of the Aquarium Volunteer Association was expanded with the streaming of volunteers into six different support groups. Administrative changes introduced by the Volunteer Association have ensured continuity of volunteer management, providing greater surety for the five-year planning horizon of the Aquarium.

### Research

The Aquarium's research and conservation programs, directed at improving exhibits and education activities, were again recognised internationally. The Aquarium's five-year involvement with the Earthwatch Institute culminated in a presentation at the Earthwatch Annual Dinner Oration. Breeding programs for coral reef organisms are a key feature of the Aquarium's commitment to conservation and sustainable use. Aquarium staff currently culture corals and several species of fish including sea horses (which have been bred to second generation). The results from the past five years of research in the coral propagation program were presented to the 1998 Western Marine Conference in Seattle, USA.

The Aquarium intern program was developed for tertiary graduates to assist the Aquarium. It provides opportunities for recent graduates to participate in science, education and business development projects, to mutual benefit. We attracted two participants from Japan, one from Holland, one from USA and one from Australia for Intern Programs in 1997–98.

## External Services

### Strategic Direction

The transfer of the Authority's skills and knowledge to assist in management of

other marine areas is an important contribution to Australia's international conservation obligations. As the range of national and global marine environmental initiatives develops, the demand for consulting services will also increase. The major target was provision of training and advisory services on coastal and marine ecosystem management.

## **Performance Analysis**

The large number of national and international consultancies completed or under way during 1997–98 demonstrated a high level of success in making available the Authority's expertise in coastal and marine environmental management. The 1997 International Year of the Reef, the International Coral Reef Initiative, and the environment portfolio's Clean Seas Initiative were activities that generated demands for the Authority's expertise, providing significant consulting opportunities.

### Consultancies

Consultancy services in 1997–98 continued to focus on training and mentoring. They included completion of the final of three 3-month training courses for Indonesian coastal and marine managers. External Services also delivered Masters level university courses in integrated coastal zone management and marine park management. Training materials and courses were adapted to meet client needs.

Technical assistance was provided to the Coastal Zone and Environmental Resource Management project in Asia and to aid in the protection of marine ecosystems in the Red Sea. Technical expertise and awareness training were provided to strengthen institutional capacity of the Tongan Government to carry out its environmental mandate. Through these overseas projects, the Authority has promoted contemporary concepts and approaches to marine environmental management.

Establishment of marine protected area systems was supported through a number of consultancies. Proposals were being developed for three marine protected pilot sites in Samoa, Tanzania and Vietnam as part of the IUCN Global System of Marine Protected Areas project. Technical assistance and project management continued for the Ocean Rescue 2000 National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas program. A short training workshop on marine protected area management was conducted in Vietnam.

Consultancies undertaken to date have enhanced the reputation of the Authority and those organisations involved, including AMSAT, INTROMARC, the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. At the same time, participation in technical assistance and training projects provided opportunities for staff development.

The continued provision of secretariat services to the International Coral Reef Initiative has supported further development of global coral reef conservation

measures. The inaugural International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium is being organised in Townsville for November 1998.

All projects undertaken by External Services are subject to Ministerial approval under section 7A of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act. During the year, the Act was amended to allow the powers conferred on the Minister by section 7A to be delegated to the Chairperson of the Authority.

### Future directions

The 1997 Brown Review recommendation that the External Services Section establish a joint consulting company with the Australian Institute of Marine Science was investigated. It was decided that it was not a viable option at this stage. Further consideration will be given to this issue in 1998–99 through possible commercialisation of the joint venture INTROMARC.

## CORPORATE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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### **Description**

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

### **Strategic Direction**

Emphasis is placed on the provision of a flexible corporate structure that facilitates the achievement of corporate strategies, and the development and maintenance of a resource management framework which adds value to corporate decision making. Also important is a commitment to the principles and practices which facilitate equity, workforce empowerment and continuous improvement and which provide a safe and healthy work environment. There is a need to review the Authority's sources of funding and pursue alternatives.

based on equity, empowerment and continuous improvement, and a safe work environment. An additional target was a resource management framework which incorporates contemporary developments and requirements, adds value and enhances accountability.

## **Performance Analysis**

### Organisational restructure

Arising from recommendations of the 1997 Brown Review on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Authority, a restructure of the Executive was undertaken and two positions of Executive Director were filled. Subsequently, reporting structures were reconsidered and reforms to the administration of the Authority were implemented, taking effect from 1 July 1998. The new administrative structure will result in a more efficient and effective organisation based upon four critical issues groups, each reflecting a key challenge in protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef. The reorganisation was undertaken in consultation with staff.

### Funding

As a result of Commonwealth Government decisions relating to increasing the Environmental Management Charge, the Authority is moving to a position of increasing funding dependence on tourism activity in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Table 3 at page 64 depicts this changing relationship. To ensure effective administration of increased user charges, further development and implementation of recovery and compliance systems are under way.

### Resource management

Resource management frameworks were reviewed following the upgrade of the financial management information system. Considerable progress was made in aligning the budgeting, resource allocation and accounting processes with the corporate plan and organisational structure. Procedures for projecting staff costs were further reviewed. These reforms are part of the Authority's preparation for the introduction of accrual budgeting into the Commonwealth Public Sector.

Implementation of changes relating to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* will improve corporate governance through reporting and accountability mechanisms.

Due to resource constraints, the introduction of a computerised human resource management system was again deferred to the following year. This system will be interfaced with the financial management information system to further facilitate accrual budgeting and accounting.

Staff skills and competencies were improved through commitment of significant funds to training and staff development opportunities. These activities met individual development needs which were identified as part of performance and development planning and appraisal processes.

The Authority maintained its commitment to a participative work environment by involving staff and unions in structural reviews, performance improvement initiatives and Agency Agreement development. To improve the current consultative and communication mechanisms, Joint Consultative Committee meetings were held quarterly. Regular staff meetings provided information in relation to the progress and outcome of major issues.

In line with the changing industrial relations framework the Authority will complete negotiations on a Certified Workplace Agreement in 1998–99. Further industrial democracy reporting information is at appendix G.

Focus was maintained on major Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) initiatives and outcomes through continued implementation of the Authority's EEO Plan. Further EEO reporting information is at appendix G.

The Occupational Health and Safety Committee (OH&S) continued to function well during the year, contributing significantly to achievement of workplace safety objectives. There were two workers' compensation claims submitted during 1997–98. Further OH&S reporting information is at appendix G.

Negotiations on the provision of long-term office accommodation for the Authority in Townsville are continuing in consultation with Queensland Property Management. Ministerial and departmental liaison staff based in Canberra moved office to be co-located with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories.

## **Access and Equity**

In March 1998 the Minister for the Environment announced reforms to the administration of the Authority which will result in a more efficient and effective organisation. The new administrative structure is based upon the four critical issues groups: fisheries; tourism and recreation; conservation, biodiversity and world heritage; water quality and coastal development. These issues reflect the key challenges in protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef. Three additional groups provide support to the critical issues groups: Program Delivery, Information Support, and Corporate Services.

The Authority will also rationalise its consultative processes so that it is more responsive to the needs of the community and key stakeholders including tourist operators, the fishing industry, and indigenous groups.

The Authority is in the process of developing a Service Charter that will specify that, in carrying out its management responsibilities, the Authority will provide a high quality customer service based on the following principles:

- Provide customers with professional services in a friendly, responsive environment.
- Provide access to information: Work towards ensuring that our customers are able to obtain the kinds of information they need.

- Encourage public participation: Involve affected user groups in the Authority's policy and decision-making processes concerning use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and take into account information gathered from public participatory processes.
- Respond to our customers' needs: Customer feedback is valued as an essential part of the process of improving customer service.

There is a significant indigenous cultural relationship with the Marine Park which predates non-indigenous involvement in the area. In particular, indigenous peoples make up the largest resident population of Cape York Peninsula, adjacent to the Far Northern Section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. All major planning exercises for the Marine Park include processes for consultation with indigenous communities. During 1997–98 this included involvement in the Far Northern Section Zoning review and in the development of a zoning plan for Gumoo Woojabuddee Section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

## Internal and External Scrutiny

Townsville based accountancy firm, C E Smith & Co were internal auditors to the Authority for 1997–98. Pacific Bridge & Co were also engaged for specific internal audit work. The tactical audit plan was reviewed on a risk assessment basis. All areas of the Authority are to be regularly evaluated for compliance and operational efficiency.

In 1997–98, internal audit conducted the usual general financial review as well as reviewing consultancy contracts and other purchasing procedures.

The external audit of the Authority's 1997–98 Financial Statements was undertaken by Arthur Anderson, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office.

### Reports concerning the Authority tabled by Parliamentary Committees and the Auditor General during 1997–98

1. The Auditor General Audit Report No. 22, 1997–98 Audits of the Financial Statements of Commonwealth Entities for 1996–97
2. The Auditor General Audit Report No. 33, 1997–98 Commonwealth Management of the Great Barrier Reef Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Audit Report No. 33, 1997–98, which was tabled in the Senate on 23 February 1998, included seven recommendations framed to assist the Authority in enhancing the effectiveness of its governance including in particular the efficient and effective achievement of its stated objectives. The Authority agreed with six of the recommendations and agreed in broad principle with the other. The Authority has initiated a program to implement its responses to the recommendations.

Noting the requirement for the Authority to partially fund the Environmental Management Charge shortfall (approximately \$1.2 million per annum) the

Department of Finance and Administration conducted a review of the Authority's funding to advise on how existing funding levels can best be directed to Authority programs consistent with achieving the Government's environmental objectives.

The Review of Tourism on the Great Barrier Reef was completed and reported to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council.

There were no decisions by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal or comments by the Ombudsman relating to any decisions of the Authority in 1997-98. Three permit decisions of the Authority were appealed to the Tribunal. Of these one was withdrawn and the remaining two are yet to be dealt with by the Tribunal.

