



Australian Government

**Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2004 - 2005**



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



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Australian Government

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Marine Park Authority**

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Further information

The 2004-2005 Annual Report is accessible on the Authority's web site at http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/annual_reports/. The site also includes supplementary information including a list of staff papers and Authority publications produced during the year. A detailed list of membership of relevant external committees can also be found at www.gbrmpa.gov.au.

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

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
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13 October 2005

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

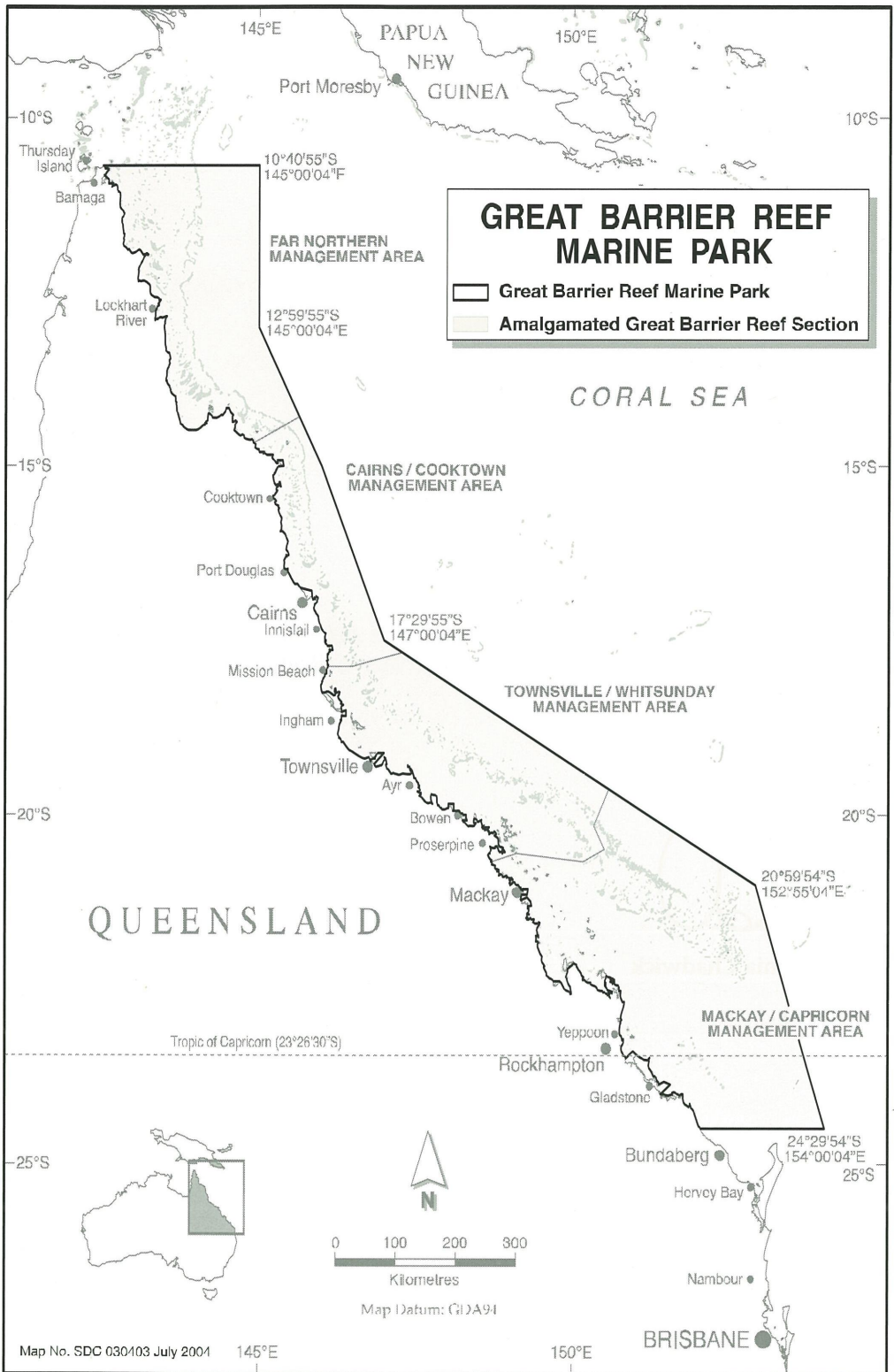
Dear Minister

In accordance with section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, I submit the Annual Report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2005.

Yours sincerely



Hon. Virginia Chadwick
Chairman



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SECTION A

Introduction



Introduction

Managing for the future of one of the world's largest marine parks always presents interesting challenges and 2004-05 was no exception. Whilst good progress has been made in putting improved management in place during the year, the Great Barrier Reef continues to be under pressure from a wide range of human and natural impacts.

This year has been one of implementing the major Australian Government initiatives of the new *Zoning Plan* and the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*. The efforts of the Authority have been focussed on making sure that the major environmental improvements gained over previous years have been well explained to the community and that a strong compliance framework exists to reflect community demands for increased on-park policing.

The new *Zoning Plan* came into place on 1 July 2004 and this event marks a significant milestone in the 30-year history of the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Its development is based on extensive public consultation that involved the analysis of more than 31,000 public submissions. The undertaking has been recognised as producing a world-leading outcome. It has received ten major state, national and international awards, including the national Planning Minister's award, the Eureka Prize for Biodiversity Research award and the 2005 UNESCO/Man and the Biosphere award.

The implementation of this important new programme also brought with it many challenges. More than 700,000 maps were distributed throughout the east coast, using a network of local Community Access Points (including bait and tackle stores, visitor information centres and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service offices). This community involvement in the implementation phase has ensured that all park users could confidently understand the new zoning. The network of Community Access Points along the coast that helped to distribute information to residents during the zoning consultation phases also continued to assist by distributing new information and maps.

A programme as significant as the new zoning could not be implemented without some substantial assessment of both processes and outcomes. Consistent results from ongoing research by the Authority points to community satisfaction with the outcome and processes of the rezoning of more than eighty percent. However, as part of this evaluation, the Authority commissioned an independent consultant, Futureye Pty Ltd, to particularly look at those most disaffected or disenfranchised by the rezoning process. This was a valuable tool in the evaluation of the rezoning and has given the Authority important insights into how to better address the views and concerns of this small but important section of the Great Barrier Reef community.

A significant recommendation of the Futureye Report suggested that the Authority needed to develop and maintain a stronger regional presence. This was commenced at the end of this financial year with the creation of the Community Partnerships Group. This Group is developing four offices in major regional centres along the Great Barrier Reef coast, and by early in the 2005-06 financial year the Authority will have several staff stationed in each office.

The *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* is a joint initiative of the Queensland and Australian Governments, and in 2004-05 the Authority has worked extensively with other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, local governments, industry groups and the broader community to implement the Reef Plan. This extensive interagency, intergovernment and community involvement augurs well for the future of the Reef Plan as it indicates a general willingness of all Queenslanders to become involved in improving the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

Both these initiatives mark a major investment in the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef and the sustainability of the industries that are dependent on it. The planning, negotiating and development of both initiatives, despite their significance and importance, are not the end of the matter. Their success depends on ongoing effective implementation of management arrangements including education and communication, monitoring effectiveness, and ensuring effective compliance. Most importantly, it depends on community understanding, acceptance and support. After all, the Marine Park ultimately belongs to the Australian community.

I am thankful to the Government for making available funds from the Natural Heritage Trust programme to assist with these important implementation tasks. Importantly this has enabled an extensive community information programme that has ensured that all users of the Marine Park are aware of the zoning changes in their area and know how to access further information.

The Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit joined with the Conservation and Heritage Group resulting in improved integration of management of threatened species and Indigenous hunting management. This year we commenced work on the development of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements with a number of Traditional Owner groups, and it is likely that the first agreement will be with Giringun whose sea country includes the Hinchinbrook Island area.

The Fisheries Group has worked with Queensland Fisheries and the harvest fishing industry to develop new management arrangements to ensure these activities occur on a sustainable basis.

A strong partnership has continued with the marine tourism industry. Tourism continues to dominate the economic activity on the Reef. Recent work carried out has shown it accounts for eighty-seven percent of the Gross Value of Production generated by the Marine Park.

The Authority's innovative and highly successful Reef Guardian Schools programme continues to produce positive changes in community actions and attitudes along the coast. With more than 180 schools now playing a part in protecting the Great Barrier Reef, the value of the programme is now being transferred into a Reef Guardian Councils initiative. This will not only recognise the good work of many Local Government councils along the coast in reducing their impacts on the reef, but also allows the Authority to engage even more community members in positive reef initiatives.

The Authority's aquarium and reef education facility, Reef HQ, continues to perform

well in a highly competitive market, showing continuous improvement on previous years. However, in an environment of continually increasing costs, this may present future challenges to the Authority budget.

Staff from the Authority have also played an important role in Australian Government international aid programmes to countries devastated by the Boxing Day tsunami of December 2004.

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

The staff of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority deserve special recognition, both for their personal commitment and hard work, but also for continuing the high standards of performance and teamwork.

I proudly submit this annual report of our achievements to the Parliament and the Australian community. With their continuing support and commitment to protecting this magnificent natural asset, the Great Barrier Reef will continue to produce valuable tangible and intangible returns to the community well into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Chadwick', with a large, stylized 'O' at the end.

Hon. Virginia Chadwick
Chairman

Summary of Financial Performance

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

Total appropriation for 2004-05 of \$23.975 million was \$1.862 million more than the 2003-04 appropriation. This was primarily due to the change in 2003-04 to adjust the accounting treatment of the Special Appropriation due to the Authority from the collection of the Environmental Management Charge. Full details of the change were disclosed in the 2003-04 Financial Statements. There were other variations due to adjustments to programmes for Aquaculture and the Environmental Management Charge Offset.

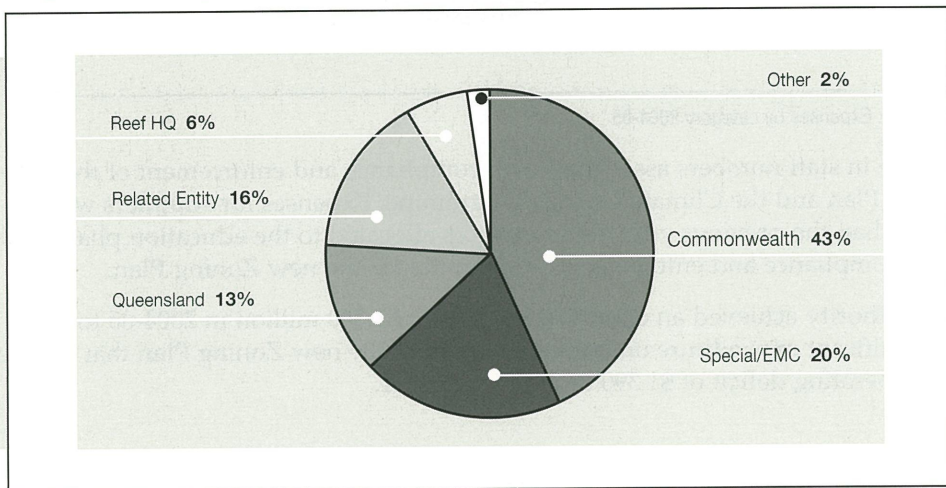


Figure 1: Operating revenues by source 2004-05

Revenue from other sources for 2004-05 of \$14.553 million was \$6.111 million more than in 2003-04. This increase was primarily due to funding provided from the Natural Heritage Trust for education about the new Zoning Plan, compliance and enforcement of the new Zoning Plan and for monitoring of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*. Revenue from Reef HQ admission sales and retail operations was up on 2003-04. In addition, a \$0.4 million Natural Heritage Trust grant was received to assist with measures to control crown-of-thorns starfish. Funding was also received from the Australian Greenhouse Office for the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Programme.

The Australian and Queensland Governments provided matching funding for Day-to-Day Management of the Marine Park, which is implemented by a number of Queensland Government agencies.

The operating expense of managing the Marine Park in 2004-05 was \$37.188 million, an increase of \$5.243 million from 2003-04. Employee expenses increased due to the second stage of the 2003-2006 Agency Certified Agreement and an

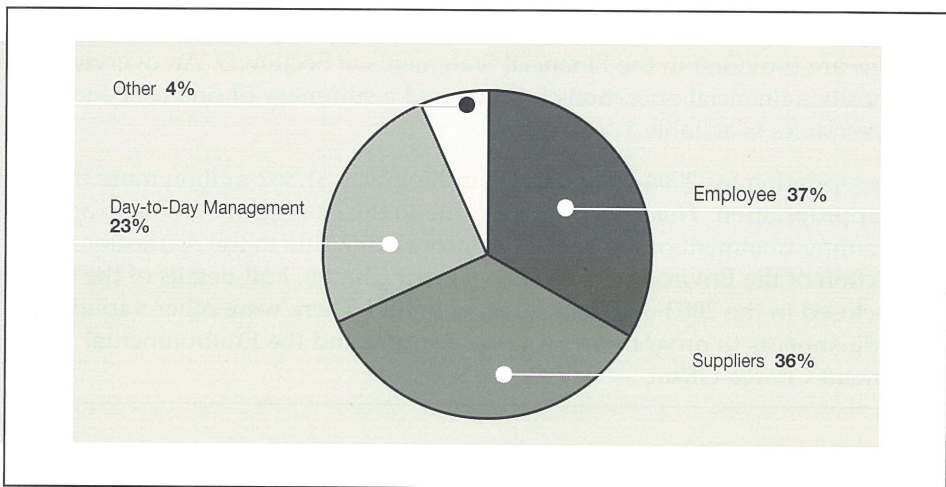


Figure 2: Expenses by category 2004-05

increase in staff numbers associated with compliance and enforcement of the new Zoning Plan and the Climate Change Programme. Expenses for suppliers were higher than the previous year with resources allocated to the education phase and to the compliance and enforcement programme for the new Zoning Plan.

The Authority achieved an operating surplus of \$1.340 million in 2004-05 to offset the significant expenditure on implementation of the new Zoning Plan that resulted in an operating deficit of \$1.390 million in 2003-04.

Explanation of resource table variations

Table 1 sets out budget and actual resource usage for each of the Outputs identified in the 2004-05 Portfolio Budget Statements. The variations from Budget to Actual relate to changes to the organisational structure during the year and to actual expenses incurred for programmes to implement the new Zoning Plan.

Some resources allocated to the Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage Group in the 2004-05 Budget were reallocated to Planning and Impact Management during the year following completion of the Representative Areas Programme. Since the 2004-05 Budget, shipping outputs that were previously part of the Park Management Output Group have been included under Output 1.2, Water Quality and Coastal Development. Additional expenses were incurred in the Water Quality and Coastal Development Group to contribute to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan Secretariat. In the Tourism and Recreation Group, additional funds were received from the Natural Heritage Trust for the crown-of-thorns starfish control programme. Actual expenses incurred under Output 1.5.1, Field Management, for compliance and enforcement of the new Zoning Plan were less than budgeted although the funds were fully committed to a range of activities including capital

expenditure not reflected in this table. The original budget for Output 1.7, Reef Education & Communication, was developed in anticipation that the expenses would be incurred in 2004-05. The actual result reflects the fact that many expenses were incurred in 2003-04 in preparation for the new Zoning Plan coming into effect on 1 July 2004.

RESOURCES FOR GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY OUTCOME

OUTCOME	<i>Protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef</i>	Budget 2004-05 \$'000	Actual 2004-05 \$'000	Variation to Budget \$'000	Budget 2005-06 \$'000
Price of Departmental Outputs					
Output Group 1.1 – Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships		1,840	1,320	(520)	1,979
Output Group 1.2 – Water Quality & Coastal Development		1,871	2,172	301	1,798
Output Group 1.3 – Fisheries		1,136	1,202	66	1,262
Output Group 1.4 – Tourism & Recreation		1,426	1,708	282	1,802
Output Group 1.5 – Park Management					
1.5.1 Field management		13,014	12,267	(747)	12,964
1.5.2 Planning & Impact Management		2,986	3,293	307	3,662
1.5.3 Liaison		1,039	918	(121)	0
		17,039	16,478	(561)	16,626
Output Group 1.6 – Information for Park Management		7,086	7,007	(79)	7,887
Output Group 1.7 – Reef Education & Communication		8,223	7,301	(922)	6,691
Total Price of Departmental Outputs and Resourcing		38,621	37,188	(1,433)	38,045

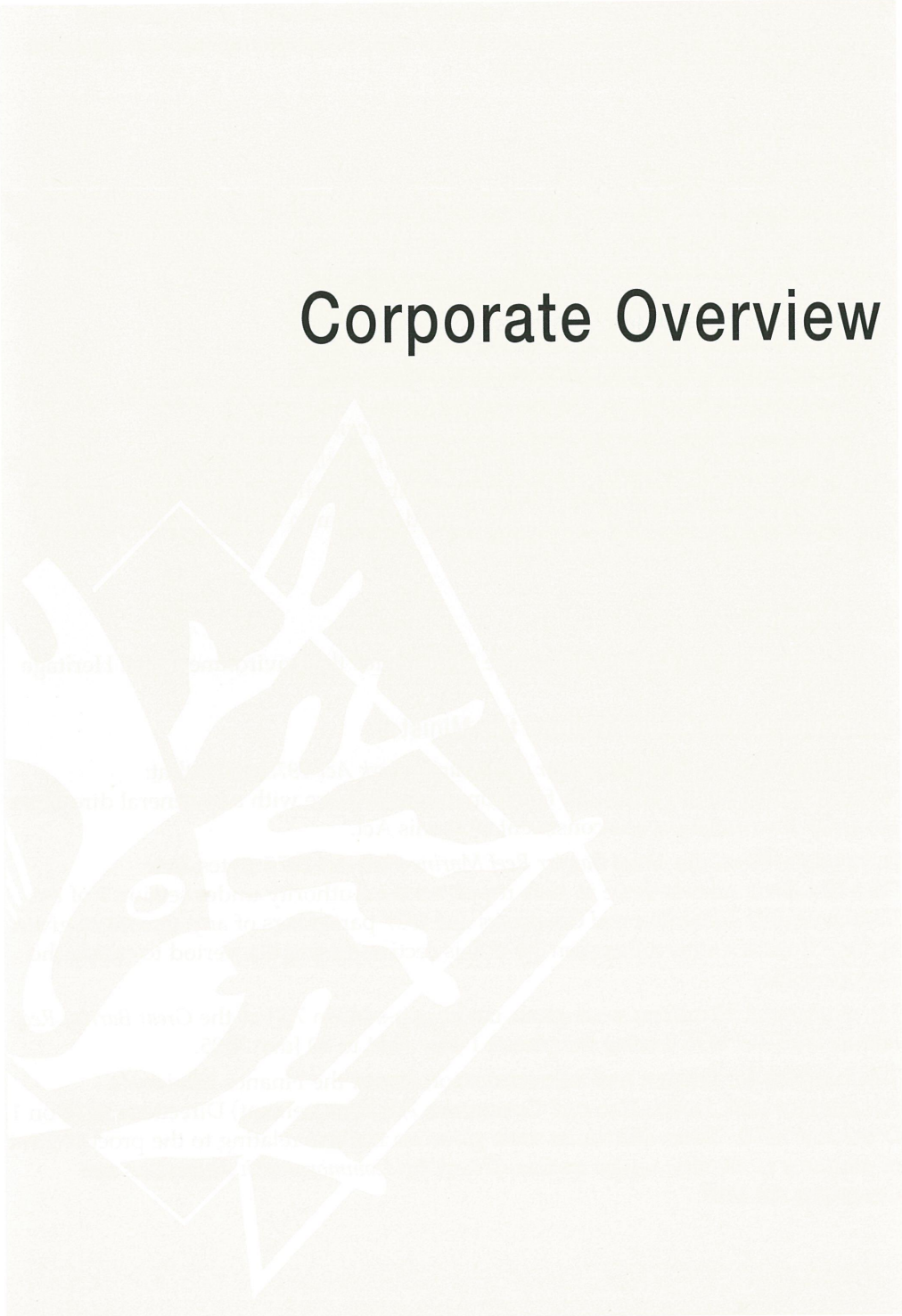
Staff Level [FTEs at 30 June] 2005	170	184	14	179
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Table 1: Financial and staffing resources summary

In the 2005-06 Budget, Indigenous Liaison outputs that were previously part of the Park Management Output Group have been included under Output 1.1 Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships. Community involvement in management outputs that were previously part of the Park Management Output Group have been allocated across all outputs.

SECTION B

Corporate Overview



Role

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) is the principal adviser to the Australian Government on the care, development and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Legislation

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

Regulations in force under the Act are the:

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

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

The Minister

Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell became Minister for the Environment and Heritage in July 2004.

Directions to the Authority from the Minister

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

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

No Ministerial Directions were given under sub-section 7(2) of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* during the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005.

The Minister for Finance and Administration issued the Finance Minister's (Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act Procurement) Directions 2004 on 1 December 2004. These directions were given on matters relating to the procurement of property or services under section 47A of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

Organisation

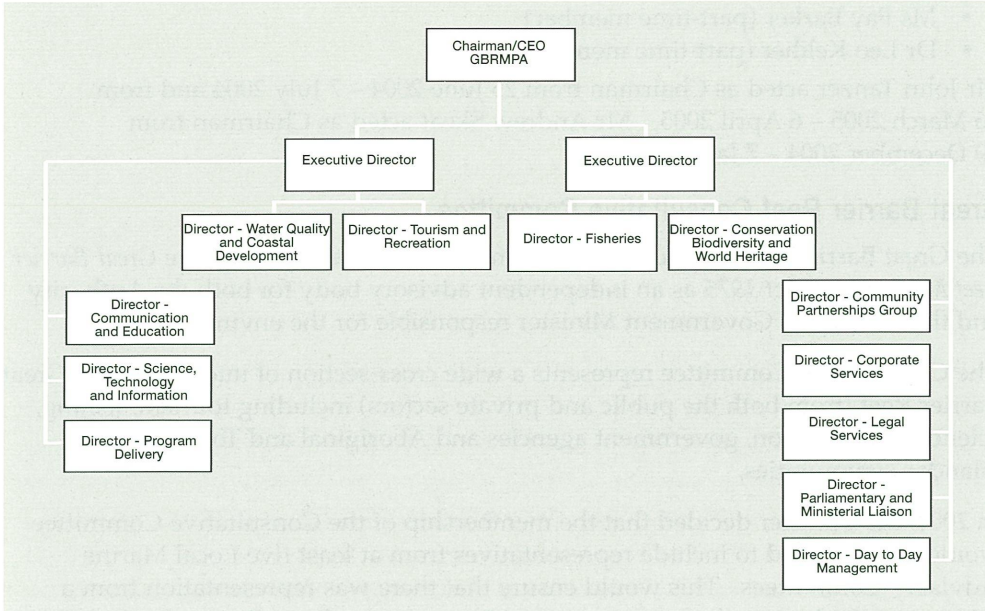


Figure 3: Organisational Chart of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Corporate Governance

Membership of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

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

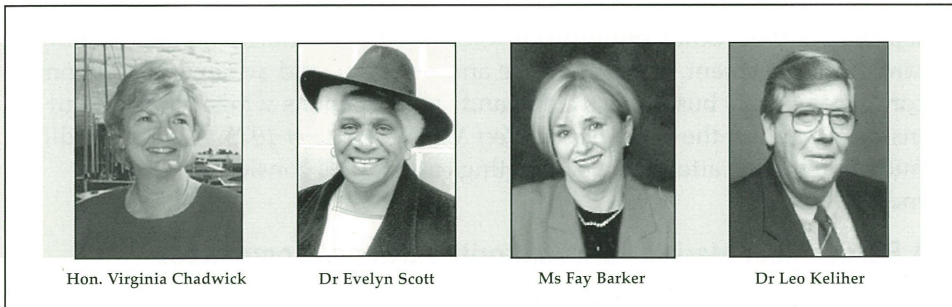


Plate 1: Members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2004-05

The members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during 2004–05 were:

- Hon. Virginia Chadwick (full-time Chairman and Chief Executive)
- Dr Evelyn Scott, AO (part-time member)

- Ms Fay Barker (part-time member)
- Dr Leo Keliher (part-time member)

Mr John Tanzer acted as Chairman from 25 June 2004 – 7 July 2004 and from 16 March 2005 – 6 April 2005. Mr Andrew Skeat acted as Chairman from 20 December 2004 – 7 January 2005.

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 Australian Government Minister responsible for the environment.

The Consultative Committee represents a wide cross-section of interests in the Great Barrier Reef (from both the public and private sectors) including tourism, fishing, science, conservation, government agencies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In 2004, the Minister decided that the membership of the Consultative Committee would be expanded to include representatives from at least five Local Marine Advisory Committees. This would ensure that there was representation from a wide geographic spread of communities adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Consultative Committee 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. A list of the Consultative Committee members and meetings held is at Appendix 2.

Audit Committee

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

The objective of the Audit Committee is to ensure the Authority maintains a high standard of management, both corporate and financial, and achieves its outcomes in accordance with its business strategy and strategic plans whilst carrying out its responsibilities under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. A list of Audit Committee members, attendance at meetings and issues considered is at Appendix 2.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Advisory Committees

The Authority has established a number of permanent committees to help execute Board responsibilities. These include four critical issue-focussed Reef Advisory Committees, the Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee and eleven Local Marine Advisory Committees. A number of other committees are also created from time to time to deal with specific issues. All committees have terms of reference and procedures established by the Board. Committee composition and

membership is reviewed as required. Information regarding the Authority's committees is contained in Appendix 2.

Public Accountability

Internal and external scrutiny

Internal Audit is outsourced to Pacific Bridge Pty Ltd. The firm continued to provide efficient and professional compliance and performance audit and evaluation services during 2004-05.

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

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Risk Management Plan* was updated during the year. The Risk Treatment Schedule outlines actions to manage risks identified in the Plan. Comcover is providing assistance to the Authority to develop a Business Continuity Plan. The Plan is expected to be in place by December 2005.

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Fraud Control Plan* ensures that the Authority has in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection procedures and processes, which meet the specific needs of the Authority and comply with the *Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines*.

Australian National Audit Office reports

Ernst & Young, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), undertook the external audit of the Authority's 2004-05 Financial Statements (See Section D, Financial Statements).

The Authority was included in the following Auditor General's Reports tabled in Parliament during 2004-05:

- No. 15 – *Financial Management of Special Appropriations*
- No. 21 – *Audits of the Financial Statements of Australian Government Entities for the Period Ended 30 June 2004*

The following Auditor General Reports of 2004-05 contain recommendations of relevance to the Authority:

- No. 3 – *Management of Internal Audit in Commonwealth Organisations*
- No. 6 – *Performance Management in the Australian Public Service*
- No. 12 – *Research Project Management Follow-Up Audit*
- No. 13 – *Superannuation Payments for Independent Contractors working for the Australian Government*
- No. 26 – *Measuring the Efficiency and Effectiveness of E-Government*

- No. 37 – *Management of Business Support Service Contracts*
- No. 41 – *Administration of Security Incidents, including the Conduct of Security Investigations*
- No. 42 – *Commonwealth Debt Management Follow-Up Audit*
- No. 46 – *Management of Trust Monies in CAC Act Entities*
- No. 52 – *Legal Services Arrangements in the Australian Public Service*
- No. 55 – *Workforce Planning*

Internal audit reports

The Authority's Audit Committee met twice during the year and considered external and internal audit reports and a revised *Risk Management Plan*, reviewed the provision of Internal Audit Services and recommended that Pacific Bridge be engaged for a further one-year period. During 2004-05 internal audits were undertaken in the following areas of operation:

- Compliance;
- Environmental Management Charge;
- Risk Management Plan and Risk Treatment Schedule;
- Project/Contract management;
- Revenue collection;
- Reef HQ;
- Human Resources Management (payroll);
- Purchasing and Procurement; and
- Financial management.

Parliamentary committees and Government inquiries

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

In October 2004, the Prime Minister announced a review of the Authority's governance, accountability and performance. The terms of reference for the review had not been announced as at 30 June 2005. There were no external reviews conducted that related specifically to the Authority.

Legal actions

One legal action was commenced against the Authority during the year. This matter is still ongoing. Another legal action also continued into the year, and the Federal Court of Australia handed down its decision in October 2004.

Ombudsman

The Ombudsman made no comments relating to any of the Authority's permit decisions in 2004-05. There were no actions relating to the appealable selection

processes and no comments were made by the Commonwealth Ombudsman with respect to human resource management activities.

There were no other external reviews of human resource management decisions during 2004-05.

Freedom of Information

The Authority received ten requests for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Commonwealth). A freedom of information statement is provided at Appendix 3.

Indemnities and insurance premiums

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

Social justice and equity

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

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

The Authority's relationship with Indigenous people is important. All major planning exercises for the Marine Park include consultation with Indigenous communities. During 2004-05, the major focus for consultation was the implementation of the new Zoning Plan, the development of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements and management requirements relating to the conservation of dugongs and turtles.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Service Charter

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Service Charter* sets out the Authority's commitment to all its stakeholders. The Service Charter is available on the Internet at www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_gbrmpa/service_charter.html or from the Public Information Unit at the Authority on request.

Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

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

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

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

State of Affairs of the GBRMPA

A number of principal activities of the Authority will be on-going from 2004-05. One of the most significant of these is the formation of the Community Partnerships Group and the establishment of regional offices.

The objective of the Community Partnerships Group is to enhance management decisions, compliance and stewardship through embedding a culture of effective, best-practice community engagement across the Authority.

Three officers will be based in Cairns with one focussing on Cape York. The other two will focus on the coastal communities from Cooktown to Mission Beach. One officer will be based in Townsville to service the needs of the Hinchinbrook to Burdekin region. Two officers will be based in Mackay to address the needs of the Bowen to St Lawrence region and two officers will be based in Rockhampton to liaise with communities from Marlborough to Bundaberg.

Other activities that will be ongoing from 2004-05 include:

- Implementation of the Authority's responsibilities under the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* (See Output 1.2, Water Quality and Coastal Development and Output 1.6 Information for Park Management);
- Continued implementation and education of the new Zoning Plan (See Output

1.5.1, Park Management and Output 1.7, Reef Education and Communication);

- Implementation of the provisions relating to the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs) (See Output 1.1, Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships);
- Amendment to the Whitsundays and the Cairns Area Plans of Management (See Output 1.5.2, Planning and Impact Management of the Marine Park); and
- Partnerships with the tourism industry in the crown-of-thorns starfish control programme (See Output 1.4, Tourism and Recreation).

Outcomes and Outputs Structure - Guide to the Reports

In 2004-05, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority identified seven Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which provide information on the extent to which the Authority is achieving its Goal and proposed Outcomes. The seven KPIs are derived from three major components of the Authority's Goal. The Goal and the desired Outcomes are linked to the seven Outputs in the Portfolio Budget Statement. Table 2 sets out the Key Performance Indicators and their relationship to components of the Goal and Outcomes.

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

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

Authority Goal <i>To provide for the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park</i>		
Component of Goal	Desired Outcomes expressed as Outputs	Key Performance Indicators
Protection	<i>Output 1.1</i> Conservation of the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef	KPI 1. The relative numbers of reefs that are 'healthy' compared to 'not healthy' as assessed by the AIMS Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Program
	<i>Output 1.2</i> Improved water quality	KPI 2. Trends in chlorophyll a concentration in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon*

*In the 2004-05 Portfolio Budget Statement KPI 2 was listed as 'Trends in end of river pollution loads for key Great Barrier Reef catchments.' Into the future, it is envisaged that this alternate KPI is likely to be used. This new indicator will track trends in water pollutant loads from key Reef catchments being monitored as part of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*. To achieve this, monitoring programmes measuring sediment, nutrient and pesticide loads at the mouths of ten major rivers draining into the Great Barrier Reef are currently being set up. Until this time the Authority has reverted to the KPI used in previous years 'Trends in chlorophyll a concentration in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.'

Wise use	Output 1.3 Sustainable fisheries	KPI 3. The proportion of fisheries (total fisheries vs well managed fisheries) with management plans and that arrangements that comply with the Commonwealth's guidelines for ecologically sustainable fisheries
	Output 1.5 Effective park management	KPI 4. The number of bioregions with adequate 'no take' zones
	Output 1.6 Accurate and adequate information available for management	KPI 5. The number of technical and scientific publications published about the Great Barrier Reef by the Authority and the Reef Cooperative Research Centre
Understanding and enjoyment	Output 1.4 High quality tourism and recreation opportunities	KPI 6. Trends in the number of tourists to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and their satisfaction with their experience
	Output 1.7 Improved community understanding of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	KPI 7. Public understanding of the main threats to the Great Barrier Reef is increasing

Table 2: Authority corporate Goal, Outcomes and Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicators reported against the Portfolio Budget Statements

KPI 1: The relative numbers of reefs that are 'healthy' compared to 'not healthy' as assessed by the Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Programme

What is this Indicator? Hard or stony corals provide much of the structure of coral reefs. The simplest measure of coral reef health is the area, or percent cover, of reef occupied by living corals. The following graph (Figure 4) shows cover of hard corals at various sites along the Great Barrier Reef recorded by the Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Programme. The individual traces on the graph show the trend in hard coral cover (the amount of substrate covered with living hard coral) at the programme's core survey reefs from 1993 to 2005, measured using video surveys. There is a separate graph for each section of the Great Barrier Reef and for inshore, mid-shelf and offshore reefs.

Why is this important? Measuring live hard coral cover at various sites along the Great Barrier Reef allows scientists and managers to detect long-term changes in the environment. The Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Programme provides regional-scale information about the changes taking place on coral reefs in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This helps the Authority to identify general changes and trends in the 'health' or condition of the environment, and increases the Authority's understanding of the reef ecosystem.

What does this mean? Hard coral cover averaged over the entire Great Barrier Reef

has not changed markedly over the thirteen years of Australian Institute of Marine Science video surveys (mean net change 0.12% increase in coral cover; 95% confidence intervals – 0.53% to 0.77%), although there is great variation from reef to reef and year to year. In some areas, such as the outer reefs in the Cooktown-Lizard Island sector and in the Capricorn Bunker sector, coral cover has increased substantially during this period as reef communities recovered from storm damage. In contrast, areas such as inshore reefs near Cairns and mid-shelf reefs near Townsville, have suffered overall declines in coral cover, although in some cases there have been signs of recovery in recent years.

This variation, between reefs and over time, is normal for corals reefs, which are naturally very dynamic ecosystems. Many factors can influence the amount of hard coral cover on a reef. Disturbances such as cyclones, coral bleaching and outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish can cause sharp declines in coral cover. However, these effects may be localised and in the absence of subsequent pressures, coral cover on a healthy reef is likely to completely recover over a decade or more. In some cases, impacts may be so localised and specific that different parts of the same reef may show extreme differences in appearance and live coral cover. Thus, while these graphs provide a valuable overview of the 'health' of the reefs being monitored, the trends shown should be interpreted in the context of information about the natural disturbances and potential human pressures each reef may have experienced. For more information about the natural variability of coral reef and how this affects the ability of scientists to determine reef health, view the chapter on corals in the State of the Great Barrier Reef Online at: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/corals/index.html

Further information on coral cover is available from the 'manta tow' surveys also conducted as part of the Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Programme. These surveys provide less precise estimates of coral cover, but survey a larger area, more of each reef (the entire perimeters of about ~100 reefs per year), and have been conducted over a longer period. These surveys, when averaged over the entire programme, suggest that there has been a small net decline in coral cover over the last nineteen years (0.26% per year 95% confidence intervals 0.36 to 0.16%, amounting to 4.94% over nineteen years). As with the video data, this pattern is the sum of very different patterns of change in different regions and the net decline can be attributed to specific trends in specific locations. The largest decreases were observed on midshelf reefs in the Swains that have had chronic outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish (these reefs are among the most remote from human populations). Inshore and midshelf reefs near Cairns also show declines in coral cover, having been affected by coral bleaching in 1998, active crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks between 1995 and 2002, and six cyclones between 1996 and 2003. Coral cover on some of these reefs has increased in recent surveys.

