



Australian Government

**Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority**

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

**Annual Report
2008-09**



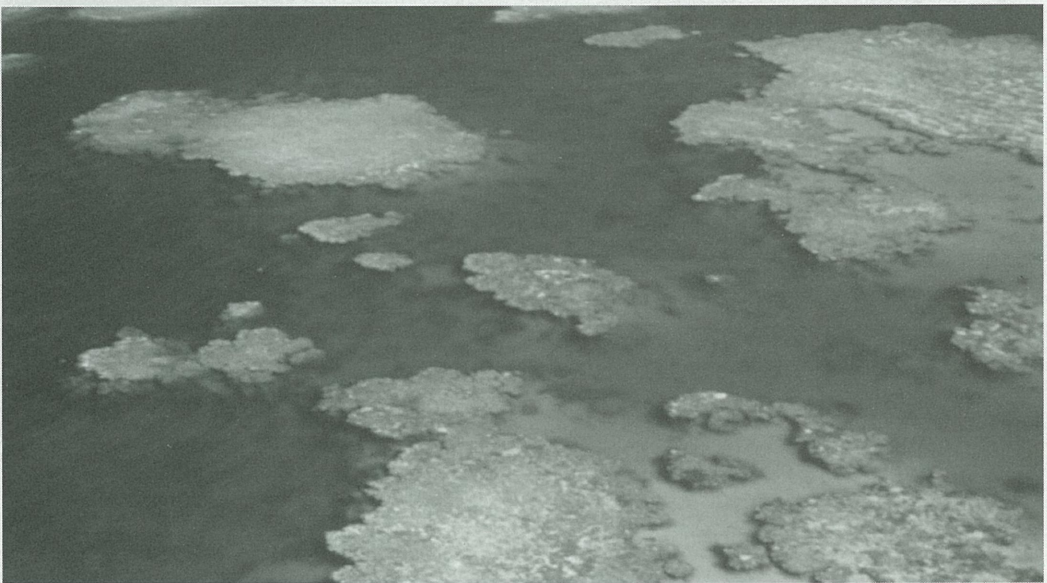


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Australian Government

**Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority**

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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

12 October 2009

The Hon Peter Garrett AM, MP
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