**Table 2.** *Financial and staffing resources summary*

	1996-97 \$('000)	Actual	1997-98 \$('000)	Actual
<b>BUDGETARY (CASH) BASIS</b>				
<b>Operational &amp; Program Expenditure</b>				
Authority Operations	14 384		14 540	
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium		2 344		2 446
Day-to-day Management	7 873		8 005	
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>	24 601		24 991	
less Revenue	8 226		7 641	
variation in cash on hand	2 210		846	
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	18 585		18 196	
less adjustments		1 985		3 065
Total Outlays	16 600		15 131	
<b>ACCRUAL BASIS</b>				
Net Cost of Service Delivery	17 255			
Revenues from Commonwealth Government		18 716		
Surplus/(Deficit) of net cost of services over revenues from Government		1 461		
Total Assets	5 982			
Total Liabilities	4 604			
Total Equity	11 378			
<b>Average Staffing Level at 30 June</b>				
Staff FTE (including Aquarium)	140.5		144.0	

Notes to table 2

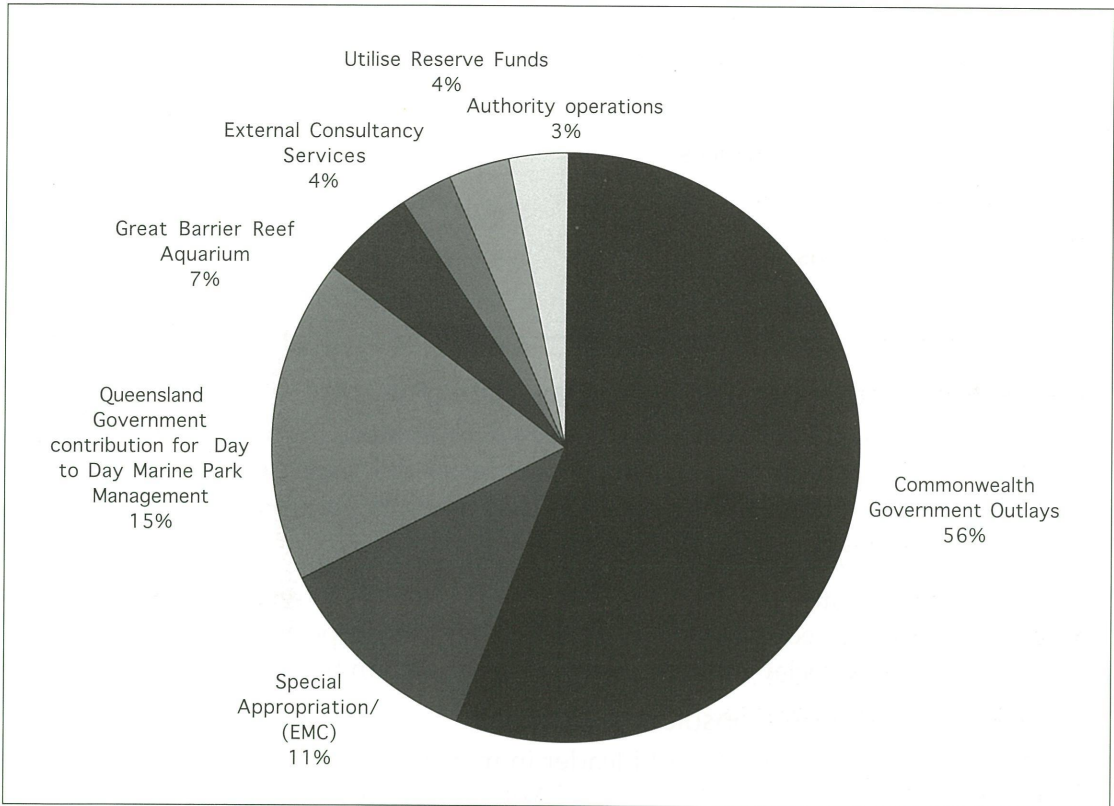
The Authority's Financial Statements, included at appendix L, are prepared on an accrual accounting basis. Payments to the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund of receipts collected from the environmental management charge have been excluded from the cash based figures. The Special Appropriation is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

# Financial Report Summary

An overview of the Authority's financial operations during 1997-98 follows. However, as the format used is cash based the figures do not reconcile with the Financial Statements at appendix L which are presented in accrual formats.

## Source of Funds

Figure 4. Source of funds



### Commonwealth Government Outlays

These outlays comprise:

From Appropriation Acts Nos 1 and 3, \$11 207 000 for the general operation of the Authority.

From Appropriation Acts Nos 2 and 4, \$3 924 000 for day-to-day management of the Marine Park and World Heritage Area. These funds were combined with the Queensland Government contribution.

### Special Appropriation – Environmental Management Charge

This is Special Appropriation of \$3 065 000. The enabling legalisation for the Environmental Management Charge on tourist operations requires that the money collected by the Authority be paid into the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund. It is then returned to the Authority via the Special Appropriation and was

used to fund the Authority's primary contribution of \$945,000 to the Cooperative Research Centre for Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef and tourism-related research and extension activities.

**Table 3.** *Source of funds*

SOURCE OF FUNDS	\$( '000)
Commonwealth Government Outlays	15 131
Special Appropriation/(EMC)	3 065
Queensland Government contribution for Day-to-Day Marine Park Management	3 933
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	1 903
External Consultancy Services	1 043
Reserve Funds	1 091
Authority operations	762
	26 928

### Queensland Contribution to Day-to-Day Management

These funds totalling \$3 933 000 were 'matched' with those from Appropriation Act No. 2 and allocated to the Queensland Department of Environment for the implementation of an agreed Marine Parks management program.

### Great Barrier Reef Aquarium

The Aquarium operates as a Trading Activity. The \$1 903 000 revenue comprises entrance fees, fees for educational activities, income from special fundraising activities, and commercial ventures such as the Aquarium Shop and venue hiring.

### Revenue from External Consultancy Services

The Authority is a recognised world leader in marine park and coral reef management. The professional services of Authority staff are contracted out nationally and internationally on a cost recovery basis, generating an income of \$1 043 000.

### Revenue from Operations

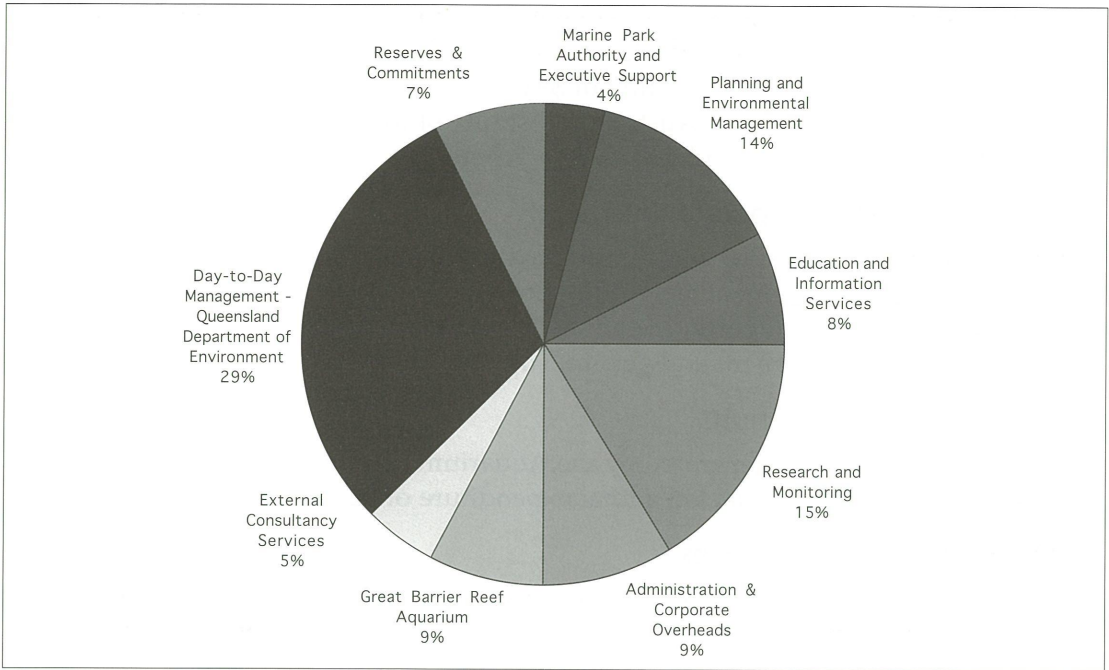
Projects funded by other organisations, grants, Permit Assessment Fees, sale of publications and other income total \$762 000.

## Application of Funds

### Marine Park Authority and Executive Support

This expenditure of \$1 115 000 relates to formal Authority meetings, activities of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee, the Authority Executive Directors, and the supporting Secretariat.

**Figure 5.** *Application of funds*



**Table 4.** *Application of funds*

APPLICATION OF FUNDS	\$(’000)
Marine Park Authority and Executive Support	1 115
Planning and Environmental Management	3 666
Education and Information Services	2 093
Research and Monitoring	3 956
Administration and Corporate Overheads	2 486
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	2 446
External Consultancy Services	1 223
Day-to-Day Management – Queensland Department of Environment	8 005
Reserves and Commitments	1 937
	<b>26 928</b>

### Planning and Environmental Management

The \$3 666 000 expenditure related to Planning and Park Policy, Day-to-Day Management Liaison and Indigenous Cultural Liaison, Impact Assessment and Marine Use Management, Information Technology and Legal Services.

### Education and Information

Expenditure of \$2 093 000 related to Extension, Library, Production, and Public Affairs and Information Support services.

## Research and Monitoring

This core activity of the Authority cost \$3 956 000. In its role as a research broker the Authority contracts out research projects costing \$665 000 to the Cooperative Research Centre in addition to funding of \$945 000 from the Special Appropriation. The Authority also engages the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the James Cook University, CSIRO and individual researchers.

## Administration and Corporate Overheads

The expenditure of \$2 486 000 was for services relating to Finance and Accounting, Human Resource Management, and Office Services and aggregated major expenditure relating to property operations, communications, plant and equipment, insurance, OH&S, recruitment and general support.

## Great Barrier Reef Aquarium

In addition to the income generated by the Aquarium an annual government appropriation of \$576 000 enabled a total expenditure of \$2 446 000.

## External Consultancy Services

The External Services Section operates as a Trading Activity and the \$1 223 000 expenditure represents the cost of its operation. The Authority is reimbursed when other Authority staff are assigned to projects.

## Day-to-Day Management

The \$8 005 000 is funded from the contributions of the Commonwealth and Queensland governments. Variations relating to cash flow and project timing will be reconciled and adjusting payments made early next financial year.

## Reserves and Commitments

These are cash holdings set aside for unexpended grants and project funds, commitments and allocation of funds to the Department of Finance and Administration Salary Trust Fund Account.

# Appendix A

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## Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee

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

The Consultative Committee represents a wide cross-section of interests in the Great Barrier Reef (from both the public and private sectors) including tourism, fishing, science, conservation, local government and Aboriginal communities. It consists of members appointed by the Minister for a three-year term and a member of the Authority appointed by the Authority for an indefinite term.

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

### Membership as at 30 June 1998

Mr H R (Harry) Bonanno	Queensland Canegrowers Council
Cr G J (Greg) Breckell	Local Government Association of Queensland Inc
Mrs I F (Irene) Butterworth	Girudala Council of Elders (Whitsundays)
Mr R (Robert) Crick	Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Tourism
Mr C A (Colin) Earle	Queensland Game Fishing Association Inc.
Ms P J (Penny) Figgis	Australian Conservation Foundation
Mr A W (Tony) Fontes	Whitsunday Coastal Advisory Committee
Mr E J (Eddie) Hegerl	Australian Marine Conservation Society Inc.
Mrs B L (Bernice) Kelly	Direct Employment Service Inc.
Mr T (Ted) Loveday	Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation
Dr I R (Ian) McPhail	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Prof H D (Helene) Marsh	James Cook University
Mr J (John) Millward	Cairns Marine Tourism Operators Association
Mr P (Peter) Neville	Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry
Ms S A (Suzette) Pelt	Whitsundays Bareboat Charter Operators Association

Mr D L (David) Perkins	Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage
Dr R E (Russell) Reichelt	Australian Institute of Marine Science
Sir Sydney Schubert	Association of Marine Parks Tourism Operators
Mr A J (Alan) Turnbull	Queensland Sport and Recreational Fishing Council (Sunfish)

Professor Marsh is Chairperson of the Committee.

## Business Activities

Administrative assistance for the Committee is coordinated by staff of the Authority's secretariat in Townsville. During 1997–98, the Consultative Committee met once, on 8 April 1998, in Townsville. For this meeting, no persons other than members of the Committee and staff of the Authority attended.