These three factors, cyclones, climate-related mass coral bleaching, and the current wave of crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks, have had the most significant effects on coral cover in recent years for much of the Great Barrier Reef. The most significant natural impact on the Reef in the last year was probably Cyclone Ingrid, a severe

category four tropical cyclone, which crossed the coast in a remote area north of Princess Charlotte Bay in March 2005. This cyclone took place after the regular survey (hence does not appear in Figure 4), and so was the focus of a specific survey by Australian Institute of Marine Science scientists. Coral damage was recorded along a 200 kilometre-wide swath, including some 260 separate coral reefs. Reefs at the outer edge of the swath are expected to largely recover significantly in two to three years, whilst some areas affected near the eye of the cyclone could take decades to recover fully. Patches of surviving coral, particularly in leeward areas, will serve as broodstock that will enhance recovery in the worst affected areas. The remoteness of the area should ensure that the recovery is not hampered by local scale human impacts.

The latest surveys (May 2005) in the Townsville region documented active crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks on some reefs in this region, and revealed that crown-of-thorns starfish and coral bleaching have caused significant declines in coral cover on some reefs. Nevertheless, the number of crown-of-thorns starfish observed in this region has decreased from previous years, indicating that the current series of outbreaks is following previously observed patterns where crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks move from north to south over a number of years.

The latest surveys in the Whitsundays region (March 2005) support this observation. These surveys found increasing numbers of crown-of-thorns starfish on some reefs in this region. While coral cover on these reefs has remained stable, future declines in coral cover are likely on affected reefs as crown-of-thorns starfish numbers continue to increase. On other reefs in this region, which are not currently experiencing increasing numbers of crown-of-thorns starfish, coral cover has remained stable, with the exception of two reefs which experienced some decline, probably due to coral bleaching in 2002.

Meanwhile in the southern Great Barrier Reef, recent surveys (December 2004) showed that some reefs experienced significant declines in coral cover due to crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks and cyclones, while others maintained relatively high levels of coral cover. Coral cover in the Capricorn Bunkers section is continuing to increase from low levels brought about by cyclones. More information about these trends is available from the Australian Institute of Marine Science web site: <http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/surveyup.html>

While the trends in coral cover are varied, some reefs continue to exhibit more subtle indications of decline that are cause for concern. Some reefs, particularly inshore reefs situated close to the coast, are considered 'at risk' from factors such as land based pollutant runoff. These additional pressures may hinder the recovery of reefs from disturbance events and in the long-term, may alter the ecology and health of these reefs. Long-term monitoring needs to be maintained to track the disturbance and recovery cycles of coral reefs and provide a more complete understanding of the health of these coral reef systems.

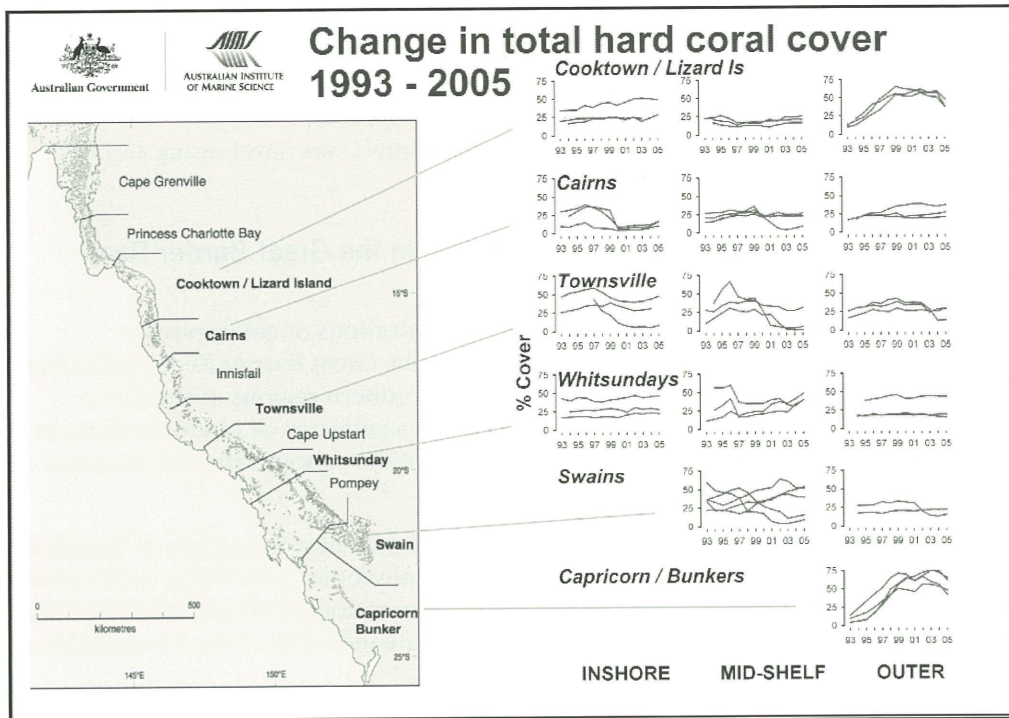


Figure 4: Change in total hard coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef 1993-2005.

Source: Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Programme.

Reef scientists conduct coral surveys of forty-seven 'core' reefs every summer using a video monitoring technique. Reefs are grouped by latitude and by position on the continental shelf. Each line on the graphs summarises the trends for a different reef in each region. There are three study sites at each reef located in a standard habitat on the north-east face of the reef. At each site the scientists video five fifty metre long transects set at six to twelve metres depth. The video records are used to count the number and type of coral present and to calculate the total live hard coral cover for that reef. This amounts to some forty kilometres of coral reef surveyed and analysed in great detail by the Long-term Monitoring Programme each year.

Related links:

- Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Programme web site: <http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/reef-monitoring-index.html>
- Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Programme reports: <http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/projinfo.html>
- Australian Institute of Marine Science coral bleaching and crown-of-thorns starfish information: <http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/reefissues.html>
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority coral bleaching information: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/science/bleaching/index.html
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority information on coral reefs: <http://www.reefed.edu.au/explorer/>
- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online: Environmental status – corals http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/corals/index.html
- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online: Environmental status – crown-of-thorns starfish http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/cots/index.html

- CRC Reef Research Centre coral bleaching information: http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/brochures/bleaching_brochure.pdf
- CRC Reef Research Centre crown-of-thorns starfish information: http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/brochures/cots-brochure_2001.pdf
- CRC Reef Research Centre coral reef information: <http://www.reef.crc.org.au/discover/coralreefs/index.html>

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

What is this indicator? Figure 5 shows the concentrations of chlorophyll a measured in both inshore and offshore waters of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon from 1992 to 2005 at sites in the northern, central and southern regions of the Great Barrier Reef. These measurements estimate the concentration of phytoplankton in the water, which, in turn, provides an indication of the concentration of nutrients present in the water column.

Why is this important? When nutrients from the land enter the waters of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon, they are rapidly taken up by phytoplankton living in the water. Phytoplankton reproduce more quickly when more nutrients are available and thus the quantity of phytoplankton present is an accurate indicator of the concentrations of nutrients in the water.

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

What does this mean? Significant differences between chlorophyll a levels near the coast and in the lagoon are evident in the central and southern regions of the Great Barrier Reef. The higher chlorophyll a concentrations at these inshore sites are believed to be due to enhanced nutrient availability from terrestrial runoff and recurrent resuspension of shallow nearshore sediments. The inshore chlorophyll a concentrations in the central and southern regions are also much higher than those in the inshore northern region.

In contrast, inshore concentrations of chlorophyll a are similar to offshore concentrations in the northern section of the Great Barrier Reef. This is a consequence of smaller quantities of terrestrial nutrients being delivered to marine waters in northern waters and a greater degree of cross-shelf mixing of marine waters.

The northern catchments (Cape York) have only limited cropping agriculture and grazing is carried out at relatively low stocking levels. In contrast, the central and southern sections are characterised by high levels of agricultural activity including

Long-term chlorophyll monitoring programme inner and outer sampling locations 1992 - 2005

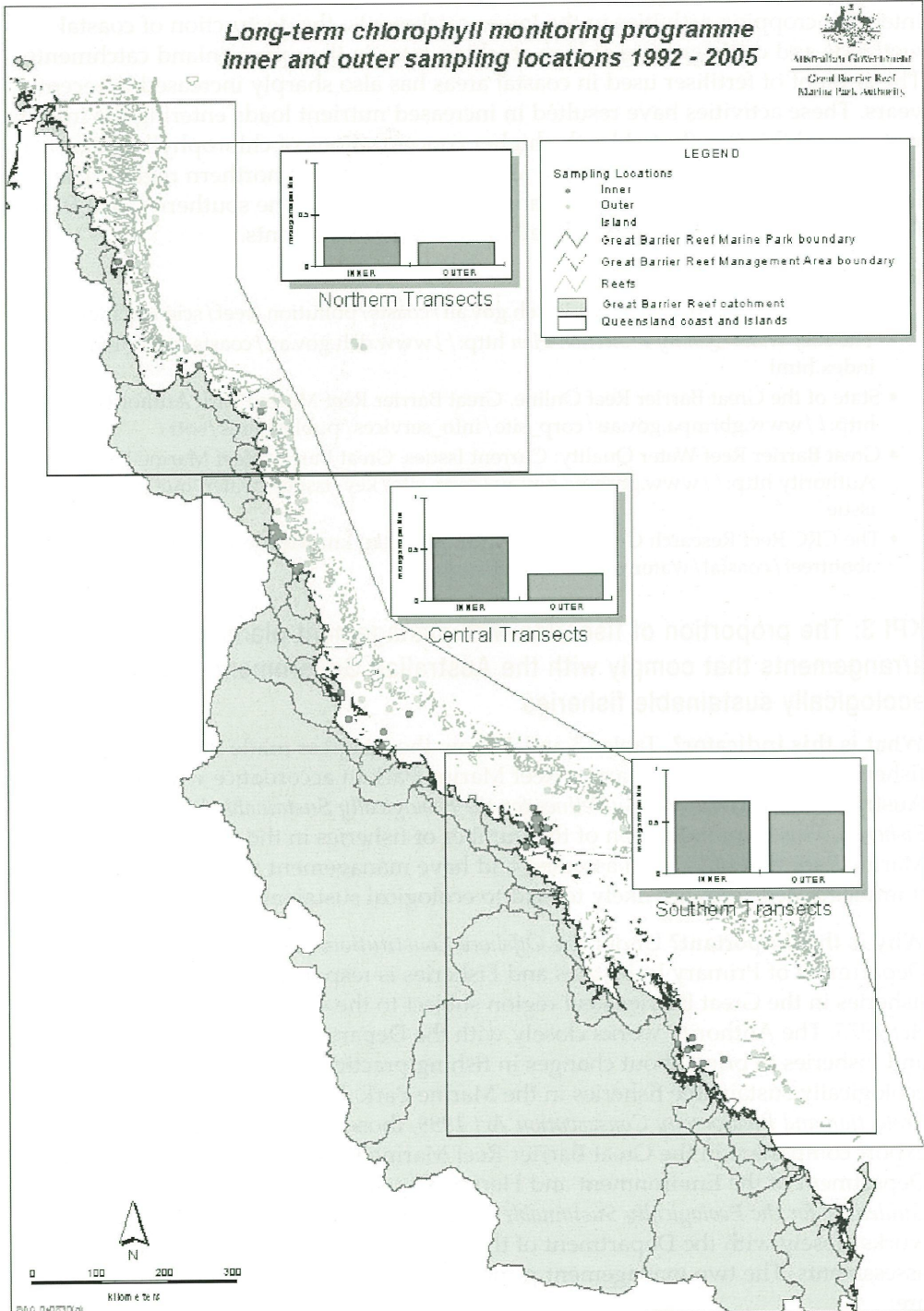


Figure 5: Long-term chlorophyll monitoring programme – inner and outer sampling locations 1992-2005.
Source: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and CRC Reef Research Centre.

intensive cropping activities in the lower catchments, the destruction of coastal wetlands and cattle grazing at high stocking rates in the upper, inland catchments. The amount of fertiliser used in coastal areas has also sharply increased in recent years. These activities have resulted in increased nutrient loads entering the inshore waters, and this is reflected by the higher concentrations of chlorophyll a recorded in these regions compared with the relatively undisturbed northern region. The high concentrations of chlorophyll a in offshore waters in the southern Great Barrier Reef are related to the natural upwelling of deep sea nutrients.

Related links:

- The Science Report <http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/science/index.html>
- The *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* <http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/index.html>
- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/
- Great Barrier Reef Water Quality: Current Issues, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/current_issue
- The CRC Reef Research Centre site regarding current knowledge www.reef.crc.org.au/aboutreef/coastal/waterquality_consensus.html

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

What is this indicator? Tables 3 and 4 show the progress made in assessing fisheries within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in accordance with the Australian Government's *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries*. This is an indication of the number of fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that have been assessed and have management recommendations that, if implemented fully, are likely to lead to ecological sustainability.

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

- A fishery must be conducted in a manner that does not lead to over-fishing, or

for those stocks that are over-fished, the fishery must be conducted such that there is a high degree of probability the stock(s) will recover.

- Fishing operations should be managed to minimise their impact on the structure, productivity, function and biological diversity of the ecosystem.

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

What does this mean? Assessment of fisheries began in 2000. Assessment of each fishery must be completed in order for the export of product from that fishery to continue. Progress in assessing the Marine Park fisheries is indicated in Table 3 and Table 4.

Blue Swimmer Crab Pot Fishery	WTO
East Coast Beche-de-mer Fishery	WTO
East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery	WTO
East Coast Pearl Fishery	Exempt
East Coast Spanish Mackerel Fishery	WTO
East Coast Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery	WTO
Marine Specimen Shell Fishery	Exempt
Mud Crab Fishery	WTO
Spanner Crab Fishery	Exempt
Sygnathid Incidental Catch	WTO
Rocky Reef Finfish Fishery	WTO

Table 3: Completed assessments of fisheries occurring in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as at 30 June 2005.

Source: Department of the Environment and Heritage Sustainable Fisheries Section, July 2005.

The difference between Exempt and WTO

Exempt - The fishery is being managed in an ecologically sustainable way, in accordance with the Guidelines. This fishery will be added to the exempt list for five years and recommendations for action over that time may be made. Product from these fisheries may continue to be exported without permits.

WTO - The fishery is consistent with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and is not likely to have an unacceptable impact in the short-term. However, there are uncertainties and further action is required. This fishery will be declared an approved Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) and export can occur while conditions are being met.

	Pre-sub Consultation	Working Draft	Public Comment Period	Formal Assessment	Complete
Coral Reef Finfish					
East Coast Trochus					
Marine Aquarium Fish					
East Coast Inshore Finfish	Not started				

Table 4: Assessments in progress for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park fisheries against the Australian Government *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries*.

Source: Department of the Environment and Heritage Sustainable Fisheries Section, July 2005.

Related links:

- Department of the Environment and Heritage Sustainable Fisheries Section:
<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/fisheries>
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority fisheries:
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/fisheries/

- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online:
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/
- CRC Reef Research Centre – Status of Queensland’s East Coast Fisheries:
http://www.reef.crc.org.au/research/fishing_fisheries/status_fisheries/

KPI 4: Trends in number of tourists to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and their satisfaction with their experience

What is this indicator? Figure 6 shows the number of tourist visits occurring in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, recorded by data from the Environmental Management Charge database. The data contained in ‘Satisfaction’ shows the level of satisfaction expressed by visitors to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park during 2004-05.

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

What does this mean?

Visitation

Figure 6 shows the number of tourist visits in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park since 2000. The annual number of visitors to the Park has increased steadily since

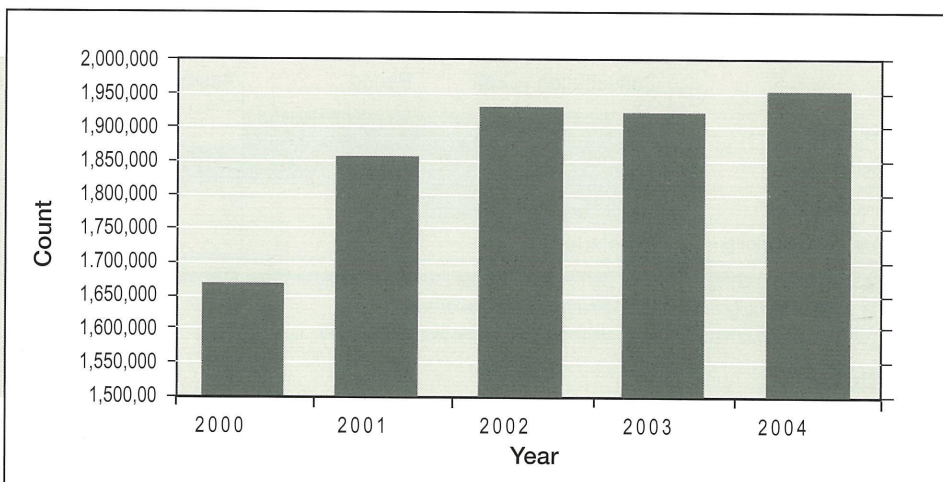


Figure 6: Yearly totals for Reef-wide visitor days

EMC

1993. However, reflecting more general tourism trends, there have been fluctuations in the seasonal visitation rates, and the proportion of tourists visiting various regions (e.g. the Cairns Area and the Whitsundays) has changed over time. Nevertheless, the Great Barrier Reef remains a national tourism icon, with over 1.9 million visitors taking the opportunity to enjoy the Marine Park in 2004 (this excludes transit passengers).

Satisfaction

In the 2005 AEC Group Ltd survey of people from Great Barrier Reef coastal communities and major Australian capital cities, eighty percent of respondents who visited the Marine Park in 2004-05 rated their satisfaction with their recent trip as very satisfied or satisfied.

Related links:

- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online: Management status – tourism and recreation:
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/tourec/index.html
- Tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/corp_site/key_issues/tourism/

KPI 5: The number of bioregions with adequate ‘no take’ zones

What is this Indicator? Figure 7 shows the number of the seventy separate bioregions identified by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s Representative Areas Programme that have adequate protection.

Why is this important? A key tool in the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a system of zoning. This zoning system includes ‘no take’ areas where extractive activities are not allowed without the Authority’s permission, ensuring that all plants and animals are fully protected to preserve the function and integrity of the ecosystem. It is recognised that the previous zoning regime (prior to the Representative Areas Programme less than five percent was designated as highly protected area) was inadequate for protection of the wide range of biodiversity in the Great Barrier Reef. In 1999, scientists identified seventy individual bioregions and recommended that in order to adequately protect biodiversity and ecosystem function, a minimum of twenty percent of each bioregion should be designated as protected ‘no take’ areas.

The Representative Areas Programme (RAP) aimed to correct the imbalances of the previous zoning regime, and to ensure that representative examples of every type of bioregion (an area which, when mapped, depicts similar physical and biological characteristics at a chosen scale, in our case, 10s to 100s of km) found within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park had adequate protection in line with the best scientific advice. The RAP culminated with the launch on 1 July 2004 of the new *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* that rezoned the entire Marine Park. As a result of the new zoning system, a minimum of twenty percent of every

bioregion identified by the RAP is now protected in 'no take' zones. This will help to preserve the ecological functions, inter-connectivity and biodiversity of the entire ecosystem.

What does this mean? The number of protected areas has increased since the establishment of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The first Zoning Plan was introduced in 1983 and as new zoning plans were introduced, the number of bioregions with adequate protection (with twenty percent included in 'no take' zones) rose to fourteen in 1990. With the launch of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*, the number of bioregions afforded adequate protection has increased to seventy, encompassing all the recognised bioregions in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

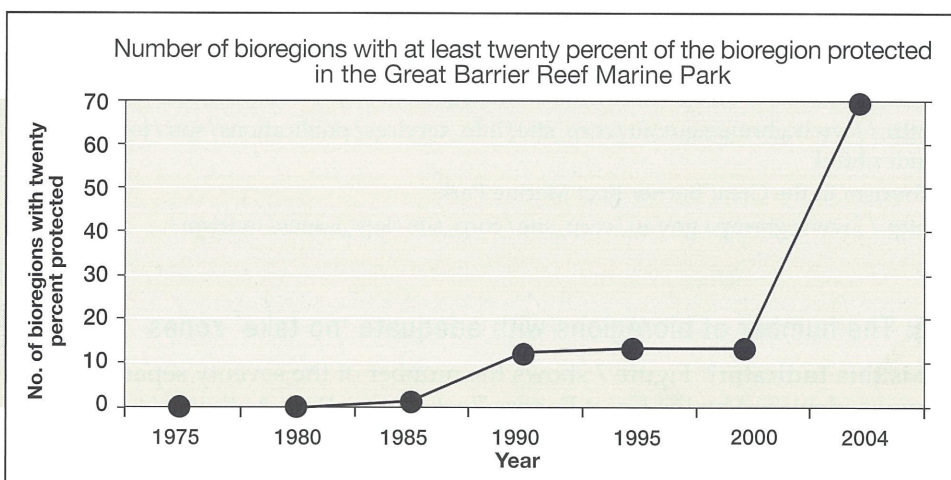


Figure 7: Number of bioregions with at least twenty percent protected in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Related Links:

- Web site introducing the new zoning of the entire Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/index.html
- Information package as delivered to Federal Parliament in December 2003: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/rap/rap/index.html
- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/benthos/index.html
- Environment Australia National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas: <http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/nrsmmpa/>

KPI 6: The number of technical and scientific publications published about the Great Barrier Reef by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Reef Cooperative Research Centre

What is this indicator? Figure 8 shows the number of research publications, technical papers, workshop papers and technical reports published by the Great

Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef Research Centre) since 1978.

Why is this important? One of the Authority’s corporate goals is to promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef and the issues affecting its health and management. The Authority makes a significant contribution to scientific research in the Great Barrier Reef to better understand the ecosystem and the effects of human activities. The CRC Reef Research Centre is the Authority’s primary research provider and carries out the majority of the Authority’s research programme. Both the Authority and CRC Reef Research Centre have a reputation for publishing high quality, freely accessible scientific reports that document the research undertaken and promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef. The number of scientific publications released reflects the amount of information available to help the community understand the Great Barrier Reef and the issues affecting it.

What does this mean? The number of publications released by both the Authority and CRC Reef Research Centre has increased steadily over the years. However, the actual number of publications varies from year to year due to the varied nature of the research undertaken. Some research projects take more time to complete and reports vary in both size and complexity. In 2004-05, scientific and technical reports were published online on both the Authority and CRC Reef Research Centre web sites. The entire range of published scientific reports is freely accessible from the Internet.

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

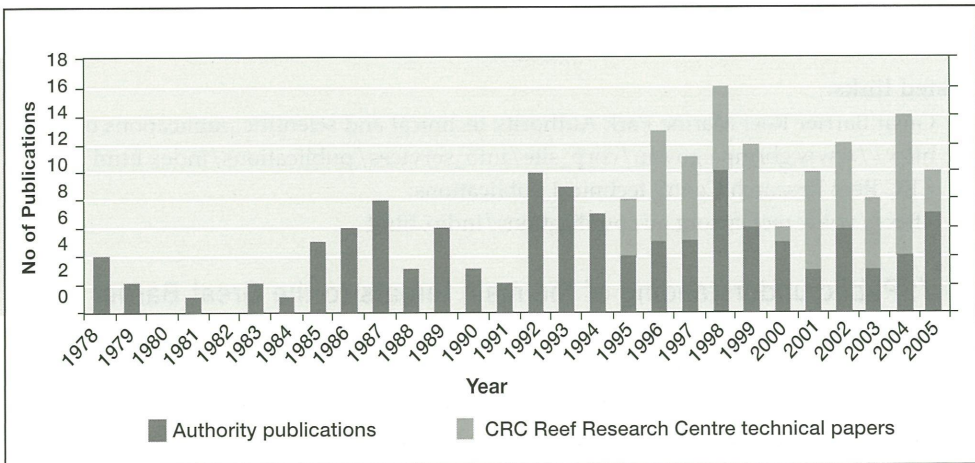


Figure 8: Technical and scientific publications produced by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the CRC Reef Research Centre

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority technical and scientific publications for 2004-05 (See also Appendix 7)

Hutchings, P. and Haynes, D. (eds) 2005, 'Catchment to reef: water quality issues in the Great Barrier Reef region', *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 51(1-4), 1-480.

Limpus, C., Limpus, D.J., Arthur, K.E. and Parmenter, J.C. 2005, 'Monitoring green turtle population dynamics in Shoalwater Bay 2000-2004', Research Publication 83, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, viewed 1 August 2005. http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/research_publications/rp83/rp83_full.pdf

'Population and major land use in the Great Barrier Reef catchment area: spatial and temporal trends December 2001, 2005', Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville.

CRC Reef Research technical reports

Begg, G.A. and Murchie, C., 'Collation and review of Islander commercial catch history (1998-2003) in the eastern Torres Strait reef line fishery', CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report 57, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, viewed 16 August 2005. <http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/techreport/TechRep57.htm>

Begg, G.A., O'Neill, M., Cadrin, S. and Bergenius, M., 2005, 'Stock assessment of the Australian east coast spotted mackerel fishery', CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report 58, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, viewed 16 August 2005. <http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/techreport/techrep58.htm>

Ross, H., Innes, J., George, M. and Gorman, K. (eds), 2004, 'Traditional Owner aspirations towards co-operative management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area: community case studies', CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report 56, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, viewed 16 August 2005. <http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/techreport/techrep56.htm>

Related links:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority technical and scientific publications online: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/index.html
- CRC Reef Research Centre technical publications: <http://www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/index.html>

KPI 7: Public understanding of the main threats to the Great Barrier Reef

What is this indicator? Figure 9 shows the proportion of responses made by telephone survey respondents surveyed in the last four years that identified the likelihood of specific activities having an impact on the Great Barrier Reef. Figure 10 shows the proportion of responses made by telephone survey respondents surveyed in June 2005 that identified the degree of threat from specific elements. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority engaged the AEC Group Ltd to conduct these market surveys.

Why is this important? One of the Authority’s corporate goals is to promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef and the issues affecting its health and management. In order to be informed and involved in the management of the Great Barrier Reef, the community needs to have a good understanding of the pressures affecting it. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority recognises that declining water quality is currently one of the major threats to the Great Barrier Reef. In light of this, the Authority has changed the way residents are surveyed to better reflect the main issues affecting the Reef and in particular water quality. This means that for two of the main threats, urban living and recreational activities, data is only present for the 2004-05 financial year. This will, however, enable the Authority to get a clearer picture of people’s understanding of the main threats to the Great Barrier Reef in coming years.

What does this mean? The surveys demonstrated that respondents evidenced their interest in and understanding of the issues affecting the Great Barrier Reef. The June 2005 survey where respondents were asked the likelihood of specific activities having an impact on the Reef indicated that respondents believe recreational activities, recreational fishing and urban activities are the greatest threats to the Great Barrier Reef. The June 2005 survey demonstrated respondents understanding of the degree of threat from specific elements that directly relate to water quality. Ensuring the community understands the issues facing the Reef is an ongoing priority for the Authority (See Output 1.7, Reef Education and Communication).

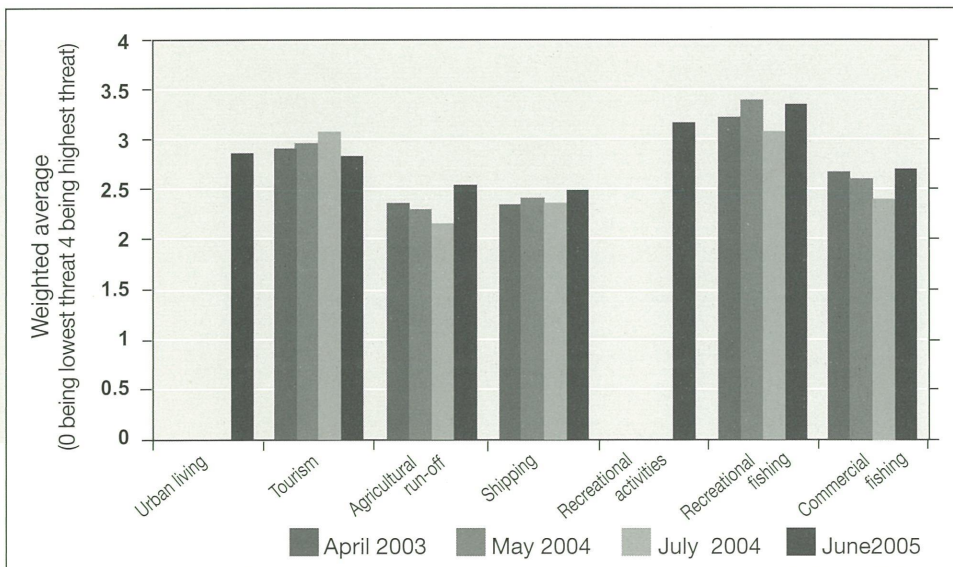


Figure 9: Likelihood of specific activities having an impact on the Great Barrier Reef as answered by residents. Source: AEC Group Ltd Market Research for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority June 2005.

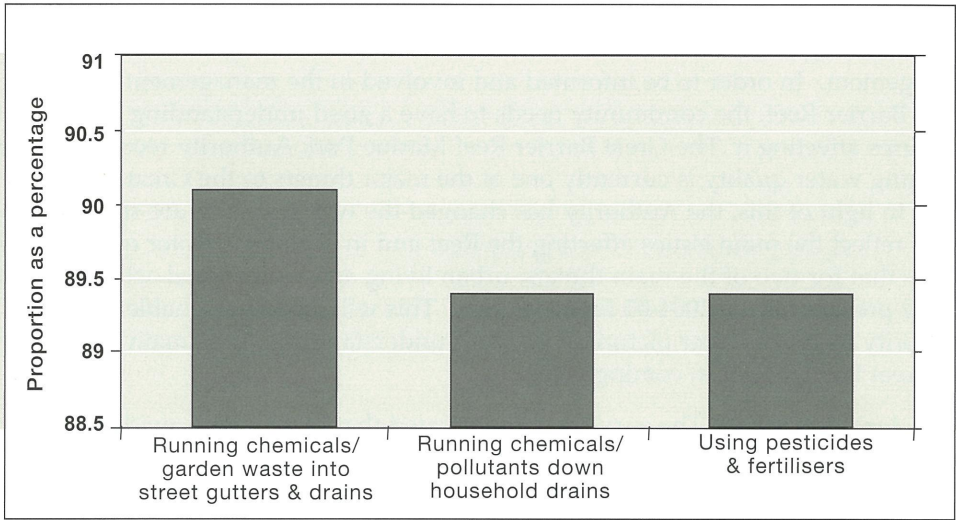


Figure10: Degree of threat from specific elements as answered by residents.

Source: AEC Group Ltd Market Research for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority June 2005.

SECTION C

Report of Operations



Executive

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

Performance analysis

The Executive Group consists of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, the Hon. Virginia Chadwick AO and the two Executive Directors, John Tanzer and Andrew Skeat. The Chairman is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the Authority, its governance, chairing the Authority Board, and managing the organisation. Critical Issue Groups and Service Groups work to each of the Executive Directors (Figure 11).

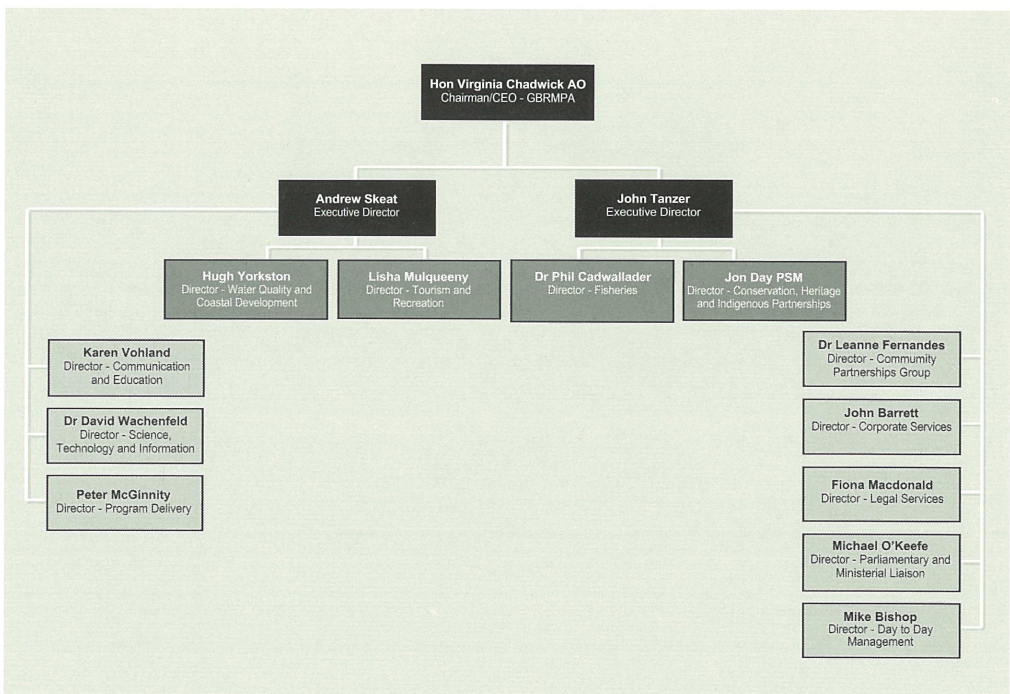


Figure 11: Membership of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Senior Management Team.

The Executive Group and the Directors of each of the major work areas form a Senior Management Team responsible for developing policy, coordinating programmes, internal communication, and budget control. Senior Managers are not only concerned with the day-to-day running of their own areas, but also with managing the intersections arising from the matrix structure.

The Executive Group and its Senior Management Team continued to provide strategic direction for the Authority. The *Five Year Corporate Plan* was updated and annually revised strategic work programmes produced. These plans address the issues for the Great Barrier Reef and its management including water quality, sustainable fishing, sustainable tourism, species conservation, and resilience in the face of climate change. Emphasis was placed on implementing the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* and the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*.

During 2004-05, regional, national and international recognition of the Representative Areas Programme and the rezoning process led to various awards, including:

- 2004 Banksia Environmental Award (for Government Leading by Example for a Sustainable Future);
- 2004 Eureka Prize for Biodiversity Research;
- 2004 Winner - Australian Government Regional Heads Forum Excellence Awards, leadership category award and overall winner 2004 RHF Excellence Award;
- 2004 ESRI International User Conference Award (Special Achievements in Geographical Informational Systems);
- 2004 Planning Institute of Australia, Queensland Division – three awards, award for Environmental Planning/Conservation, award for Community Based Planning and overall winner for Excellence in Planning;
- 2004 US Coral Reef Task Force Award for Outstanding Management (International); and
- 2005 Planning Institute of Australia, National Awards, National Award for Community Based Planning, Planning Minister's Award and Overall National Award for Excellence in Planning.