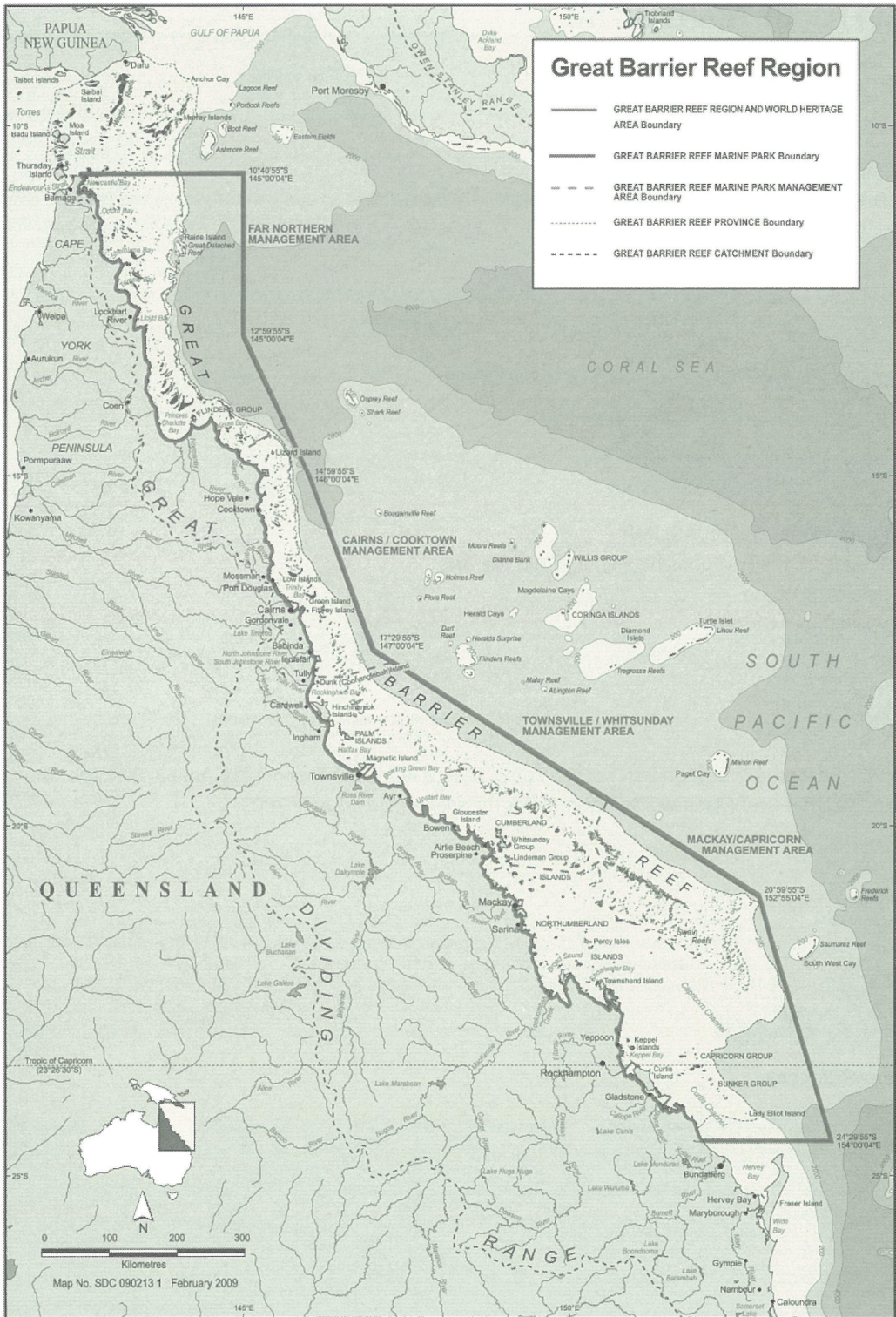
Dear Minister

In accordance with section 70(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*, I submit the Annual Report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2009.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reichelt', with a stylized initial 'R'.