The meeting in 1997–98 provided the many new members of the Committee with the opportunity to become informed of the many Marine Park developments that had occurred since the Committee was last in place and to prepare for consideration of certain matters of strategic significance including:

- the Authority's proposed consultative arrangements, which would involve reef advisory committees and the regional marine resources advisory committees, and the relationships between these committees and the Consultative Committee,
- implementation and review of the 25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area,
- the recommendations of the report 'The Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area',
- consequential amendments to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act that would arise from the generic revisions to the Commonwealth's environmental legislation,
- planning, and in particular management planning, for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and
- coordination between the agencies that carry out day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

There was no advice arising from that meeting. However, the Committee is in the process of developing a work plan for the next three years and of clarifying its role in the context of the changes to the Authority's overall advisory structures.

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

# Appendix B

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## Authority Senior Management

### Townsville Office

Dr Ian McPhail	Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer
Mr John Tanzer	Executive Director
Mr Ian Burston	Director, Education/Information
Mr Martin Jones	Director, Aquarium
Mr Peter McGinnity	Director, Planning
Dr Zena Dinesen	Director, Park Management Policy
Mr Jon Brodie	Director, Research and Monitoring
Mr Simon Woodley	Director, External Services
Mr Norman Austin	Director, Administration

### Canberra Office

Mr Richard Kenchington	Executive Director
Mr Colin Trinder	Director, Canberra Office

# Appendix C

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## Publications

An entire publication list is available from the Authority. The list here contains those publications produced during 1997–98 as well as current management publications.

### Workshop Series (ISSN 0156-5842)

24. *Protection of wetlands adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef : Proceedings of a workshop held in Babinda, Queensland, Australia, 25–26 September 1997*, 1998, eds D. Haynes, D. Kellaway and K. Davis, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23055 2

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

43. *Development of trap and drop-line sampling techniques for reef fishes*, 1997, D. McB. Williams, A. J. Fowler and S. J. Newman, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23034 X

44. *Seagrass communities in the Shoalwater Bay region, Queensland : Spring (September) 1995 and Autumn (April) 1996*, 1997, W. J. Lee Long, L. J. McKenzie and R. G. Coles, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23035 8

46. *Norman Reef Great Adventures Pontoon : 1997 biological survey and summary of damage from cyclone Justin*, 1998, A. M. Ayling and A. L. Ayling, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23038 2

47. *An investigation of optimum methods and unit sizes for the visual estimation of abundances of some coral reef organisms*, 1998, B. D. Mapstone and A. M. Ayling, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23043 9

48. *Habitat, cross shelf and regional patterns in the distributions and abundances of some coral reef organisms on the northern Great Barrier Reef with comment on the implications for future monitoring*, 1998, B. D. Mapstone, A. M. Ayling and J. H. Choat, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23044 7

49. *Scales and magnitudes of variation in population densities of some coral reef organisms : implications for the design of sampling and monitoring procedures*, 1998, B. D. Mapstone, A. M. Ayling and J. H. Choat, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23045 5

50. *Recreational usage patterns of Shoalwater Bay and adjacent waters*, 1998, G. Jennings, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23046 3

51. *Baseline survey of Hinchinbrook region seagrasses : October (spring) 1996*, 1998, W. J. Lee Long et al., GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23047 1

52. *Preliminary evaluation of an acoustic technique for mapping tropical seagrass habitats*, 1998, W. J. Lee Long et al., GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23048 X

53. *The effect of the Daintree River flood plume on Snapper Island coral reefs*, 1998, A. M. Ayling and A. L. Ayling, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23049 8

54. *Shoalwater Bay fringing reef resource assessment*, 1998, A. M. Ayling, A. L. Ayling and R. Berkelmans, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23050 1

## Miscellaneous Publications

*Preliminary study of potential impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area from coastal urban development : a scoping study to identify projects suitable for future funding proposals*, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville. 0 642 23052 8

*Dugong Information Kit : Fragile – Handle with care*, 2nd edn, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville.

*Dugong Information Kit (Plain English)*, 2nd edn, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville.

Aquarium Publications

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

Brochures

*Best Environmental Practices*, [1997], GBRMPA, [Townsville].

Coral bleaching form

Dugong Sanctuary brochures, 1998, GBRMPA, [Townsville]:

*Hinchinbrook and Taylors Beach Dugong Sanctuaries*

*Cleveland Bay and Bowling Green Bay Dugong Sanctuaries*

*Upstart Bay Dugong Sanctuary*

*Edgumbe Bay Dugong Sanctuary*

*Repulse Bay, Newry Region and Sand Bay Dugong Sanctuaries*

*Llewellyn Bay, Ince Bay and Clairview Region Dugong Sanctuaries*

*Shoalwater Bay and Port Clinton Dugong Sanctuaries*

*Rodds Bay Dugong Sanctuary*

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Cairns Area Plan of Management*, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville.

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Whitsundays Plan of Management*, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville.

*The Capricorn and Bunker groups : help plan the management of the Capricorn and Bunker groups*, 1997, Department of Environment, Queensland.

*Help us plan a marine park for Port Clinton, Freshwater Bay and the Byfield coast : Gumoo Woorabuddee Section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*, 1998, GBRMPA, Townsville.

*Gumoo Woorabuddee Section fact sheets*

## Serial Publications

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

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

*Calendar* 1998

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

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

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

*Shorelines* (ISSN 1327-6697), 1996 –

*Water Quality*, no. 6, ISBN 0 642 23018 8

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

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

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

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

*Sea Country*, no. 1 –, 1995 –

## Management Information

*Cairns Area Plan of Management*, 1997, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23031 5

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

*Cairns Area Plan of Management : Information Summary*, 1997, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23032 3

*Cairns Area Plan of Management : Tourism Industry Information*, 1997, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23033 1

*Whitsundays Plan of Management for Public Review*, 1997, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23042 0

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

*Whitsundays Plan of Management : Information Summary*, 1997, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23039 0

*Whitsundays Plan of Management : Tourism Industry Information*, 1997, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23040 4

## Far Northern Section

*Draft plan for the Marine Parks of Cape York : Have your say*, [1997], GBRMPA, [Townsville].

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

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

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

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

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

## Far Northern Section

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : Far Northern Section Zoning Plan*, 1985, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 52433 5

## Cairns Section

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

## Central Section

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

## Mackay/Capricorn Section

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

## Freedom of Information

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

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

*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 and Regulations*

Companion Map to Great Barrier Reef

Maps of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Research reports and workshop proceedings

Various information brochures, books, posters and audiovisual productions

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

Annual Report

Corporate Plan

Strategic Plan

Environmental Management Charge information booklets

Zoning Plans and Zoning Plan Introductory Guides

Selected maps of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Media releases and communiques

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

Information brochures, bulletins and leaflets

## Facilities for Access

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

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

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

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

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

### FOI procedures and initial contact points

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

#### Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

2–68 Flinders Street	PO Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810	TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
Telephone (07) 4750 0700	Facsimile (07) 4772 6093

or

#### Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

1st Floor Matrix House	
25 Moore Street	GPO Box 791
TURNER ACT 2612	CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone (02) 6247 0211	Facsimile (02) 6247 5761

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

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

The authorised decision maker under the Act for the Authority and the Consultative Committee, with official address for the lodging of requests, is:

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

# Appendix D

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## Staff Papers Presented or Published in 1997–98

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

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## Advisory Committees

The following committees were in existence, and many were active, during 1997–98. They comprised experts and representatives of relevant agencies and user groups as agreed to by the organisations and/or the Authority. Information concerning these committees is available from the Authority.

Dugong Protection Areas Advisory Group

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Management Coordinating Committee

Interim Ethics Committee

Tourism Advisory Group

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

The reorganisation under way within the Authority and the proposed establishment of reef advisory committees is expected to supersede a number of the committees above.

The Authority has encouraged the establishment of, and has provided limited resource support to, a series of regional marine resources advisory committees from within local coastal communities. These committees interact with, and provide advice to, the Authority and other coastal management agencies from a regional perspective. The following committees were in existence during 1997–98.

Cooktown Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Douglas Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Cairns Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Mission Beach Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Hinchinbrook Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Townsville Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Whitsunday Coastal Advisory Committee

Mackay Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Capricornia Fisheries Advisory Committee

Gladstone Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee

# Appendix F

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## Representation on External Committees

- Australian Committee for IUCN (The World Conservation Union)* – Ian McPhail, Richard Kenchington
- Australian Customs Service Coastwatch Operations and Program Advisory Committee* – Colin Trinder, Carol Honchin
- Central Queensland Fisheries Zonal Advisory Committee* – Tony Stokes, Nicole Walsh
- Dry Tropics Aquaculture Advisory Group* – Jan Forbes
- East Coast Tuna Management Advisory Committee* – Brett Shorthouse
- Environment Executive, Environment Australia* – Ian McPhail
- Environment Protection Council of Queensland* – John Tanzer
- Fishing Industry Development Council* – John Tanzer
- Inter-agency Seabird Working Group* – Tony Stokes
- JCU/AIMS/GBRMPA Liaison Committee* – Ian McPhail
- Marine Species Protection Program Advisory Committee* – Tony Stokes
- Marine Study for Torres Strait Environment and Resource Strategy (MaSTERS)* – Jim Muldoon
- National Taskforce on Marine Protected Areas* – Jim Muldoon
- National Marine Turtle Recovery Team* – Sylvia Spring, Barry Hunter, Janet Slater
- National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas Technical Advisory Committee* – Jim Muldoon
- North Queensland Economic Development Board Management Committee* – John Tanzer
- Oceans Policy Inter-departmental Committee* – Ian McPhail
- Queensland Aquaculture Development Advisory Committee* – Jan Forbes
- Queensland Fisheries Policy Council* – Ian McPhail
- Queensland Harvest Fishery Management Advisory Committee (HARVESTMAC)* – Jan Forbes
- Queensland Fisheries Management Authority Board* – John Tanzer
- Queensland National Plan Oil Pollution Committee* – John Tanzer, Jamie Storrie  
Jamie Storrie is also on other *National Plan* committees
- Recreational Fishing Information Systems Committee (RFISH)* – Mark Simmons
- Reef Tourism 2005 Steering Committee* – Prue Keen, Ian McPhail
- Tourism Review Steering Committee* – Ian McPhail
- Townsville Enterprise Tourism Advisory Committee* – Loretta Saunders
- UNESCO World Heritage Workshop* – David Lloyd
- QDoE Wet Tropical Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan steering committee and working group* – Karen Robinson
- Whitsunday Coastal Advisory Committee Seatrade Conference* – Chris Thomas

# Appendix G

## Resources

### Staffing Overview

**Table 5.** *Staff of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority at 30 June 1998*

Classification	Permanent			Temporary			All			Total FTE
	Male F/T	Female F/T	Total P/T	Male F/T	Female F/T	Total P/T	Male F/T	Female F/T	Total P/T	
SES2	2		2				2		2	2.00
Legal2	1		1				1		1	1.00
SOB	4	1	5				4	1	5	4.80
SOC	13	2	15				13	2	15	15.00
ASO6	9	3	12		1	1	9	4	13	13.80
ASO5	6	4	10				6	4	10	10.80
ASO4	2	3	5		1	1	2	4	6	6.00
ASO3	5	12	17		2	2	5	14	19	19.54
ASO2	1	9	10		2	2	1	11	12	14.15
ASO1	4	2	6	1	2	7	10	4	17	12.50
SITOB	1		1				1		1	1.00
ITO2		1	1					1	1	1.00
SPOB	1		1				1		1	1.00
SPOC	1	1	2				1	1	2	2.00
PO2	3		3				3		3	3.00
PO1	2	4	6		1	1	2	5	7	7.68
Public Affairs Officer	1		1				1		1	1.00
TO3	1		1				1		1	1.00
TO2	1	1	2		1	1	1	2	3	2.00
TO1		1	1					1	1	1.00
GSO	8	1	9	1		1	9	1	10	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>130.27</b>

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

## Staff Training

During 1997–98, \$32 809 was spent on course fees and travel costs in providing training and development activities to Authority staff.