In June 2005, the Chairman of the Authority, the Hon. Virginia Chadwick, was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her services to conservation and the environment. This was the second Australian Honour awarded to the Authority staff in recent years, following the Public Service Medal (PSM) that was awarded to Jon Day in 2004 for his efforts in the development and implementation of the Representative Areas Programme.

International interest in Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority activities

The reputation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as a world leader in coral reef management was again highlighted internationally during the year.

A significant international honour was accorded the Authority when Dr Laurence McCook, Manager Natural Sciences was awarded a prestigious Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation, to further work on ways that reef managers can enhance the resilience of coral reefs in the face of stresses from changing climate and other human impacts. More information on the Pew Fellowship programme is available from the Pew Foundation web site at <http://www.pewmarine.org/aboutPFP.php>.

Authority Director of Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships, Jon Day was awarded a Queensland Smithsonian Fellowship and worked with marine managers, policy makers and conservation non-government organisations in the United States of America, Panama, Belize and Colombia.

International recognition for the quality and professionalism of the Authority's Library and Image Services was highlighted when the Library Manager, Suzie Davies was elected Chair of the Group of Experts on Marine Information Management – an expert advisory committee to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

The IUCN (World Conservation Union) held its quadrennial Congress in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2004. Executive Director John Tanzer formed part of a prominent Australian delegation to this peak conservation forum that attracted nearly 5000 delegates from across the globe.

In January, February and April 2005 staff of the Authority travelled to the Maldives, Thailand and the Seychelles as part of Australian Government environmental missions dealing with the impacts of the 2004 tsunami tragedy.

The Authority continued its involvement in the International Coral Reef Initiative, attending meetings of the coordinating group in July 2004 and April 2005. During the year, the Authority continued to host international visitors with eighty-two guests from six nations comprising Indonesia, China, the United States of America, Malaysia, South Korea and New Caledonia visiting its offices.



Plate 2: Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) members and a leading Thai marine scientist examine tsunami damage at Phi Phi Island, Thailand. Source: Australian Agency for International Development, 2005.

Legal Services

Outcome	Strategic outputs	Performance
An effective legislative framework, commercial legal operations, and litigation representation.	1. Timely and accurate legal advice is delivered to the Authority.	Achieved
	2. Ensure the Authority's interest in litigation is competently represented, that such litigation is minimised through appropriate legal awareness training, and that freedom of information requests are processed in a legally effective manner.	Achieved
	3. Drive the timely progression of legislation subject to the constraints of the Government's legislative programme.	Achieved
	4. Ensure that appropriate commercial legal support is provided to the Authority and the Audit Committee.	Achieved
	5. Ensure that competent legal support is provided for the Authority's corporate governance.	Achieved

Performance analysis

Significant achievements for 2004-05 included:

- Providing legal support for legal proceedings in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Federal Court of Australia;
- Providing legal support and advice in relation to the implementation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*;
- Revision of procurement procedures and contract documentation, accompanied by in-house training;
- Reviewing and drafting various agreements to assist in the achievement of corporate objectives, including contractual arrangements for the Water Quality and Ecosystem Health Monitoring Programme under the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* and the management of Commonwealth islands;
- Providing legal support in relation to the preparation of amendments to the *Cairns Area Plan of Management 1998* and the *Whitsundays Plan of Management 1998*;
- Coordinating amendments to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*, particularly with respect to the *Cairns Area Plan of Management Amendment 2004 (No. 1)*, the discharge of sewage from vessels in the Marine Park, the review of the Cape Upstart Public Appreciation Special Management Area, and other minor amendments to clarify provisions supporting the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*;
- Training Authority staff on the operation of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*, freedom of information and privacy legislation requirements, and training Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol staff in respect of Marine Park legal issues;

- Processing ten freedom of information requests; and
- Providing effective legal support for branch operations and the achievement of corporate objectives.

The Unit conducted legal awareness training for Authority staff in relation to the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*, freedom of information, privacy and contracts. In addition, the Unit also provided training to the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol regarding the Authority's legislative framework. One-on-one coaching, in respect of the implementation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*, contracts, and other legal issues, was also provided.

The Legal Services Unit managed two pieces of litigation over the course of the year, in the Federal Court of Australia and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. The Federal Court of Australia handed down its decision in October 2004. The matter in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal is ongoing.

Ministerial Services and Parliamentary Liaison

	Outcome	Outputs	Performance
	Effective liaison and productive relationships with ministers, portfolio members and government agencies, and to provide effective, professional support to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council.	1. Facilitate liaison between Commonwealth and State Government policies impacting on the Great Barrier Reef.	Achieved
		2. Provide professional support to Committees, Ministerial Councils and the Commonwealth Government.	Achieved

Performance analysis

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

The Unit coordinates and assists with Ministerial briefings, parliamentary questions and Ministerial representations for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Unit also prepares briefing documents for the Authority's appearances before Parliamentary Committees and provides the Secretariat for the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council and its official committees.

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

The Unit represents the Authority on the Operations Policy and Advisory Committee, Programs and Scheduling Committee of Coastwatch/Customs, the Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas Committee, and on other Interdepartmental Committees as required.

In 2004-05, the Unit was responsible for the coordination of incoming briefs for the new Minister for the Environment and Heritage (August 2004), the incoming Government Brief (October 2004), Senate Budget Estimates, Senate Additional Estimates and Senate Supplementary Estimates. The Unit also provided assistance with the overseas liaison functions, including the co-ordination of the Authority's contribution to the Australian Government's response to countries affected by the Boxing Day Asian tsunami disaster. The Unit continued to liaise with Commonwealth Government agencies on the implementation of major Authority programmes, including the rezoning of the Marine Park, and the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*.

DEPARTMENTAL OUTPUTS

Output 1.1 - Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships

(incorporating previous Output 1.5.3 - Liaison with Indigenous Groups and Community Involvement in Management)

The Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Group develops initiatives and implements programmes for the protection of threatened species and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and fosters partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups.

- The Species Conservation Unit monitors species conservation issues, with a focus on dugongs, marine turtles, whales and dolphins, and provides expert advice to reduce risks from human impacts on Protected Species in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- The Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit coordinates the Authority's relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups. Current programmes address issues such as sustainable traditional use of marine resources, Indigenous tourism, education and research, and culture and heritage.

The activities of the staff of both these Units contribute to the maintenance of the World Heritage values within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the World Heritage Area.

In March 2005, a change within the Authority led to a new name for one of the four critical issues groups and a relocation of the unit that deals with Indigenous issues. The Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit was relocated into what was previously called the Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage critical issue group. The critical issue group was therefore renamed Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships, reflecting a clear recognition of the importance of Indigenous issues.

This change will assist in closer integration between the Species Conservation Unit and the Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit, as they work jointly on species conservation and the development of Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRAs).

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.1.1	Natural and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are protected and World Heritage obligations are met.	Quality	Key species and habitats identified and protected whilst minimising any social-economic-cultural impacts. World Heritage values/obligations understood and appreciated. Consideration of relevant species and habitat conservation matters in all permit/policy deliberations affecting the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.	Achieved New Zoning Plan into effect on 1 July 2004.
continued over...				

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
		Quantity	<p>Improved management for key threatened species by incorporating, in the new Zoning Plan, approximately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifty percent or greater of high priority dugong habitat in no-take areas; • Fifteen percent or greater of high priority turtle foraging habitat; and • Twenty percent or greater of all significant turtle nesting sites. 	Achieved New Zoning Plan into effect on 1 July 2004.
			At least twenty percent of all bioregions in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park protected in no-take zones that, together with existing zoning and other principles, leads to at least twenty-five to thirty percent of the Marine Park covered by such zones.	Achieved
			<p>Representative Areas Programme implemented including continued involvement of stakeholders and high level of public consultation through, at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Community Information Programme in coastal Great Barrier Reef communities; and • Provision of interpretive material in 100 locations in coastal communities. 	Achieved
		Price	\$1.840m	
1.5.3	Liaison with Indigenous groups and community involvement in management.	Quality	Effective participation by Indigenous people and the broader community in the development of key policies and management strategies.	Achieved
		Quality	<p>Initial agreements on Traditional Use of Marine Resources (TUMRA) developed for four Traditional Owner groups.</p> <p>Ten Local Marine Advisory Committees and a general Consultative Committee maintained.</p>	In Progress Achieved See Appendix 2
		Price	\$1.039m	

Performance analysis

Species Conservation

Threatened species

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is one of many Government agencies involved in identifying threats, and coordinating and facilitating conservation programmes for threatened species. In recent years, the conservation of dugongs, turtles, dolphins and whales has been given priority in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. There is now a strong collaborative interagency approach to managing these species, together with continuous assessment of their status and management.

A key activity during 2004-05 was finalising a policy for *Managing the Direct Take of Protected Species from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*.

(http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/conservation/threatened_species/protected_species_policy_guidelines.pdf)

Traditional use of marine resources

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

Key activities during 2004-05 included:

- Implementing a new regulatory regime under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* for managing the traditional use of marine resources;
- Participating in a taskforce of Australian, State and Territory Government representatives to develop a national approach to manage Indigenous hunting of dugongs and turtles;
- Meeting with Traditional Owners and Native Title Representative Bodies (e.g. Land Councils) to progress management arrangements for marine turtle and dugong hunting; and
- Ensuring close collaboration with Queensland Government agencies on the programme.

Dugong conservation

The dugong population in the Great Barrier Reef continues to be impacted by a range of human-related activities. In 2004-05, the Authority enhanced its dugong conservation initiatives by:

- Developing draft national codes of conduct for dugong and marine turtle tourism as part of a Natural Heritage Trust funded project with James Cook University (www.dugongturtletourism.org.au); and
- Initiating a contract for the review of *A Dugong Research Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and Hervey Bay* and the completion of a compendium of information and basis for the development of management strategies for the conservation of dugongs in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Advanced drafts of both documents have been completed.

Turtle conservation

All six species of turtle on the Great Barrier Reef are threatened. There is continued concern for the loggerhead turtle, which has declined significantly in breeding numbers over the past thirty years and for the breeding status of green and hawksbill turtles. In 2004-05, the Authority enhanced its turtle conservation initiatives by:

- Implementing recommendations from the *National Turtle Recovery Plan*, as

part of the National Turtle Recovery Group and considering human-related impacts specific to the Marine Park;

- Publishing a five-year compilation report on green turtle monitoring in their feeding ground at Shoalwater Bay; and
- Continuing to manage a contract with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency that monitors marine turtles at key foraging and nesting areas throughout eastern Queensland.

Whale and dolphin conservation

Implementation of the *Whale and Dolphin Conservation Policy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*, adopted in March 2000, is proceeding. Actions in 2004-05 included:

- Implementing a communication and education strategy to inform commercial and recreational users of the Marine Park about conservation issues associated with whales and dolphins and the need to abide by Regulations for interactions with cetaceans including whale watching. This included presentation to tourism and recreational boaties, and the production of fliers, posters, stickers and information bulletins for users of the Reef; and
- Continuing a monitoring programme with the nine permitted tourist programmes to assess the sustainability of the swimming with dwarf minke whales industry.

Marine animal stranding responses

In 2004-05, the Authority, the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries jointly:

- Maintained an effective internal (Government staff) and external (public) email reporting network and Environmental Protection Agency Hotline for strandings and carcasses; and
- Considered, as part of an Interagency Committee on Marine Animal Necropsies, a report by CRC Reef Research Centre on the marine mammal and turtle stranding programme in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area including the development of recommendations for the continuation of that programme.

Other species and general conservation issues

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

- Providing advice and comment on a wide range of research and development proposals, as well as projects and permit applications. Examples include activities referred by the Department of the Environment and Heritage under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the development of national recovery plans (e.g. seabirds, whales);
- Maintaining close liaison with other Government agencies regarding management actions including surveillance and enforcement, public

awareness, bird conservation issues, and the Queensland Shark Safety Programme;

- Updating the publication *'Fauna & Flora of the GBRWHA - A compendium of information and basis for the Species Conservation Programme in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park'* at http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/misc_pub/fauna_flora/index.html;
- Delivering presentations on marine species conservation issues, dugong and turtle conservation and whale watching to Local Marine Advisory Committee meetings, industry groups, and tertiary students; and
- Providing media releases and interviews on various conservation topics including dugongs, response procedures for stranded wildlife, including turtles and whales.

Increasing the protection of biodiversity through the Representative Areas Programme

Prior to the Representative Areas Programme (RAP), there were concerns that the levels of protection were inadequate to ensure that the Great Barrier Reef remained a healthy, productive and resilient ecosystem now and into the future.

Guided by the principle of balancing conservation and sustainable use, the Authority reviewed the zoning to ensure the healthy survival of the Marine Park and the World Heritage Area for future generations whilst still allowing for reasonable human use. The new Zoning Plan for the entire Great Barrier Reef Marine Park came into effect on 1 July 2004. The result was an increase in the proportion of the Marine Park that is highly protected by green zones from less than five percent to more than thirty-three percent (covering 117,000 sq. km) and now protects representative examples of each of the seventy broad habitat types (bioregions) across the entire Marine Park.

Under the new Plan, at least one fifth of each bioregion is covered by multiple green zones. Anyone can enter a green zone, and activities such as boating, swimming, sailing and snorkelling are allowed; however all extractive activities, such as fishing or collecting, are not allowed except with the Authority's permission. The new zoning network aims to enhance significantly the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef to cope with other pressures like climate change, and assist industry to achieve increased levels of environmental and economic sustainability.

In November 2004, the State of Queensland 'mirrored' the new zoning in most of the adjoining State waters, so now there is complementary zoning for virtually all the State and Federal waters within the entire World Heritage Area.

Key achievements of the RAP included:

- A visionary new Zoning Plan for the Marine Park providing a framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the resources of the Marine Park, now and into the future. The new regulatory framework across the entire Great

Barrier Reef ecosystem brings great benefits for conservation as well as providing benefits for all users and industries dependent on the area;

- Protection of over thirty-three percent of the Marine Park within the world's largest network of highly protected 'no-take' areas that are representative of all seventy bioregions (habitats) within the Marine Park;
- The most comprehensive process of community involvement and participatory planning for any environmental issue in Australia's history, including over 31,000 public submissions; and
- Fostering community stewardship of the Great Barrier Reef throughout Queensland, Australia and the world.

The approach taken in the RAP is now recognised as one of the most comprehensive, innovative and exciting global advances in the systematic protection of marine biodiversity and marine conservation in recent decades. The wide recognition of the planning process has led to various national, regional and international awards, and acknowledgment of the process and outcome as 'world's best practice'.

Other related matters during 2004-05 included:

- Authority officers provided advice to a number of overseas planners and managers about our planning processes and the lessons learnt. This has led to widespread reference to the methods used in the Great Barrier Reef, for example, a Royal Commission in the United Kingdom that addressed the impacts of fisheries on the marine environment in December 2004, made several references to the RAP and rezoning; and
- Participated in National Bioregionalisation Working Group and provided input based on experience with Great Barrier Reef bioregionalisation.

Related links:

- Given the high level of interest in the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef from Marine Park Authority planners and managers around the world (especially in the lessons learnt by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority), a new webpage with various hotlinks has been developed and placed on the 'Marine Park Zoning' webpage: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/planners_info.html
This webpage will be updated as additional information is prepared and further papers are written.
- The statutory *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*:
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/documents/Zoning_Plan.pdf

Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit

The previously named 'Indigenous Policy and Liaison Unit' changed its name and Directorship during 2004-05. The new name for the unit is the Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit within the newly formed Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Group.

Along with these changes, the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Senior Management Forum was formed to address traditional use policy issues at a Senior Management level. In June 2005, the forum further developed into the Indigenous Issues Senior Management Forum. The new forum, which meets approximately every four to six weeks, is designed to coordinate and monitor Indigenous programmes and associated management issues across the agency, discuss new policy proposals and report through the Authority Executive to the Marine Park Authority Board and relevant Canberra agencies.

Sustainable Traditional Use of Marine Resources programme

A number of meetings and discussions were held during the year with Traditional Owner groups reef wide on the new Zoning Plan provisions and the sustainable Traditional Use of Marine Resources programme. Throughout the year, the Authority received strong support from Traditional Owner groups and Native Title Representative Bodies across eight of the twenty-seven Traditional Owner Management Units. Traditional Owner groups from three of these eight Management Units are currently in the late stages of developing their Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA) for Authority accreditation.

The Authority and Queensland Government marine management agencies through the Department of Premier and Cabinet, held coordination meetings in December 2004 and February 2005 to develop policy approaches, work programmes and guidelines for delivery of traditional use of marine resources programmes within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park region.

The Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit has developed a Draft TUMRA Assistance Workbook, which is designed to assist Traditional Owner groups to work through and address the traditional use management issues in their local area and develop a range of future management arrangements to address these issues. Three Traditional Owner groups have started using the Draft Workbook to develop their TUMRA. This cooperative work has greatly assisted the future development of culturally appropriate field management tools.

Staff of the Authority also participated in the North Queensland Indigenous Fishing Working Group and Indigenous Aquaculture Working Group meetings and community forums during the year.

Traditional Owner involvement in tourism and its management

The Indigenous Partnership Liaison Unit contributed to a new project to foster Indigenous participation in tourism and its management (see Output 1.4, Tourism and Recreation).

Cultural and heritage values and cooperative arrangements for sea country management

In 2004-05, staff from the Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Group and the Science, Technology and Information Group developed and implemented Stage One of the Traditional Owner Information System. The System

is an Internet and intranet database designed to store and retrieve a wide range of sea country information under controlled conditions. This includes demographic location and contact information of Traditional Owner groups, sensitive traditional ecological knowledge, cultural and heritage values, sea country management issues, annotated bibliography and links to web data sets.

The Traditional Owner Information System is due to be launched in late 2005. Stage Two is proposed to include Traditional Owner field data collection through use and access agreement arrangements.

Sea country research and education programme

As an outcome of the Representative Areas Programme, new zoning maps and communication materials were disseminated to Indigenous communities through community workshops, meetings, mail outs and *Sea Country* newsletter. Community information stalls were held at the Torres Strait Cultural Festival, Townsville NAIDOC Day, Big Day Out Festival in New Mapoon and the Gurang Land Council Land and Sea Summit.

The Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Group has developed a range of communication materials designed specifically for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owner groups. The new materials, to be released in 2005, are designed for working in partnership arrangements with Traditional Owner groups to deliver Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Indigenous Partnerships programmes and in particular to manage traditional use of marine resources activities and sea country values.

During the year, Authority staff were also involved in the Hopevale Round Table, Natural Heritage Trust Inter Departmental Committee, Cape York Peninsula Indigenous Land and Sea Management Working Group and the Wet Tropics Bama Natural Resource Management Planning meetings.

Related links:

- ReefED online Indigenous educational resources:
http://www.reefed.edu.au/explorer/traditional_Owners

World Heritage and other international conventions

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) is 348,000 km² (an area bigger than Victoria and Tasmania combined). It extends from low water mark on the mainland coast to the outer (seaward) boundary of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park beyond the edge of the continental shelf and is the largest World Heritage Area and marine protected area in the world. The uniqueness of the Area was recognised in 1981 when it was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park comprises ninety-nine per cent of the GBRWHA, the balance being the majority of islands and their intertidal waters, as well as exclusions for port areas, and internal waters of Queensland. Whilst these areas are part of the GBRWHA, being within its outer boundaries, they are not part

of the Marine Park. Maintenance of the World Heritage values and attributes is a major responsibility of the Australian Government and is an important consideration in the Authority's decision-making and management practices.

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

During 2004-05, specific activities relating to World Heritage and other international conventions included:

- Undertaking an internal review of the *Twenty-Five Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area*. This review concluded that the Authority has achieved about seventy to eighty percent of the five year objectives in the Plan (noting that progressing some strategies may not be a direct result of them being stated in the Twenty-Five Year Strategic Plan);
- Participating in a UNESCO workshop on 'Periodic Reporting in Natural World Heritage Sites' 2-3 May 2005; and
- Providing input into the third national report for the Convention on Biological Diversity (April 2005); the national report for the Convention of Migratory Species; and Australia's proposals for CITES regarding coral and sharks.

Other heritage activities included:

- Commenced preparation of a Heritage Strategy in accordance with *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requirements.

Related links:

- Brochure summarising the range of activities protecting the GBRWHA:
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/brochures/protecting_biodiversity/index.html
- Great Barrier Reef World Heritage values:
<http://www.deh.gov.au/heritage/worldheritage/sites/gbr/index.html>

Output 1.2 - Protection of the Great Barrier Reef from the adverse effects of water pollution and coastal development

The impacts from both land and marine sourced water pollution, and coastal development, must be managed in order to minimise the risk of degradation to the Great Barrier Reef. To achieve this, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is working with other Australian Government agencies, Queensland Government departments, local governments, industry, Regional Natural Resource Management bodies and other relevant stakeholders.

Successful water quality outcomes led by the Authority during 2004-05 included:

- Implementation of key actions in the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*;
- The expansion of a Reef Guardian Councils concept;

- Statutory and non-statutory advice on coastal planning and development issues;
- Finalisation and implementation of guidelines for Sewage Discharges from Marine Outfalls to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- Accreditation of Queensland Law under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000*;
- Development of new navigational charts showing the new ship access areas under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*;
- Commencement of a project to improve coordination of the compliance regime for shipping and marine pollution incidents in the Marine Park; and
- Introduction of ship-based sewage regulations.

Performance analysis

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.2.1	Protection of the Great Barrier Reef from the adverse effects of water pollution and coastal development	Quality	Sound scientific methods used to manage impacts of pollutants and develop management standards.	Achieved
			Quality technical input into environmental assessment and cooperative arrangements in the management of water quality and coastal development especially in accordance with the <i>Reef Water Quality Protection Plan</i> .	Achieved
		Quantity	Provide input into five Natural Resource Management Plans.	Achieved Input provided to six plans.
			Review fifty development projects or plans, which may potentially affect the Great Barrier Reef and provide advice to relevant authorities.	Achieved Reviewed eighty-nine development projects.
		Price	\$1.871m	

The *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* (Reef Plan) addresses declining water quality entering the Reef from diffuse pollution sources, such as agriculture. The Reef Plan is a collaborative effort between the Australian and Queensland Governments, and in 2004-05 the Authority worked extensively with other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, local governments, industry groups and the broader community to implement the Plan's actions.

In 2004-05, the Authority contributed to the development of the first formal evaluation report to the Prime Minister and Queensland Premier on progress toward the objectives of the Reef Plan. This report was informed by the outcomes of a targeted community consultation process (run by the Authority on behalf of the Reef Plan Secretariat), the first independent audit of the Reef Plan, and the 2004-05 Reef Plan Annual Report.

Under the Reef Plan, the Authority has developed and commenced implementing a long-term water-quality and ecosystem-health monitoring programme in the Marine Park. The Water Quality and Coastal Development Group has responsibility for ensuring this monitoring programme is coordinated with associated monitoring activities in the Reef catchment, such as those of Queensland state agencies and Regional Natural Resource Management bodies.

In 2004-05, the Water Quality and Coastal Development Group also continued working with other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, and regional bodies, on key actions under the Reef Plan to:

- Identify and establish nutrient sensitive zones to minimise the impact of nutrients on the Reef;
- Protect and rehabilitate riparian and wetland areas;
- Develop and implement local water quality improvement plans in high-risk high-priority catchments; and
- Develop water quality targets for Reef catchment waterways.

In 2004-05, the Authority also focused on point sources of pollution that discharge directly into the Marine Park, including sewage discharges, aquaculture and shipping. A move from concentration to load based permissions for sewage waste discharges to the Marine Park should result in an improved environmental outcome as this will address quantity as well as quality of outputs to the Marine Park.

The Authority guidelines on sewage discharges, Sewage Discharges from Marine Outfalls to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, jointly developed with the Queensland Government, were approved in March 2005. Five wastewater treatment facilities that discharge waste to the Marine Park were audited in April and May 2005, and no significant non-compliances were detected.

Queensland Law was accredited under the *Great Barrier Reef (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000*. Accreditation followed successful negotiations with the Queensland Government to upgrade state legislative, administrative and compliance processes to ensure high-level protection for the Great Barrier Reef. While still providing the requisite degree of protection, accreditation of Queensland Law has removed the need for an Authority permission for the discharge of aquaculture waste to a waterway leading to the Marine Park. Prior to accreditation, the Authority undertook audits of five aquaculture facilities to ensure they were operating within their permits, with no significant non-compliances detected.

The Authority worked closely with other regulatory agencies and the shipping industry on a range of ship safety and pollution prevention measures in the Marine Park. In 2004-05, the Authority developed new navigational charts showing ship access areas under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*, and contributed to proposed new measures to reduce the risk of a marine pest outbreak. The Authority also continued to focus on:

- Assessing the risk of a shipping incident and raising of awareness of marine

pollution regulations;

- Making improvements to oil spill preparedness and response; and
- Initiating a major new project that will result in an improved and coordinated compliance regime for shipping and marine pollution incidents in the Marine Park.

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

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

Related Links:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Water Quality and Coastal Development:
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/index.html
- Reef Water Quality Protection Plan
<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/index.html>

Output 1.3 - Fisheries

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

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.3.1	Progress towards ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area	Quality	Management arrangements for fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park which are based on the best available scientific information and meet, as a minimum, the principles and objectives set down in the Australian Government's Guidelines for the <i>Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries</i> and allow performance to be assessed.	In progress
		Quantity	The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority working with fisheries managers and stakeholders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and improve management arrangements for the inshore net and line 	In progress

		<p>fisheries and the dive-based fisheries for tropical rock lobster, sea cucumber and coral; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the ecological sustainability of effort in the Otter Trawl Fishery and the efficacy of the quota management system in the Coral Reef Finfish Fishery. 	
		<p>Provide key input to the Department of the Environment and Heritage strategic assessments of fisheries, which occur in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, as required under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p>	Achieved
	Price	\$1.136m	

Performance analysis

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority worked as a key stakeholder in the development of enhanced fisheries management arrangements under the *Queensland Fisheries Act 1994*. Where necessary, the Authority has raised concerns with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, and provided advice on preferred fisheries management options. The Authority commissions research to support this process. Recognising input from other stakeholders, the consultative process has seen a wide range of fisheries management initiatives introduced during 2004-05. Those with direct benefit to ensuring that fishing in the Marine Park is ecologically sustainable included:

- Ongoing input to the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries' Management Advisory Committee process and major influence in improving fisheries management arrangements in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- Ongoing input to the Department of the Environment and Heritage strategic assessments of fisheries in the Marine Park; project teams from the Department of the Environment and Heritage and Authority officers work closely to undertake strategic assessments of fisheries which occur in or adjacent to the Marine Park;
- Continuing input into the management arrangements for the Queensland Coral Reef Finfish Fishery, following introduction of the Plan on 1 July 2004. The Plan includes a total allowable commercial catch of 3061 tonnes of reef fish per year (consisting of 1350 tonnes of coral trout, 700 tonnes of red throat emperor and 1011 tonnes of other reef fish) and the allocation of quotas to individual fishermen based on previous history in the fishery. The total allowable commercial catch of 3061 tonnes of reef fish per year is substantially less than the annual commercial catches in excess of 4500 tonnes per year, which were taken just before the commercial catch limit was introduced. In conjunction with this process, the number of commercial fishermen licensed by Queensland to operate in the Coral Reef Fishery was reduced from some 1550 to about 500. In addition, three nine-day closures around the new moon in October, November and December have been introduced to protect

spawning aggregations of key target species;

- Continuing input into the development of processes to remove latent effort from the Inshore Net Fishery and the Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery, and substantial input into the general effort review of the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery;
- Following the introduction of the new Zoning Plan and consultation with commercial fishermen, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, issued permits to several commercial fishermen to use large-mesh nets in the Princess Charlotte Bay Special Management Areas. The rationale for the issue of permits is to reduce the threats of nets to dugong, while at the same time enabling those fishermen with a long history of fishing in the area to continue to operate, using appropriate netting practices;
- Following on from effective negotiations with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and industry in 2003-04, the Authority has worked collaboratively with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and industry in the development of a formal commercial coral collection management policy. When implemented, this policy will form the basis of innovative and stringent management, compliance and reporting arrangements to ensure that the commercial collection of wild coral will meet all CITES requirements for the environmentally sustainable management of wild populations of coral (Box 1);
- Continuing negotiations with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and industry to develop management arrangements for the multi-species Sea Cucumber Fishery that will reduce the risk of serial localised depletion and have enforceable quota arrangements. An industry-developed memorandum of understanding that encapsulates an innovative fishing strategy designed to reduce the risk of serial depletion has been implemented in 2004-05. With industry agreement, compliance with the terms of the memorandum of understanding has been monitored via a satellite-based vessel monitoring system by the Authority. Compliance rates have been excellent. The Authority continues to work collaboratively with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and industry to develop improved formal management arrangements that better reflect the intent of the memorandum of understanding;
- Continuing input to improving management of crab fisheries, including modifying the dimensions of crab pots to achieve improved ecological performance;
- Working collaboratively with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, other Government agencies and Indigenous communities to develop opportunities for greater Indigenous participation in fisheries and decision-making in fisheries and marine resource management. The Authority's work has been focussed on achieving improved conservation outcomes, whilst at the same time recognising the need of many Indigenous coastal communities

to improve their economic opportunities;

- Continuing input into the development of management arrangements for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, which operates adjacent to the Marine Park. This has included input to improving the selectivity of fishing gear;
- Continuing input into the proposed developmental fishery for prawn trapping; and
- Following the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the Authority has continued to consult and liaise with fishery stakeholders and the wider community on a range of matters relating to the rezoning and its effective implementation. The Authority has worked to improve stakeholder relations and facilitate positive discussion with a view to minimising conflict between fishery stakeholders and other users of the Marine Park.

Commercial coral collection in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park – the challenges of minor fisheries

The combination of the Offshore Constitutional Settlement and the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* provides a unique jurisdictional landscape for the management of fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This is particularly true for minor fisheries for which there are insufficient resources to develop formal management plans. The situation calls for creative, collaborative efforts to ensure that good environmental outcomes are found.

A 'triple bottom line' of ecological, economic and social outcomes resulting from major fishery management changes is only likely to occur when all stakeholders have ownership of the solution. The commercial collection of coral in the Marine Park is a good example of how a collaborative, inclusive approach to problem solving produced excellent results.

This small, highly selective, dive-based, hand-collection fishery has been around a long time. It requires a Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries authority to fish and a permit under Great Barrier Reef Marine Park legislation to operate in the Marine Park. The fishery has no bycatch and no broad sustainability concerns, but does pose several difficult management issues. Furthermore, historic use of coral on the Great Barrier Reef and globally, together with a lack of understanding of the contemporary fishery, has resulted in intense public scrutiny.

Management issues in the fishery include the problems posed by having 100s of species of coral to choose from, the iconic nature of CITES-listed species, and the potential for conflict between commercial coral collectors and other users of the Marine Park. The previous management arrangements did not address these issues effectively and did not meet compliance needs for a quota-based fishery. Despite acknowledgement of the need to change, no practical solutions were proposed.

As a consequence of a Prime Ministerial directive that the fishery should be substantially restructured, the last three years have been spent developing a model for substantial change to all aspects of the fishery. The Authority has worked closely with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (particularly its Harvest Fisheries Management Advisory Committee), the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and industry to achieve practical solutions. This has resulted in the complete overhaul of the fishery - where coral can be taken, how much of which types of coral can be taken, how the coral will be measured and recorded for compliance purposes, and how the impact of the activity in the Marine Park and on other users of the Marine Park will be monitored.

The extensive consultation has resulted in a strong sense of ownership and support by all partners in the process. These groundbreaking changes will be implemented by policy and amendments to permit conditions, rather than through regulation. This is a new approach for managing fisheries that does not conform to conventional models, and provides a practical solution for achieving ecologically sustainable management of commercial coral collection in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Box 1: Commercial coral collection in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park – the challenges of minor fisheries

Input into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park structural adjustment package

The Authority has provided advice to Department of the Environment and Heritage staff and the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (the agency delivering the package on behalf of the Department of the Environment and Heritage) in relation to the objectives, design and delivery of the structural adjustment package in relation to the rezoning of the Marine Park.

Input into compliance policy development

The Authority's capability to detect, prosecute and deter illegal fishing in the Marine Park has been enhanced through membership on the Day-to-Day Management Compliance Steering Committee and provision of advice regarding fisheries compliance.

Related links:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority fisheries:
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/fisheries/
- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online:
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/

Output 1.4 - Tourism and Recreation

Tourism and recreation are the major uses of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. From information provided by tourism operators as part of their Environmental Management Charge returns, it is estimated that commercial tourism accounted for more than 1.9 million visitor days in 2004 (not including passengers in transit). Tourism activity is concentrated in the areas offshore from Cairns, offshore from Port Douglas and in the Whitsundays. A range of tourism opportunities is available, from high-speed catamarans operating to pontoons to self-sail cruising holidays and guided kayak tours.

The economic worth of tourism in the Great Barrier Reef catchment and lagoon has been estimated to be \$5.1 billion (Access Economics, 2005), plus 54,000 jobs to the regional economies (Access Economics, 2005).

There are an estimated 4.9 million recreational visits each year to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (CRC Reef Research Centre, in press¹). For the 2004-05 period

the number of registered recreational vessels in Great Barrier Reef coastal communities from Bundaberg to Cape York increased by 6% from 59,621 to 63,560 (Queensland Transport).

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.4.1	Tourism and recreation opportunities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that are high quality and ecologically sustainable	Quality	Management initiatives for tourism and recreation developed and implemented in partnership with the tourism industry, recreational users and other key stakeholders, with partnership arrangements recognised as very high standard.	Achieved
			Planning and regulatory systems provide transparency and certainty.	Achieved
			Tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park provided in an efficient and equitable manner.	Achieved
		Quantity	Numbers of tourists visiting the Marine Park and their levels of satisfaction maintained or increased.	Achieved
			All expiring permits for limited opportunities reviewed for latency.	Achieved
			System in place to recognise and reward high standard operators.	Achieved
			Information and training for industry and other stakeholders.	Achieved
		Price	\$1.426m	

Performance analysis

The key outcome for the Authority concerning tourism and recreation is that tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park are high quality and ecologically sustainable. Particular emphasis has been placed on working in strong partnership with the tourism industry, recreational users and other key stakeholders.

The Authority has facilitated high quality and ecologically sustainable tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park through:

- Encouraging high standard operators to become certified (based on protection, presentation and involvement in partnership activities), and offering rewards to certified Marine Park operators, including showcasing their operations and the opportunity to apply for extended permit tenure;
- Effectively implementing a policy to manage latency for tourism opportunities where a limit applies;
- Managing Government funding for crown-of-thorns starfish control programme at key tourism sites on the Great Barrier Reef;

¹ Norris, A., Moscardo, G. and McCoy, A. (in press) 'Recreational Use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park'. CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville.