## Industrial Democracy

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

The involvement and commitment of staff to decision making processes allows staff to fully apply their skills and experience and provides all staff with the opportunity to influence decisions which affect the quality of their working lives, resulting in enhanced organisational productivity.

Significant Industrial Democracy outcomes achieved during the year were:

- two meetings of the Authority and Community and Public Sector Union Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)
- staff contributions to two major reviews of Authority operations
- exchange of information on:
  - changes to Authority funding arrangements
  - external review recommendations
  - structural changes flowing from external review recommendations
- a high level of staff involvement and consultation with the CPSU on implementing a new program structure for the Authority
- significant progress in developing a Certified Workplace Agreement.

## Occupational Health and Safety

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

- three meetings of the OH&S Committee were held, and
- only two workers compensation claims being submitted.

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

- preventative action required in response to each Incident Report submitted
- ergonomic furniture needs
- implementation of building emergency procedures
- policy on occupational diving medicals
- policy on protective eye wear for staff working in the field.

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

- Fire Extinguisher use
- First Aid
- Emergency Resuscitation
- SCUBA Safety
- Shipboard Safety
- Marine Radio Operation.

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

## **Equal Employment Opportunity**

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

Major EEO outcomes achieved during the year were:

- maintaining the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Authority's staff at 4%;
- continuation of the use of Carers Leave, Purchased Leave arrangements, part time employment and enhanced Flexitime provisions to enable staff to more effectively balance family and work responsibilities;
- inclusion in the Draft GBRMPA Workplace Agreement 1998 of a number of family friendly and employee choice initiatives, including Hours of Work and Flexitime, time off in lieu of overtime, Purchased Leave, Working from Home and part time employment which assist employees to balance their personal and working lives;
- increased access to Permanent Part Time Employment from 6% of staff at 30 June 1997 to 11% of staff at 30 June 1998, which reflects the increased level of access to Permanent Part Time Employment by women returning to work after periods of maternity leave;
- increased use of Study Assistance by EEO Group members;
- continued promotion of and providing a high level of access for women to management development training;
- increased access for staff to timely and comprehensive information on employment conditions via electronic communication.

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

- women in total staff numbers
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

EEO data for the Authority's staff is provided in tables 6 – 8.

**Table 6.** *Representation of EEO groups within Salary Levels as at June 1998*

SALARY	Total No. of Staff	WOMEN	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD	Staff with EEO Data
Below \$26 457 (includes ASO 1)	18	13 72%	0 0%	1 6%	17 94%	1 6%	0 0%	18
\$26 458 to \$30 042 (includes ASO 2)	30	18 60%	1 3%	1 3%	28 94%	1 3%	1 3%	30
\$30 043 to \$33 304 (includes ASO 3)	24	18 75%	0 0%	0 0%	24 100%	0 0%	1 4%	24
\$33 305 to \$37 341 (includes ASO 4)	10	7 70%	0 0%	1 10%	9 90%	1 10%	0 0%	10
\$37 342 to \$40 675 (includes ASO 5)	20	10 50%	0 0%	1 5%	19 95%	2 10%	0 0%	20
\$40 676 to \$47 591 (includes ASO 6)	22	8 36%	2 9%	0 %	20 91%	1 5%	1 5%	22
\$47 592 to \$55 170 (includes SOC)	17	4 24%	0 0%	1 6%	16 94%	0 0%	2 12%	17
\$55 171 to \$68 497 (includes SOB-A)	10	1 10%	0 0%	0 0%	10 100%	0 0%	0 0%	10
Above \$68 497 (includes SES)	2	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%	0 0%	0 0%	2
TOTALS	153	79 52%	3 2%	5 3%	145 95%	6 4%	5 3%	153

**Table 7.** Representation of EEO groups within Occupational Groups as at 30 June 1998

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	Total No. of Staff	WOMEN	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD	Staff with EEO Data
SES	2	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%	0 0%	0 0%	2
ASO & related	119	65 55%	2 2%	4 3%	113 95%	5 4%	3 3%	119
GSO & related	11	1 9%	0 0%	0 0%	11 100%	0 0%	0 0%	11
Professional	16	11 69%	1 6%	1 6%	14 88%	0 0%	2 13%	16
Technical	5	2 40%	0 0%	0 0%	5 100%	1 20%	0 0%	5
TOTALS	153	79 52%	3 2%	5 3%	145 95%	6 4%	5 3%	153

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

SOURCE: Data retrieved from GBRMPA EEO Database

**Table 8.** Representation of EEO groups within the Australian Public Service

	Total No. of Staff	WOMEN	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD
TOTALS	113 800	54 899 48%	5 917 5%	11 202 10%	70 335 62%	2 384 2%	5 234 5%

SOURCE: APS Staffing Statistics Report 1997

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

## Consultancy Services

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

Details of consultants engaged in 1997–98 are available from the Authority.

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

**Table 9.** *Summary table of resources*

RECONCILIATION OF PROGRAMS AND APPROPRIATION ELEMENTS FOR 1997–98 \$('000)						
Approp Bills + Nos 1 & 3	Approp Bills + Nos 2 & 4	Special Approps	= Total Approps	- Adjustments (1)	=	Program Outlays
Program						
1.	10 387	0	3 065	13 452	3 065	10 387
2.	820	0	0	820	0	820
3.	0	3 924	0	3 924	0	3 924
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11 207</b>	<b>3 924</b>	<b>3 065</b>	<b>18 196</b>	<b>3 065</b>	<b>15 131</b>

Notes to table 9

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

- Program 1. Branch Operations
- Program 2. Great Barrier Reef Aquarium
- Program 3. Day-to-day Management

# Appendix H

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## Advertising

<b>Creative Agencies</b>	
Various	4 396.00
Fast Art	1 840.00
Gavin Ryan	1 800.00
Digital Dimensions	4 880.00
<b>Market Research and Polling Organisations</b>	Nil
<b>Direct Mail Organisations</b>	Nil
<b>Media Advertising Organisations</b>	
<b>Print (Includes Campaign and Non-campaign)</b>	
Australian Posters	26 185.00
Townsville Sun	243.75
AGPS Gazette	8 930.20
Queensland Media Consultants	345.00
TMP Worldwide Pty Ltd	117 944.23
Childrens Tree Planting Project Inc.	1 000.00
North Queensland Newspaper Company Ltd	6 422.95
Adshel	1 320.00
Australian Airport Advertsing	3 870.84
Collage Printing	1 000.00
Executive Media	1 295.00
Macready Advertising	1 489.85
North Australian Publishing	1 840.00
Townsville Enterprise Ltd	4 010.00
Townsville Magazine	3 677.25
Val Morgan	3 780.00
Visitor Guide Australia	1 750.00
Yellow Pages	1 469.00
Various Aquarium print advertising	7 385.00
<b>TV and Radio</b>	
Seven Townsville	4 050.00
Regional Television Pty Ltd	11 143.82
WIN Television	3 083.00
WIN Television (Rockhampton)	1 227.50
Radio 4TO	760.00

# Appendix I

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## Abbreviations

AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
AMSAT	Australian Marine Science and Technology Ltd
APS	Australian Public Service
ASO	Administrative Service Officer
CPSU	Community and Public Sector Union
CRC Reef Research Centre (or CRC Reef)	Cooperative Research Centre for Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DDM	Day-to-day Management
DOFA	Department of Finance and Administration
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EMC	Environmental Management Charge
FOI	Freedom of Information
FTE	full-time equivalent
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
INTROMARC	International Tropical Marine Resource Centre
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
JCC	Joint Consultative Committee
JCU	James Cook University
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
QDEH	Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage (formerly QDoE – Queensland Department of Environment)
QDPI	Queensland Department of Primary Industries
QFMA	Queensland Fisheries Management Authority
REEFPLAN	contingency plan for oil spill response in the Great Barrier Reef
RMRAC	Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committee
SES	Senior Executive Service

# Appendix J

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## Compliance Index

This annual report has been prepared using the Guidelines for the Content, Preparation and Presentation of Annual Reports by Statutory Authorities (Senate Hansard, 11 November 1982) and the Requirements for Departmental Annual Reports approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts under section 25(7) of the *Public Service Act 1922* on 17 March 1994 which were updated in April 1998.

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Location</b>
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# Appendix K

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## Contact Officer for Further Information

For further information about the Authority contact:

Director  
Information Support Group

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810  
Telephone (07) 4750 0700  
Facsimile (07) 4772 6093  
e-mail [registry@gbrmpa.gov.au](mailto:registry@gbrmpa.gov.au)

# Appendix L

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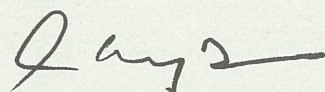
## Financial Statements

### GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 1998


In our opinion, the attached financial statements present fairly the information required by the Minister for Finance and Administration's Guidelines for Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Authority.



JOHN LYONS

Member



IAN McPHAIL

Chairperson

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 1998

		1998	1997
	Notes	\$	\$
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Employees	3	7,482,379	7,783,244
Suppliers	4	8,903,917	8,705,653
Depreciation and amortisation	5	557,858	454,406
Write-down of assets	6	26,500	5,214
Grants	7	38,772	116,129
Interest	8	67,849	99,657
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets		11	-
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	9(a),(b)	<u>8,005,000</u>	<u>7,873,000</u>
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<u><b>25,082,286</b></u>	<u><b>25,037,303</b></u>
<b>Operating revenues from independent sources</b>			
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	9(a),(c)	3,932,500	3,838,500
Interest earned on Bank Deposits		204,219	212,372
Net gain on disposal of non-current assets		19,548	1,325
From industry for monitoring and baseline studies		73,592	119,828
Profit from aquarium shop trading	10(a),(c)	218,523	229,566
Other aquarium revenues	10(a),(b)	1,429,160	1,414,122
Other miscellaneous revenues	11(b)	<u>1,949,679</u>	<u>2,311,360</u>
<b>Total operating revenues from independent sources</b>		<u><b>7,827,221</b></u>	<u><b>8,127,073</b></u>
<b>Net cost of services (before abnormal items)</b>		<u><b>17,255,065</b></u>	<u><b>16,910,230</b></u>
<b>Abnormal items</b>	1(b)	-	372,532
<b>Net cost of services</b>		<u><b>17,255,065</b></u>	<u><b>17,282,762</b></u>
<b>REVENUES FROM COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT</b>			
<b>Revenues from government</b>			
Parliamentary appropriations from the Commonwealth	11(a)	<u>18,716,120</u>	<u>18,740,448</u>
<b>Total revenues from Commonwealth Government</b>		<u><b>18,716,120</b></u>	<u><b>18,740,448</b></u>
<b>Surplus of revenues from government over net cost of services</b>	14	<u><b>1,461,055</b></u>	<u><b>1,457,686</b></u>
Accumulated deficits at beginning of reporting period		(3,144,235)	(4,101,921)
Aggregate of amounts transferred to reserves		-	(500,000)
<b>Accumulated deficits at end of reporting period</b>	14	<u><b>(1,683,180)</b></u>	<u><b>(3,144,235)</b></u>

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30 June 1998

	Notes	1998 \$	1997 \$
<b>DEBT</b>			
Advances from the Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA)	12(a)	1,019,613	1,197,276
Leases	12(b)	5,466	9,863
<b>Total debt</b>		<u>1,025,079</u>	<u>1,207,139</u>
<b>PROVISIONS AND PAYABLES</b>			
Employees	13(a)	2,229,237	2,127,076
Suppliers	13(b)	801,819	905,338
Other	13(c)	548,063	780,248
<b>Total provisions and payables</b>		<u>3,579,119</u>	<u>3,812,662</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>4,604,198</u>	<u>5,019,801</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Capital	14	1,103,988	1,103,988
Reserves	14	8,376,043	8,376,043
Special purpose reserves	14	500,000	500,000
Asset revaluation reserve	14	3,081,052	3,081,052
Accumulated deficits	14	(1,683,180)	(3,144,235)
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>11,377,903</u>	<u>9,916,848</u>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>		<u>15,982,101</u>	<u>14,936,649</u>
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>			
Cash	15	4,451,942	3,903,039
Receivables	16(a)	1,452,508	1,059,559
Other	16(b)	735,029	326,247
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<u>6,639,479</u>	<u>5,288,845</u>
<b>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>			
Land and buildings	17	8,115,929	8,384,563
Plant and equipment	17	1,087,384	1,146,950
Inventories held for resale		139,309	116,291
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<u>9,342,622</u>	<u>9,647,804</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>15,982,101</u>	<u>14,936,649</u>
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>2,720,881</u>	<u>2,919,461</u>
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>1,883,317</u>	<u>2,100,340</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>6,778,788</u>	<u>5,405,136</u>
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>9,203,313</u>	<u>9,531,513</u>

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 1998

	Notes	1998 \$	1997 \$
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received:</b>			
Parliamentary appropriations		18,196,000	18,585,000
Projects funded by the Department of the Environment		82,000	770,055
Permit assessment fees		136,010	125,880
Interest		203,823	208,745
Aquarium admission fees		1,128,355	1,253,124
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management		3,932,500	3,838,500
Environmental Management Charge (EMC)	11(a)	2,997,064	1,915,161
Other		2,247,771	1,881,211
<b>Total cash received:</b>		<u>28,923,523</u>	<u>28,577,676</u>
<b>Cash used:</b>			
Grants		(38,772)	(116,129)
Employees		(7,380,218)	(7,423,256)
Suppliers		(9,712,953)	(8,773,578)
Finance lease interest charges		(1,056)	(1,606)
Payments to Consolidated Revenue Fund (EMC)		(3,000,000)	(2,050,000)
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management		(8,005,000)	(7,873,000)
<b>Total cash used:</b>		<u>(28,137,999)</u>	<u>(26,237,569)</u>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	18(b)	<u>785,524</u>	<u>2,340,107</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received:</b>			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		343	1,325
<b>Cash used:</b>			
Payments for purchase of plant and equipment		(236,964)	(189,083)
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>		<u>(236,621)</u>	<u>(187,758)</u>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>		548,903	2,152,349
Cash at beginning of reporting period		3,903,039	1,750,690
<b>Cash at end of reporting period</b>	15	<u>4,451,942</u>	<u>3,903,039</u>

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS AS AT 30 June 1998

BY TYPE	1998 \$	1997 \$
<b>CAPITAL COMMITMENTS</b>		
Plant and equipment	<u>80,000</u>	<u>60,400</u>
<b>Total capital commitments</b>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>60,400</u>
<b>OTHER COMMITMENTS</b>		
Operating leases	313,854	351,117
Other commitments	<u>734,187</u>	<u>356,052</u>
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<u>1,048,041</u>	<u>707,169</u>
<b>Total commitments payable</b>	<u>1,128,041</u>	<u>767,569</u>
 <b>BY MATURITY</b>		
<b>All commitments</b>		
Within one year	930,467	453,897
From one to two years	140,434	144,388
From two to five years	<u>57,140</u>	<u>169,284</u>
<b>Total commitments</b>	<u>1,128,041</u>	<u>767,569</u>
 <b>Operating lease commitments</b>		
Within one year	132,988	113,017
From one to two years	124,830	106,602
From two to five years	<u>56,036</u>	<u>131,498</u>
<b>Operating lease commitments</b>	<u>313,854</u>	<u>351,117</u>

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

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES AS AT 30 June 1998

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	1998	1997
	\$	\$
CONTINGENT LOSSES		
Nil	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
CONTINGENT GAINS		
Nil	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

SCHEDULE OF UNQUANTIFIABLE CONTINGENCIES

At 30 June 1998, the Authority was not aware of any litigation or potential litigation which might lead to damages being awarded against the Authority.

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1998

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<b>Note</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
2.	Subsequent Events
3.	Employee Expenses
4.	Suppliers Expenses
5.	Depreciation and Amortisation
6.	Write-down of assets
7.	Grants Expense
8.	Interest Expense
9.	Day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
10.	Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Revenue and Expenses
11.	Revenue
12.	Debt
13.	Provisions and Payables
14.	Equity
15.	Financial Assets – Cash
16.	Financial Assets – Receivables & Other
17.	Non-Financial Assets
18.	Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows
19.	Repayment of Advances from Department of Finance and Administration
20.	Remuneration of Members and Executives
21.	Related Party Disclosures
22.	Remuneration of Auditors
23.	Cash Bonds
24.	Co-operative Research Centre for the Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef
25.	Insurance
26.	Expenditure by Program
27.	Financial Instruments
28.	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 1998

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1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements are a general purpose financial report.

They have been prepared in accordance with:

- Guidelines titled *Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities*, issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration in July 1997 (the 'Guidelines') which require that the financial statements are prepared
  - in compliance with Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Guidance Releases issued by the Australian Accounting Research Foundation, and
  - having regard to Statements of Accounting Concepts, and
  - the Consensus Views of the Urgent Issues Group.

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

(b) Property, plant and equipment

Capitalisation occurs on all items which cost more than \$5,000. This policy was first implemented in the 1996–97 financial year and is reflected in the abnormal item in the Operating Statement for that year. The \$5,000 threshold was selected because it facilitates efficient asset management and recording without materially affecting asset values recognised.

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium building was funded as a Commonwealth–State Bicentennial project, through the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Association Incorporated. The Aquarium is sub-leased by the Authority from the Association for a period of 75 years. Under the terms of the sub-lease agreement the Authority is responsible for the replacement of the Aquarium building as necessary and for all expenses and revenue in relation to its operation. Consequently, the value of the Aquarium building has been taken up as an asset in the Authority's accounts and is being depreciated over the estimated useful life of the building. The original estimated useful life of the building was assessed as 25 years. During the 1996–97 financial year the estimated useful life of the building was reviewed by an independent engineering consultant and was reassessed by the Authority as being 50 years. The depreciation charge for the 1996–97 financial year reflects this reassessment of the useful life of the building. The effect of this change was to decrease the 1996–97 depreciation expense by \$238,000.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1998

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From 1996–97 onwards, the Guidelines require that property, plant and equipment be progressively revalued in accordance with the 'deprival' method of valuation (as set out in the *Guidelines on Accounting Policy for Valuation of Assets of Government Trading Enterprises*) by 1 July 1999 and thereafter be revalued progressively on that basis every three years.

The Authority is implementing its progressive revaluations as follows:

- buildings have been revalued as at 30 June 1997 by an independent valuer and the outcome of the valuation has been recognised as at that date. The buildings will continue to be revalued over successive three year periods thereafter;
- leasehold improvements will be initially revalued progressively over the 1998–99 financial year, and thereafter over successive three year periods;
- aquarium plant and equipment have been revalued as at 30 June 1997 by an independent valuer and the outcome of the valuation has been recognised as at that date. Other plant and equipment will be initially revalued progressively over the 1998–99 financial year. All plant and equipment thereafter will continue to be revalued over successive three year periods.

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

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

The application of the deprival method by the Authority values its assets at their depreciated replacement cost. Any assets which would not be replaced or are surplus to requirements are valued at net realisable value; at 30 June 1998 there were no assets in this situation.

All valuations are independent.

The carrying amounts of non-current assets of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority have been reviewed to determine whether they are in excess of their recoverable amounts. In assessing recoverable amounts, the relevant cash flows have not been discounted to their present value.

Depreciable property 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 and amortisation rates (useful lives) and methods are reviewed at

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

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each balance date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate. residual values are re-estimated for a change in prices only when assets are revalued.

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

	1998	1997
Buildings	50 years	50 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and equipment	3 to 20 years	3 to 20 years

(c) Advances to Consultants

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

(d) Day-to-day Management Advances

Except for expenditure on fixtures upon land owned by or under the direct control of the Commonwealth or the Authority, advances to the Queensland Department of Environment for day-to-day management are fully expensed in the year of payment (refer to Note 9 for details of the day-to-day management items).

(e) Inventories

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

(f) Provision for Employee Entitlements

The provision for employee entitlements encompasses annual leave, leave fares and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken by employees is less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The provision for leave fares reflects the value of total leave fare entitlements of all employees at 30 June 1998 and is recognised at its nominal value.

The provision for annual leave reflects the value of total annual leave entitlements of all employees at 30 June 1998 and is recognised at its nominal value.

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1998

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employees at 30 June 1998. In determining the present value of the liability, attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

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

(g) Leases

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

Where a non-current asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at the present value of minimum lease payments at the inception of the lease and a liability for lease payments recognised at the same amount. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component and the interest expense. Leased assets are amortised over the period of the lease. Lease terms are five years (1996–97: five years).

Operating leases are not capitalised and payments are charged to the Operating Statement in the period in which they are incurred.

(h) Bad and doubtful debts

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

(i) Superannuation

Employer superannuation contributions (other than the productivity component) had not previously been payable by the Authority but were funded by the Commonwealth when required. Employer superannuation contributions became payable from 1 July 1996 and are included as part of operating expenses in the Operating Statement. The Authority contributes to the Commonwealth Superannuation (CSS) and the Public Sector (PSS) superannuation schemes which provide retirement, death and disability benefits to employees. Contributions to the schemes are at rates calculated to cover existing and emerging obligations.

(j) Reserves

This item represents that portion of equity attributable to the original funding provided by grants and donations used for the construction and fit-out of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium building.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1998

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(k) Special Purpose Reserves

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

(l) Taxation

The Authority is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax.

(m) Comparative figures

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

(n) Changes in accounting policies

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

(o) Economic Dependency

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

(p) Financial Instruments

Accounting policies in relation to financial instruments are disclosed in Note 27.

(q) Segment Reporting

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is the principal adviser to the Commonwealth Government on the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Authority operates within Australia.

## 2. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Authority is not aware of any material events that have occurred subsequent to balance date, except for the implementation of a new structure for the Authority which took effect from 1 July 1998. The restructure may involve a limited number of staff redundancies in the 1998–99 financial year. The formal offers of redundancy and subsequent acceptance by the staff members involved occurred after 30 June 1998 and are quantified as follows:

Entitlements due to voluntary redundancy	234,983
Normal salary and leave entitlements on termination	<u>174,327</u>
Total	<u>\$409,310</u>

Any normal leave entitlements as at 30 June 1998 have been brought to account in the 1997–98 financial statements.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

**3. EMPLOYEE EXPENSES**

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Basic remuneration for services provided	7,351,047	7,643,617
Separation and redundancy	<u>48,628</u>	<u>54,834</u>
Total remuneration	7,399,675	7,698,451
Other	<u>82,704</u>	<u>84,793</u>
Total employee expenses	<u>7,482,379</u>	<u>7,783,244</u>

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

The Authority contributes to the Commonwealth Superannuation (CSS) and the Public Sector (PSS) superannuation schemes which provide retirement, death and disability benefits to employees. Contributions to the schemes are at rates calculated to cover existing and emerging obligations. Current contribution rates are 18.9% of salary (CSS) and 10.1% of salary (PSS). An additional 3% is contributed for employer productivity benefits.