- Improving management arrangements for moorings in the Marine Park, for example, by introducing the first ever online register of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park moorings, reviewing the voluntary adoption of standard buoyage and unique identification numbers, and conducting industry workshops;
- Reducing 'red tape' for Marine Park users by introducing streamlined processing arrangements, including the voluntary Vessel Identification Number system which enables vessels to be interchanged simply and cost effectively;
- Working in partnership with the tourism industry, especially by increasing the industry's voluntary involvement in stewardship and monitoring projects, such as Eye on the Reef, Bleach Watch and water quality monitoring projects, as well as securing support for operator incident reporting;
- Improving arrangements for cruise ships in the Marine Park, including the environmental assessment of new anchorages and an industry leader's workshop;
- Fostering Indigenous participation in tourism and its management through a partnership between representatives from the tourism industry, Indigenous communities, Queensland Government and the Authority. A working group met twice during 2005 to scope projects in areas such as improving communication with Indigenous communities, facilitating opportunities for Indigenous tourism including tourism operations being operated by Indigenous people, Indigenous people employed in tourism operations and tourism specifically to interpret Indigenous culture and stories. The working group also discussed mainstream tourism incorporating Indigenous culture and stories into their programmes and Indigenous input into the way tourism is managed;
- Cooperatively developing an improved and expanded set of Responsible Reef Practices for the Marine Park. These set out best environmental practices for all major tourism and recreation activities in the Marine Park and were founded upon a two-day industry workshop followed by wide scale expert review;
- Improving user understanding of opportunities and responsibilities through online information about individual site management arrangements, quarterly newsletters, targeted information campaigns, updates to the Authority's web site and facilitation of tourism staff training courses;
- Improving information about key policy initiatives, for example publicly available guidelines on coral transplantation and jet skis, and information on artificial reefs;
- Contributing to research programmes by investigating sustainable Marine Park tourism opportunities, such as a leading tourism and conservation research partnership, the swim with dwarf minke whales tourism programme;
- Proactive consultation and briefings with the tourism industry and recreational users of the Great Barrier Reef on various management initiatives,

including implementation of the rezoning of the Marine Park, moorings management, permit latency, cruise shipping, site stewardship, implementation of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*, the introduction of new sewage management regulations and proposed amendments to the *Cairns Area Plan of Management 1988* and *Whitsundays Plan of Management 1998*; and

- Conduct of the Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee (See Appendix 2).

Major achievement in 2004-05

A significant achievement of the Tourism and Recreation Group was the encouragement and recognition of high standard operations in the Marine Park. This year the Authority entered into an agreement with Ecotourism Australia, recognising the Eco Certification Programme (at the Ecotourism and Advanced Ecotourism levels) as a certification programme for the Marine Park. Operations that gain certification under this Programme are showcased by the Authority and have the opportunity to apply for a longer term, fifteen year, Marine Parks permit. Illustrating uptake of the Programme, the Authority's Environmental Management Charge records show that about one third of tourism visits to the Marine Park are now undertaken through the services of a certified high standard operator. By encouraging high standards in the marine tourism industry, the Authority is helping to ensure the continued protection of the Marine Park and its presentation to a high standard. The Authority is also acknowledging the ways in which these operations work in partnership with managing agencies and their local communities to benefit both the Marine Park and communities.

Related links:

- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online: Management status – tourism and recreation: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/tourec/index.html
- Tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:

Output 1.5 - Park Management

OUTPUT 1.5.1 FIELD MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE PARK

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

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.1	Field Management of the Marine Park	Quality	A risk based compliance programme prevents serious environmental harm.	Achieved
			Field programme contributes to the protection of key vulnerable species ecosystems, their habitats	Achieved
				continued over...

		and key ecological sites.	
		Visitor facilities maintained to relevant standards for health and safety and to ensure protection of the environment.	Achieved
	Quantity	Compliance deterrent impact indicated by a change in risk profiles	Achieved
		Key vulnerable species field works completed. Indigenous staff employment programme maintained.	Achieved
	Price	\$13.014m	

Park Management Programme

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

- Natural Heritage Trust contribution to strengthen compliance with the new *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*;
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority contribution towards the operation of the Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit;
- Recreation Area Management Board funding for Green Island; and
- Queensland Environmental Protection Agency/ Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service funding for a range of island and wildlife management projects.

And in-kind contributions from agencies including:

- Australian Customs Service National Marine Unit;
- Customs Coastwatch;
- Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Queensland Director of Public Prosecutions;
- Australian Federal Police;
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority;
- Maritime Safety Queensland;
- Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries; and
- Queensland Police Service.

Day-to-Day Management Programme Priorities

Priority 1 Compliance

Compliance with *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, State Marine Parks Act, Nature Conservation Act* and subordinate regulations related to:

- Line and trawl fisheries;
- Dugong protection;

- New Zoning Plan green and pink zones; and
- Emerging compliance issues to prevent serious environmental harm.

Priority 2 Vulnerable Species

Protection works and activities directly related to vulnerable species and their habitat protection.

Priority 3 Visitor facilities, natural and cultural resource protection

Essential facilities, information products/services and permits management activities for the protection and presentation of key high visitor use sites to prevent environmental harm and to provide for public use and information.

Priority island and marine natural and cultural resource monitoring and management projects.

Priority 4 Indigenous engagement

Implementation of Indigenous co-management programmes when agreed by the Board.

Performance analysis

A risk based compliance programme prevents serious environmental harm. Field programme contributes to the protection of key vulnerable species ecosystem, their habitats and key ecological sites.

Key actions and achievements during 2004-05 included:

- The Australian Government has made an additional special funding allocation of \$8.9 million over three years which commenced on 1 July 2004, with \$2.9 million being available for the 2004-05 financial year. This funding was provided to manage the increased compliance requirements arising from the implementation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*;
- The special funding has enabled new specialist compliance staff to be employed including intelligence, planning and investigations officers;
- Identified projects were commenced to include the development of Investigation Procedures for Major Shipping Incidents to support the overall incident management framework. This framework will form the basis to develop additional protocols and guidelines for the management of investigations in other areas;
- An enhanced surveillance programme was developed to assist with the implementation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*;
- A detailed risk analysis was undertaken, documented and distributed to agencies to assist in the implementation of this programme;
- The number of patrol days from Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol increased from 137 in 2003-04 to 764 in 2004-05. Updated reporting procedures allowed contract requirements to be efficiently monitored;

- District Compliance Groups were formed in four districts to enhance interaction and coordinated planning between the agencies providing compliance and surveillance services to the Authority;
- A three person Field Operations Team has been established. This Team, which is based in Mackay, will operate reef wide. The compliance and surveillance activities of the Team will complement and maximise the benefits of the Day-to-Day Management Compliance Unit annual compliance programme;
- The Field Operations Team has acquired a specially constructed nine metre Rigid Inflatable Boat for use throughout the Marine Park;
- Enhancement of the compliance operations coordination centre in Townsville includes the installation of electronic intelligence systems to record, analyse and disseminate intelligence;
- The *Compliance Management and Investigation Procedures* have been reviewed and updated to reflect the changes in the Australian Government Investigation Procedures and the employment of dedicated Great Barrier Reef Marine Park investigators;
- Interaction with Coastwatch has resulted in changes to the Coastwatch Contractor Operating Instructions to improve the procedures for recording and reporting Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority offences and handling of exhibits;
- Ongoing training has been provided to Coastwatch and other service providers following the implementation of new zoning on 1 July 2004. This training is tailored to address the requirements identified and emerging trends following the zoning changes;
- The Compliance Unit has been awarded Certificates of Recognition from the Queensland Regional Heads Forum for the categories of Regions, Governance, Community Development and Leadership; and
- A total of 414 possible Commonwealth offences were reported during the year (Figure 12). This is almost double the 213 reported in 2003-04. The principal area of increase was in the recreational fishing category where reports of incidents rose from forty-four in 2003-04 to 194 in 2004-05. An enhanced surveillance presence in inshore areas and a high instance of offences within Conservation Park Zones are considered to be contributing factors to this increase. Given the tens of thousands of recreational fishers operating in the Marine Park, the numbers of incidents demonstrated a very high level of understanding and acceptance of the new Zoning Plan by users.

In addition, 200 intelligence reports were received and recorded for analysis and dissemination.

Table 5 sets out the status of compliance actions undertaken in 2004-05. This includes follow-up in relation to offences identified in 2003-04, particularly for prosecutions (detailed further in Figure 13). Due to the processes involved in bringing offences to litigation, a significant number of matters from 2004-05 will be finalised in 2005-06.

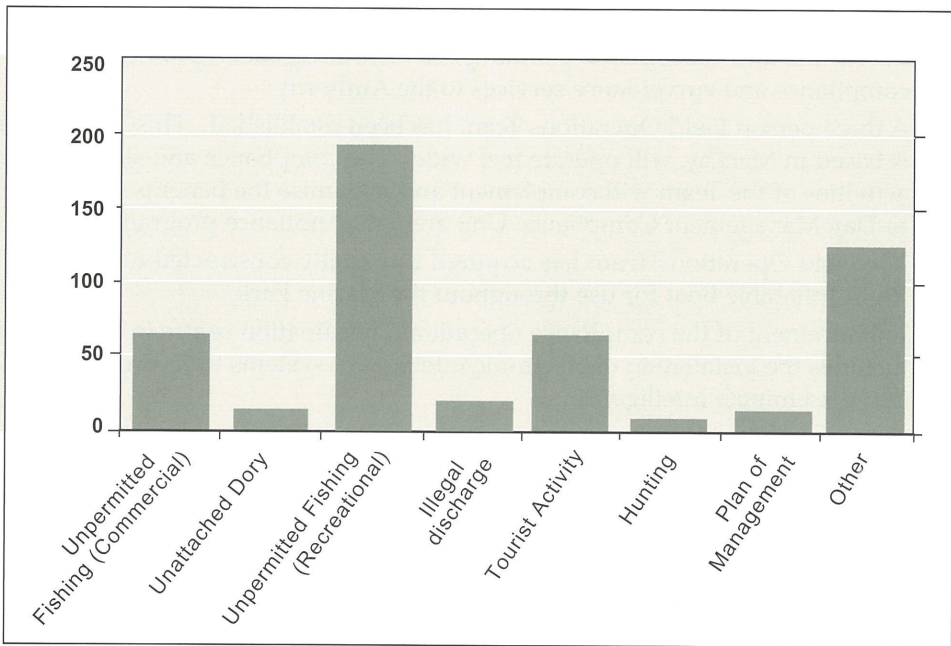


Figure 12: Number of offences reported 2004-05. Source: Day-to-Day Management.

Compliance Actions	No.
Administrative action	3
Assessments to Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	24
Advisory letter by Day-to-Day Management	100
Warning Letter by Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	2
Infringement Notice (Commonwealth)	11
Summons Issued	17
Successful Court Actions	34
Acquittals	2
Complaint withdrawn by Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	9
Insufficient/No Evidence/Unable to Locate Offender	47
Recorded for Information	42
Referred to Australian Federal Police	2
Referred to other agencies	6
Under Investigation	75
TOTAL	374

Table 5: Compliance actions undertaken in 2004-05. Source: Day-to-Day Management.

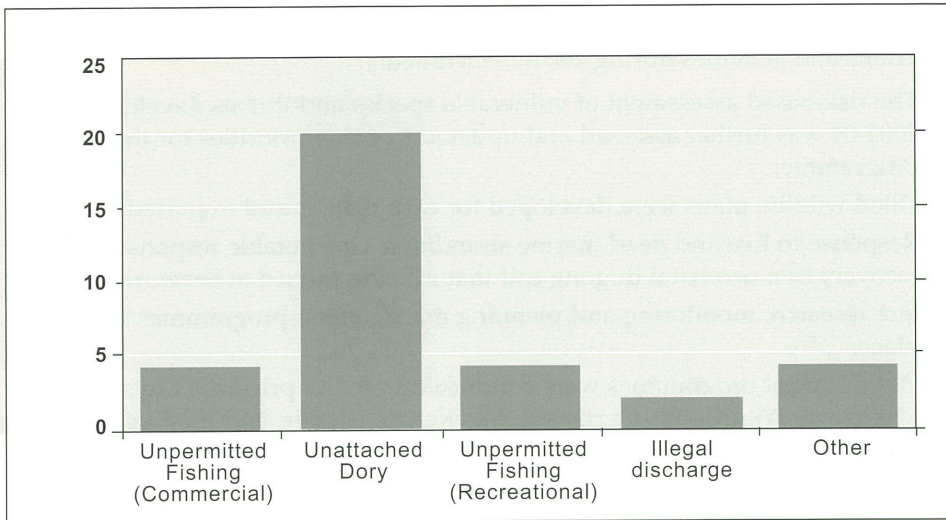


Figure 13: Number of offences prosecuted 2004-05. Source: Day-to-Day Management.

Other Programme priorities

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

Key actions and achievements during 2004-05 included:

- Presentation and site protection at high use marine locations (bays and reefs);
- Resources provided for development of Fitzroy Island National Park and Fitzroy Island Marine Management Plans;
- Key facilities in place and maintained, including walking tracks; camping and day use areas; boardwalks and lookouts; public use roads; and extensive signage;
- Programme infrastructure maintained, including offices, operations bases, houses and barracks;
- Administration of approximately 2,000 permits, licences, agreements, leases, development applications and major projects;
- Oiled wildlife and oil spill response - incident response management;
- Development of visitor information including Humpy Island orientation, interpretation and zoning signs; and
- Engagement of Traditional Owners to enhance cultural awareness and to assist with protection of cultural heritage.

Natural Resource Management

Key actions and activities during 2004-05 included:

- The risk-based assessment of vulnerable species and threats developed in 2003-04 was further assessed and updated to guide priorities for the Programme;
- Oiled wildlife plans were developed for each district and exercised;
- Response to live and dead marine strandings. One notable response was the recovery of a neo-natal dugong calf that is being nursed at Seaworld;
- Fire research, monitoring and planning management programmes were put in place;
- Weed control programmes were conducted in the Capricornia Cays, Lady Musgrave, Wild Cattle, Curtis and MacKenzie Islands, and the Keppel Bay and Broadsound Groups;
- Work completed on planning and policy development for Snapper Island, Raine Island and cruise ship anchorages. Planning commenced for Magnetic Island marine strategies;
- Careful analyses of the Day-to-Day Management Programme requirements resulted in a rationalisation of the vessel fleet to more effectively and efficiently undertake operational activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine World Heritage Area, to deliver a full range of activities in compliance, natural resource management and infrastructure maintenance;
- A ten metre catamaran "Woppaburra" was constructed and delivered to Gladstone district for operational work out of Rosslyn Bay;
- Specifications and planning were completed for a new twelve metre catamaran for the Whitsundays district. The new vessel will service a greater area and provide improved capabilities. The vessel will be delivered in 2005-06; and
- As part of an extended partnership agreement, a multi-clan agreement between Traditional Owners and the Environmental Protection Agency to care for sea country and protect the culture was signed in the Whitsundays district. The Agreement is a combined view of the Juru, Gia and Ngaro people from the Ayr, Bowen and Proserpine areas.

Training

The Day-to-Day Management Training Programme was successfully implemented with 501 participants taking part in fifty-one training courses, workshops, presentations and briefings. The personnel who participated were from the Day-to-Day Management Programme partnership agencies including:

- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; Queensland Environmental Protection Agency / Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service;
- Customs Coastwatch;
- Australian Customs Service National Marine Unit;

- Queensland Police Service; Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries/ Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol;
- Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions; and
- Wildlife carer groups/volunteers and members of the public.

Training courses were convened throughout the Great Barrier Reef region and targeted Programme priorities with emphasis on compliance and oiled wildlife incident response (Figure 14).

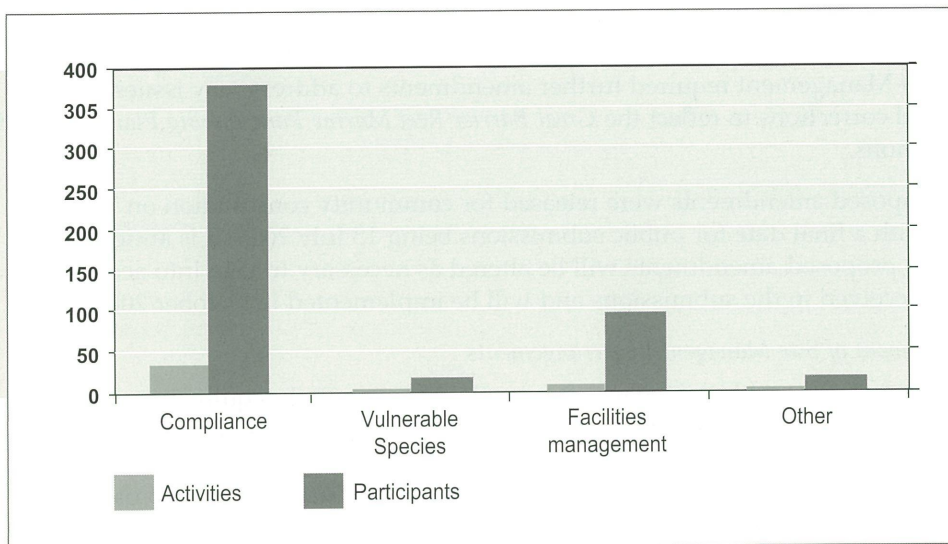


Figure 14: Number of Day-to-Day Management training participants 2004-05. Source: Day-to-Day Management.

OUTPUT 1.5.2 - PLANNING AND IMPACT MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE PARK

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.2	Planning and Impact Management of the Marine Park	Quality	All plans effectively maintain or enhance natural and cultural values while providing for wise use.	Achieved
			All significant proposals for use of the Marine Park undergo impact assessment.	Achieved
		Quantity	<i>Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004</i> implemented .	In progress
			Approximately 700 assessments conducted and decisions made, including thirty major projects.	Achieved
		Price	\$2.986m	

Performance analysis - Planning

Hinchinbrook Plan of Management

The *Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004* came into force on the 24 April 2004 and implementation commenced in 2004-05.

2004 Amendment to the Cairns Area Plan of Management

The *Cairns Area Plan of Management* (including Amendment No 1, 2004) came into force on 4 December 2004. A public comment period was held from 4 June to 9 July 2004, and thirty submissions were received from a range of interest groups. The final amendments were altered in response to these submissions, and implemented in December 2004.

2005 Amendments to the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management

On 4 March 2005, the Board of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority decided that, in response to users of the areas, the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management required further amendments to address new issues and for editorial corrections to reflect the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* and Regulations.

The proposed amendments were released for community consultation on 15 June 2005, with a final date for public submissions being 15 July 2005. It is anticipated that the proposed amendments will be altered as necessary to take into account issues received in the submissions and will be implemented in October 2005.

Development of Site Management Arrangements

A number of sites within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park require more detailed management than provided for in the Zoning Plan or plans of management. The purpose of site management arrangements is to provide clear and simple information on current management aims and objectives at sites to help users and decision makers now and in the future.

Site management arrangements for offshore Port Douglas; Whitsundays; and Horseshoe Bay, Magnetic Island, have been completed and published on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority web site. Site management arrangements for seven other sites that are currently being developed include Lady Elliot, Lady Musgrave and Fitzroy Reefs, offshore Gladstone; Bauer Bay, South Molle Island; Clump Point, Mission Beach; the Frankland Islands, offshore Innisfail; and Fitzroy Island, offshore Cairns. The *Clump Point Site Management Arrangements* will be finalised by July 2005, and the Lady Elliot, Lady Musgrave, Fitzroy Reefs, Frankland and Fitzroy Islands site management arrangements will be finalised by September 2005.

Related links:

- *Cairns Area Plan of Management 1998, Whitsundays Plan of Management 1998* and site specific planning
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/plans_of_management.html

Performance analysis – Environmental Impact Management

Environmental Assessment

Approximately sixty major development applications were considered by the Authority during 2004-05 including projects such as desalination plants, weather

stations, dredging, navigation aids, shore protection works, sewage works and water supply pipelines as well as tourism facilities such as tourist and heli-pontoons. The majority of these applications resulted in permission being granted, however, some applications were refused including a proposal for a major tourist pontoon at Arlington Reef, an application for an heli-pontoon at Fitzroy Island and two applications for moorings at Yamacutta Reef.

Environmental Management Systems (Permits)

Permits provide an important mechanism for managing activities at a more site-specific level. During the year, approximately 520 applications were assessed. In addition, seventy-six permissions were transferred between operators. As in previous years, the highest number of permissions granted was for tourist programmes, with the majority being for the continuation of an already existing tourist programme. Figure 15 represents the various types and numbers of permissions granted in 2004-05.

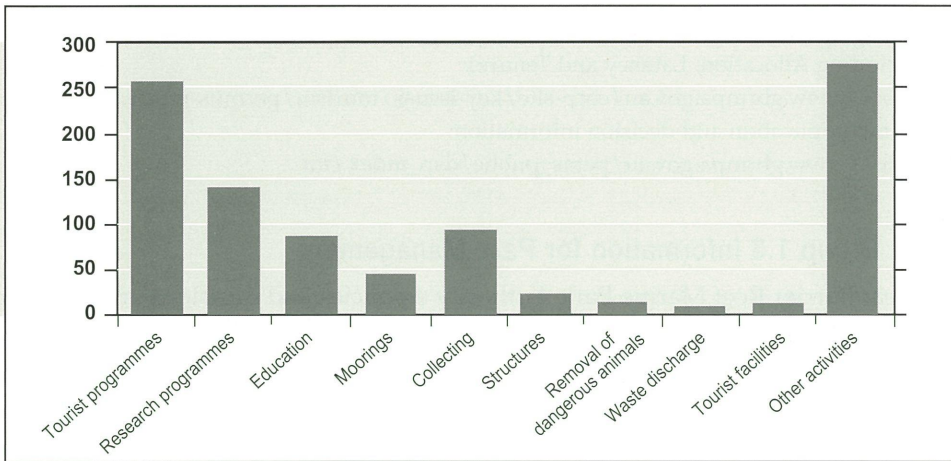


Figure 15: Types of permissions granted by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during 2004-05

Systems improvements

Ongoing improvement in Environmental Impact Management systems was expressed through a strategic longer term approach to permits for long-term dredge planning for Cairns Port and the issue of fifteen year tourism permissions linked to eco-certified operators. Significant progress was also made on reviewing assessment processes particularly in the areas of insurance, camping on Commonwealth islands and the development of a risk assessment approach for major developments.

The Protected Environment Management System, the Authority’s permits database, underwent a significant upgrade with the installation of new software. This has allowed applications and permit decisions to continue to be made available on the Authority web site to ensure transparent and consistent environmental decisions and management.

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

The Authority maintained a central coordinating role in liaising with the Department of Defence and port authorities about their activities in or adjacent to the Marine Park. The Authority holds annual workshops and major projects/exercises with both the Department of Defence and port authorities to ensure issues of importance are discussed and the most appropriate management regimes are put in place. Short-term secondment of staff between the Department of Defence and Environmental Impact Management this year continued to improve joint operational awareness and added to streamlining of management of defence activities, including the 2005 Talisman-Sabre exercise.

The Authority continued to exercise delegations for sea dumping and sea installations (from the Department of the Environment and Heritage) for those activities taking place in the Marine Park.

Related links:

- Managing tourism permissions to operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (including Allocation, Latency and Tenure):
<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp-site/key-issues/tourism/permits-policy.html>
- Permit application and decision information:
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/pems_public/dsp_index.cfm

Output Group 1.6 Information for Park Management

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's policies and decisions are based on the best available scientific and technical information. The Authority is a major partner in the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef Research Centre). It is also working closely with the Department of the Environment and Heritage in the development of the new Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility, which will replace the CRC Reef Research Centre in 2006-07.

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.6	Coordination and delivery of scientific and technical information for management	Quality	Effective delivery of scientific information for park management.	Achieved
			Effective monitoring and reporting programme for Great Barrier Reef health and water quality established.	Achieved
			Effective delivery of information technology systems and services for park management.	Achieved
			Effective delivery of library and image based information services for park management.	Achieved
			Effective delivery of storage, analysis and presentation of spatial information for park management.	Achieved

	Quantity	A network availability of over ninety-eight percent with over 0.5 million unique external web visits per year.	Achieved
		Same working day response for all image requests, inter-library loan requests and all reference inquiries with twenty-four hour access to all online services.	Achieved
		250 requests for spatial data analysis and mapping products.	Achieved
	Price	\$7.086m	

Performance analysis

In 2004-05, the Science Technology and Information Group continued to coordinate the delivery of information needs throughout the Authority. In doing this, the Group has responsibility for knowledge management. The 2004-05 financial year saw strong progress in knowledge management and knowledge sharing at the Authority. Library and Image Services established a web portal to link many of their information systems and services. Two major information systems on which development started in 2004-05 were the Permits Compliance and Management System and the Traditional Owner Information System, described in more detail below. A number of smaller information systems are also being developed. The Authority has maintained close ties with the Department of the Environment and Heritage Knowledge Management Committee, thus helping coordination of knowledge management and sharing initiatives.

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

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

Research and Monitoring Coordination

The Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit continues to ensure that the Authority has the best available scientific information to inform management decisions for the Marine Park. The members of the Unit maintain the scientific expertise within the Authority necessary for acquiring, understanding and interpreting this information. The Unit also maintains close links with scientific organisations and research agencies to ensure that the research community is aware of the Authority's information needs. The Unit has both natural science and social science teams, with the two-team managers jointly coordinating delivery of research and monitoring service to the Authority.

Throughout the 2004-05 financial year, the Research and Monitoring Coordination

Unit provided scientific advice on a wide variety of issues. Of particular importance was social science support for developing systems and frameworks for monitoring, and reporting social and economic data to inform management decisions. The Unit has also implemented the first stages of a scientific monitoring programme to track the environmental changes resulting from the rezoning of the Marine Park.

In close collaboration with the Australian Greenhouse Office, the Unit established the Climate Change Response Programme to investigate the potential impacts of climate change on the Marine Park, and to explore strategies to mitigate these impacts and build resilience within the Great Barrier Reef. The Unit's combined social and natural science expertise is being applied to ensure the social and ecological dimensions of the climate change phenomenon are addressed in a coordinated manner in the development of a Climate Change Action Plan for the Great Barrier Reef.

Another major milestone was the launch of the monitoring programme to monitor the effects of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* on the health of inshore ecosystems. This programme was awarded \$2 million per year for three years from the National Heritage Trust, and a major consortium of research providers have implemented the first stages of the marine monitoring programme. The first *Annual Marine Monitoring Report* under the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* has been prepared. The Authority also engaged Access Economics to prepare a report on the economic values of the Great Barrier Reef, and consulted communities to explore perceptions and views about the implementation of the Reef Plan. The Authority has also engaged coastal communities and Regional Natural Resource Management bodies in the implementation of the monitoring programme. The Authority's expertise in water quality research and monitoring was recognised when Dr David Haynes was awarded a Churchill Fellowship, to undertake a study tour of centres of excellence in water quality research in the United States and United Kingdom.

Over 2004-05, the State of the Great Barrier Reef Report Online was updated to include five new chapters, updates of previous chapters, and enhanced to produce specialised information product such as fact sheets for specific audiences. The web-based report continues to be highly successful, with up to 8,000 individual visits to the site per month. The web site has also been used as an educational resource by schools and universities in Australia and overseas. In conjunction with the Environmental Impact Management Unit and the Secretariat, the Unit also provided support for the Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee. The Committee met twice during 2004-05.

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

Most of the Authority's scientific information needs were met through outsourcing. The CRC Reef Research Centre continues to be the Authority's primary research provider, and the Unit maintained extensive liaison with the Centre to ensure the research programme closely reflects the Authority's research needs. With the Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities due to commence in 2006-07, the

Unit has been heavily involved in providing advice and support to the Department of the Environment and Heritage in the development of the North Queensland Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility. The Unit has also been assisting with the transition of scientific research programmes from the CRC Reef Research Centre to the Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility. In this respect, the Unit conducted a major review and reorganisation of the Authority's Research Priorities for the protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, including cross-referencing research questions with the National Research Priorities, State of the Environment reporting, and relevant legislation and policy instruments. These Research Priorities, along with information on current research activities, form the basis of an online system that will inform research providers, and facilitate analyses of knowledge gaps and investment strategies.

The Unit also manages several research partnerships funded by the Australian Research Council. This year saw two new Australian Research Council Linkage Grants with the University of Queensland Centre for Marine Studies on the use of new technologies to investigate the effects of river runoff on corals, and to explore the relationships between coral bleaching and sea temperatures. The Unit also built on a major partnership with the Centre for Coral Reef Biodiversity based at James Cook University, aimed at improving knowledge of the resilience of the Reef in the face of increasing impacts such as climate change. Most significantly, the Unit is part of a major, Australian Research Council funded Centre of Excellence titled 'Innovative Science for Sustainable Management of Coral Reef Biodiversity'. This centre brings together world leading coral reef scientists from across Australia and overseas.

The Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit also continued successful partnerships with the community, and the tourism industry in particular, through the Eye on the Reef and Bleach Watch programmes. These programmes draw on tourist operators to monitor reef health and provide advance warning of major environmental changes such as coral bleaching. Both programmes were identified by a visiting expert as highly successful in terms of building partnerships and fostering stewardship, as well as providing monitoring information. In 2005, both programmes were evaluated with surveys showing strong support and continued commitment to both programmes from tourism industry participants.

Providing scientific advice on major phenomena, significant issues and events

Following on from the 1998 and 2002 coral bleaching events, the Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit has consolidated its collaborative partnerships with the Australian Greenhouse Office, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the Bureau of Meteorology, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the United States Government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve scientific understanding of the impact of global climate change upon the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem. The Climate Change Response Programme continues to provide advice and support to national climate change initiatives, and has ongoing involvement with the *National Biodiversity and*

Climate Change Action Plan, and the United Nations Environment Programme Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Unit also continues to provide substantial scientific support and advice to other groups within the Authority and the Department of the Environment and Heritage regarding major development assessments and permits, and topical issues such as coral bleaching, crown-of-thorns starfish, the economic values of the Great Barrier Reef and community perceptions and views of the Great Barrier Reef and its management. July 2004 also saw the completion of a Churchill Fellowship undertaken by Andrew Chin on the conservation and management of sharks and rays. Information from this project is being applied in the Authority's approach to this issue, and the Unit is an active participant in the Authority's Shark Working Group.

Disseminating research results

In recognition of the need for an updated and integrated review of water quality issues in the Great Barrier Reef, the Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit coordinated a major conference on Water Quality Issues on the Great Barrier Reef in 2004. The conference provided an opportunity to review and collate the latest scientific information available on the topic. Papers presented by leading scientists at the conference have been extensively reviewed and published as a special issue of the international journal *Marine Pollution Bulletin* in 2005.

The Unit also published several publications and throughout 2004-05 hosted thirty-six seminar presentations attended by some 890 people as part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Seminar Series. This series disseminates the latest research information to researchers and managers in the Townsville area. In support of the *Australian National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks*, and SeaWeek 2005, the unit worked with the Authority's Communication and Education Group to develop and launch new community education products on the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef's sharks and rays. The Climate Change Response Programme has updated the Authority's climate change and coral bleaching web site, and has produced two fact sheets. The Unit has also updated the State of the Great Barrier Reef Online with new material, and facilitated the publication of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Research Publications (See Key Performance Indicator 6).

Enhancing research for management: the next generation

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Science for Management Research Grants encourage graduate student research relevant to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area, by providing funding to assist students with PhD or Masters research. The research must contribute towards addressing the Authority's research priorities and key management issues, and may be physical, biological or social science based. In 2004-05, the Authority awarded seven discretionary grants, of \$1000 each.

Information Technology

The Information Technology Unit continues to design, develop and implement strategies and contingencies to meet the ongoing and changing information system and technology needs of the Authority while maintaining the expected high standard of service and usability. Two of the major focuses this year for the Information Technology Unit have been data storage, backup and recovery, and progressing technologies to support better knowledge management.

Assessing and prioritising user needs

As the reliance on information systems grows, so too does the demand for training that allows clients to gain the maximum benefits from their applications. The Information Technology Unit continues to provide training, both formal and informal, to staff.

Effective user support to improve productivity

The user support staff have continued to provide a positive face for the Information Technology Unit. Software and user procedures are constantly being refined to improve responsiveness to support needs and ensure that requests for support are met in a timely manner.

Effective information systems to meet Authority needs

A number of web-based and other databases have been developed to support internal administrative functions.

This year has seen the migration of the public web site to a new server to handle the steady increase in annual traffic as well as a range of new publicly available systems including the Interactive Mapping System, Low Isles Bookings System and Moorings Register to name a few. For the 2004-05 financial year the Authority served over four million web pages to over 830,000 unique visitors (Figure 16).

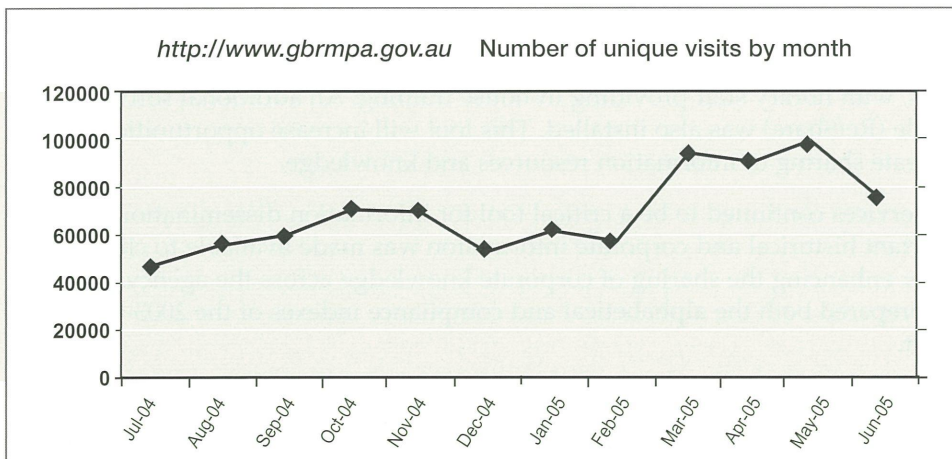


Figure 16: Number of unique visits by month to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority web site

Traffic to the web site is increasing at a steady rate to its current average approaching 2300 unique visitors daily.

Effective accessible network and technical services

Network and server availability continues to be maintained at a very high level (99.996 per cent) with improved storage, backup and recovery hardware and procedures in place.

Library and Image Services

Library and Image Services continue to adjust products and services in order to meet the Authority's changing information needs. The Unit strives to be proactive in service provision, and continues to seek opportunities for enhancing the management of corporate knowledge and expertise across the agency.

Develop the Library Collection

The Unit continued expanding the range and types of electronic services available to clients. The Horizon Management System underwent a major upgrade, thus providing clients with a portal-based access to library information. The library portal was further developed during the year. This portal provides direct links between the library catalogue and other web-based services. Further development is planned for 2005-06, in order to fully exploit the knowledge management capabilities of this system.

Reference Service

Use of the Library physical collection, document delivery and inter-library loan services greatly increased compared with the previous year, with demand increasing by 175 percent. This was due to several very large specific information-gathering projects with which Authority staff members were involved, as well as the establishment of the Traditional Owner Resource Bibliography.

Library and Image Services provided substantial support and expertise to manage bibliographic reference collections. The online bibliographic management tool RefWorks was used extensively throughout the year by both library staff and clients, with library staff providing in-house training. An additional software module (RefShare) was also installed. This tool will increase opportunities for corporate sharing of information resources and knowledge.

Web services continued to be a critical tool for information dissemination. Important historical and corporate information was made available to clients, further enhancing the sharing of corporate knowledge across the agency. Library staff prepared both the alphabetical and compliance indexes of the 2003-04 Annual Report.

Image Collection Services

Image Services were in very high demand throughout the year. The number of original images catalogued into the collection was very high, due to increased

number of requests for photography by the Image Collection Officer.

Image Collection Services continued to provide strong support for new Reef HQ information displays throughout the year, and to the Communication and Education Group for work on best practice initiatives. External demands on the Authority Image Service remained high, with correspondingly high levels of client satisfaction.

Subject specific databases

Demand for subject specific databases increased throughout the year. REEF bibliographic database continued to be commercially available both nationally and internationally. Successful outsourcing arrangements for indexing continued and an increased number of database updates was achieved for the year.

Library staff worked in conjunction with the Indigenous Partnership Liaison Unit and the Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit to develop a bibliographic database (Traditional Owner Resource Bibliography) of material relating to Indigenous use and knowledge of the Great Barrier Reef and its surrounding environments. The database aims to be comprehensive in its coverage, listing current and historically important items. Extensive abstracts have been included for all records. All material listed is either held by the Authority's Library, or has had locations identified for it. Whilst much has already been done, it is planned that additional establishment work will continue on the database throughout 2005-06. The database will continue to be updated as a shared responsibility between Library and Image Services and the other units involved in its instigation. This new bibliographic product forms part of the wider and comprehensive Traditional Owner Information System, currently being developed by the Authority.

In response to a long-term staff need, a database of Commonwealth Government Gazettes was established for client use. All Commonwealth Government Gazettes relevant to the establishment and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are now easily accessible by clients.

Spatial Data Centre

The 2004-05 financial year has been an important consolidation period for the Spatial Data Centre following the high level of support provided to the Representative Areas Programme over previous years. Responding to stakeholder input on the mapping products developed to implement the new Zoning Plan and beginning work with the Communication and Education Group on developing a series of localised boating and fishing guides has been a significant undertaking for the year. A key achievement for the year has been the inclusion of the new zone boundaries into a range of commercial electronic navigation products.

As in previous years, support was provided to all sections of the Authority with the major clients being the Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Group, the Water Quality and Coastal Development Group, Fisheries Group and Day-to-Day Management Compliance Unit. The level of support for the Day-to-Day

Management Compliance Unit has increased this year with the services provided including production of maps for infringements and expert testimony in prosecutions.

This financial year has also seen the initiation of the development of the Permits Compliance and Management System. This project will deliver an agency wide information system to assist in the management and compliance of permit related matters. Project management resides with the Science, Technology and Information Group with close collaboration required between the Spatial Data Centre and the Information Technology Unit.

Output 1.7 Reef Education and Communication

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

	Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.7.1	Effective communications, education and marketing programmes	Quality	Public understanding of the values of and main threats to the Great Barrier Reef is increasing.	Achieved
		Quantity	100 percent of all new Authority initiatives supported by an appropriate communications strategy.	In Progress
			Twenty-five percent increase in Reef Guardian School programme participation.	Achieved
			Five new reef related education modules developed.	Achieved
			Increased usage of Authority and Reef web sites.	Achieved
	Provide a readily accessible onshore reef environment and interpretive programmes (Reef HQ)	Quality	Eighty-five percent of visitors surveyed rate their visit as a satisfactory experience.	Achieved
			Eighty-five percent of visitors surveyed rate an improved understanding of reef related issues.	Achieved
		Quantity	Ten percent increase in visitor attendances.	In Progress Visitor numbers have held steady relative to 2003-04
			Increased community penetration of memberships.	Achieved
		Price	\$8.233m	

Performance analysis

Communication and Education

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority recognises the importance of promoting and fostering a positive attitude to the use and management of the Great

Barrier Reef and an understanding of its value to the community, the economy and as a World Heritage asset.

The Communication and Education Group continued to provide communication and education advice to internal and external stakeholders. The Group provided internal assistance to the Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnership Group, Tourism and Recreation Group, Water Quality and Coastal Development Group, Fisheries Group, Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit, and the Program Delivery Group. This included advice on communication matters, the preparation and distribution of media releases, assistance with the development and implementation of communication strategies, and development of communication and education products to assist in increasing the public's understanding of the values of and main threats facing the Great Barrier Reef. The Group also provided communication and education advice to external stakeholders including Local Marine Advisory Committees, schools, Regional Natural Resource Management bodies, Queensland Government Departments and community groups.

In 2004-05, staff from the Communication and Education Group strengthened relationships with internal and external stakeholders including visitor information centres and the 230 Community Access Points which include bait and tackle shops, ship chandlers, visitor information centres and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service offices located at regional centres along the Great Barrier Reef coast. These Community Access Points continued to play an important role in disseminating information about the Great Barrier Reef to the public. They also act as conduits of information between the Authority and recreational users of the Marine Park. Many Community Access Points not only distribute zoning information to the public but also other information about the Marine Park including best environmental practice information.

As part of fostering relationships with external stakeholders the Communication and Education Group continued to produce monthly *Reef Retailer Updates* which were distributed to 480 individuals and businesses.

In September 2004, the Communication and Education Group developed a new, two monthly twelve-page magazine called *SeaRead*, which is distributed to approximately 3000 stakeholders. The magazine assists the Authority in raising awareness of issues relating to the Marine Park as well as providing a showcase for community groups, schools, individuals, Government and industry bodies who are engaged in projects to help protect the Reef and is available on the Authority's web site.

Identification and development of new products continued to be a priority for the Group. Approximately thirty new products were developed for the Public Information Unit to help raise awareness of the public's understanding of the Great Barrier Reef. A further eighty products were produced in conjunction with other groups in the Authority. The Public Information Unit answered 960 requests for

information from Community Access Points and 3378 requests for information from other sources including students and members of the public.

The Communication and Education Group continued to update and add new and relevant pages to the Authority's web site. Figure 17 shows the usage of the Authority's corporate web site has increased markedly compared to the previous year.

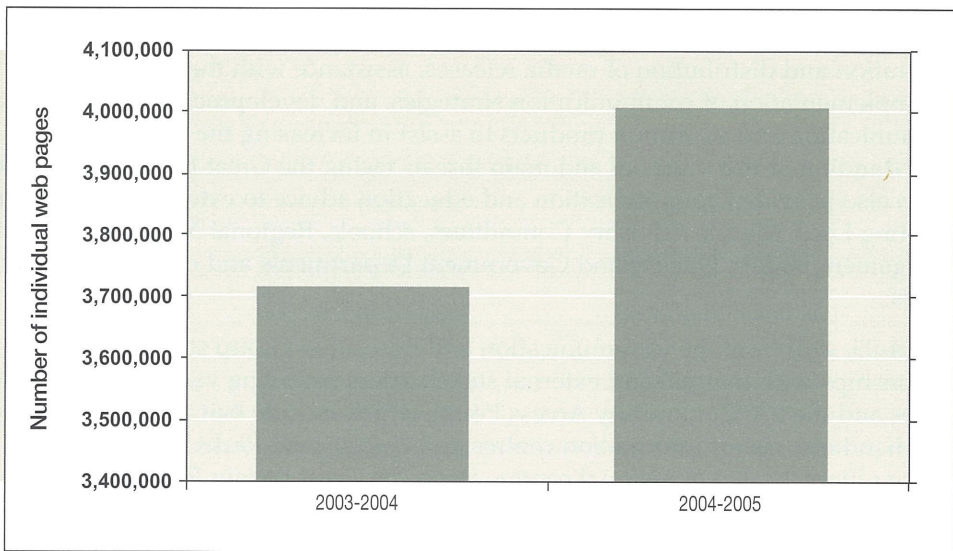


Figure 17: Number of web pages served during 2004-05

Engaging and participating in the communities along the Great Barrier Reef coast is a high priority for the Authority, and staff from the Communication and Education Group, along with other Authority staff, coordinated and attended regional shows and boat shows along the coast. This enabled staff of the Authority to talk face-to-face with thousands of residents along the Great Barrier Reef coast and provide them with targeted information about the Marine Park.

The Communication and Education Group developed a television and radio community service announcement highlighting why the Great Barrier Reef is so important and why we should all help to protect it. This announcement received good airplay throughout Queensland over January, February and March. An advertising campaign, based on the latest research has been developed to strengthen the connection between the catchment and the Reef, highlighting the issue of declining water quality entering the Reef. The campaign will focus on what people can do at home to help address this water quality issue. It is expected to air in the latter part of 2005.

Reef Watch was a series of weekly sixty-second television commercials that appeared in markets along the Great Barrier Reef coast. The segments featured a range of topics and outlined positive actions that individuals, groups, Government

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and non-government bodies can, and are, taking to help protect the Reef.

Communication strategies were developed for a range of the Authority's initiatives and Outputs. Table 6 shows the progress of these communication strategies. Once the communication strategy is completed the Communication and Education Group works with the relevant groups to ensure communication tasks and activities identified in the strategy are implemented. As such, communication strategies remain working documents.

Education
Reef HQ

Initiative or Output	Progress
Tourism and Recreation Output	Completed
Whale Watching	Completed
Environmental Impact Management Unit	Completed
Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit	Completed
Water Quality Awareness	Completed
Reef Water Quality Protection Plan	Completed
Marine Monitoring Programme	Completed
Reef Guardian Schools	Completed
Reef Guardian Councils	In progress
Bleachwatch	In progress
Climate Change	In progress
Research and Monitoring	In progress
Day to Day Management Coordination Unit	In progress
Turtle Communication Strategy	In progress

Developed/
revised
group
CHIP
Comm Islands
1st Turtle
Whale Watching
WQ monitoring
Climate
Reef

EIM
C. Chye
R & M
DDM

Table 6: Communication strategies for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Outputs and initiatives

The Reef Guardian Schools programme is an innovative programme that encourages students, teachers, parents and friends to become involved in protecting our environment and the Great Barrier Reef. It is primarily focused on the Great Barrier Reef coast and catchment. Figure 18 shows the uptake of the programme since its trial year in 2003. There has been a thirty-one percent increase in programme participation to 30 June 2005 since the 2003-04 financial year. Forty-nine meetings with Reef Guardian Schools staff and fifty-one sign presentations took place in the last financial year.

Students involved in the programme have developed many creative projects and activities in land, waste and water management and the protection of marine environments and the Great Barrier Reef. Many schools have been involved in educating their communities on issues affecting the Great Barrier Reef and have forged strong partnerships with community groups, local businesses and all levels of Government.

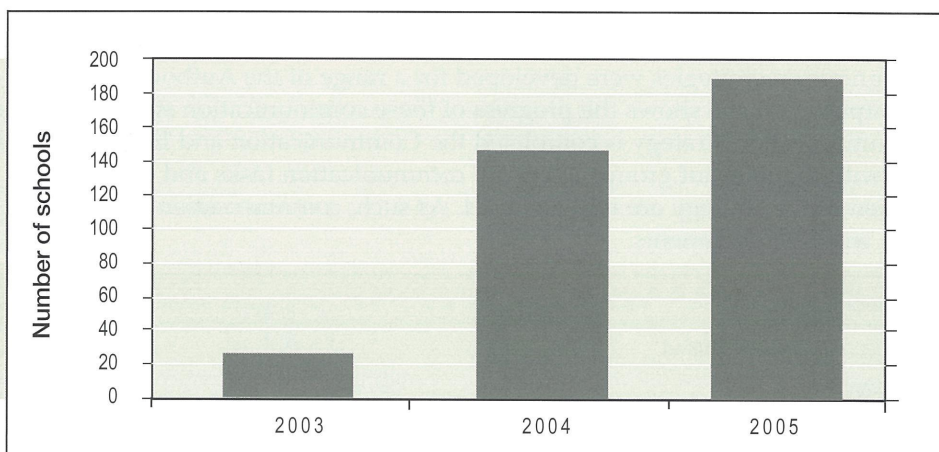


Figure 18: Number of schools involved in the Reef Guardian Schools programme since 2003

Developing new education materials for use by schools and students is an ongoing priority for the Communication and Education Group. In 2004-05, the following education modules and activities were developed:

- Art Attack (Visual Arts) – Students investigate the colour, shape and patterns of a variety of organisms that can be found on the Great Barrier Reef;
- Reef Writers (English/ Literacy) – During their journey of discovery students gain an appreciation for and inspiration from the diversity of plants and animals that exist in the Great Barrier Reef;
- Threatened Species – Through participation in a series of activities requiring examination, identification, analysis, making predictions and reflection, students gain a deeper appreciation for the issues related to threatened species in the Great Barrier Reef;
- Reef Business (Marketing/ Promotion and Business Organisation/ Management) – Students explore Reef HQ, a business organisation, that uses full time and casual staff as well as over 150 volunteers to cater to clients from Australia and overseas. Students investigate the intricacies of running such a business and the marketing and promotional mix that is implemented to encourage visitors;
- Behind the Scenes Tour – A new component to complement and enhance the Reef Sleep overnight experience in Reef HQ aquarium;
- Coastal Zone Fieldwork Teacher Professional Development - A one day professional development course offered to teachers and designed to increase their confidence to facilitate rewarding and empowering fieldwork activities with their students;
- The Use and Value of Mangroves – A Reef ED education unit which provides opportunities for students to refine their understanding of the mangrove environment and the mangroves' distinctive characteristics that make them interesting and valuable as a natural system and for human use;

- SOS Save our Sharks – A Reef ED webquest where students investigate the characteristics, interactions, cultural connections, and threats posed to sharks;
- New Hot Topic Sections on the Reef ED web site include:
 - Water Quality,
 - Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners,
 - Marine Debris, and
- New Environmental Audits include:
 - Green Waste Audit,
 - Marine Debris Audit,
 - Stormwater Audit,
 - Materials & Waste Audit,
 - Energy Audit, and
 - Water Audit.

In addition to the above education initiatives, a series of ten Reef Beat posters titled 'River to Reef' were produced for schools. The posters provided readers, students and teachers with information about the connectivity between the land and the Great Barrier Reef. The posters also included information about what readers can do to protect and preserve the Reef. The posters direct readers to the Reef ED web site where they are able to download curriculum-related educational materials for use in a more detailed study. Two hundred and thirty-eight schools with a total of 855 classes to 30 June 2005 had taken up the offer of the posters to use as an educational tool. A total of 2306 poster sets were distributed.

Following on from the successful Reef Guardian Schools programme a new Reef Guardian Councils programme is in development with promising interest from councils all along the Marine Park coast.

The Reef ED web site provides students and teachers with a comprehensive portal to educational programmes and products about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The site expanded during the 2004-05 year to include additional education modules and a new shark webquest. By 30 June 2005, the Reef ED web site had seen some 234,623 unique visitors who have accessed 981,580 individual web pages. During the 2004-05 financial year the Reef ED web site was visited by people from over 200 countries.

Reef HQ

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

As the National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef, Reef HQ pursues its mission of inspiring people to care for the future of the Great Barrier Reef by providing a realistic coral reef experience supported by exhibitions as well as

interpretive and curriculum-based educational programmes.

During 2004-05, Reef HQ continued to focus on increasing both its operating revenues and the size of the audience to which it delivers its community education programmes.

Despite a significant down turn in international visitation attributed to adverse global events, 2004-05 was a successful year producing an increase in both operating revenue and visitor numbers.

In general, revenues from all major revenue programmes increased compared to the previous year. In all, consolidated revenue increased by two percent (Figure 19).

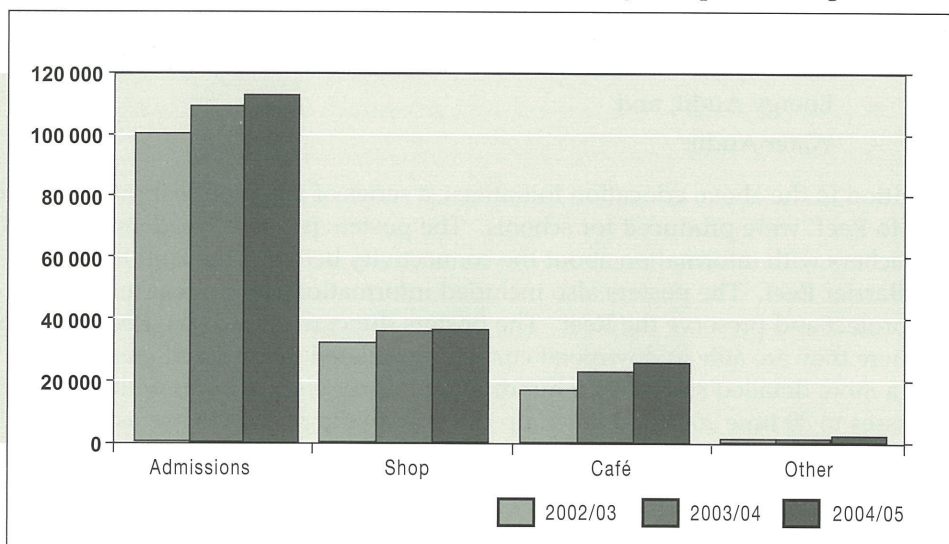


Figure 19: Reef HQ revenue 2004-05

In total, 108,806 people participated in Reef HQ programmes throughout the year. Ticketed admissions to the Reef HQ Facility were slightly higher compared with the previous year (Figure 20).

Reef HQ surveyed visitors to the aquarium in June 2005. Ninety-eight percent of respondents rated their visit to Reef HQ as satisfactory while eighty-nine percent of respondents reported an improved understanding of reef related issues.

Reef HQ annual membership numbers increased by more than eleven percent compared to 2003-04. Similarly, visits by Reef HQ members increased by four percent while admission sales to members' guests increased by nine percent highlighting the value placed on the opportunity for repeat visitation within the Townsville community.

The Townsville community continued to support Reef HQ through volunteer activity during 2004-05. Forty-five adult volunteers were recruited during the year bringing the total number of active volunteers to 181. Due to the higher than

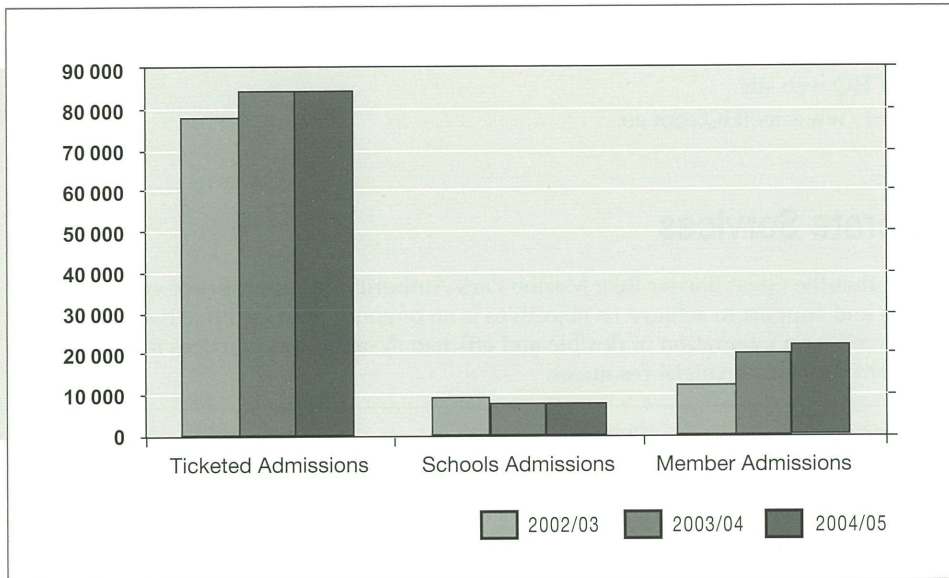


Figure 20: Reef HQ admissions 2004-05

expected student volunteer retention rate, no new student volunteers were recruited during the period.

Reef HQ education programmes give students of all ages and learning abilities a unique environment to experience and learn about the Great Barrier Reef. Reef HQ's age-specific, innovative curriculum-centred education programmes include interactive activities and investigation challenges, stimulating inquiring minds to discover all they can about the Reef. Teachers are provided with curriculum-linked activities to enhance and extend student learning. Reef HQ education programmes are supported by the Authority's Reef ED web site.

During 2004-05, Reef HQ Education facilitated face-to-face reef education programmes to 8247 students, which is equivalent to student numbers in 2003-04.

Reef Videoconferencing, is an initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority through its education programme Reef ED. This state-of-the-art technology unlocks unique teaching and learning experiences, including information delivered by a scuba diver. Reef Videoconferences are supported by comprehensive teaching materials educating students nationally and internationally about a range of marine issues. During 2004-05, Reef HQ Education facilitated Reef Videoconferences to over thirty-nine locations nationally and internationally. International locations include United States of America, United Kingdom, South Africa and Japan.

Related Links:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority web site:
<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au>

- Reef ED web site:
<http://www.reefed.edu.au>
- Reef HQ web site:
<http://www.reefHQ.com.au>

Corporate Services

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

	Outcome	Outputs	Performance
	To deliver a management framework and support services that help facilitate effective functioning of the Authority	1. To achieve a corporate planning and financial management framework which is efficient and provides timely, flexible and easily accessible decision support systems to managers and staff.	Achieved
		2. To achieve a human resource management framework that supports the achievement of corporate objectives by developing individuals, promoting teamwork, encouraging innovation, creativity and improving performance.	Achieved
		3. To provide a safe working environment and adequate standard of accommodation and field and office equipment.	Achieved
		4. To provide ongoing corporate services which are benchmarked to appropriate standards and responsive to organisational needs.	Achieved
		5. To maximise potential Environment Management Charge whilst developing and maintaining good relationships with clients.	Achieved
		6. To provide effective, efficient and professional Secretariat support to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.	Achieved

Performance analysis

During 2004-05, Corporate Services' major achievements included:

- Implementation of monthly budgeting and reporting to the Department of Finance and Administration and to the Department of the Environment and Heritage;
- Ensuring staff have an understanding of the Authority, corporate policy, systems and procedures by conducting staff inductions that include human resources, finance and office services;
- Revision of the *Risk Management Plan*;

- Improvement of Protective Security;
- Revision of the Authority's Procurement Guidelines in accordance with Government policy;
- Increase in staff capabilities through the provision of levels of training in leadership, performance management, workplace diversity, occupational health and safety and other key APS subject areas;
- Continuing enhancement of the Environment Management Charge compliance framework; and
- Providing high quality Secretariat services to the Authority and its committee structures.

Environmental Management Charge

The Authority collected a total Environmental Management Charge of \$7.58 million in 2004-05. The Special Appropriation derived from the Environmental Management Charge provides funding for research, reef user education and management of the Marine Park. A compliance framework is in place and has been discussed with the Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee. An important element of the compliance framework is to communicate to clients their statutory obligations under the legislation. This is necessary because of the high turnover of staff in the tourism industry.

The reports available from the Permitted Environmental Management Systems including the number of visitors to each location within the Marine Park, are a valuable resource for managers, planners, the tourism industry and researchers.

The Environmental Management Charge receipting database is being changed to an oracle platform to conform to the Authority's information technology policy. The database will be able to perform all the necessary functions to administer the Environmental Management Charge requirements.

The broad outline of electronic lodgement of Environmental Management Charge returns and logbook pages was undertaken by a working group. The group identified all requirements which will be included in the Permits and Compliance Management System currently under development.

Resource management

The majority of positions within the Authority were staffed on a continuing basis (See Appendix 5 for details of staffing as at 30 June 2005). The output groups developed for the Portfolio Budget Statements remain relevant and provide a sound focus for the Authority's activities.

The major organisational change during the year was in relation to the Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit and the establishment of a Community Partnerships Group. Additional staff were appointed to compliance positions for enforcement of the new Zoning Plan. As at 30 June 2005, two staff had been appointed to positions in the Community Partnerships Group.

Human Resources Management Information System

The Authority operates with the Aurion Human Resources Management Information System. Aurion provides an enhanced ability to tailor information and reporting requirement to business management information needs. The system provides valuable information management assistance in relation to learning and development and occupational health and safety, and offers enhanced access to employee details through 'employee self service' arrangements.

Learning and development

The Authority spent \$173,000 on learning and development opportunities for employees during 2004-05, including conference attendance. This covered a wide range of activities including leadership / management development, communication and negotiation skills, project management, performance management, information technology, occupational health and safety, and technical / professional skills. Conference attendance and study assistance were predominately used to develop and maintain technical / professional expertise. In addition, a substantial amount of 'on-the-job' training took place.

Participative work practices

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

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

The Authority Consultative Group deals with a wide range of issues including, but not limited, to:

- Resource planning;
- Development and /or review of Human Resource Management Guidelines;
- Work structure and organisation;
- Training and development;
- Occupational health and safety;
- Workplace diversity; and

- General issues arising from the application of conditions under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Certified Workplace Agreement 2003-2006*.

In addition, the Authority Consultative Group was the vehicle for negotiation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Certified Workplace Agreement 2003-2006* and will continue to work towards the resolution of issues for future agreements.

Equal employment opportunity and workplace diversity

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

The long-term objectives of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Workplace Diversity Programme are to ensure:

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

During 2004-05 the Authority has continued to offer employment conditions, through the implementation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Certified Workplace Agreement 2003-2006*, that ensures the Authority recognises, values and utilises the background, skills and abilities of all employees including but not limited to:

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

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

In addition, the Authority has continued to:

- Offer high-level use of study leave assistance to equal employment opportunity target groups;
- Improve access by employees to timely and comprehensive information on employment related activities through the use of the Authority's intranet;
- Maintain the Indigenous employees support network;
- Assist the representation of people with a disability in the workplace through reasonable workplace adjustments; and
- Ensure equity in employment through awareness training.

Accommodation

The majority of Authority staff are accommodated in the Reef HQ complex which is the main office building. During the year, the Authority decided to exercise its option for a further three years lease on the main building. The Kelleher Place building provides a reasonable standard of accommodation.

Staff of the Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit have moved from leased office accommodation at the Breakwater Marina in Townsville to offices within the Reef HQ complex and in Kelleher Place. One regional investigator is based in Cairns and three regional investigators are based in Mackay.

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

SECTION D

Financial Statements





INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Scope

The financial statements and members responsibility

The financial statements comprise:

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

of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2005.

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

Audit approach

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

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

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
Centenary House 19 National Circuit
BARTON ACT
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

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

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

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

Independence

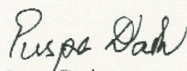
In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority:

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's financial position as at 30 June 2005 and of its performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with:
 - (i) the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders; and
 - (ii) applicable accounting standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspa Dash
Senior Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
9 September 2005

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OF THE AUTHORITY

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2005 have been prepared based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

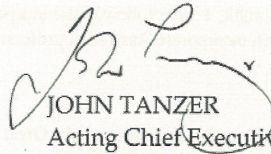
In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Authority will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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



FAY BARKER
Member

8 September 2005



JOHN TANZER
Acting Chief Executive Officer

8 September 2005

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

for the year ended 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
REVENUE			
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Revenue from Government	5A	23,975,266	22,113,021
Interest	5B	424,665	230,546
Goods and Services	5C, 5D	2,152,136	2,100,837
Revenue from sale of assets	5E	18,171	1,212
Other	5F	7,130,568	1,771,479
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	8(b)	4,827,000	4,337,000
<i>Revenues from ordinary activities</i>		<u>38,527,806</u>	<u>30,554,095</u>
EXPENSE			
Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)			
Employees	6A	13,576,549	12,230,121
Suppliers	6B	13,566,456	10,733,689
Depreciation and amortisation	6C	992,450	925,807
Write-down and impairment of assets	6D	555	582
Value of assets sold	5E	28,132	292
Cost of Goods Sold	5C	201,904	202,392
Grants	7	86,500	21,757
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	8(d)	8,735,617	7,829,925
<i>Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)</i>		<u>37,188,163</u>	<u>31,944,565</u>
Operating surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities		<u>1,339,643</u>	<u>(1,390,470)</u>
Net Profit/(loss)		<u>1,339,643</u>	<u>(1,390,470)</u>
Net credit to asset revaluation reserve	13	<u>1,850,451</u>	<u>1,523,670</u>
Total revenues, expenses and valuation adjustments recognised directly in equity		<u>1,850,451</u>	<u>1,523,670</u>
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with the Australian Government as owner		<u>3,190,094</u>	<u>133,200</u>

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 30 June 2005

		2005	2004
		\$	\$
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash	9A	6,773,782	3,376,184
Receivables	9B	3,045,440	2,979,312
Investments	9C	16,700	15,780
Total financial assets		<u>9,835,922</u>	<u>6,371,276</u>
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	10A	12,892,825	11,636,333
Plant and equipment	10B	1,932,671	1,687,414
Intangibles	10C	310,273	323,940
Other	10E	107,898	101,701
Inventories	10F	62,468	72,416
Total non-financial assets		<u>15,306,135</u>	<u>13,821,804</u>
Total assets		<u>25,142,057</u>	<u>20,193,080</u>
LIABILITIES			
Provisions			
Employees	11	3,252,194	2,894,584
Total provisions		<u>3,252,194</u>	<u>2,894,584</u>
Payables			
Suppliers	12A	897,592	1,109,441
Other	12B	4,596,382	2,983,260
Total payables		<u>5,493,974</u>	<u>4,092,701</u>
Total liabilities		<u>8,746,168</u>	<u>6,987,285</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>16,395,889</u>	<u>13,205,795</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	13	4,204,004	4,204,004
Reserves	13	15,910,920	14,060,469
Accumulated deficits	13	(3,719,035)	(5,058,678)
Total equity		<u>16,395,889</u>	<u>13,205,795</u>
Current assets		10,006,288	6,545,393
Non-current assets		15,135,769	13,647,687
Current liabilities		7,041,515	5,505,306
Non-current liabilities		1,704,653	1,481,979

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
Operating Activities			
Cash received			
Appropriations		23,794,000	23,117,000
Permit assessment fees		374,129	248,167
Interest		446,636	230,546
Reef HQ admission fees		1,258,673	1,249,973
Net GST received from Australian Taxation Office		473,003	763,216
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management		4,712,000	4,627,000
Environmental management charge		7,594,368	7,518,775
Other receipts		10,342,089	2,926,500
Total cash received		48,994,898	40,681,177
Cash used			
Grants		(86,500)	(21,757)
Employees		(13,218,939)	(12,409,736)
Suppliers		(15,505,091)	(12,250,963)
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management		(8,735,617)	(7,829,925)
Refunds of Environmental management charge		(13,102)	(72,754)
Environmental management charge payments to Commonwealth		(7,400,000)	(7,000,000)
Total cash used		(44,959,249)	(39,585,135)
Net cash from / (used by) operating activities	14	4,035,649	1,096,042
Investing activities			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		18,171	1,212
Cash used			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(656,222)	(362,159)
Net cash from / (used by) investing activities		(638,051)	(360,947)
Financing Activities			
Cash used			
Capital use charge paid		0	(127,000)
Net cash from / (used by) financing activities		0	(127,000)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		3,397,598	608,095
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		3,376,184	2,768,089
Cash at the end of the reporting period	9A	6,773,782	3,376,184

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

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS**

as at 30 June 2005

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
By Type		
Capital commitments		
Plant and equipment ¹	101,392	0
Total capital commitments	<u>101,392</u>	<u>0</u>
Other commitments		
Operating leases ²	2,268,145	946,519
Other commitments ³	5,924,892	5,484,516
Total other commitments	<u>8,193,037</u>	<u>6,431,035</u>
Commitments receivable	<u>(542,675)</u>	<u>(346,548)</u>
Net commitments by Type	<u><u>7,751,754</u></u>	<u><u>6,084,487</u></u>
By Maturity		
Capital commitments		
One year or less	101,392	0
Total capital commitments	<u>101,392</u>	<u>0</u>
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	844,854	694,271
From one to five years	1,423,291	252,248
Total operating lease commitments	<u>2,268,145</u>	<u>946,519</u>
Other commitments		
One year or less	5,814,892	2,884,357
From one to five years	110,000	2,600,159
Total other commitments	<u>5,924,892</u>	<u>5,484,516</u>
Commitments receivable	<u>(542,675)</u>	<u>(346,548)</u>
Net commitments by Maturity	<u><u>7,751,754</u></u>	<u><u>6,084,487</u></u>

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

1 Plant & equipment include purchase orders for office equipment, computer equipment & vessels.

2 Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Nature of Lease	General description of leasing arrangement
Leases for office accommodation	Lease payments are subject to current open market rent review in 2005-06. The term of the first option for renewal of 3 years has been exercised. The term of the second option for renewal is 3 years.
Leases for office equipment	Lease payments are paid monthly
Lease for motor vehicles	Leases are for a period of 24 months or 30,000 kilometres; 24 months or 40,000 kilometres; 24 months or 50,000 kilometres; 36 months or 75,000 kilometres; 36 months or 90,000 kilometres; No contingent rentals exist

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS**

as at 30 June 2005

- 3 As at 30 June 2005, other commitments comprise amounts to be paid under contracts for consultancy services and purchase orders for other services and supplies.

Commitments to the Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef) are included above and are disclosed at Note 19.

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

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES

as at 30 June 2005

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Contingent liabilities		
Claims for damages/costs	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2005

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

1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of Accounting

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

The statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (being the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Orders* (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2005));
- Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- Urgent Issues Group Abstracts.

The Statements of Financial Performance and Financial Position have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets which, as noted, are at valuation. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or on the financial position.

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

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

1.2 Changes in Accounting Policies

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year.

1.3 Reporting by Outcomes

A comparison of actual figures across accounting periods by outcome specified in the Appropriation Acts relevant to the Authority is presented in Note 24.

1.4 Revenue

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

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

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

for the year ended 30 June 2005

Interest revenue is recognised on a time proportionate basis that takes into account effective yield on the relevant asset.

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

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

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

Revenues from Government – Appropriations

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

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

1.5 Transactions by the Government as Owner

Equity Injections

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

1.6 Employee Benefits

Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

for the year ended 30 June 2005

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave to be taken in future years by employees of the Authority is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

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

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2005. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The Authority has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

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

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

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

1.7 Leases

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

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Where a non-current asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at the present value of minimum lease payments at the inception of the lease and a liability recognised at the same time and for 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. The discount rate used is the interest rate implicit in the lease.

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

1.8 Borrowing costs

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

1.9 Cash

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

1.10 Financial Instruments

Accounting policies for financial instruments are stated at Note 21.

1.11 Acquisition of Assets

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

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

1.12 Property (Land and Buildings), Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

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

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Reef HQ

The Reef HQ building was funded as a Commonwealth–State Bicentennial project, through the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Association Incorporated. The building was sub-leased by the Authority from the Association for a period of 75 years, the end date for the lease being in the year 2061. Following the winding up of the Association in September 2001 that lease arrangement is now between the Authority and the Townsville Port Authority. Under the terms of the arrangement the Authority is responsible for the maintenance of the building as necessary and for all expenses and revenue in relation to its operation. Consequently, the value of the building, improvements to the building and associated plant and equipment has been recorded as an asset in the Authority's accounts since 1 July 1999.

Revaluations

Basis

Buildings, plant and equipment are carried at valuation being revalued with sufficient frequency such that the carrying amount of each asset class is not materially different, as at reporting date, from its fair value. Valuations undertaken in any year are as at 30 June.

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

Asset class	Fair value measured at:
Land	Market selling price
Buildings	Market selling price
Leasehold improvements	Depreciated replacement cost
Plant & equipment	Market selling price

Assets that are surplus to requirements are measured at their net realisable value. At 30 June 2005 the Authority held no surplus assets (30 June 2004: \$0).

The Authority has valued its assets at fair value since the 2002-03 year. Assets are revalued based on an independent valuation every third year. The Directors make a fair value assessment in other years.

All valuations have been made by members at fair value with independent advice sought for some items in each class. The latest fair value revaluations as at 30 June 2005 are based on assessment conducted by management and approved by the members of the Authority. This assessment was supported by an independent valuation of leasehold improvement assets as at 30 June 2005.