**4. SUPPLIERS EXPENSES**

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Supply of goods and services	8,768,459	8,069,611
Operating lease rentals	<u>135,458</u>	<u>636,042</u>
Total suppliers expenses	<u>8,903,917</u>	<u>8,705,653</u>

**5. DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION**

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	553,896	450,444
Amortisation of leased assets	<u>3,962</u>	<u>3,962</u>
Total expense	<u>557,858</u>	<u>454,406</u>

Depreciation expenses on buildings in 1997-98 are \$80,000 higher than 1996-97 due to the revaluation of the Aquarium building.

The aggregate amounts of depreciation or amortisation allocated during the

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reporting period as expense for each class of depreciable asset are as follows:

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Buildings	206,630	126,670
Leasehold Improvements	79,774	23,209
Plant and Equipment	<u>271,454</u>	<u>304,527</u>
Total expense	<u>557,858</u>	<u>454,406</u>

6. WRITE-DOWN OF ASSETS

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Financial assets:		
Receivables for goods and services	<u>26,500</u>	<u>5,214</u>
Total write-down of assets	<u>26,500</u>	<u>5,214</u>

7. GRANTS EXPENSE

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

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Augmentative Research Grants	11,000	11,906
Grants to Voluntary Community Groups	17,000	104,223
Other grants to universities	<u>10,772</u>	<u>-</u>
Total grants to non-profit institutions	<u>38,772</u>	<u>116,129</u>

8. INTEREST EXPENSE

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Finance charges on lease liabilities	1,056	1,606
Interest on Advance from DOFA	<u>66,793</u>	<u>98,051</u>
Total interest expense	<u>67,849</u>	<u>99,657</u>

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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 (QDoE) to carry out the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, subject to the Authority in accordance with intergovernmental agreements;
  - the Commonwealth to fund 100% of an initial capital works program required to establish management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park on a sound basis; other capital costs (i.e. the post-initial program) of day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to be shared equally between the two Governments;
  - the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments to meet in equal shares the recurrent costs for day-to-day management in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (which may include Queensland national parks or Queensland marine parks, the use or management of which would or might affect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park);
  - moveable property funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used and administered by Queensland; proceeds from the sale of any such moveable property are paid into the day-to-day management account to offset Commonwealth/Queensland contributions on a 50:50 basis;
  - fixed assets funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used by Queensland and administered by the Government (or the Authority) which owns or controls the land on which the fixture is located;
  - expenditure on day-to-day management to be in accordance with an annually agreed program; and
  - the Authority to administer funds provided by the Commonwealth and Queensland for these purposes.
- (b) Expenditure  
Expenditure on day-to-day management for 1997-98 was \$8,005,000 (1996-97 \$7,873,000).

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

	1998	1997
Commonwealth Government appropriation:	\$	\$
(i) Recurrent and Post Initial		
Capital Programs: ref. Note 11(a)	3,924,000	3,847,000
(ii) Initial Capital Works	-	-
Queensland Government contribution	3,932,500	3,838,500
From other sources	<u>228,259</u>	<u>160,087</u>
	<u>8,084,759</u>	<u>7,845,587</u>

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

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Cash at bank 1 July	170,537	197,950
Plus Revenue received	8,045,958	7,845,587
Plus Revenue accrued	38,801	-
Less Expenditure	<u>8,005,000</u>	<u>7,873,000</u>
Funds available at 30 June	<u>250,296</u>	<u>170,537</u>

- (e) Financial statements for day-to-day management which have been prepared by QDoE and audited by the Queensland Auditor-General are at Note 28.

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

- (a) Operating Statement - Aquarium operations

NET COST OF SERVICES	1998	1997
Operating expenses	\$	\$
Curatorial Operations	690,366	684,262
Interpretative Facilities	567,999	597,301
Marketing/Promotions	175,862	120,896
Shop Management and Services	114,662	105,125
Corporate Services		
- property services	292,695	284,811
- general services and administration	176,402	140,945
Interest	66,793	98,051
Bad and doubtful debts	-	4,904
Total operating expenses	<u>2,084,779</u>	<u>2,036,295</u>

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Unfunded charges	1998	1997
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment: ref. Note 1(b)	\$ 308,978	\$ 224,451
Staff provisions	<u>19,134</u>	<u>15,888</u>
Total unfunded charges	<u>328,112</u>	<u>240,339</u>
Total Aquarium expenses	<u>2,412,891</u>	<u>2,276,634</u>
	1998	1997
Operating revenues	\$	\$
Interest	14,309	15,979
Gain on sale of non-current assets	8,500	-
Other aquarium revenues: ref. Note 10(b)	1,429,160	1,414,122
Gross profit from shop trading: ref. Note 10(c)	<u>218,523</u>	<u>229,566</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>1,670,492</u>	<u>1,659,667</u>
Net cost of Aquarium operations	<u>(742,399)</u>	<u>(616,967)</u>
Revenue from Commonwealth Government Parliamentary Appropriations	<u>820,000</u>	<u>851,000</u>
Result from Aquarium operations	<u>77,601</u>	<u>234,033</u>
(b) Other aquarium revenues	1998	1997
Operating revenues	\$	\$
Admission fees	1,128,355	1,227,042
Donations and sponsorships	16,793	5,522
Membership program	89,190	73,724
Research and consultancy contracts	70,137	30,956
Other revenue	<u>124,685</u>	<u>76,878</u>
Total	<u>1,429,160</u>	<u>1,414,122</u>
(c) Aquarium shop trading results	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Shop Sales	499,049	511,427
Less: Cost of goods sold		
Opening Stock	116,291	96,084
Purchases	303,544	302,068
Less: Closing Stock	<u>139,309</u>	<u>116,291</u>
	<u>280,526</u>	<u>281,861</u>
Gross profit from shop trading	<u>218,523</u>	<u>229,566</u>

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11. REVENUE

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

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Operational	10,387,000	11,902,000
Special Appropriation	3,585,120	2,140,448
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	820,000	851,000
Commonwealth contribution to day-to-day management: ref. Note 9(c)	<u>3,924,000</u>	<u>3,847,000</u>
	<u>18,716,120</u>	<u>18,740,448</u>

Special Appropriation: On 30 July 1993 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority introduced an Environmental Management Charge (EMC) with the objective of recovering part of the increasing management, research and education costs associated with a marked increase in use of the Marine Park. Amounts collected by the Authority, as agent for the Commonwealth, are paid into Consolidated Revenue and then paid back to the Authority via Special Appropriation. The amount shown above represents actual amounts received via Special Appropriation plus an accrual for amounts applicable to the financial year ended 30 June 1998 but received after that date and due to be paid to the Authority as Special Appropriation. The EMC was increased from \$2 to \$4 with effect from 1 April 1998 and the Special Appropriation for 1997-98 reflects this increase.

(b) Other miscellaneous revenues:	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Implementation of DEST funded programs	39,000	312,245
External Services section revenue		
- DEST funded	322,218	140,935
External Services section revenue - Other	572,488	860,153
Sale of Authority education and information materials	56,289	60,426
Permit assessment fees	136,010	125,880
Payments from QDoE: ref. Note 9(a)		
for - sale of moveables	65,670	3,691
- other receipts	73,960	76,684
Revenue from other miscellaneous sources	<u>684,044</u>	<u>731,346</u>
	<u>1,949,679</u>	<u>2,311,360</u>

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12. DEBT

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

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Current		
Advances from DOFA and accrued interest: ref. Note 19	232,446	244,455
Non-current		
Advances from DOFA and accrued interest: ref. Note 19	<u>787,167</u>	<u>952,821</u>
	<u>1,019,613</u>	<u>1,197,276</u>

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

Payable:

Within one year	232,446	244,455
Within one to two years	181,092	165,654
Within two to five years	606,075	569,948
More than five years	-	217,219
	<u>1,019,613</u>	<u>1,197,276</u>

(b) Finance lease liability

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Current	5,023	4,397
Non-current	<u>443</u>	<u>5,466</u>
	<u>5,466</u>	<u>9,863</u>

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

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Within one year	5,455	5,455
Within one to two years	448	5,455
Within two to five years	-	448
Minimum lease payments	<u>5,903</u>	<u>11,358</u>
Less: Future finance charges	<u>437</u>	<u>1,495</u>
Total lease liabilities	<u>5,466</u>	<u>9,863</u>

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13. PROVISIONS AND PAYABLES

(a) Employees	1998	1997
Current liabilities	\$	\$
Accrued salaries and wages	107,324	78,111
Provision for long service leave	116,385	27,000
Provision for annual leave	834,428	806,554
Provision for leave fares	75,393	73,358
	<u>1,133,530</u>	<u>985,023</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Provision for long service leave	<u>1,095,707</u>	<u>1,142,053</u>
Total provisions and payables – Employees	<u>2,229,237</u>	<u>2,127,076</u>
(b) Suppliers		
Trade Creditors	<u>801,819</u>	<u>905,338</u>
(c) Other		
Current liabilities		
Unearned Income	476,187	647,681
Other liabilities	<u>71,876</u>	<u>132,567</u>
	<u>548,063</u>	<u>780,248</u>

14. EQUITY

Item:	Capital	Accumulated Results	Special Purpose Reserves	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves	Total Reserves	TOTAL EQUITY
Balance 1 July 1997	1,103,988	(3,144,235)	500,000	3,081,052	8,376,043	11,957,095	9,916,848
Surplus/ (Deficit)	-	1,461,055	-	-	-	-	1,461,055
Net revaluation increases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to/ (from) reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Changes in accounting policies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance 30 June 1998</b>	<u>1,103,988</u>	<u>(1,683,180)</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>3,081,052</u>	<u>8,376,043</u>	<u>11,957,095</u>	<u>11,377,903</u>

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15. FINANCIAL ASSETS – CASH

Cash held at 30 June comprised the following:	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Account	404,397	392,160
Day-to-day Management Account	211,495	170,537
Cash on hand	90,445	43,250
Authority Operations Account:	1998	
Working Capital	500,000	
External Services Unearned Income	306,105	
Other Operations Unearned Income	170,082	
Appropriation Reserve	645,932	
Other identified projects	<u>2,123,486</u>	
Total: Authority Operations Account	<u>3,745,605</u>	<u>3,297,092</u>
	<u>4,451,942</u>	<u>3,903,039</u>

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

Cash held at 30 June was held as follows:	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and Deposits at call	3,516,042	3,059,789
Term deposits	845,455	800,000
Cash on hand	90,445	43,250
	<u>4,451,942</u>	<u>3,903,039</u>

16. FINANCIAL ASSETS – RECEIVABLES & OTHER

(a) Receivables at 30 June were:	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Trade Debtors	290,129	392,748
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	1,179,354	659,233
Total Receivables	<u>1,469,483</u>	<u>1,051,981</u>
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	30,450	5,500
	<u>1,439,033</u>	<u>1,046,481</u>
Other debtors	13,475	13,078
	<u>1,452,508</u>	<u>1,059,559</u>
Receivables which are overdue:		
– less than 30 days	113,286	77,405
– 30 to 60 days	29,126	70,290
– more than 60 days	33,106	49,376
	<u>175,518</u>	<u>197,071</u>