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Depreciation

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

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

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable assets are based on the following useful lives:

	2005	2004
Buildings	50 years	50 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Lighthouse properties	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and equipment	3 to 20 years	3 to 20 years

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

Impairment of Non-Current Assets

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

1.13 Intangibles

The Authority's intangibles comprise purchased software for internal use and also internally developed software assets. These assets are carried at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, except for purchases costing less than \$5,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of the Authority's software is 3 to 8 years (2003-04: 3 to 8 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2005. None were found to be impaired.

1.14 Lighthouse properties

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

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

Two of the properties are subject to ongoing leases to a third party. Under the leases the third party is required to pay monthly rental to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and these properties have been valued at fair value, which has been assessed as the present value of the future lease payments payable under the leases. The remainder of the lighthouse properties have been recorded at no value as they are not income-generating assets.

1.15 Inventories

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

1.16 Taxation

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

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST:

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

1.17 Comparative Figures

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

1.18 Insurance

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

1.19 Advances for day-to-day management

Except for expenditure on fixtures upon land owned by or under the direct control of the Commonwealth or the Authority, payments to the Queensland Department of the Environmental Protection Agency for day-to-day management are fully expensed in the year of payment (refer to note 8 for details of the day-to-day management items).

1.20 Rounding

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

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2 Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards from 2005-06

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has issued replacement Australian Accounting Standards to apply from 2005-06. The new standards are the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS). The International Financial Reporting Standards are issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The new standards cannot be adopted early. The standards being replaced are to be withdrawn with effect from 2005-06, but continue to apply in the meantime, including reporting periods ending on 30 June 2005.

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

AEIFRS contain certain additional provisions that will apply to not-for-profit entities, including not-for-profit Australian Government Authorities. Some of these provisions are in conflict with IFRS, therefore the Authority will only be able to assert that the financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Accounting Standard AASB 1047 *Disclosing the Impact of Adopting Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards* requires that the financial statements for 2004-05 disclose:

- an explanation of how the transition to the AEIFRS is being managed;
- narrative explanation of the key differences in accounting policies arising from the adoption of AEIFRS;
- any known or reliably estimable information about the impacts on the financial report had it been prepared using AEIFRS; and
- if the impacts of the above are not known or reliably estimable, a statement to that effect.

The purpose of this Note is to make those disclosures.

Management of the transition to AEIFRS

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

- The Authority's Audit Committee is tasked with the oversight of the transition to and implementation of the AEIFRS. The Chief Finance Officer is formally responsible for the project and reports regularly to the Audit Committee on progress against the formal plan approved by the Committee.
- The plan requires the following key steps to be undertaken and sets deadlines for their achievement:

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- All major accounting policy differences between current AASB standards and AEIFRS were identified by 30 June 2005;
 - System changes necessary to be able to report under the AEIFRS, including those necessary to capture data under both sets of rules for 2004-05 were completed by 30 June 2005. This included the testing and implementation of those changes;
 - A transitional balance sheet as at 1 July 2004 under AEIFRS has been completed;
 - An AEIFRS compliant balance sheet as at 30 June 2005 was also prepared during the preparation of the 2004-05 statutory financial reports; and
 - The 2004-05 balance sheet under AEIFRS will be reported to the Department of Finance and Administration in line with their reporting deadlines.
- The plan also addresses the risks to successful achievement of the above objectives and includes strategies to keep implementation on track to meet deadlines.

Major changes in accounting policy

The Authority believes that the first financial report prepared under AEIFRS i.e. at 30 June 2006, will be prepared on the basis that the Authority will be a first time adopter under AASB 1 *First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards*. Changes in accounting policies under AEIFRS are applied retrospectively i.e. as if the new policy had always applied except in relation to the exemptions available and prohibitions under AASB 1. This means that an AEIFRS compliant balance sheet has to be prepared as at 1 July 2004. This will enable the 2005-06 financial statements to report comparatives under AEIFRS.

A first time adopter of AEIFRS may elect to use exemptions under paragraphs 13 to 25E. When developing the accounting policies applicable to the preparation of the 1 July opening balance sheet, no exemptions were applied by the Authority.

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

Management's review of the quantitative impacts of AEIFRS represents the best estimate of the impacts of the changes as at reporting date. The actual effects of the impacts of AEIFRS may differ from these estimates due to:

- continuing review of the impacts of AEIFRS on Authority operations;
- potential amendments to the AEIFRS and AEIFRS Interpretations; and
- emerging interpretation as to the accepted practice in the application of AEIFRS and the AEIFRS Interpretations.

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Property Plant and Equipment

It is expected that the 2005-06 Finance Minister's Orders will continue to require property plant and equipment to be valued at fair value in 2005-06. As the property plant and equipment is valued at fair value, no adjustment will be required.

Intangible Assets

The Authority currently recognises purchased software for internal use and internally developed software assets on the cost basis.

The AEIFRS standard on Intangibles does not permit intangibles to be measured at valuation unless there is an active market for the intangible. However as the Authority carries all intangibles at cost, no adjustments will be required.

Impairment of Intangibles & Property, Plant & Equipment .

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

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

The most significant changes are that, for the Authority's cash generating units assets, the recoverable amount is only generally to be measured where there is an indication of impairment.

However, an impairment assessment of the Authority's assets indicated that no adjustments will be required.

Decommissioning, Restoration and Make-good

When assessing accommodation leases for the preparation of the opening balance sheet, no obligations under the leases for make-good were determined. These leases will be renewed in 2005-06 and another assessment will be undertaken at that time.

In relation to non-financial assets, the Authority's assessment indicated that no adjustments will be required for decommissioning, restoration or make-good.

Inventory

The Authority recognises inventory not held for sale at cost, except where no longer required, in which case net realisable value is applied.

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

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An assessment was made and it was found that in all instances the current replacement cost of inventory was equal or greater than the original cost. Therefore no adjustment is required.

Employee Benefits

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

The 2003-04 financial report noted that AEIFRS may require the market yield on corporate bonds to be used. The AASB has decided that a deep market in high quality corporate bonds does not exist and therefore national government bonds will be referenced.

AEIFRS also require that annual leave that is not expected to be taken within 12 months of balance date is to be discounted. After assessing the staff leave profile, the Authority does not expect that any material amounts of the annual leave balance will not be taken in the next 12 months. Consequently there are no adjustments for non-current annual leave.

Financial Instruments

AEIFRS include an option for entities not to restate comparative information in respect of financial instruments in the first AEIFRS report. It is expected that Finance Minister's Orders will require entities to use this option. Therefore, the amounts for financial instruments presented in the Authority's 2004-05 primary financial statements are not expected to change as a result of the adoption of AEIFRS.

The Authority will be required by AEIFRS to review the carrying amounts of financial instruments at 1 July 2005 to ensure they align with the accounting policies required by AEIFRS. It is expected that the carrying amounts of financial instruments held by the Authority will not materially change as a result of this process.

Reconciliation of Impacts - AGAAP to AEIFRS

An assessment of the assets and liabilities of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at reporting date indicated that there are no adjustments due to the transition to AEIFRS.

3 ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

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

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

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4 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER REPORTING DATE

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

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5 OPERATING REVENUES	2005	2004
	\$	\$
5A Revenues from Government		
Appropriations:		
Operational	11,682,000	11,490,000
Special Appropriations	7,581,266	5,996,021
Commonwealth contribution to day-to-day management: refer Note 8 (b)	4,712,000	4,627,000
Total revenues from Government	<u>23,975,266</u>	<u>22,113,021</u>
5B Interest revenue		
Interest on deposits	424,665	230,546
Total interest revenue	<u>424,665</u>	<u>230,546</u>
5C Reef HQ shop trading results		
Shop sales	385,561	384,611
Less: Cost of goods sold		
Opening stock	69,072	96,713
Plus: Purchases	192,149	174,751
Less: Closing stock	(59,317)	(69,072)
Cost of goods sold	<u>201,904</u>	<u>202,392</u>
Gross profit from trading	<u>183,657</u>	<u>182,219</u>
5D Reef HQ revenues		
Admission fees	1,258,673	1,249,973
Donations and sponsorship	21,470	11,591
Membership program	122,163	119,969
Other revenue	364,269	334,693
Total Reef HQ revenues	<u>1,766,575</u>	<u>1,716,226</u>

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5E Revenue from Sale of Assets	2005 \$	2004 \$
Plant and equipment		
Proceeds from disposal	18,171	1,212
Net book value of assets disposed	28,132	292
Net gain / (loss) from disposal of plant and equipment	(9,961)	920
5F Other miscellaneous revenues		
Project revenue from related entities	6,358,937	1,042,408
Project revenue from external entities	12,816	49,413
Other revenue - from external entities		
- Sale of the authorities education and information material	7,082	6,577
- Permit assessment fees	374,129	248,167
- Fines	0	13,596
- Reimbursement of monitoring costs	0	11,244
- Cost recovery	54,519	68,173
- Other	323,085	331,901
Total other miscellaneous revenues	7,130,568	1,771,479
6 OPERATING EXPENSES - GOODS AND SERVICES		
6A Employee expenses		
Wages and salaries	10,327,397	9,454,907
Superannuation	1,632,744	1,549,459
Leave and other entitlements	1,399,902	1,112,777
Separation and redundancy	78,547	0
Other employee benefits	72,443	48,053
Total employee benefits expense	13,511,033	12,165,196
Workers' compensation premiums	65,516	64,925
Total employee expenses	13,576,549	12,230,121
6B Supplier expenses		
Goods from external entities	1,690,835	1,412,602
Services from related entities	738,831	766,049
Services from external entities	10,435,939	7,910,231
Operating lease rentals	700,851	644,807
Total supplier expenses	13,566,456	10,733,689

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6C Depreciation and amortisation	2005 \$	2004 \$
Buildings and leasehold improvements	624,614	571,582
Plant and equipment	293,977	276,613
Computer software	73,859	77,612
Total depreciation and amortisation	<u>992,450</u>	<u>925,807</u>

6D Write-down of assets

Bad and doubtful debts expense	555	582
Total write-down of assets	<u>555</u>	<u>582</u>

7 OPERATING EXPENSES - GRANTS

Augmentative research grants	0	15,387
Other grants	86,500	6,370
Total Grants	<u>86,500</u>	<u>21,757</u>

8 DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

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

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- Fixed assets funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used by Queensland and administered by the Government (or the Authority) which owns or controls the land on which the fixture is located;
 - Expenditure on day-to-day management to be in accordance with an annually agreed programme; and
 - The Authority to administer funds provided by the Commonwealth and Queensland for these purposes.
- (b) Revenue received from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and from other sources:

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Queensland Government contribution Refer Note 8(c) below	4,827,000	4,337,000
Commonwealth Government appropriation Recurrent and post-initial capital programs Refer: Note 5 (a)	4,712,000	4,627,000
Other revenue from permit assessment fees.	76,571	70,350
	<u>9,615,571</u>	<u>9,034,350</u>

- (c) An additional amount of \$175,000 received from the Queensland Government in 2004-05 has not been recognised as revenue in 2004-05 and has been recorded as 'Revenue received in advance' as the relevant part of the day-to-day management program was not complete at balance date (2003-04 \$290,000).
- (d) Payments to the Queensland Government for day-to-day management for 2004-05 totalled \$8,735,617 (2003-04 \$7,829,925).
- (e) Financial Statements for day-to-day management which have been prepared by the EPA and audited by the Queensland Auditor-General are at Note 25.

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	2005	2004
	\$	\$
9 FINANCIAL ASSETS		
9A Cash		
Day-to-day management account	329,213	450,499
Cash on hand	16,994	18,389
Authority operations accounts	6,427,575	2,907,296
Total cash	<u>6,773,782</u>	<u>3,376,184</u>
9B Receivables		
Goods and services	144,793	148,377
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(2,500)	(2,500)
Receivable from the Commonwealth	1,134,378	953,112
Interest receivable	13,776	35,747
GST receivable	47,582	187,309
Other receivables	1,707,411	1,657,267
Total receivables (net)	<u>3,045,440</u>	<u>2,979,312</u>
All receivables are current assets.		
Receivables (gross) are aged as follows		
Not overdue	2,988,743	2,979,312
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	0	0
- 30 to 60 days	14,925	0
- 61 to 90 days	601	0
- more than 90 days	43,671	2,500
Total receivables (gross)	<u>3,047,940</u>	<u>2,981,812</u>
The provision for doubtful debts is aged as follows:		
Not overdue	0	0
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	0	0
- 30 to 60 days	0	0
- 61 to 90 days	0	0
- more than 90 days	2,500	2,500
Total provision for doubtful debts	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Credit terms are net 28 days (2004: 28 days)		
9C Investments		
Shares in other company - listed	16,700	15,780
Total investments	<u>16,700</u>	<u>15,780</u>
All investments are current assets.		

At 30 June 2005, the Authority held shares in two listed companies, Baycorp Advantage Limited and Insurance Australia Group Limited (formerly NRMA Insurance). The shares were acquired in the 2001-02 financial year as a result of the companies being listed on the ASX. The shares were acquired at no cost. The shares held are ordinary shares.

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10 NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS	2005	2004
	\$	\$
10A Land and buildings		
Land and buildings		
- at fair value	15,748,791	15,748,791
- Accumulated depreciation	(5,085,584)	(4,705,273)
Leasehold improvements		
- at fair value	1,706,655	1,163,314
- Accumulated depreciation	(988,415)	(749,787)
Lighthouse properties		
- at fair value	1,511,378	179,288
Total land, buildings and leasehold improvements	<u>12,892,825</u>	<u>11,636,333</u>

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

The revaluation of the leasehold improvement assets was conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1. In 2004-05 the revaluation was conducted by an independent valuer M.A. Becker (FAPI).

Movements in Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Increment for leasehold improvements	518,361	1,651,023
Increment for plant and equipment	0	84,589
Increment for lighthouse properties	1,332,090	0
Decrement for lighthouse properties	0	(211,942)
	<u>1,850,451</u>	<u>1,523,670</u>

10B Plant and equipment

- at fair value	4,327,611	3,833,262
- Accumulated depreciation	(2,394,940)	(2,145,848)
Total plant and equipment	<u>1,932,671</u>	<u>1,687,414</u>

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

10C Intangibles

Software purchased	775,531	719,387
Accumulated amortisation	(465,258)	(395,447)
Total intangibles	<u>310,273</u>	<u>323,940</u>

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10D Analysis of Property, Plant, Equipment and Intangibles

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

	Land and Buildings \$	Leasehold Improvements \$	Lighthouse Properties \$	Plant and Equipment \$	Computer software \$	Total \$
As at 1 July 2004						
Gross book value	15,748,791	1,163,314	179,288	3,833,262	719,387	21,644,042
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(4,705,273)	(749,787)	0	(2,145,848)	(395,447)	(7,996,355)
Opening net book value	11,043,518	413,527	179,288	1,687,414	323,940	13,647,687
Additions						
By purchase	30,655	0	0	560,313	67,244	658,212
Net revaluation increment/(decrement)	0	518,361	1,332,090	0	0	1,850,451
Depreciation/ amortisation expense	(624,614)	0	0	(293,977)	(73,859)	(992,450)
Disposals						
From disposal of entities or operations (including restructuring)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other disposals	0	0	0	21,079	7,053	28,132
As at 30 June 2005						
Gross book value	15,748,791	1,706,655	1,511,378	4,327,611	775,531	24,069,966
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(5,085,584)	(988,415)	0	(2,394,940)	(465,258)	(8,934,197)
Closing net book value	10,663,207	718,240	1,511,378	1,932,671	310,273	15,135,769

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TABLE B — Assets at valuation as at 30 June 2005

Item:	Buildings and Leasehold Improvements	Plant and Equipment	Lighthouse Properties	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$
As at 30 June 2005				
Gross value	15,748,791	4,327,611	1,511,378	21,587,780
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(5,085,584)	(2,394,940)	-	(7,480,524)
Closing net book value	10,663,207	1,932,671	1,511,378	14,107,256
	\$	\$	\$	\$
As at 30 June 2004				
Gross value	15,748,791	3,833,262	179,288	19,761,341
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(4,705,273)	(2,145,848)	-	(6,851,121)
Closing net book value	11,043,518	1,687,414	179,288	12,910,220

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	2005	2004
	\$	\$
10E Other Non-Financial Assets		
Prepayments	107,898	101,701
Total other non-financial assets	<u>107,898</u>	<u>101,701</u>
All prepayments are current assets.		

10F Inventories		
Inventories held for sale	62,468	72,416
Total Inventories	<u>62,468</u>	<u>72,416</u>
All Inventories are current assets.		

11 PROVISIONS

Employees

Salaries and wages	46,382	0
Superannuation	6,594	0
Provision for long service leave	1,745,420	1,595,843
Provision for annual leave	1,408,340	1,284,701
Separations and redundancies	30,750	0
Other	<u>14,708</u>	<u>14,040</u>
<i>Aggregate employee benefit liability and related on costs</i>	<u>3,252,194</u>	<u>2,894,584</u>
Current	1,547,541	1,412,605
Non-Current	<u>1,704,653</u>	<u>1,481,979</u>
	<u>3,252,194</u>	<u>2,894,584</u>

12 PAYABLES

12A Suppliers

Trade Creditors	<u>897,592</u>	<u>1,109,441</u>
Total supplier payables	<u>897,592</u>	<u>1,109,441</u>

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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	2005	2004
	\$	\$
12B <u>Other Payables</u>		
Revenue received in advance	1,756,095	373,127
Amounts owed to Commonwealth	2,834,378	2,603,112
Other	5,909	7,021
Total other payables	<u>4,596,382</u>	<u>2,983,260</u>
All other payables are current.		
12C <u>Capital Use Charge Payable</u>		
Balance owing 1 July	0	127,000
Capital use charge provided for during the period	0	0
Capital use charge paid	0	(127,000)
Balance owing 30 June	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

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13 EQUITY

Analysis of Equity

Item	Contributed Equity		Accumulated results		Special Purpose Reserves		Asset Revaluation Reserve		Other Reserves		Total Equity	
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance 1 July	4,204,004	4,204,004	(5,058,678)	(3,668,208)	200,000	200,000	5,484,426	3,960,756	8,376,043	8,376,043	13,205,795	13,072,595
Net surplus/(deficit)	-	-	1,339,643	(1,390,470)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,339,643	(1,390,470)
Net revaluation increment	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,850,451	1,523,670	-	-	1,850,451	1,523,670
Transactions with owner:												
Distributions to owner:												
Returns on Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Use Charge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions by owner:												
Restructuring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	4,204,004	4,204,004	(3,719,035)	(5,058,678)	200,000	200,000	7,334,877	5,484,426	8,376,043	8,376,043	16,395,889	13,205,795
<i>Less: outside equity interests</i>												
Total equity attributable to the Australian Government	4,204,004	4,204,004	(3,719,035)	(5,058,678)	200,000	200,000	7,334,877	5,484,426	8,376,043	8,376,043	16,395,889	13,205,795

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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14 CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

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

	2005	2004
Reconciliation of operating surplus to net cash from operating activities:	\$	\$
<i>Operating surplus / (deficit)</i>	1,339,643	(1,390,470)
<i>Non-cash items</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation	992,450	925,807
Gain on disposal of assets	9,961	(920)
Other	0	(16,883)
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities</i>		
(Increase) / decrease in receivables (other than loans)	(66,128)	(419,713)
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	9,948	27,920
(Increase) / decrease in other assets	(7,117)	(14,671)
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	357,610	(209,131)
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	(213,840)	(142,472)
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	<u>1,613,122</u>	<u>2,336,575</u>
Net cash from / (used by) operating activities	<u>4,035,649</u>	<u>1,096,042</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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15 REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS

Remuneration - members of the Authority

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

	2005	2004
\$10,000 - \$19,999	3	3
\$230,000 - \$239,999	0	1
\$240,000 - \$249,999	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Total number of members of the Authority	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	\$	\$
Aggregate amount of superannuation payments in connection with the retirement of members	26,299	23,993
Other remuneration received or due and receivable by members of the Authority	<u>267,493</u>	<u>251,729</u>
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by members of the Authority	<u>293,792</u>	<u>275,722</u>

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

16 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Members of the Authority

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

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

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

During periods of absence of the Chairman, the Minister appointed the Authority's Executive Officers, Mr John Tanzer and Mr Andrew Skeat, to act as a Member and as Chairman. Mr Tanzer acted as a Member and as Chairman from 25 June 2004 to 7 July 2004 and from 16 March 2005 and 6 April 2005. Mr Skeat acted as a Member and as Chairman from 20 December 2004 to 7 January 2005.

Remuneration

The aggregate remuneration of members is disclosed at Note 15.

Authority members' interest in contracts

On the basis of statements declared by members in accordance with s. 16A of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act* or s. 21 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, no Authority member has received or become entitled to receive a benefit, other than a benefit included in the aggregate of remuneration received or due and receivable shown at Note 15 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.

17 REMUNERATION OF OFFICERS

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

	2005	2004
\$100,000 - \$109,999	3	3
\$110,000 - \$119,999	6	1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	1	1
\$130,000 - \$139,999	1	1
\$140,000 - \$149,999	1	0
\$150,000 - \$159,999	1	0
\$160,000 - \$169,999	0	1
\$170,000 - \$179,999	0	1
\$180,000 - \$189,999	0	1
\$190,000 - \$199,999	1	0
\$210,000 - \$219,999	1	0
Total	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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for the year ended 30 June 2005

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of officers shown above:	<u>1,960,199</u>	<u>1,198,646</u>
	\$	\$
The aggregate amount of separation and redundancy/termination benefit payments during the year to officers shown above:	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

The officer remuneration includes all officers concerned with or taking part in the management of the Authority during 2004-2005 except the Chairman. Details in relation to the Chairman have been incorporated into Note 15 Remuneration – Members of the Authority.

18 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period.		
The fair value of services provided was:	42,500	41,500

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

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

The Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef) was established to provide strategic scientific information, education and training to enhance reef-based industry and management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. As at 30 June 2005, the Authority's commitment to the CRC Reef, in cash contributions, 'in kind' contributions and amounts payable from EMC collections was:

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Within one year	2,325,000	2,325,000
From one to two years	0	2,325,000
From two to five years	0	0
	<u>2,325,000</u>	<u>4,650,000</u>

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20 CASH BONDS

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

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 2005

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Cash at bank 1 July	592,452	131,434
RECEIPTS : Cash Bonds	210,000	497,700
Interest	20,075	13,345
	<u>822,527</u>	<u>642,479</u>
PAYMENTS : Return of Bonds	77,135	50,000
Bank fees	43	27
Cash at bank 30 June	<u>745,349</u>	<u>592,452</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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21 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

21A Terms, conditions and accounting policies

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting policies and methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms & conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
Financial Assets		Financial assets are recognised when control over future economic benefits is established and the amount of the benefit can be reliably measured	
Cash at bank and deposits at call	9A	Deposits are recognised at their nominal amounts. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.	Temporarily surplus funds, mainly from monthly drawdowns of appropriations, are placed on deposit at call with the Authority's banker. Interest is earned on the daily balance at the prevailing daily rate and is paid monthly.
Term deposits	9A	Term deposits are recognised at cost. Interest is accrued as it is earned.	Term deposits are with the Authority's bank, and earn an effective rate of interest of 5.00% (2003-04; 5.00%) payable quarterly.
Receivables for goods and services	9B	These receivables are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Provisions are made when collection of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.	Credit terms are net 28 days (2003-04; 28 days)
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	9B	The amount receivable is recognised at the nominal amount due as at 30 June 2005. The amount arises from EMC collections due to be paid to the Authority as Special Appropriation.	The EMC is collected by the Authority as agent for the Commonwealth.
Interest receivable	9B	Interest is accrued as it is earned.	Interest is received monthly.
Investments	9C	These shares are carried at market value. Dividend income is recognised when declared by the investee.	The shares held are ordinary shares.

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

21A Terms, conditions and accounting policies

Financial Instrument	Notes	Accounting policies and methods (including recognition criteria and measurement basis)	Nature of underlying instrument (including significant terms & conditions affecting the amount, timing and certainty of cash flows)
Financial Liabilities		Financial liabilities are recognised when a present obligation to another party is entered into and the amount of the liability can be reliably measured	
Trade creditors	12A	Creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods and services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.
Other payables	12B	Other amounts payable are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amount at which liabilities will be settled.	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.
Capital use charge payable	12C	Capital use charge payable is recognised at the nominal amounts, being the amount at which liabilities will be settled.	Settlement is usually made net 30 days.

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

21B Interest Rate Risk

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate 30 day terms		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	
		2005 \$	2004 \$	2005 \$	2004 \$	2005 \$	2004 \$	2005 \$	2004 \$	2005 %	2004 %
Financial Assets											
Cash at bank & deposits at call	9A	2,717,691	1,089,151	-	-	-	-	2,717,691	1,089,151	4.5	4.5
Cash on hand	9A	-	-	-	-	16,994	18,389	16,994	18,389	n/a	n/a
Term deposit	9A	-	-	4,039,097	2,268,644	-	-	4,039,097	2,268,644	5.5	5
Receivables for goods & services (gross)	9B	-	-	-	-	144,793	148,377	144,793	148,377	n/a	n/a
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	9B	-	-	-	-	1,134,378	953,112	1,134,378	953,112	n/a	n/a
Other receivables	9B	13,776	35,747	-	-	1,707,411	1,657,267	1,721,187	1,693,014	4.5	4.5
Shares (not associates)	9C	-	-	-	-	16,700	15,780	16,700	15,780	n/a	n/a
Total		2,731,467	1,124,898	4,039,097	2,268,644	3,020,276	2,792,925	9,790,840	6,186,467		
Total Assets								25,142,057	20,193,080		

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 for the year ended 30 June 2005

21 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont.)

21C Interest Rate Risk

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Effective Interest Rate	
		2005 \$	2004 \$	1 year or less 2005 \$	2004 \$	2005 \$	2004 \$	2005 \$	2004 \$	2005 %	2004 %
Financial Liabilities											
Trade creditors	12A	-	-	-	-	897,592	1,109,441	897,592	1,109,441	n/a	n/a
Other payables	12B	-	-	-	-	4,596,382	2,983,260	4,596,382	2,983,260	n/a	n/a
Total		-	-	-	-	5,493,974	4,092,701	5,493,974	4,092,701		
Total Liabilities		-	-	-	-	-	-	8,746,168	6,987,285		

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

21D Net Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	Note	2005		2004	
		Total carrying amount	Aggregate net fair value	Total carrying amount	Aggregate net fair value
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets					
Cash at bank and deposits at call	9A	2,717,691	2,717,691	1,089,151	1,089,151
Cash on hand	9A	16,994	16,994	18,389	18,389
Term deposit	9A	4,039,097	4,039,097	2,268,644	2,268,644
Receivables for goods and services	9B	144,793	144,793	148,377	148,377
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	9B	1,134,378	1,134,378	953,112	953,112
Other debtors	9B	1,721,187	1,721,187	1,693,014	1,693,014
Shares (not associates)	9C	16,700	16,700	15,780	15,780
		<u>9,790,840</u>	<u>9,790,840</u>	<u>6,186,467</u>	<u>6,186,467</u>
Financial Liabilities					
Trade creditors	12A	897,592	897,592	1,109,441	1,109,441
Other payables	12B	4,596,382	4,596,382	2,983,260	2,983,260
		<u>5,493,974</u>	<u>5,493,974</u>	<u>4,092,701</u>	<u>4,092,701</u>

Financial Assets

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

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

Other than those for listed financial assets, none of the classes of financial assets are readily traded on organised markets in standardised form.

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

Financial Liabilities

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

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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for the year ended 30 June 2005

21E Credit Risk Exposures

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

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

22 AVERAGE STAFFING LEVELS

	2005	2004
The average staffing level for the Authority during the year was:	184	179

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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for year ending 30 June 2005

23 Appropriations

Appropriations: Bills 1 & 3

Particulars	Departmental Outputs		Loans		Equity		Total	
	2005 \$'000's	2004 \$'000's	2005 \$'000's	2004 \$'000's	2005 \$'000's	2004 \$'000's	2005 \$'000's	2004 \$'000's
Year ended 30 June 2005								
Balance carried forward from previous year	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Appropriation Acts 1 and 3	16,394	16,117	-	-	-	-	16,394	16,117
Available for payment of CRF	16,394	16,117	-	-	-	-	16,394	16,117
Cash Payments made out of CRF	16,394	16,117	-	-	-	-	16,394	16,117
Balance carried forward to next year	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0
Represented by:								
Appropriations Receivable	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0

Special Appropriations

Special Appropriation is appropriated in accordance with Section 39I of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act for the operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.	Departmental Outputs		Total	
	2005 \$'000's	2004 \$'000's	2005 \$'000's	2004 \$'000's
Year ended 30 June 2005				
Balance Carried forward from previous year	953	507	953	507
Special Appropriation	7,594	7,519	7,594	7,519
Available for payment of CRF	8,547	8,026	8,547	8,026
Payments made out of CRF	7,400	7,000	7,400	7,000
Refunds paid out of CRF	13	73	13	73
Balance carried forward to next year	1,134	953	1,134	953
Represented by:				
Appropriations Receivable	1,134	953	1,134	953

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2005

24 REPORTING BY OUTCOMES

24A The Authority is included in Outcome 1 of the Environment and Heritage Portfolio. The specific sub-outcome for the Authority is the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

24B Net Costs of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1	
	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Departmental expenses	37,188	31,945
Total expenses	37,188	31,945
<i>Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non-government sector</i>		
Departmental	2,550	2,583
Total costs recovered	2,550	2,583
<i>Other external revenues</i>		
Departmental		
Sale of goods and services - to related entities	6,359	1,042
Interest	425	231
Revenue from sale of assets	18	1
Industry contributions	374	248
Other	4,827	4,337
Total Departmental	12,003	5,859
Total other external revenues	12,003	5,859
Net cost/(contribution) of outcome	22,635	23,503

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2005

24 REPORTING BY OUTCOMES

24C Departmental Revenues and Expenses by Output Groups and Outputs

	Outcome 1													Total			
	Output Group 1.1		Output Group 1.2		Output Group 1.3		Output Group 1.4		Output Group 1.5		Output Group 1.6		Output Group 1.7		Non-attributable		
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004		2005	2004	2005
Operating expenses																	
Conservation, Heritage & Indigenous Partnerships	831	1,119	1,351	1,221	786	758	779	708	4,163	3,337	2,412	2,097	3,249	2,991	0	0	13,571
Employees	454	673	692	618	388	393	899	795	3,458	2,025	4,483	2,990	3,399	3,441	0	0	13,773
Suppliers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	4	0	0	0	87
Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation and amortisation	34	37	53	53	28	30	30	30	119	111	102	92	626	573	0	0	992
Write-down of assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Value of assets disposed	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	28
Borrowing cost expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contribution to Old Govt. - DDM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,736	7,830	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,736
Total operating expenses	1,320	1,829	2,172	1,892	1,202	1,181	1,798	1,533	16,478	13,303	7,007	5,201	7,301	7,006	0	0	37,188
Funded by:																	
Revenues from Government	1,259	1,258	2,067	1,816	1,125	1,141	1,253	992	8,783	8,553	5,221	5,006	2,827	4,740	1,340	-1,393	23,975
Sales of goods and services	26	551	52	48	49	25	424	525	2,748	354	1,687	146	4,296	2,222	0	0	9,282
Interest	34	20	52	28	27	15	30	16	117	59	96	49	69	43	0	0	435
Donations and bequests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Revenue from Sale of Assets	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	18
Payments from Old Govt. - DDM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,827	4,337	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,327
Total operating revenues	1,320	1,829	2,172	1,892	1,202	1,181	1,708	1,533	16,478	13,303	7,007	5,201	7,301	7,006	1,340	-1,392	38,528
																	30,554

The Authority's outcomes and outputs are described at Note 24A.
 The net costs shown include intra-government costs that would be eliminated in calculating the actual Budget outcome.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2005

25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Appropriations from State Government		4,377,159	3,914,963
Funding from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		4,377,158	3,914,962
Other		89,516	100,125
Gain on disposal of assets		95,224	338,100
Total revenues from ordinary activities		8,939,057	8,268,150
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employee expenses		4,993,934	4,903,606
Supplies and services		3,350,349	3,115,865
Depreciation	2	558,672	540,010
Loss on disposal of assets		4,513	18,026
Total expenses from ordinary activities		8,907,468	8,577,507
Net Operating Result		31,589	(309,357)
Non-Owner transaction changes in equity:			
Net Increase (decrease) in asset revaluation reserve	7	305,184	172,414
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners		336,773	(136,943)

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2005

25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 AS AT 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
Current assets			
Cash assets	3	661,692	467,730
Receivables	4	158,860	136,984
Prepayments		35,996	47,052
Total current assets		<u>856,548</u>	<u>651,766</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	5,210,895	4,891,376
Total non-current assets		<u>5,210,895</u>	<u>4,891,376</u>
Total assets		<u>6,067,443</u>	<u>5,543,142</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables	6	301,721	115,637
Total current liabilities		<u>301,721</u>	<u>115,637</u>
Total liabilities		<u>301,721</u>	<u>115,637</u>
Net assets (liabilities)		<u>5,765,722</u>	<u>5,427,505</u>
Equity			
Retained surpluses	7	3,259,016	3,225,983
Reserves:			
- Asset revaluation reserve	7	2,506,706	2,201,522
Total equity		<u>5,765,722</u>	<u>5,427,505</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2005

25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	2005 \$	2004 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Inflows:			
Appropriations from State Government		4,377,159	3,914,963
Payments from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		4,377,158	3,914,962
Other		107,654	81,474
GST collected from customers		18,638	61,685
GST input tax credits from ATO		371,418	226,648
Outflows:			
Employee expenses		(4,974,024)	(4,888,799)
Supplies and services		(3,228,825)	(3,345,478)
GST paid to suppliers		(411,431)	(260,621)
GST remitted to ATO		(8,133)	(61,169)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	8	629,614	(356,335)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Inflows:			
Sales of property, plant and equipment		241,498	513,843
Outflows:			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(677,150)	(373,938)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(435,652)	139,905
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		193,962	(216,430)
Cash at beginning of financial year		467,730	684,160
Cash at end of financial year	3	661,692	467,730

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2005

25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004-05

Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, Finance Minister's Orders "Schedule 1. Requirements for the preparation of Financial Statements of Australian Government Entities" and as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

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

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

(b) The Reporting Entity

The financial statements include the value of all revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Day-to-Day Coordination Unit. The entity also forms part of the Environmental Protection Agency for reporting purposes.

(c) Funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments

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

(d) Cash Assets

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

(e) Receivables

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

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

(f) Acquisition of Assets

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

(g) Property, Plant and Equipment

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

(h) Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment

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



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2005

25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004-05 (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) Revaluations of Non-Current Physical Assets

Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1041 *Revaluation of Non-Current Assets* requires that all non-current physical assets be measured at either fair value or cost. Queensland Treasury's *Non-Current Asset Accounting Guidelines for the Queensland Public Sector* requires land, buildings, infrastructure, heritage and cultural assets to be recorded at fair value with all other classes of assets to be recorded at cost.

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

(j) Payables

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

(k) Employee entitlements

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

(l) Comparatives

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

(m) Taxation

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



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2005

25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004-05 (continued)

(n) Gains and Losses

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

(o) Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards

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

The Environmental Protection Agency established an IFRS Work Group to assist in the implementation of the new reporting requirements. The implications of the new reporting requirements on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park were included in the scope of the project undertaken by the IFRS Work Group. All Australian Equivalents to IFRSs have been reviewed for implications for policies, procedures, systems and financial impacts arising from such changes.