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(b) Other financial assets at 30 June were:	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Salary advance held by DOFA	663,726	279,773
Other	71,303	46,474
<b>Total Other financial assets</b>	<b><u>735,029</u></b>	<b><u>326,247</u></b>

**17. NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS**

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
(a) Buildings		
Buildings – at 30 June 1997 valuation	10,157,760	10,157,760
Accumulated depreciation	2,238,517	2,032,345
	<u>7,919,243</u>	<u>8,125,415</u>
Buildings – at cost	17,770	-
Accumulated depreciation	458	-
	<u>17,312</u>	<u>-</u>
Improvements to leasehold property – at cost	408,566	408,566
Accumulated depreciation	229,192	149,418
	<u>179,374</u>	<u>259,148</u>
<b>Total Buildings and Leasehold Improvements</b>	<b><u>8,115,929</u></b>	<b><u>8,384,563</u></b>
(b) Plant and Equipment		
Plant and equipment – at 30 June 1997 valuation	943,210	943,210
Accumulated depreciation	346,822	280,283
	<u>596,388</u>	<u>662,927</u>
Plant and equipment – at cost	1,845,703	1,755,499
Accumulated depreciation	1,358,998	1,279,729
	<u>486,705</u>	<u>475,770</u>
Plant and equipment under finance lease	19,808	19,808
Accumulated amortisation	15,517	11,555
	<u>4,291</u>	<u>8,253</u>
<b>Total Plant and Equipment</b>	<b><u>1,087,384</u></b>	<b><u>1,146,950</u></b>

The revaluation of the Aquarium building and associated infrastructure as at 30 June 1997 was completed by an independent valuer M.A.Becker FVLE (Val). A revaluation increment of \$3,081,052 was transferred to the asset revaluation reserve.

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(b) Analysis of Property, Plant and Equipment

**TABLE A**  
**Movement summary 1997-98 for all assets irrespective of valuation basis**

Item:	Buildings & leasehold improvements \$	Plant & equipment \$	Total \$
Gross value as at 1 July 1997	10,566,326	2,718,517	13,284,843
Additions	7,818	228,150	235,968
Adjustment for revaluations	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(127,994)	(127,994)
Other movements	9,952	(9,952)	-
<b>Gross value as at 30 June 1998</b>	<b>10,584,096</b>	<b>2,808,721</b>	<b>13,392,817</b>
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation as at 1 July 1997	2,181,763	1,571,567	3,753,330
Depreciation/ Amortisation charge for assets held 1 July 1997	285,942	246,569	532,511
Depreciation/ Amortisation charge for additions	462	24,885	25,347
Adjustment for revaluations	-	-	-
Adjustment for disposals	-	(121,684)	(121,684)
Adjustment for other movements	-	-	-
<b>Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation as at 30 June 1998</b>	<b>2,468,167</b>	<b>1,721,337</b>	<b>4,189,504</b>
<b>Net book value as at 30 June 1998</b>	<b>8,115,929</b>	<b>1,087,384</b>	<b>9,203,313</b>
Net book value as at 1 July 1997	8,384,563	1,146,950	9,531,513

**TABLE B**

**Summary of balances of assets at valuation as at 30 June 1998**

Item:	Buildings \$	Other plant & equipment \$	Total \$
<b>As at 30 June 1998</b>			
Gross value	10,157,760	943,210	11,100,970
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	2,238,517	346,822	2,585,339
Other movements	-	-	-
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>7,919,243</b>	<b>596,388</b>	<b>8,515,631</b>

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**TABLE C**

**Summary of balances of assets held under finance leases as at 30 June 1998**

Item:	Buildings \$	Other plant & equipment \$	Total \$
<b>As at 30 June 1998</b>			
Gross value	-	19,808	19,808
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	-	15,517	15,517
Net book value	<u>-</u>	<u>4,291</u>	<u>4,291</u>
<b>As at 30 June 1997</b>			
Gross value	-	19,808	19,808
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	-	11,555	11,555
Net book value	<u>-</u>	<u>8,253</u>	<u>8,253</u>

**18. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, the Authority considers cash to include cash on hand and in banks. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows has been reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and is shown at Note 15.

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

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Net Cost of Services	(17,255,065)	(17,282,762)
Revenues from the Commonwealth	<u>18,716,120</u>	<u>18,740,448</u>
Operating result	1,461,055	1,457,686
Abnormal Items	-	372,532
Depreciation	557,858	454,406
Bad debts and provision for doubtful debts	26,500	5,214
(Gain) on disposal of non-current assets	(19,548)	(1,325)
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	11	-
(Increase) in Receivables	(392,949)	(377,661)
(Increase) in Inventories	(23,018)	(20,207)
(Increase) in Other Assets	(408,782)	(296,464)
Increase in Employee Liabilities	102,161	359,988
(Decrease)/Increase in Suppliers	(103,519)	218,545
(Decrease)/Increase in Other Liabilities	(409,848)	171,243
(Decrease) in Lease Liabilities	<u>(4,397)</u>	<u>(3,850)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>785,524</u>	<u>2,340,107</u>

(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities

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

**19. REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES FROM DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

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

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

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

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

Scheduled repayments have been made in the 1995–96, the 1996–97 and the 1997–98 financial years.

**20. REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVES**

(a) Remuneration – Members of the Authority

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Remuneration received, or due and receivable, directly or indirectly, by members of the Authority:	<b>175,544</b>	163,902

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

	1998	1997
\$Nil – \$10,000	3	2
\$10,000 – \$20,000	1	1
\$130,000 – \$140,000	-	1
\$140,000 – \$150,000	1	-

(b) Remuneration – Senior Executives of the Authority

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Income received, or due and receivable, by Senior Executives:	<b>127,778</b>	350,682

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

	1998	1997
\$100,000 – \$110,000	-	1
\$110,000 – \$120,000	-	1
\$120,000 – \$130,000	1	
\$130,000 – \$140,000	-	1

**21. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

(a) Authority Members

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

Dr Ian McPhail (full-time Chairperson and chief executive officer);  
 Professor Rhondda Jones (part-time member), to 26 February 1998;  
 Mr John Lyons (part-time member) commencing 28 April 1998;  
 Mrs Evelyn Scott (part-time member);  
 Mr Tom Tolhurst (part-time member).

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

Mr John Tanzer acted as Chairperson during a period of absence by Dr McPhail from 10 to 17 February 1998.

Mr Richard Kenchington acted as Chairperson during periods of absence by Dr Ian McPhail from 27 August to 8 September 1997, 8 to 11 December 1997, 15 December 1997 to 9 January 1998 and 23 to 30 March 1998.

There were no persons acting as part-time members during the 1997–98 financial year.

(c) Remuneration

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

(d) Superannuation

Included in the total remuneration of Authority members disclosed at Note 20 is an aggregate amount of \$11,730 for superannuation payments paid to the Public Sector (PSS) superannuation scheme in connection with the retirement of members, (1996–97: \$13,850).

(e) Authority Members' interest in contracts

On the basis of statements declared by members in accordance with s. 16A

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 for the year ended 30 June 1998

of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act or s. 21 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, no Authority member has received or become entitled to receive a benefit, other than a benefit included in the aggregate of remuneration received or due and receivable shown at Note 20 by reason of a contract made by the Authority member or with a firm of which the Authority member is a member or with a company in which the Authority member has a substantial interest.

**22. REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS**

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period	40,000	33,000

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

**23. CASH BONDS**

Cash Bonds are held in lieu of bank guarantees.  
 Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 1998

	1998
	\$
Cash at bank 1 July 1997	204,427
<b>RECEIPTS</b> Interest	<u>5,276</u>
	209,703
<b>PAYMENTS</b> Return of Cash Bonds and accrued interest	<u>55,635</u>
Cash at bank 30 June 1998	<u>154,068</u>

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

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

As at 30 June, the Authority's commitment to the CRC Reef, in cash

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

contributions, 'in kind' contributions and amounts payable from EMC collections was:

	Cash	In Kind	EMC	1998 \$	1997 \$
Within one year	665,000	250,000	1,020,000	1,935,000	1,860,000
From one to two years	665,000	250,000	1,102,000	2,017,000	1,935,000
From two to five years	-	-	-	-	2,017,000
	<u>1,330,000</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>2,122,000</u>	<u>3,952,000</u>	<u>5,812,000</u>

## 25. INSURANCE

During the 1997-98 financial year the Authority had a policy of self-insurance for its general operations. However, from 1 July 1998 the Authority will be included in the new Commonwealth Insurable Risk Managed Fund known as Comcover. The Authority has commercial insurance cover for the operation of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium.

## 26. EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAM

In prior years the presentation of expenditure in the Operating Statement has been on a program basis. The Operating Statement for the 1997-98 financial year has been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines for Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities issued by the Minister for Finance and Administration. In order to permit comparison of expenditure by program the following table is presented as additional information to the Operating Statement.

	1998	1997
Operating expenses	\$	\$
Research and Monitoring	4,143,547	4,062,280
Planning and Environmental Management	4,344,714	4,387,603
Education/Information	2,457,650	2,719,127
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	2,084,779	2,036,295
External Services	1,112,919	1,190,939
Administration	931,571	879,548
Canberra Office	324,541	356,376
Corporate Management:		
Expenses of The Authority;		
The Great Barrier Reef Consultative		
Committee and Executive and Secretariat	1,046,759	741,271
Other expenses		
- Depreciation and Amortisation	557,858	454,406
- Staff leave entitlement accruals	72,948	336,458
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	8,005,000	7,873,000
Total operating expenses	<u>25,082,286</u>	<u>25,037,303</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Terms, conditions and accounting policies

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and 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	15	Deposits are recognised at their nominal amounts. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Temporarily surplus funds, mainly from monthly drawdowns of appropriations, are placed on deposit at call with the Authority's bank. Interest is earned on the daily balance at the prevailing daily rate and is paid monthly.
Term Deposit	15	The deposit is recognised at the nominal amount. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	The deposit is with the Authority's bank on 30 day terms and the interest rate at 30 June 1998 was 5.3%. Interest is payable monthly.
Receivables for goods and services	16	These receivables are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Provisions are made when collection of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.	Credit terms are nett 28 days (1996-97: 28 days).
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	16	The amount receivable is recognised at the nominal amount due as at 30 June 1998. The amount arises from EMC collections due to be paid into Consolidated Revenue and then paid to the Authority as Special Appropriation.	The EMC is collected each quarter by the Authority as agent for the Commonwealth.
Other Debtors	16	These amounts represent interest accrued on deposits with banks.	Interest is received monthly.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)

(a) Terms, conditions and accounting policies

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting Policies and Methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms and conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		Financial liabilities are recognised when a present obligation to another party is entered into and the amount of the liability can be reliably measured.	
Advances from the Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA)	12(a)	Liabilities are recognised at the present value of the outstanding principal plus accrued interest unpaid as at reporting date.	The advances are being repaid in the form of instalments deducted from Authority appropriations. Interest on the outstanding principal is charged at the long-term bond rate and has been capitalised. At 30 June 1998 the applicable rate was 7.01%.
Finance lease liabilities	12(b)	Liabilities are recognised at the present value of the minimum lease payments at the beginning of the lease. The discount rates used are estimates of the interest rates implicit in the lease.	At reporting date the Authority had one finance lease with a term of 5 years. The interest rate implicit in the lease averaged 13.4% (1996-97: 13.4%) The lease liability is secured by the lease asset.
Trade creditors	13(b)	Creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods and services have been received.	Settlement is usually made in 30 days.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)