To date, the only likely impact arising from the adoption of Australian Equivalents to IFRSs in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is the introduction of AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*, which requires an annual impairment test to be performed on all non-current physical and intangible assets. The material assets of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are currently valued at written-down replacement cost and the effect of this Standard is expected to be immaterial. However, as an impairment test has not previously applied to the public sector, an assessment of the effect is still ongoing and cannot be quantified at this time.

Mandated Changes to Policy on Transition to AEIFRS

In addition to the amendments required on adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards, a number of mandated policies will be introduced, the commencement date of which will coincide with the implementation of the new Standards. The major impacts of these new policies are outlined below:

- The impact of mandated revised asset recognition thresholds is expected to result in \$322,181 being posted as a reduction to the balance of Accumulated Surpluses on 1 July 2004, with a corresponding reduction to the relevant asset class and accumulated depreciation.
- In addition, an adjustment of \$124,495 is expected to be made in the Income Statement for the write-off of assets purchased during 2004-05 that no longer meet the requirements for capitalisation and any accumulated depreciation for those assets for the 2004-05 year. There will also be an adjustment of \$4,174 to write back depreciation charged in 2004-05 for assets written off as a result of the new thresholds at 1 July 2004.

Note 2 Depreciation Expense

	2005	2004
Depreciation incurred in respect of:	\$	\$
Plant and equipment	225,540	220,461
Vessels	142,574	152,336
Buildings and Infrastructure	190,558	167,213
Total	558,672	540,010

Due to revaluations, there was an increase in depreciation on Buildings and Infrastructure during the reporting period of \$20,317.

Note 3 Cash Assets

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Unexpended funds	661,692	466,990
Imprest Accountable Advances	..	740
Total	661,692	467,730



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2005

25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004-05 (continued)

Note 4 Receivables

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
<i>Current</i>		
Trade debtors	36,551	54,294
Accountable Advances - Travel	..	394
GST receivable	122,309	82,296
Total	158,860	136,984

Note 5 Property, Plant and Equipment

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Buildings and Infrastructure		
At management valuation	4,347,522	3,812,835
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,645,267)	(1,298,976)
	2,702,255	2,513,859
Capital works in progress	20,148	55,280
Vessels > \$250,000		
At cost	3,577,723	3,569,573
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2,573,711)	(2,431,137)
	1,004,012	1,138,436
Plant and Equipment		
At cost	2,600,374	2,513,665
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,115,894)	(1,329,864)
	1,484,480	1,183,801
Total	5,210,895	4,891,376

Independent valuations of a proportion of buildings and infrastructure were performed as at 1 July 2002 by Project Services and State Valuation Services using 'fair value' principles. The remainder of buildings and infrastructure assets were revalued using an appropriate index. All buildings and infrastructure are subject to annual indexation.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park has plant and equipment with an original cost of \$1,149,101 and buildings and infrastructure valued at \$152,318 with a written down value of zero still being used in the provision of services.

Plant and equipment are valued at cost in accordance with Queensland Treasury's *Non-Current Asset Accounting Guidelines for the Queensland Public Sector* (May 2001).

Asset Reconciliation

	Buildings & Infrastructure	Work in Progress	Vessels > \$250,000	Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Carrying amount at 1 July	2,513,852	55,280	1,138,436	1,183,808	4,891,376
Acquisitions	..	112,245	8,150	686,920	807,315
Write Ons	..	..	..	1,442	1,442
Donations given	..	(73,600)	..	(122,257)	(195,857)
Disposals	..	..	..	(39,893)	(39,893)
Transfers between classes	73,777	(73,777)	..	..	..
Revaluation	305,184	..	..	..	305,184
Increments/(Decrements)					
Depreciation	(190,538)	..	(142,574)	(225,540)	(558,672)
Carrying amount at 30 June	2,702,255	20,148	1,004,012	1,484,480	5,210,895



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2005

25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004-05 (continued)

Note 6 Payables

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
<i>Current</i>		
Trade creditors	226,160	70,491
Employee expenses payable	63,972	44,063
GST payable	11,586	1,081
Payroll Tax payable	3	2
Total	301,721	115,637

Note 7 Changes in Equity

	<i>Retained Surpluses</i>		<i>Asset Revaluation Reserve</i>	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July	3,225,983	3,535,340	2,201,522	2,029,108
Increase in Asset Revaluation Reserve	..	..	305,184	172,414
Assets not previously recognised	1,444	..	..	..
Net Operating Result	31,589	(309,357)	..	..
Balance at 30 June	3,259,016	3,225,983	2,506,706	2,201,522

Note 8 Reconciliation of Net Operating Result to Net Cash Provided by (Used In) Operating Activities

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Surplus/deficit from ordinary activities	31,589	(359,845)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation	558,672	540,037
(Gain)/loss on disposal of property, plant & equipment	(90,711)	(315,017)
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(21,875)	72,221
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	11,056	(5,710)
Increase/(decrease) in provision for doubtful debts	..	(76,244)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	140,883	(211,777)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(629,614)	(356,335)

Note 9 Contingent Assets

In 2004-05 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park entered into an arrangement whereby a vessel was transferred to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service with the understanding that \$100,000 would be contributed to a new vessel purchased by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in 2005-06.

Note 10 Contingent Liabilities

There were no known contingent liabilities of a significant nature as at 30 June 2005 (2004 \$nil).

Insurance

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



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2005

25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004-05 (continued)

Note 11 Commitments

There were no known commitments of a significant nature as at 30 June 2005 (2004 \$nil).

Note 12 Financial Instruments

Interest Rate Risk Exposure

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

	Floating Rate	1 year or less	1 to 5 years	Greater than 5 years	Non Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average Rate:
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Financial Assets							
Cash	661,692	-	-	-	-	661,692	4.545
Receivables	-	-	-	-	158,860	158,860	NA
	<u>661,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>158,860</u>	<u>820,552</u>	
Financial Liabilities							
Payables	-	-	-	-	301,721	301,721	NA
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>301,721</u>	<u>301,721</u>	<u>NA</u>

- Floating interest rate represents the most recently administered market rate applicable to the instrument at 30 June 2005.
- The fixed rate represents weighted average market interest rate.

Credit Risk Exposure

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

No significant credit risks have been identified.

Net Fair Values

The net fair value is determined as follows:

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

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

Financial Instruments	Total Carrying Amount		Net Fair Value	
	2005 \$	2004 \$	2005 \$	2004 \$
Financial Assets				
Cash	661,692	467,730	661,692	467,730
Receivables	158,860	136,984	158,860	136,984
Total	820,552	604,714	820,552	604,714
Financial Liabilities				
Payables	301,721	115,637	301,721	115,637
Total	301,721	115,637	301,721	115,637



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2005

25 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

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

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

- (i) the statements together with the other information and notes to and forming part thereof are in agreement with the accounts of the Environmental Protection Agency; and
- (ii) the receipt and expenditure of monies and the control and management of assets were in accordance with the approved programs and in accordance with the aforementioned agreements and previous agreements executed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments with regard to day to day management; and
- (iii) in our opinion:
 - a. the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
 - b. statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the transactions and cash flows of the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005, and of the financial position as at 30 June 2005.



N. O'Sullivan
Director, Financial Management

Date: 18 August 2005



J. Purtil
Director-General

Date: 18 August 2005



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2005

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Scope

The financial statements

The financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park consist of the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, notes to and forming part of the financial statements and certificates given by the Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency and the officer responsible for the financial administration of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, for the year ended 30 June 2005.

The Director-General's responsibility

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

Audit approach

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

Audit procedures included -

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

Independence

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

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


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

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

Audit Opinion

In terms of the Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority relating to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park -

- (a) I have received all the information and explanations which I have required; and
- (b) in my opinion -
 - (i) the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
 - (ii) the statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view, in accordance with the prescribed accounting standards of the transactions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the financial year 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 and of the financial position as at the end of that year.

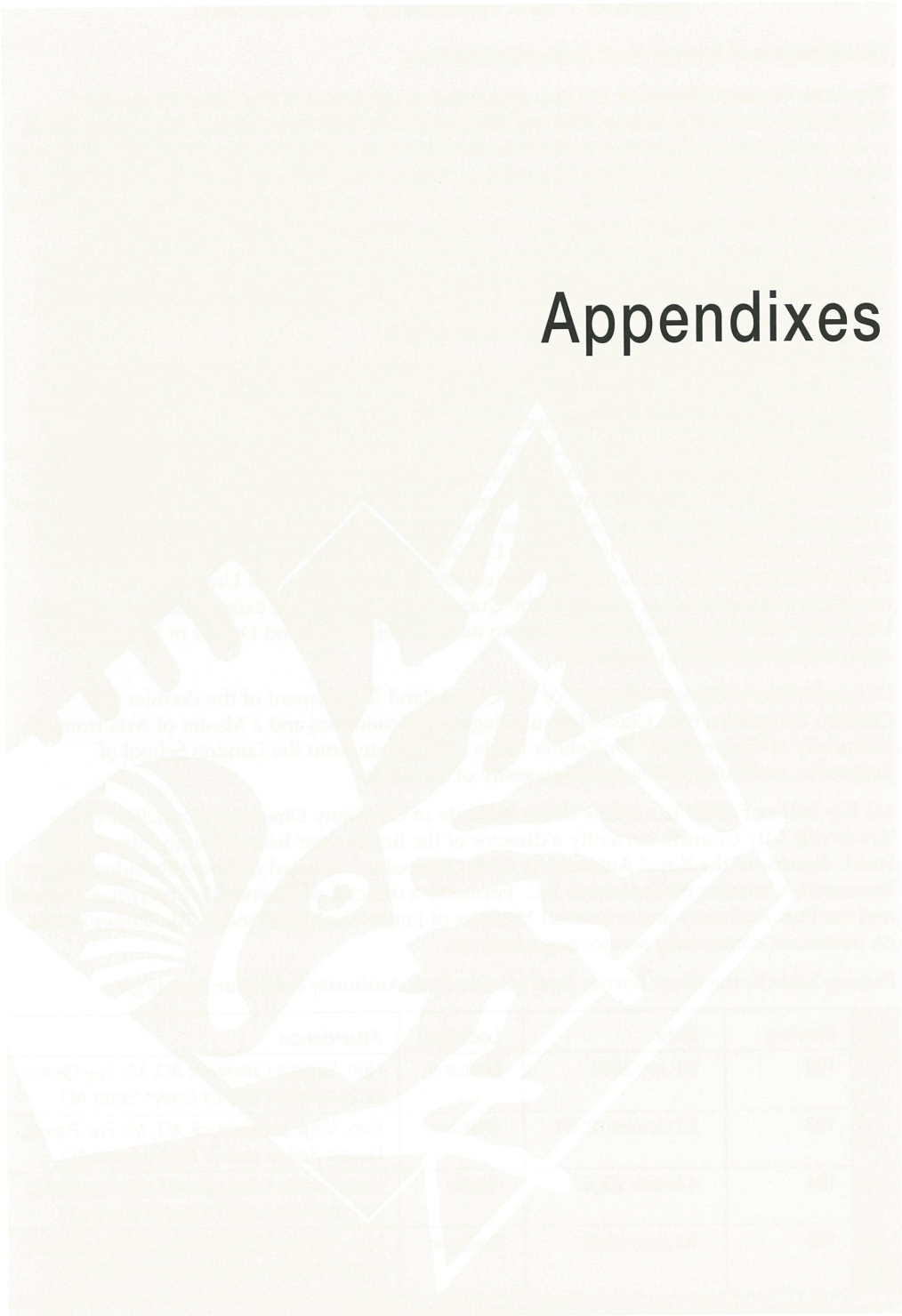

M T BOOTH, CPA
Director of Audit
(Delegate of the Auditor-General)



Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

SECTION E

Appendixes



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

Qualifications of Marine Park Authority Members

The Hon. Virginia Chadwick AO was appointed as Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in July 1999 and reappointed in 2004 for a further three years. Prior to her appointment she served in the New South Wales Legislative Council, holding various Shadow Ministerial and Ministerial positions. She was the first woman elected as President of the Legislative Council. She has received an Honorary Doctorate from the Southern Cross University. Mrs Chadwick is currently a member of Queensland's Fishing Industry Development Council, a Board member of the Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and a Board member of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Mrs Chadwick was awarded an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2005 Honours List.

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

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

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

During 2004-05, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority held four meetings:

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
192	29 July 2004	Brisbane	Hon. Virginia Chadwick AO, Ms Fay Barker, Dr Leo Keliher and Dr Evelyn Scott AO
193	22 October 2004	Brisbane	Hon. Virginia Chadwick AO, Ms Fay Barker, Dr Leo Keliher and Dr Evelyn Scott AO
194	4 March 2005	Cairns	Hon. Virginia Chadwick AO, Ms Fay Barker, Dr Leo Keliher and Dr Evelyn Scott AO
195	10 June 2005	Brisbane	Hon. Virginia Chadwick AO, Ms Fay Barker, Dr Leo Keliher and Dr Evelyn Scott AO

Table 7: Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2004-05

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

Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council

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

During 2004-05, the other members of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council were: the Hon. Joe Hockey MP, Commonwealth Minister for Tourism and Small Business (until 21 October 2004); the Hon. Fran Bailey MP, Minister for Tourism and Small Business (from 22 October 2004 until 6 April 2005); the Hon. Warren Entsch MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources (from 7 April 2005); the Hon. Desley Boyle MP, Queensland Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women and the Hon. Margaret Keech MP, Queensland Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development.

The Council did not meet during the 2004-05 year.

Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee

The Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee was established under Section 20 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* as an advisory committee to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and to the Minister responsible for the environment. The Committee provides an important channel of communication between the Minister, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Queensland Government departments responsible for the environment, and major sectors of users and interest groups.

The Committee consists of members appointed by the Minister for a three-year term and a

Name	Organisation/Affiliation
Dr Russell Reichelt	Chairman
Hon. Virginia Chadwick AO	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Mr Tony Charters	Tourism
Mr Noel Dawson	Chairman, Water Quality and Coastal Development Reef Advisory Committee
Mr Alan Feely	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Mr Peter Frawley	Chairman, Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee
Mr Bob Muir	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests
Mr Peter Neville	Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
Mrs Jenny Pryor	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests (resigned 28 September 2004)
Ms Diane Tarte	Chairman, Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee
Mr Terry Wall	Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet
Mr Bill Whiteman	Chairman, Hinchinbrook Local Marine Advisory Committee
Mr Simon Woodley	Chairman, Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Reef Advisory Committee

Table 8: Members of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee 2004-05

member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority appointed by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for an indefinite term.

The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage recently amended the composition of the Committee to enhance current consultative structures. Membership will encompass the Chairs of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Advisory Committees; representatives of the Local Marine Advisory Committees; Queensland Government nominees; senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives; the research community; the Department of the Environment and Heritage; representatives from the commercial fishing, recreational fishing and tourism industries; and a conservation representative.

The Minister is currently considering membership of the Committee. It is anticipated that membership will be resolved in early 2005-06.

The terms for members ended on 19 November 2004, with the exception of Mr Bob Muir, whose term ended on 2 April 2005 and Mr Alan Feely, whose term is current until 3 March 2007.

During 2004-2005, the Consultative Committee held one meeting:

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
GBRCC 71	29 September 2004	Townsville	9/13

Table 9: Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee 2004-05

Great Barrier Reef Audit Committee

The following people were members of the Audit Committee during 2004-05:

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

During 2004-05, the Audit Committee held two meetings:

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
AC 27	6 September 2004	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker, Mr Peter McGinnity (Acting Executive Director), Dr David Wachenfeld (Acting Executive Director)
AC28	23 March 2005	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker, Mr Andrew Skeat, Ms Fiona Macdonald (Acting Executive Director)

Table 10: Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Audit Committee 2004-05

Business activities of the Audit Committee concerned:

- Annual financial statements;

- Environmental Management Charge;
- Day-to-Day Management;
- Reef HQ operations;
- Risk Management Plan;
- Internal audit services; and
- Various internal audit reports.

Powers and functions

The functions and responsibilities of the Audit Committee are to:

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

Reef Advisory Committees

Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Reef Advisory Committee

The Reef Advisory Committee for Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships met on 12-13 August 2004, 25-26 November 2004, and 28-29 April 2005. The Committee, comprising fourteen members including an independent Chairman, provided valuable guidance on a variety of matters, in particular the implementation of the Representative Areas Programme, Species Conservation issues and the traditional use of marine resources.

Water Quality and Coastal Development Reef Advisory Committee

The Reef Advisory Committee for Water Quality and Coastal Development met on 22-23 July 2004, 23-24 September 2004, the 22 November 2004 and 26-27 April 2005. The Committee, comprising twenty members including an independent Chairman, provided advice on key issues in the implementation of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*, and the strategic

approach taken by the Authority to water quality issues. Valuable guidance was also provided on specific issues such as marine monitoring programmes, wetland protection, aquaculture and sewage management.

Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee

The Reef Advisory Committee for Fisheries met on 10-11 August, 4-5 November, 17-18 March and 20-21 June. The Committee, comprising fifteen members including an independent Chairman, provided advice on key issues including implementation of the new Zoning Plan; management of the trawl, inshore line and net, coral reef finfish and the dive-based fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; management of sharks in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; community and stakeholder engagement; enhancing the recreational fishing experience – the Australian Government's election commitment (including exploration of issues associated with artificial reefs); coral transplantation; and integration of monitoring programmes in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Valuable guidance was also provided on water quality and its impact on the fisheries resources of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; compliance with fisheries and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park legislation; progress on *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* sustainable fisheries assessments; the Department of the Environment and Heritage structural adjustment package following rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; Queensland zoning for State waters and its impact on fishing; protected species policy development; Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRAs); Fisheries issues raised by the Authority's Local Marine Advisory Committees; Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) activities relevant to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; and the seabed biodiversity research project.

Tourism and Recreation

The Reef Advisory Committee for Tourism and Recreation met on 13-14 July 2004, 26-27 October 2004, 28 February - 1 March 2005 and 16-17 June 2005. The Committee comprises twenty members, including an independent Chairman. The Committee provided valuable guidance on a variety of matters, in particular permit allocation, moorings management, Indigenous participation in tourism, cruise shipping, operator representation of the Environmental Management Charge, operator audits and compliance, and best practice and certification.

Great Barrier Reef Local Marine Advisory Committees

There are eleven Local Marine Advisory Committees in operation in regional centres adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef between Cooktown and Bundaberg.

The Local Marine Advisory Committees are:

- Cape York Marine Advisory Group
- Port Douglas Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Cairns Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Mission Beach Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Hinchinbrook Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Townsville Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Whitsunday Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Mackay Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Capricorn Coast Local Marine Advisory Committee

- Gladstone Region Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Burnett Local Marine Advisory Committee.

Local Marine Advisory Committees provide a forum for the local community and representative stakeholder groups to discuss marine resource management issues and advise the Authority accordingly. They provide an opportunity for resource management agencies to meet with the local community and address local concerns. The Committees also provide information to the public in regard to issues affecting the local marine and coastal regions, thus facilitating communication between user groups and the local community. Members usually have an interest in marine resource issues and may be independent, or represent a constituent group. The Committees meet every two months, with the main operating expenses covered by the Authority.

In October 2004, the newest Local Marine Advisory Committee was formed. The Burnett Local Marine Advisory Committee represents the interests of the Burnett and Bundaberg shires, in the southern-most areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. As Figure 21 illustrates, the Burnett Local Marine Advisory Committee is the largest of the committees, followed by Mackay and Mission Beach.

The Annual Local Marine Advisory Committee Chairs Conference was held on 9-10 October 2004 in Cairns. Each of the eleven Chairs attended the conference together with one other representative from their Committee. Major issues discussed at the conference included the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*, the Local Marine Advisory Committee's involvement in sharing information about the new Zoning Plan with their local communities, and the participation of Committee members in the Reef Guardian Schools programme.

Local Marine Advisory Committees made a significant contribution to public awareness in the implementation of new zoning that resulted from the Representative Areas Programme.

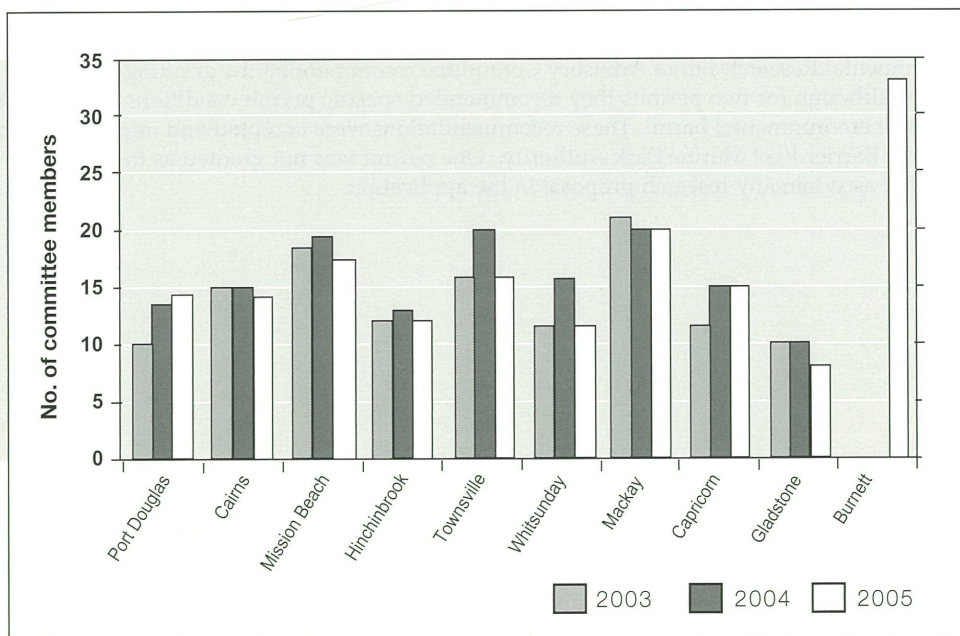


Figure 21: Local Marine Advisory Committee membership 2003-2005

The Hinchinbrook Local Marine Advisory Committee initiated a project to develop a local boating and fishing map to further enhance understanding of zoning arrangements, as well as to provide local boating and fishing information based on community knowledge. The initiative has encouraged similar projects amongst a number of the other Committees. The aim of the Local Marine Advisory Committee local maps is to supplement the Authority's zoning maps at a local level, targeting areas popular for recreational boating and fishing, and to raise awareness of Marine Park issues including species conservation and best environmental practices.

Water quality in the Great Barrier Reef has been identified as a high priority by all Local Marine Advisory Committees. The *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* provides an excellent opportunity to focus community participation and support. To assist Regional Natural Resource Management bodies address coastal water quality issues, a number of the Committees have established links with the Regional Natural Resource Management bodies and have given input to the development of the Natural Resource Management plans.

All Local Marine Advisory Committees participated in a review of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* through a telephone survey conducted by the Authority's Social Sciences group in June 2005.

In total, there are currently 161 Local Marine Advisory Committee members, averaging fifteen members per committee (this figure does not include the Cape York Marine Advisory Group).

Great Barrier Reef Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee

The Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee met twice during the 2004-05 financial year. On 26 July 2004 the Committee received a briefing from Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority staff on the effect of the new Zoning Plan on researchers. The Committee also discussed one research application at this meeting. This permit was granted. On 7 February 2005 the Committee met to discuss four permit applications. The Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee recommended the granting of three permits, although for two permits they recommended specific permit conditions to minimise the risk of environmental harm. These recommendations were accepted and implemented by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. One permit was not granted as the Committee could not ascertain any research proposal in the application.

Appendix 3: Freedom of Information Statement

Documents available for purchase

The following documents are available for purchase (including bulk-purchase) through selected outlets:

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

Documents available free of charge

The following documents are available, free of charge, for single copies only from the Authority's Townsville office:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*;
- Zoning maps of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- Great Barrier Reef General Reference map;
- Strategic Plan;
- Environmental Management Charge information booklets;
- Media releases and communiqués;
- Various information brochures, posters, bulletins and leaflets; and
- Research reports and workshop proceedings.

Facilities for access

The Townsville office holds most documents relating to Authority decisions and operations as well as those of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee. It is possible to arrange access to documents, available under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, through either the Canberra or Townsville office. Staff are available to provide assistance in relation to any aspect of freedom of information requests.

Members of the public may make inquiries in relation to freedom of information matters, and inspect documents to which access has been granted, at either office. Business hours are 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Formal requests for access to documents must be directed to the officers listed on the following page. Information about facilities for access by disabled people can be obtained by contacting the Freedom of Information Officer at the Townsville office.

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

- Computer printer;
- Microfiche reader;
- Slide projectors;
- Video and audio tape records;
- Photocopy machine; and
- Reading areas.

Freedom of information procedures and initial contact points

Inquiries may be made in writing, by telephone or in person at any time of the official freedom of information access points listed below. It is recommended that inquirers provide a telephone number.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

2-68 Flinders Street
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
Telephone: (07) 4750 0700
Facsimile: (07) 4772 6093

PO Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Ground Floor
John Gorton Building
King Edward Terrace
PARKES ACT 2600
Telephone: (02) 6274 1922
Facsimile: (02) 6274 1509

GPO Box 791
CANBERRA ACT 2601

If any difficulty arises in identifying a document or in providing access in the form requested, an officer of the 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 freedom of information access points. The authorised decision-makers under the *Freedom of Information Act* for the Authority, with official addresses for the lodging of requests, are:

The Chairman

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

The Executive Director

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

Director of Corporate Services

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

Appendix 4: Consultancy Services

Twenty-one consultancy contracts over \$10,000 were made during 2004-05*. Total expenses for consultancy services over \$10,000 was \$1,637,503, including \$1.155 million on monitoring the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

The Authority has recently revised its purchasing guidelines including processes for selection and engagement of consultants. Depending on the estimated value of the tender, the selection process may involve public tender, selective tender or, where appropriate, direct engagement of a recognised and pre-eminent expert. Consultants are engaged when specialist expertise is not available within the Authority or where an independent assessment is considered desirable.

A large proportion of research is now outsourced to the CRC Reef Research Centre principally through financial contribution of \$13.2 million over seven years commencing in 1999-2000. Field management of the Marine Park is implemented through the Day-to-Day Management Programme, the majority of which are carried out by Queensland Government agencies.

Art Design	1,730.00
Boab Interactive Pty Ltd	88,930.00
Digi Men	4,790.00
Digital Dimensions	25,092.00
Extremely Graphic	10,120.00
Grafik Switch	7,540.00
London Music Group	3,200.00
McGregor Marketing Group	25,232.00
Message Stick Communications	4,308.00
Reel Image Pty Ltd	9,157.00
Sheridan, Watman and Friends	10,276.00
Trish Hart	5,425.00
True Blue Cockatoo	2,400.00
Work of Art Graphic Design	455.00

Table 11: Creative agencies used 2004-05

AEC Group Limited	13,820.00
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Table 12: Market research and polling organisations used 2004-05

Nil	Nil
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Table 13: Direct mail organisations used 2004-05

* including some of those listed in Tables 11 and 14, some research consultancies and other consultancies for improvements in information management, management practices and more effective community engagement

Agricultural Publishers Pty Ltd	350.00
Bread and Butter Pty Ltd	4,318.00
Crowther, Blayne and Associates	3,000.00
DMG Regional Radio	8,219.00
Eco Tourism Australia	1,890.00
Eco Voice	182.00
E-mail Media	150.00
FNQ Broadcasters Townsville Pty Ltd	3,580.00
Gladstone Newspapers	25.00
Go Boating Publications	2,640.00
Gracie Signs	778.00
HMA Blaze Pty Ltd	131,980.00
Inflight Magazine	2,070.00
Island Impressions	4,256.00
Local Attractions	1,155.00
Nationwide Business Directory of Australia	495.00
North Australian Publishing Company	4,458.00
Paradise Outdoor Advertising	59,080.00
Reflections Media Pty Ltd	7,920.00
Sampson Carroll	550.00
Sensis Pty Ltd	208.00
The North Queensland Newspaper Co Ltd	3,499.00
Tourism Australia	1,428.00
Tourism Queensland	1,359.00
Townsville Enterprise	4,843.00
Trade Travel	1,250.00
WIN Television Qld Pty Ltd	18,215.00
Zoik	288.00

Table 14: Media advertising organisations used 2004-05

Appendix 5: Staffing Overview

Diversity

Classification	ONGOING EMPLOYEES					NON-ONGOING EMPLOYEES				
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total
	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T		F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T	
APS1	4	0.67	0	0	4.67	0	0	0	0	0
APS2	15	2	8	0	25	2	0	0	0	2
APS3	15	0.64	7	0	22.64	1	0	0	0	1
APS4	10	0.8	4	0	14.8	4	0.67	1	0	5.67
APS5	13	1.33	2	0	16.33	2	0	7	0	9
APS6	12	2.54	19	0	33.54	1	0	3	0	4
EXEC1	7	2.96	19	0	28.96	0	0	0	0	0
EXEC2	3	0.8	10	0	13.8	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
CEO	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	79	11.74	70	0	160.74	11	0.67	12	0	23.67
Total number of employees = 184.41										

Table 15: Employees of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 2005.

(APS—Australian Public Service Officer; Exec—Executive Level; SES—Senior Executive Service; CEO—Chief Executive Officer)

Classification	Women	NESB1	NESB2	NESB	ATSI	PWD
APS1(5)	5 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
APS2(28)	20 (71%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	1 (4%)
APS3(24)	17 (71%)	2 (8%)	2 (8%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)
APS4(20)	15 (75%)	1 (5%)	3 (15%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (10%)
APS5(26)	17 (65%)	2 (8%)	2 (8%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	2 (8%)
APS6(38)	16 (42%)	7 (18%)	7 (18%)	4 (10%)	3 (8%)	2 (5%)
EXEC1(29)	11 (38%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)
EXEC2(14)	4 (29%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)	2 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
SES1(0)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
SES2(2)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
CEO(1)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Table 16: Representation of Equal Employment Opportunity groups within salary levels as at 30 June 2005.

(NESB1—Non-English Speaking Background, second generation (Mother); NESB2—Non-English Speaking Background (Father); NESB—Non-English Speaking Background, first generation; ATSI—Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; PWD—People with a disability)

Appendix 6: Occupational Health and Safety

Commitment

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and visitors to the workplace. In 2004-05, the Authority strengthened its consultative framework with the development of new Agreement and Policy frameworks. The Agreement and Policy framework sets out the consultative and policy arrangements that support sound workplace practices. Employees are able to discuss and refer workplace issues to their health and safety representatives or Occupational Health & Safety Committee or to have them dealt with through their supervisor.

Activities

The Authority was audited by Comcare under the Planned Investigation Programme. The Authority met fifty-eight criteria and failed to meet five. The Authority is in the process of implementing these five criteria.

Policy development and review has continued with the review of diving policy and risk management guidelines and development of manual handling, psychological and infectious diseases guidelines.

Statistics

In 2004-05, employees of the Authority lodged eleven incident reports, one accepted compensation, one claim for compensation was unsuccessful and another re-opened claim. Most incidents were of a minor nature.

Appendix 7: The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Staff Papers

Copies of the following papers are available from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority web site (<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/>) or from the Authority Library and Image Services.

Birrell, C.L., McCook, L. and Willis, B.L. 2005, 'Effects of algal turfs and sediment on coral settlement', *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 51: 408-414.

Bishop, M. 2004, 'Enforcement in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', in *Proceedings: Second International Tropical Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS2), Manila, Philippines, 24-27 March 2003*, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Manila, Philippines, p. 515-520.

Cadwallader, P. 2005, 'Balancing biodiversity conservation and fisheries management in Australia's multiple-use Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: an ecosystem planning approach', presented to Indo-Pacific Fish Conference, Taipei, Taiwan, 16-20 May 2005.

Cameron, D.S. 2005, 'Use of recreational fisheries data in the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to 4th World Recreational Fishing Conference, Trondheim, Norway, 12-16 June 2005.

Ceccarelli, D.M., Hughes, T.P. and McCook, L.J. 2005 (in press), 'Impacts of simulated overfishing on the territoriality of coral reef damselfish', *Marine Ecology Progress Series*.

Ceccarelli, D.M., Jones, G.P., McCook, L.J. 2005, 'Foragers versus farmers: contrasting effects of two behavioural groups of herbivores on coral reefs', *Oecologia (Online First)* DOI: 10.1007/s00442-005-0144-y

Chadwick, V. 2004, 'Managing tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park - doing it better', in *Tourism in Parks: Australian initiatives*, ed. R. Buckley, International Centre for Ecotourism Research, Brisbane Qld, p. 91-98.

Chadwick, V. 2004, 'The value of tourism to the Great Barrier Reef's future', presented to Third National Conference on Tourism Futures: Wealth Creating Growth Sustaining, held at Southbank Convention Centre, Townsville Qld, 4-7 August 2004.

Chadwick, V. 2004, 'Tourism: a key partner in the Great Barrier Reef's future', presented to 12th National Ecotourism Australia Conference, Peppers Fairmont Resort, Leura, Blue Mountains NSW, 8-12 November 2004.

Chin, A. 2004, 'How great is great, and how do we know? State of the Environment reporting for the Great Barrier Reef', presented to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland USA, 12 July 2004.

Chin, A. 2005, 'Seagrasses', in *The state of the Great Barrier Reef online*, ed. A. Chin, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville Qld, viewed 1 August 2005, http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/intro/

Chin, A. 2005, 'Sharks and rays', in *The state of the Great Barrier Reef online*, ed. A. Chin, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, Qld, viewed 1 August 2005, http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/intro/

Chin, A. 2004, 'Sharks and rays of the Great Barrier Reef', presented to National Maritime Fisheries Service, Silver Springs, Maryland USA, 9 July 2004.

Collie, T., Bryce, S., Smith, A. and Myers, S. 2005, 'Environmental impact assessment in World Heritage protected areas - a model for success', presented to Oz Water Conference, Brisbane Qld, 8-12 May 2005.

Davies, S. and Zadkovich, J. 2005, 'New tricks for old dogs? Is there a role for librarians in knowledge management?' in *Voyages of discovery: parting the seas of information technology: proceedings of the 30th Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC), held in Hobart, Tasmania, 5-9 September 2004*, eds J.W. Markwell and A. L. Duda, IAMSLIC, California USA, p. 183-193.

Davies, S. 2004, 'Introducing Dr James Bowen', in *Voyages of discovery: parting the seas of information technology: proceedings of the 30th Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC), held in Hobart, Tasmania, 5-9 September 2004*, eds J.W. Markwell and A. L. Duda, IAMSLIC, California USA, p. 7.

Day, J., Fernandes, L., Lewis, A. and Innes, J. 2004, 'RAP - an ecosystem level approach to biodiversity protection planning', in *Proceedings: Second International Tropical Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS2), Manila, Philippines, 24-27 March 2003*, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Manila, Philippines, p. 251-265.

Day, J.C. 2004, 'Monitoring and reporting in natural World Heritage Areas: a world heritage manager's perspective', in *Monitoring World Heritage: World Heritage 2002 Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility: associated workshops, 11-12 November 2002, Vicenza Italy*, Unesco World Heritage Centre, Paris, France, p. 75-82.

Day, J.C. 2004, 'Management of the Marine Protected Areas: The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Workshop on Management of Marine Protected Areas, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama City, Panama, 21-23 October 2004.