(b) Interest rate risk

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate 30 day terms		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Effective Interest Rate		
		97-98 \$	96-97 \$	97-98 \$	96-97 \$	97-98 \$	96-97 \$	97-98 \$	96-97 \$	97-98 %	96-97 %	
Financial Assets (Recognised)												
Cash at Bank and Deposits at Call	15	3,516,042	3,059,789				3,516,042	3,059,789	3.8	4.3		
Cash on Hand	15				90,445	43,250	90,445	43,250	n/a	n/a		
Term Deposit	15			845,455	800,000			845,455	800,000	5.5	6.3	
Receivables for goods and services	16					259,679	387,248	259,679	387,248	n/a	n/a	
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	16					1,179,354	659,233	1,179,354	659,233	n/a	n/a	
Other Debtors	16	13,475	13,078					13,475	13,078	3.8	4.3	
Total Financial Assets (Recognised)		3,529,517	3,072,867	845,455	800,000	1,529,478	1,089,731	5,904,450	4,962,598			
Total Assets								15,982,101	14,936,649			

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)

(b) Interest rate risk

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate				Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Effective Interest Rate	
		97-98 \$	96-97 \$	1 year or less		1 to 2 years		97-98 \$	96-97 \$	97-98 \$	96-97 \$	97-98 %	96-97 %
				97-98 \$	96-97 \$	97-98 \$	96-97 \$						
Financial Liabilities (Recognised)													
Advances from DOFA	12(a)	1,019,613	1,197,276							1,019,613	1,197,276	7.01	8.92
Finance lease liabilities	12(b)			5,023	4,397	443	5,466			5,466	9,863	13.4	13.4
Trade creditors	13(b)							801,819	905,338	801,819	905,338	n/a	n/a
Total Financial Liabilities (Recognised)		1,019,613	1,197,276	5,023	4,397	443	5,466	801,819	905,338	1,826,898	2,112,477		
Total Liabilities										4,604,198	5,019,801		

(c) Net Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

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

(d) Credit Risk Exposures

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

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK  
 OPERATING STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1998

	Note	1998 \$	1997 \$
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Employee expenses		4,778,714	4,276,721
Supplies and services		2,755,387	2,781,300
Depreciation	2	968,520	772,872
Transfers to GBRMPA		66,777	31,494
Loss on sale of plant and equipment		21,095	15,722
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<u>8,590,493</u>	<u>7,878,109</u>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>			
Funding from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		4,168,999	3,936,500
Other		1,146	32,819
<b>Total operating revenues</b>		<u>4,170,145</u>	<u>3,969,319</u>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	9	<u>(4,420,348)</u>	<u>(3,908,790)</u>
<b>Revenues from Government</b>			
Appropriations from State Government		3,836,001	3,936,500
<b>Total revenues from Government</b>		<u>3,836,001</u>	<u>3,936,500</u>
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets before abnormal items</b>		(584,347)	27,710
Abnormal items	3	21,811	..
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>		(562,536)	27,710
Opening Accumulated Surplus		5,357,799	5,330,089
<b>Closing Accumulated Surplus</b>		<u>4,795,263</u>	<u>5,357,799</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK  
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 1998

	Note	1998 \$	1997 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash	4	187,429	284,039
Receivables	5	6,574	6,093
Other	6	823,968	1,092,354
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,017,971</b>	<b>1,382,486</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	4,567,251	4,136,368
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>4,567,251</b>	<b>4,136,368</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>5,585,222</b>	<b>5,518,854</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors	8	196,886	147,997
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>196,886</b>	<b>147,997</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>196,886</b>	<b>147,997</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>5,388,336</b>	<b>5,370,857</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus (Deficit)		4,795,263	5,357,799
Asset Revaluation Reserve		593,073	13,058
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>5,388,336</b>	<b>5,370,857</b>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK  
 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1998

	Note	1998 \$	1997 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Inflows:			
Payments from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		4,253,100	3,936,500
Other		1,279	32,819
Outflows:			
Employee expenses		(4,778,714)	(4,276,721)
Supplies and services		(2,696,296)	(2,751,746)
Transfers to GBRMPA		(66,777)	(31,455)
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	9	<u>(3,287,408)</u>	<u>(3,090,603)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Inflows:			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		119,840	3,889
Outflows:			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(765,043)	(644,209)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<u>(645,203)</u>	<u>(640,320)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM GOVERNMENT</b>			
Inflows:			
Appropriations		3,836,001	3,936,500
Outflows:			
Payments to Queensland Treasury		..	(6,093)
<b>Net cash provided by Government</b>		<u>3,836,001</u>	<u>3,930,407</u>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>(96,610)</b>	<b>199,484</b>
<b>Cash at beginning of reporting period</b>		<b>284,039</b>	<b>84,555</b>
<b>Cash at end of reporting period</b>		<u><b>187,429</b></u>	<u><b>284,039</b></u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1998

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE  
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) **Basis of Accounting**

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

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

(b) **Carryover Transfer to the Queensland Treasury Department**

The balance of unspent funds held by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park at 30 June 1998, was transferred to the Queensland Treasury Department in accordance with the Department of Environment and Heritage's standard accounting practices and procedures. As at 1 July 1998 the amount transferred was refunded to the Department of Environment and Heritage. The unspent funds are treated as cash in the financial statements.

(c) **Appropriations**

Appropriations are recognised as revenues in the reporting period when received.

(d) **Acquisition of Assets**

The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisition of assets controlled by the Department of Environment and Heritage. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

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

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, in excess of \$1,000 are capitalised in the year of acquisition. All other such assets with a cost, or other value, less than \$1,000 are expensed.

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

Depreciation on property, plant and equipment is calculated on a straight line basis so as to write off the cost (or other value) of each depreciable asset, less its estimated residual value, progressively over its estimated useful life.

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

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

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

Buildings and Infrastructure assets were valued during the 1995-96 financial year by registered valuers and vessels were valued during 1996-97. The index applied to the 1997-98 year is the Seasonally Adjusted Implicit Price Deflator Covering Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure - General Government, as supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

(h) **Employee Entitlements**

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

	1998	1997
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 2 DEPRECIATION EXPENSE</b>		
Depreciation expense for the financial year was charged in respect of:		
Plant and equipment	367,419	386,977
Vessels > \$250,000	429,849	218,954
Buildings and Infrastructure	171,252	166,941
	<u>968,520</u>	<u>772,872</u>
<b>NOTE 3 ABNORMAL ITEMS</b>		
<u>Revenue</u>		
Donated asset	1,089	..
Non-current assets recovered during stocktake	55,932	..
Recognition of expenditure incurred in previous years on non-current assets	5,333	..
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Accumulated depreciation on non-current assets recovered during stocktake	(40,543)	..
	<u>21,811</u>	<u>..</u>
<b>NOTE 4 CASH</b>		
Unexpended funds carried over at end of period held by Treasury	187,129	284,000
Monies yet to be remitted to GBRMPA	..	39
Imprest Accountable Advances	300	..
	<u>187,429</u>	<u>284,039</u>
<b>NOTE 5 RECEIVABLES</b>		
Sundry amounts due from Queensland Treasury	6,093	6,093
Monies owing from the Department of Environment and Heritage	481	..
	<u>6,574</u>	<u>6,093</u>
<b>NOTE 6 OTHER CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Advances to other Departments in respect of vessels	800,000	973,950
Prepayments	23,968	118,404
	<u>823,968</u>	<u>1,092,354</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

	1998 \$	1997 \$
<b>NOTE 7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Buildings and Infrastructure		
- At cost	873,794	857,863
- Accumulated depreciation	(415,370)	(301,753)
- At valuation	790,269	775,861
- Accumulated depreciation	(197,857)	(129,042)
Work In Progress	1,169,739	794,547
Vessels > \$250,000		
- At cost	259,283	..
- Accumulated depreciation	(43,750)	..
- At valuation	3,025,153	1,910,880
- Accumulated depreciation	(1,906,431)	(966,915)
Plant and equipment		
- At cost	2,632,531	3,067,150
- Accumulated depreciation	(1,620,110)	(1,872,223)
Total Property, Plant and Equipment - Net Book Value	<u>4,567,251</u>	<u>4,136,368</u>
<b>NOTE 8 CREDITORS</b>		
Trade creditors	112,613	147,958
Other creditors	84,273	39
	<u>196,886</u>	<u>147,997</u>
<b>NOTE 9 RECONCILIATION OF NET COST OF SERVICES TO NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net cost of Services	(4,420,348)	(3,908,790)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation	968,520	772,872
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	21,095	15,722
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/Decrease in other assets	94,436	(118,404)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	48,889	147,997
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(3,287,408)</u>	<u>(3,090,603)</u>
<b>NOTE 10 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES</b>		

There are no known commitments or contingent liabilities of a significant nature at 30 June 1998 (1997 Nil).

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 for the year ended 30 June 1998

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK  
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

NOTE 11 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Terms, Conditions and Accounting Policy

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

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

(b) Interest Rate Risk Exposure

No exposure to interest rate risk exists at 30 June 1998.

(c) Credit Risk Exposure

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

(d) Net Fair Values

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

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

Recognised Financial Instruments

*Cash balances*

The carrying amount approximates fair value.

*Other Receivables and Trade Payables*

The carrying amount approximates fair value.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1998

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**CERTIFICATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE**  
**In relation to the operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**

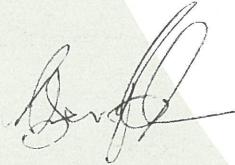
The foregoing financial statements have been prepared as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. We certify that -

- (a) the statements together with the other information and notes to and forming part thereof are in agreement with the accounts of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage; and
- (b) the receipt and expenditure of monies and the control and management of assets were in accordance with the approved programs and in accordance with the aforementioned agreements and previous agreements executed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments with regard to day to day management; and
- (c) in our opinion -
  - (i) the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
  - (ii) statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the transactions and cash flows of the Department of Environment and Heritage in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, and of the financial position as at 30 June 1998.



H. McLoughlin  
Executive Manager (Financial Services)

Date: 13-10-98



B. Carbon  
A/Director-General

Date: 16/10/98

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 1998

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**Audit Certificate**

**Scope**

I have audited the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the year ended 30 June 1998 comprising the Operating Statement, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Notes to and forming part of the financial statements and certificates given by the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Heritage and the person responsible for financial administration of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

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

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

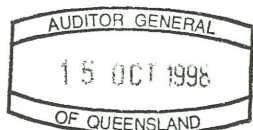
The audit opinion expressed in this certificate has been formed on the above basis.

**Audit Opinion**

In terms of the Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority relating to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, I certify that I have received all the information and explanations I have required in respect of the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and, in my opinion -

- the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
- the statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view in accordance with the prescribed accounting standards and other prescribed requirements of the transactions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the financial year ended 30 June 1998 and of the financial position as at the end of that year.

  
L J SCANLAN  
Auditor-General



Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

# Appendix M

## Report of the Auditor-General

### INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for the Environment

#### Scope

I have audited the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 1998. The financial statements comprise:

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

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

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

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

## **Audit Opinion**

In my opinion,

- (i) the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines for Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities, and
- (ii) the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the Guidelines for Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities, of the financial position of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 1998 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B.A. Kaufmann', with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

B.A. Kaufmann  
Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Melbourne  
26 October 1998

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