Day, J.C. 2004, 'Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to the national workshop on Management of Marine Protected Areas, Cartagena, Colombia, 27 October 2004.

Day, J.C. 2004, 'Belize's National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan: Suggestions for marine aspects of the policy and system plan', presented to the NPAPSP Task Force and Consortium, Belize City, 30 November 2004.

Day, J.C. 2004, 'Increasing the Resilience of Coral Reef Ecosystems: Efforts in the Great Barrier Reef', presented to United States Coral Reef Task Force meeting, Miami, Florida, 3 December 2004.

Day, J.C. 2005, 'Monitoring and reporting in Natural World Heritage Areas - a manager's perspective', presented to UNESCO World Heritage Workshop, Paris, 2 May 2005.

Day, J.C. 2005, 'A Queensland Smithsonian Fellowship - a resource manager's perspective', presented to the 2005 Queensland Smithsonian Fellowships Presentations, Brisbane Qld, May 2005.

Diaz-Pulido, G. and McCook, L.J. 2005, 'Effects of nutrient enhancement on the fecundity of a coral reef macroalga', *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 317: 13-24.

Dobbs, K. and Pierce, S. 2005, 'Marine reptiles', in *The state of the Great Barrier Reef online*, ed. A. Chin, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Townsville Qld., viewed 1 August 2005, http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/intro/

Dobbs, K., Pierce, S. and Stokes, T. 2004, 'Marine mammals', in *The state of the Great Barrier Reef online*, ed. A. Chin, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville Qld, viewed 1 August 2005, http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/intro/

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Appendix 8: Ecologically Sustainable Development and Environmental Performance

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

The following is a summary of activities by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in 2004–05 in accordance with section 516A of the EPBC Act.

1. How the activities of the organisation, and the administration of legislation by the organisation, accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development (section 516A(6)(a))

The Authority's administration of legislation accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, as follows:

- Administering and enforcing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975, ('the GBRMP Act'); with regard to the statutory functions expressed in sections 7 and 7A of the GBRMP Act, including:
 - To make recommendations to the Minister in relation to the care and development of the Marine Park;
 - To carry out, ... or ... arrange for any other institutions or persons to carry out, research and investigations relevant to the Marine Park;
 - To prepare zoning plans for the Marine Park in accordance with Part V;
 - To make plans of management for the Marine Park in accordance with Part VB (and expressly having regard to the precautionary principle in relation to preparing those plans of management); and
 - To provide, and arrange for the provision of, educational, advisory and informational services relating to the Marine Park.
- In carrying out its functions, the Authority is expressly required under S 39Z to have regard to, when preparing management plans:
 - The protection of world heritage values of the Marine Park; and
 - The precautionary principle.
- The goal of the Authority 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 goal is derived from the Authority's statutory functions, as expressed in the GBRMP Act.
- Working with the Department of the Environment and Heritage (the Department), the Queensland Government, and other agencies and stakeholders under memorandums of understanding, service level agreements and contracts to promote ecologically sustainable development.
- Providing advice to the Department in relation to assessment of referrals for action under the EPBC Act.
- Providing policy advice to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

The following activities (which directly contributed to ensuring that the management of the

Marine Park is ecologically sustainable) took place in 2004-05. These accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development (EPBC S 516A(6)(a)).

1.1 Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships

The key activities for 2004-05 in respect to ecological sustainability included:

- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef by implementing the new Zoning Plan (which came into effect on 1 July 2004), in consultation with stakeholders, communities and agencies;
- Finalising a policy for *Managing the Direct Take of Protected Species from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*;
- Implementing a new regulatory regime under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* for managing the traditional use of marine resources. This includes the development of an approach to managing the traditional hunting of green turtles and dugongs in the Great Barrier Reef in collaboration with Traditional Owners and representative bodies;
- Various contracts for species conservation were completed, including an ongoing turtle monitoring contract (with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency); a contract for dwarf minke whale tourism monitoring (with James Cook University); and a review of the dugong research strategy and compilation of a dugong compendium (with James Cook University);
- Refinement of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park regulations for interactions with cetaceans and ongoing discussions with the Department of the Environment and Heritage about managing cetacean activities generally (for example, the Review of the ANZECC whale watching guidelines; National Whale Recovery Group meetings);
- Participating in a taskforce of Australian, State and Territory Government representatives to develop a national approach to manage Indigenous hunting of dugongs and turtles; and
- Ensuring close collaboration with Queensland Government agencies on the traditional use of marine resources programme.

1.2 Water Quality

The key activities for 2004-05 in respect to ecological sustainability included:

- Reporting on the monitoring and assessment programmes flowing from the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*, an intergovernmental agreement that aims to halt and reverse the decline in water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef within ten years. The Authority has collaborated closely with other Australian Government agencies and the Queensland Government during 2004-05 to develop the first report on the Reef Plan to further the sustainability objectives of the Reef Plan. The first Reef Plan report is likely to be completed during the 2005-06 financial year;
- Implementation of key actions in the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*;
- Developing a Reef Guardian Council programme;
- Providing statutory and non-statutory advice on coastal planning and development issues;
- Finalisation and implementation of guidelines for *Sewage Discharges from Marine Outfalls to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*;
- Accreditation of Queensland Law under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000*;

- Development of new navigational charts showing the new ship access areas under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*; and
- Commencement of a project to improve coordination of the compliance regime for shipping and marine pollution incidents in the Marine Park.

1.3 Fisheries

Activities with direct benefit to ensuring that fishing in the Marine Park is ecologically sustainable included:

- Ongoing input to the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries' Management Advisory Committee process and major influence in improving fisheries management arrangements in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- Ongoing input to the Department of the Environment and Heritage strategic assessments of fisheries in the Marine Park. Project teams of Department of the Environment and Heritage and Authority officers work closely to undertake strategic assessments of each fishery which occurs in or adjacent to the Marine Park;
- Continuing input into the development of processes to remove latent effort from the Inshore Net Fishery and the Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery;
- Following on from effective negotiations with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and industry in 2003-04, the Authority has worked collaboratively with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of a formal commercial coral collection management policy. When implemented, this policy will form the basis of innovative and stringent management, compliance and reporting arrangements to ensure that the commercial collection of wild coral will meet all CITES requirements for the environmentally sustainable management of wild populations of coral;
- Continuing negotiations with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and industry to develop management arrangements for the multi-species Sea Cucumber Fishery that will reduce the risk of serial localised depletion and have enforceable quota arrangements. An industry-developed memorandum of understanding that encapsulates an innovative fishing strategy designed to reduce the risk of serial depletion has been implemented in 2004-05. With industry agreement, compliance with the terms of the memorandum of understanding has been monitored via a satellite-based vessel monitoring system by the Authority. Compliance rates have been excellent. The Authority continues to work collaboratively with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and industry to develop improved formal management arrangements that better reflect the intent of the memorandum of understanding;
- Continuing input to improving management of crab fisheries, including modifying the dimensions of crab pots to achieve improved ecological performance;
- Working collaboratively with the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, other Government agencies and Indigenous communities to develop opportunities for greater Indigenous participation in fisheries and decision-making in fisheries and marine resource management. The Authority's work has been focussed on achieving improved conservation outcomes, whilst at the same time recognising the need of many Indigenous coastal communities to improve their economic opportunities;
- Continuing input into the development of management arrangements for the

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, which operates adjacent to the Marine Park. This has included input to improving the selectivity of fishing gear;

- Continuing input into the proposed developmental fishery for prawn trapping; and
- Following the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the Authority has continued to consult and liaise with fishery stakeholders and the wider community on a range of matters relating to the rezoning and its effective implementation. The Authority has worked to improve stakeholder relations and facilitate positive discussion with a view to minimising conflict between fishery stakeholders and other users of the Marine Park.

1.4 Tourism

The key activities for 2004-05 in respect to ecological sustainability included:

- Encouraging high standard operators to become certified (based on protection, presentation and involvement in partnership activities), and offering rewards to certified Marine Park operators, including showcasing their operations and the opportunity to apply for extended permit tenure;
- Effectively implementing a policy to manage latency for tourism opportunities where a limit applies;
- Managing Government funding for crown-of-thorns starfish control programme at key tourism sites on the Great Barrier Reef;
- Improving management arrangements for moorings in the Marine Park, for example by introducing the first ever online register of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park moorings, reviewing the voluntary adoption of standard buoyage and unique identification numbers, and conducting industry workshops;
- Reducing 'red tape' for Marine Park users by introducing streamlined processing arrangements, including the voluntary Vessel Identification Number system which enables vessels to be interchanged simply and cost effectively;
- Working in partnership with the tourism industry, especially by increasing the industry's voluntary involvement in stewardship and monitoring projects, such as Eye on the Reef and Bleach Watch, as well as securing support for operator incident reporting;
- Improving arrangements for cruise ships in the Marine Park, including the environmental assessment of new anchorages and an industry leaders workshop;
- Fostering Indigenous participation in tourism and its management;
- Cooperatively developing an improved and expanded set of Responsible Reef Practices for the Marine Park. These set out best environmental practices for all major tourism and recreation activities in the Marine Park and were founded upon a two-day industry workshop followed by wide scale expert review;
- Improving user understanding of opportunities and responsibilities through online information about individual site management arrangements, quarterly newsletters, targeted information campaigns, updates to the Authority's website and facilitation of tourism staff training courses;
- Improving information about key policy initiatives, for example publicly available guidelines on coral transplantation and jet skis, and information on artificial reefs;
- Contributing to research programmes by investigating sustainable Marine Park tourism opportunities, such as a leading tourism and conservation research partnership, the swim with dwarf minke whales tourism programme; and

- Proactive consultation and briefings with the tourism industry and recreational users of the Great Barrier Reef on various management initiatives, including implementation of the rezoning of the Marine Park, moorings management, permit latency, cruise shipping, site stewardship, implementation of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, the introduction of new sewage management regulations and proposed amendments to the *Cairns Area Plan of Management 1998* and *Whitsundays Plan of Management 1998*.

1.5 Park Management

1.5.1 Field Management of the Marine Park

The key activities for 2004-05 in respect to ecological sustainability included:

- Development of investigative procedures for major shipping incidents to support the overall incident management framework. This framework will form the basis to develop additional protocols and guidelines for the management of investigations in other areas;
- An enhanced surveillance programme was developed to assist with the implantation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*;
- An increase in the number of patrol days from Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol from 137 in 2003-04 to 764 in 2004-05. Updated reporting procedures allowed contract requirements to be efficiently monitored;
- The formation of District Compliance Groups in four districts to enhance interaction and coordinated planning between the agencies providing compliance and surveillance services to the Authority;
- Establishment of a three person Field Operations Team in Mackay which will operate Reef wide;
- Enhancement of the compliance operations coordination centre in Townsville includes the installation of electronic intelligence systems to record, analyse and disseminate intelligence;
- The review and update of the *Compliance Management and Investigation Procedures* to reflect the changes in the *Australian Government Investigation Procedures* and the employment of dedicated Great Barrier Reef Marine Park investigators;
- Interaction with Coastwatch resulting in changes to the *Coastwatch Contractor Operating Instructions* to improve the procedures for recording and reporting Great Barrier Reef Marine Park offences and handling of exhibits;
- Ongoing training to Coastwatch and other service providers following the implementation of the new Zoning Plan on 1 July 2004. This training is tailored to address the requirements identified and emerging trends following the zoning changes;
- Resources provided for development of Fitzroy Island National Park and Fitzroy Island Marine Management Plans;
- Oiled wildlife plans developed for each district and exercised; and
- Response to live and dead strandings of marine species.

1.5.2 Planning and Impact Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

The key activities for 2004-05 in respect to ecological sustainability included:

- The *Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004* came into force on 24 April 2004 and implementation commenced in 2004-05;
- The Cairns Area Plan of Management (including Amendment No 1, 2004) came into force on 4 December 2004;
- Site management arrangements for offshore Port Douglas, the Whitsundays and Horseshoe Bay, Magnetic Island, have been completed and published on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority web site;
- Approximately sixty major development applications were considered by the Authority during 2004-05 including projects such as desalination plants, weather stations, dredging, navigation aids, shore protection works, sewage works, and water supply pipelines as well as tourism facilities such as tourist and heli-pontoons;
- Ongoing improvement in Environmental Impact Management systems was expressed through a strategic longer term approach to permits for long-term dredge planning for Cairns Port and the issue of fifteen year tourism permissions linked to eco-certified operators. Significant progress was also made on reviewing assessment processes particularly in the areas of insurance, camping on Commonwealth islands and the development of a risk assessment approach for major developments;
- The Protected Environment Management System, the Authority's permits database, underwent a significant upgrade with the installation of new software;
- The Authority maintained a central coordinating role in liaising with the Department of Defence and port authorities about their activities in or adjacent to the Marine Park, including liaison for the 2005 Talisman-Sabre exercise; and
- The Authority continued to exercise delegations for sea dumping and sea installations (from the Department of the Environment and Heritage) for those activities taking place in the Marine Park.

1.5.3 Liaison with Indigenous groups and community involvement in management

The key activities for 2004-05 in respect to ecological sustainability included:

- Development and implantation of an approach to managing the traditional hunting of green turtles and dugongs in the Great Barrier Reef;
- Meeting with Traditional Owners and Native Title Representative Bodies (e.g. Land Councils) to progress management arrangements for marine turtle and dugong hunting and ensuring close collaboration with Queensland Government agencies on the programme;
- Engagement of Traditional Owners to enhance cultural awareness and to assist with protection of cultural heritage; and
- The Capricorn Reef Monitoring Programme (CapReef) is a community based monitoring programme for the Great Barrier Reef in central Queensland. The initiative is working towards bringing together community interests, management and science in central Queensland to monitor and collect data on the reef and fish stocks after the rezoning of the Marine Park.

1.6 Information for Park Management

The key activities for 2004-05 in respect to ecological sustainability included:

- Implementation of the first stages of a scientific monitoring programme to track the

- environmental changes resulting from the rezoning of the Marine Park;
- Working in close collaboration with the Australian Greenhouse Office, the Unit established the Climate Change Response Programme to investigate the potential impacts of climate change on the Marine Park, and to explore strategies to mitigate these impacts and build resilience within the Great Barrier Reef;
 - The Unit's combined social and natural science expertise being applied to ensure the social and ecological dimensions of the climate change phenomena are addressed in a coordinated manner in the development of a *Climate Change Action Plan* for the Great Barrier Reef;
 - Launching the monitoring programme to monitor the effects of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan on the health of inshore ecosystems;
 - The engagement of Access Economics to prepare a report on the economic values of the Great Barrier Reef;
 - The Authority consulted communities to explore perceptions and views about the implementation of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*;
 - The Authority also engaged coastal communities and Regional Natural Resource Management bodies in the implementation of the monitoring programme; and
 - The State of the Great Barrier Reef Report Online was updated to include five new chapters.

1.7 Reef Education and Communication

The key activities for 2004-05 in respect to ecological sustainability included:

- Strengthening relationships with internal and external stakeholders including visitor information centres and the 230 Community Access Points which include bait and tackle shops, ship chandlers, visitor information centres and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service offices located at regional centres along the Great Barrier Reef coast;
- Providing communication and education advice to external stakeholders including Local Marine Advisory Committees, schools, Regional Natural Resource Management bodies, Queensland Government departments and community groups;
- The production of a monthly *Reef Retailers Update* which was distributed to 480 individuals and businesses;
- Developing a bi-monthly twelve-page magazine called *SeaRead*, which is distributed to approximately 3000 stakeholders;
- Developing approximately thirty new products for the Public Information Unit to help raise awareness of the public's understanding of the Great Barrier Reef. A further eighty products were produced in conjunction with other groups in the Authority;
- Continued updates, plus provision of new web pages on the Authority's web site;
- Attending regional shows and boat shows along the coast allowing the Authority to talk face-to-face with thousands of residents along the Great Barrier Reef coast and provide them with targeted information about the Marine Park;
- The development of a television and radio community service announcement highlighting why the Great Barrier Reef is so important and why we should all help to protect it;
- The continuation of the Reef Guardian Schools programme – an innovative

programme that encourages students, teachers, parents and friends to become involved in protecting the environment and the Great Barrier Reef. There has been a thirty-one percent increase in programme participation to 30 June 2005 since the 2003-04 financial year. Forty-nine meetings with Reef Guardian Schools staff and fifty-one sign presentations took place in the last financial year; and

- Developing new education materials for use by schools and students is an ongoing priority for the Communication and Education Group.

All of the above activities contribute directly (principally in Items 1.1 to 1.3) or indirectly to the principles of ecologically sustainable development by protecting and conserving the environment through ensuring that natural, traditional and cultural values are protected and World Heritage obligations are met. The contribution of the above activities to ecologically sustainable development are further discussed in Part 2 of this statutory report.

Performance analyses for each of the Authority's critical issues are contained in the body of Authority's Annual Report at Section C, Report on Operations.

2. How the outcomes specified in a relevant Appropriations Act contribute to ecologically sustainable development (section 516A(6)(b))

The Department of the Environment and Heritage Portfolio Budget Statement, Part C, Section 2- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority - lists seven specific environmental outcomes for the Authority, for 2004-05, as follows:

Outcomes 1.1 to 1.3 above contribute directly to the principles of ecologically sustainable

Groups	Outcomes
1.1 Conservation, Biodiversity & World Heritage	Natural and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park protected and World Heritage obligations are met
1.2 Water Quality Coastal Development	Protection of the Great Barrier Reef from the adverse effects of water pollution and coastal development
1.3 Fisheries	Progress towards ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area
1.4 Tourism and Recreation	Tourism and recreation opportunities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that are high quality and ecologically sustainable
1.5 Park Management	1.5.1 Field management of the Marine Park
	1.5.2 Planning and impact management of the Marine Park
	1.5.3 Liaison with Indigenous groups and community involvement in management
1.6 Information for Park Management	Scientific and technical information available for Management
1.7 Reef Education & Communication	Improved Australia-wide profile and community understanding of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and its management

development by:

- Proper planning and impact management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (which conserve and protect the Marine Park), and by protecting the integrity of these planning processes by way of a structured, competent interagency enforcement and compliance regime in field management of the Marine Park;

- Application of the precautionary principle when having regard to scientific, social, economic, cultural and Indigenous assessments (by ensuring that the best scientific and technical information is available for management) and through monitoring and reporting on serious threats to the Marine Park (such as overfishing, degradation of water quality, and climate change);
- Preserving the health and productivity of the Marine Park for future generations through development of sustainable conservation plans for the future (by ensuring minimal degradation of the Great Barrier Reef from water pollution and coastal development; plans for sustainable fisheries); the rezoning of the Marine Park and by implementing student educational and community engagement programmes (including liaison with Indigenous groups), thereby improving the Australia-wide profile and the community's understanding of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and its management; and
- Fundamentally protecting and conserving the environment through the Zoning Plan and plans of management (which conserve and protect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park);
- Providing pricing incentives for industries, such as permit incentives (e.g. accreditation of certified tourism operators), and incentives for primary industries within the catchment of the Marine Park (under financial components of the Reef Plan for the improvement of agricultural management practices).

The outcome 1.4 contributes indirectly to the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Through co-operation with the tourism industry (which has itself developed strong sustainable tourism practices), and in turn educating visitors to the Reef about sustainable tourism, while at the same time enhancing the Reef experience.

All the above outcomes contribute to the Authority's goal: the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity.

3. Effect of the Organisation's activities on the environment (section 516A(6)(c))

The Authority has the responsibility of managing the world's largest living ecosystem, the world's largest World Heritage Area, and Australia's largest marine protected area. The Authority manages the Marine Park as a multiple use marine park, and permits such uses as are ecologically sustainable, and as are permitted by legislation.

The Authority's activities and measures, as detailed in Parts 1 and 4 of this statutory report (and in more detail in the body of the Annual Report at Section C, Report on Operations), contribute positively to the environment. The Authority's portfolio budget outcomes, its programmes, its legislation and policies are directed to ensuring that the Marine Park is managed by a range of statutory and administrative mechanisms to protect the sensitive environment of the Great Barrier Reef and the World Heritage Area.

For its own part, the Authority adheres to policies that minimise its impacts on ecosystems, land, air water, and non-renewable energy sources.

Vehicles

- Vehicle leasing decisions take into account Australian Greenhouse Office specifications on fuel consumption targets.
- The Authority maintains a fleet of thirteen vehicles, ten petrol-powered passenger vehicles and three diesel medium or light utility vehicles. During 2004-05, the Authority replaced two of its petrol-powered vehicles with two hybrid energy

passenger vehicles.

- The Authority's vehicles used 5,380 litres of diesel and 17,224 litres of unleaded petrol.
- Diesel vehicle consumption for the three diesel vehicles of 14.8 litres per 100 km.
- Passenger vehicle petrol consumption ranged from 4.8 litres per 100 km (for a Toyota Prius) to 12.5 litres per 100 km (for a Ford Station Sedan), at an average consumption for all passenger vehicles of 10.09 litres per 100 km.

Power

The Authority's total consumption of electricity for 2004-05 was 3,250,285 kWh, made up as follows:

	kWh
• Flinders St (Main Office) Building, Townsville	719,058
• Kelleher Place Building, Townsville	86,783
• Reef HQ Building, Townsville	2,441,268
• Putt St Warehouse, Townsville	820
• Day-to-Day Management Office, Cairns	2,356
Total Power Consumption	3,250,285

LPG

The Authority's total consumption of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for 2004-05 was 617 litres, made up as follows:

	litres
• Kelleher Place Building, Townsville	124
• Reef HQ Building, Townsville	493
Total LPG Consumption	617

Refuse and Recycled Refuse

- The Authority generated approximately seventy-two tonnes of refuse, which was sent to landfill.
- The Authority generated approximately eighteen tonnes of recyclable refuse (excluding paper and paper products), which was recycled by a local recycling company.
- The Authority generated approximately sixty tonnes of recyclable paper and paper products, which was recycled by a local recycling company.

Water

- The Authority maintains a semi-flowthrough water system to supply seawater to the Reef HQ aquarium tank. Reef HQ pumps 24 million litres of untreated seawater per annum from Ross Creek. The seawater is filtered, and returned to Ross Creek. Water Quality testing is conducted at source and end point.

4. Measures being taken by the organisation to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment (section 516A(6)(d))

The Authority maintains a strong commitment to continuous improvement of its own environmental performance. The Authority conducts environmental audits of its operations to maximise efficient use of resources, reduction of waste, and building of environmental

awareness among its staff of employees and volunteers. Activities undertaken in the last year include:

- Operation of a Green Office Committee to raise awareness of environmental management within the office;
- The Authority took delivery of two hybrid energy vehicles during 2004-05 for fleet use;
- Vehicle leasing decisions take into account Australian Greenhouse Office specifications on fuel consumption targets;
- Recyclable refuse represents fifty-two percent of total refuse;
- Office machines (photocopiers, printers) are automatically programmed to save power;
- Printers are programmed to duplex documents to reduce paper usage;
- Printer toner cartridges are remanufactured and photocopier toner cartridges sent to Planet Arc for recycling;
- Staff are actively involved in recycling office paper with paper and cardboard being collected by a local recycling company;
- Packaging and envelopes are recycled;
- Corporate publications are printed on recycled paper if feasible;
- Wherever possible documents are provided electronically to reduce paper usage;
- Recycled paper is used in toilets (toilet paper and hand towels);
- All refrigerators are CFC-free; and
- Toilets have been converted to dual flush as a water conservation measure.

5. Mechanisms for reviewing and increasing the effectiveness of these measures (section 516A(6)(e))

- The Authority has committed to the development of an Environmental Management System, which has been incorporated as an implementation requirement under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2003 Certified Agreement.
- Through a structured Environmental Management System, (which the Authority proposes to be certified to the international standard ISO 14001 during 2005-06), the Authority will monitor a range of its operational activities including energy management, transport, waste management, purchasing and water management. The system will provide a framework for considering and minimising environmental impacts within the context of continual improvement.
- The Authority will review power consumption at Reef HQ during 2005-06.
- The Authority will investigate the feasibility of lessors providing metered water accounts for relevant unit locations of the Authority's operations.
- The Authority will investigate the viability of leasing further hybrid energy vehicles for fleet use.

Appendix 9: Commonwealth Disability Strategy

The Commonwealth Disability Strategy recognises that the Government has an impact on the lives of people with disabilities. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has developed a disability action plan which provides for reporting requirements identified in the Strategy. The Authority has identified that it performs the roles of policy adviser, provider, regulator and employer.

Policy adviser

In its role as a policy adviser, the Authority is the principal adviser to the Australian Government on the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Public consultation and participation are integral in the management of the Great Barrier Reef. The Authority recognises its responsibility to ensure new policies are developed in consultation with people with a disability where appropriate. Where possible public meetings are held in venues with disability access. Public web sites and public web entry points have been created in accordance with the accessibility requirements of the Government Online strategy.

Provider

In the provider role, the Authority manages Commonwealth marine parks and Reef HQ Aquarium.

Access is provided to the majority of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for tourism and recreational activities. Information about the Marine Park is available in accessible formats on the Authority's web site at <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au> and in hard copy from the Townsville office, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service offices and various Community Access Points situated along the coast. The Authority's library has been designed to enable disability access and library staff provide assistance to people with disabilities. The Authority's library services provide access to information on CD-ROM and online catalogues.

Due to the limitations of a marine-based park, access for people with a disability to the Marine Park varies. Reef HQ provides a land-based reef experience for people who would otherwise be unable to access the Marine Park. Townsville Enterprise, the regional tourism body has recognised Reef HQ in its publications as a user-friendly centre for people with disabilities. Improved disability access, tactile and audiovisual displays have been incorporated into the current refurbishment of Reef HQ. Reef HQ provides interpretive facilities, on request, for people with disabilities.

Regulator

Under its regulatory role, the Authority administers the:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975;*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983;*
- *Great Barrier Reef Region (Prohibition of Mining) Regulations 1999;*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000;*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge-General) Act 1993;*
and
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge-Excise) Act 1993.*

Commonwealth legislation specific to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is accessible to the public through the Authority web site at http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_gbrmpa/legislation_regulations, and brochures and fact sheets are provided on request through the Authority's Public Information Unit. Public notifications are also made in the

Commonwealth Government Gazette and, depending on the needs of the person requesting the information, specific requests may be responded to by fax, email or normal postal services.

Under section 32 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the Authority is required to provide opportunities for interested people to comment and gain information in relation to changes to the zoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This consultative process is achieved through a variety of media including intranet, mail outs, public meetings and public service announcements on both radio and television.

This process also occurs in relation to preparation of plans of management under section 39ZE of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Preparation of an annual report on the operation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* is required under section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. The report is also available on the Internet in an accessible format.

Employer

The Authority works across a number of areas to ensure it provides fair and equitable employment opportunities for all members of the community. The Authority's employment policies, procedures and practices comply with the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. Recruitment information for potential job applicants is made available in various ways depending on the needs of the individual.

Recruitment opportunities advertised in the Commonwealth of *Australia Public Service Gazette* and the press are accessible through the Internet.

The 2004-05 Annual Workplace Diversity data identifies four percent of employees as having some form of disability. The actual number of employees with disabilities is expected to be higher than this figure due to non-disclosure. The Authority's rate of employment of people with disabilities is similar to that of the broader APS (quoted as four point two percent in the *1999-2000 Workplace Diversity Report* published by the Public Service and Merit Protection Commission).

Within the workplace, the Authority applies the principle of reasonable adjustment. For example, work is arranged to suit individual requirements and the necessary equipment, such as large computer screens or more appropriate keyboards, is provided. Flexible work arrangements are put in place as necessary to suit the needs of the individual. The main building, Day-to-Day Management Compliance Office, Reef HQ, conference rooms and meeting rooms are wheelchair accessible.

Training and development programmes are accessible to staff with disabilities and, where appropriate, contain information on disability issues.

Complaints and grievance mechanisms are in place and available to all staff.

The Authority has networks of harassment and diversity contact officers, and appropriate policies and mechanisms are in place should staff have concerns or issues needing to be addressed and resolved. Authority employees also have access to an employee assistance programme to discuss issues and concerns and to the Australian Public Service Commission for external reviews of actions.

Appendix 10: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Funded Research and Investigations for 2004-05

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority supports the following research through funding arrangements.

Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

Advanced technologies for monitoring water quality in the Great Barrier Reef

Aquaculture of Irukandji jellyfishes to supply the needs of research and education

Assessing land based threats and impacts: nutrient supply fluxes

Assessing impacts of terrestrial runoff on inshore reefs

A conceptual and operational understanding of resource dependency

A scientific basis for reducing the impact of vessel traffic on sea turtles

An Irukandji Culture and Holding Facility in the Whitsundays

Characterisation of the Irukandji venom proteins

Chrysophyte (golden algae) nuisance blooms in the Great Barrier Reef region: causes and solutions

Climate and oceanographic change from high-resolution records in large fossils *Porties*, Magnetic Island, Queensland

Coastal fisheries resource monitoring in the GBRWHA

Consequences of spatial patterns in life history characteristics of a coral reef fish subject to different harvest strategies

Conservation genetics of sea snakes in Australian waters, with emphasis on the GBRWHA

Cultural heritage management of two World Heritage communities

Cultural heritage of the GBRWHA

Data and information analysis

Determining optimal capacity where latent effort exists

Development of co-management arrangements at regional and local scales: an adaptive management approach

Driving innovation in environmental performance in the Queensland fishing industry

Ecology and conservation biology of coastal dolphins

Effects of water quality on the distribution of corals on coral reefs

Enhancing the ecological basis for conservation management of dugongs using innovative satellite tracking technologies

Enhancing the ecological basis for managing dugongs in the GBRWHA

Exploring reef futures

Factors affecting coral fitness in an experimental reef mesocosm

Fishing and fisheries project implementation

Forecasting fishing impacts on the population biology of the red bass *Lutjanus bohar*

Great Barrier Reef: destination image and competitiveness

Herbert River integration study

Hydrodynamics cause spatial variability in coral reef assemblages: Implications for marine reserve design

Identification and monitoring of habitats critical to the GBRWHA in or adjacent to shipping lanes and coastal ports

Identification of Cubomedusae responsible for Irukandji syndrome using molecular and morphological characters

Identifying critical marine plant habitats within the GBRWHA
 Irukandji syndrome: definition, physiological progression and optimal treatment
 Knowledge management systems
 Liaison and information management for fishing and fisheries research
 Long-term chlorophyll monitoring of Great Barrier Reef waters
 Long-term monitoring of coral reefs of the GBRWHA
 Long-term monitoring of sea temperatures at Ports Corporation Queensland ports
 Mapping bycatch and seabed benthos assemblages in the Great Barrier Reef region for environmental risk assessment and sustainable management of the Queensland east coast trawl fishery
 Measuring the success of conservation strategies to protect scleractinian corals on the Great Barrier Reef
 Modelling bleaching stress in *Montipora monasteriensis*
 Modelling multi-species fishery dynamics
 Modelling multi-species targeting of fishing effort in the Queensland coral reef finfish fishery
 Molecular diagnostic techniques for Asian Green Mussel
 National strategy for increasing the survival of released line-caught fish; Investigating survival of fish released in Australia's tropical and subtropical line fisheries
 New tools for assessing health, status and trends in nearshore marine ecosystems
 Nutrient recovery from reef-bound waste water effluents
 Otoliths in the tropics – theory and methods
 Ownership of genetic resources in the GBRWHA, its ecotone and the exclusive economic zone
 Perceived and actual differences in recreational line catch trends in estuaries open and closed to commercial fishing in north Queensland
 Population dynamics and stock structure of red throat emperor and others
 Port surveys
 Possible removal of nitrogen and phosphorus from waste-water using Struvite
 Queensland east coast storm tide statistics – web presentation of data
 Regional dynamics in the marine climate of the GBRWHA
 Review of the Twenty-Five Year Strategic Plan for the GBRWHA
 Role of environmental factors in distribution of breeding seabird populations in the GBRWHA
 Role of microbial communities and bioreactive surfaces in post-bleaching nutrient dynamics on coral reefs
 Sediments and nutrients in north Queensland tropical streams: Changes with agricultural development and pristine condition status
 Serranid biology
 Shade as a protective measure during bleaching
 Social assessment of recreational fishing in the Great Barrier Reef region
 Spatial allocation of Great Barrier Reef use, phase two
 The accumulation of larvae by oceanographic features: do they cause recruitment and biodiversity hotspots?
 The collection of Irukandji jellyfish from onshore and offshore coastal Queensland for taxonomy and toxinology research

The effects of line fishing on the Great Barrier Reef
The impact of stress on the faunal associates of reef-building corals
The impacts of anthropogenic noise on coastal marine mammals: dugongs and dolphins
The role of coral endoliths in coral disease
Towards ecologically sustainable dwarf minke whale tourism
Towards sustainable environmental experiences for the live aboard diving industry on the Great Barrier Reef
Understanding the social characteristics of Queensland's recreational anglers

University of Queensland

Assessment of pollutant flux from catchments
Development and evaluation of a Phytotox-Test for field and laboratory testing of phytotoxic chemicals in water
Exposure of marine wildlife to persistent organic pollutants
Long-term changes in water quality and ecosystems (in collaboration with the Australian National University)
Research into coral disease on the Great Barrier Reef
The development of pulse amplitude modulated chlorophyll fluorometry as a management tool for non-intrusive sublethal stress assessment in corals on the Great Barrier Reef

James Cook University

Dwarf minke whale tourism monitoring programme
Environmental history of the Great Barrier Reef since European settlement: implications for contemporary management
Genetic structure of Australian dugong populations: a tool for management planning
Reef resilience within the Great Barrier Reef

Australian National University

Long-term changes in water quality and ecosystems (in collaboration with University of Queensland)

Southern Cross University

The role of sediment denitrification in the nitrogen budget

Robin Aiello, Consultant

Eye on the Reef programme

Sea Research

Inshore Fringing Reef Monitoring Programme in the Cairns section of the Great Barrier Reef and Magnetic Island

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Monitoring marine turtle nesting and foraging populations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and adjacent Queensland marine parks
Shoalwater Bay green turtle monitoring

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Recovery of seabed habitat from the impact of prawn trawling

Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

The impact of variable stocking rates on the loss of sediments and nutrients from dryland and grazing savannahs

Glossary and Indexes



Glossary

ANZECC	Australian and New Zealand Environmental Conservation Council
AO	Officer of the Order of Australia
APS	Australian Public Service
ATSI	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
Authority	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Act (the)	<i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Act 1975</i>
CAC Act	<i>Commonwealth Companies and Authorities Act 1997</i>
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
CRC Reef Research Centre	Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DEH	Department of the Environment and Heritage
EMC	Environmental Management Charge
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EXEC	Executive Level
FAICD	Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors
F/T	Full-time (staff position)
FTE	Full-time Equivalent (staff position)
GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GBRWHA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
Hon.	Honourable
IUCN	World Conservation Union
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MP	Member of Parliament
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee
NESB	Non-English speaking background
P/T	Part-time (staff position)
PSM	Public Service Medal
PWD	People with a disability
RACQ	Royal Automobile Club Queensland
RAP	Representative Areas Programme
Reef Plan	Reef Water Quality Protection Plan
SES	Senior Executive Service
TUMRA	Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement
UNESCO	United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WTO	Wildlife Trade Operation

Compliance Index

Location of information provided is in accordance with the *Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments, Executive Agencies and FMA ACT Bodies*, issued by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in June 2005.

Note: na indicates that the relevant material was not applicable to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during 2004-05.

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