Russell Reichelt
Chairman



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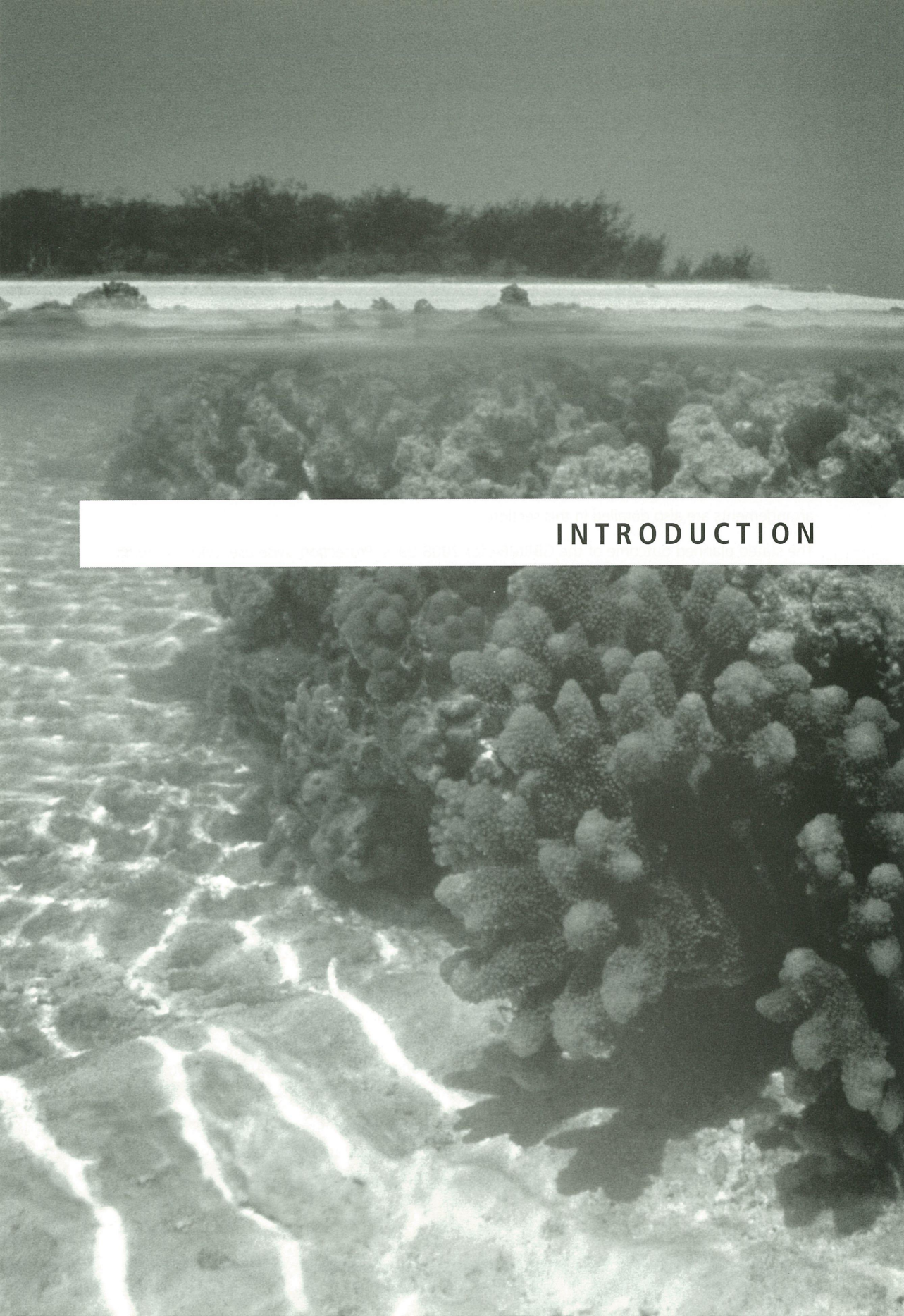
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INTRODUCTION

IN THIS REPORT

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Annual Report 2008-09 has a new format based around the Portfolio Budget Statements and a new organisational structure to ensure it better meets government reporting requirements.

Following the Chairman's Review, the body of the Annual Report has four sections:

- Overview
- Performance
- Management and Accountability
- Finances.

Consistent with past Annual Reports, the *Overview* provides a corporate background to the GBRMPA, its legislative basis and 2008-09 amendments and a financial statement. The new staff arrangements are also detailed in this section.

The stated planned outcome of the GBRMPA for 2008-09 is: *Protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.*

The *Performance* Section presents the 2008-09 outputs of the GBRMPA towards achieving this outcome, based on delivery against key performance indicators of three Output Groups:

- Output Group 1.1 Marine Park Care and Development
- Output Group 1.2 Marine Park Management
- Output Group 1.3 Strategic Policy Coordination

The Marine Park Care and Development Output Group report on the effectiveness of the GBRMPA's collaborative activities that focus on biodiversity outcomes, heritage obligations, land and sea country partnerships with Traditional Owners, sustainable fishing and collecting, monitoring and reporting on water quality and ecosystem health, implementing the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan and external policy advice.

The Marine Park Management Output Group reports on the effectiveness of compliance, planning, impact assessment and permitting arrangements, the uptake of the GBRMPA's certification program for tourism operators with high environmental standards, and the extent of local community engagement in management of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Strategic Policy Coordination Output Group reports on delivery of the first Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, the quality of Ministerial briefings relating to management of the Marine Park, the effectiveness of research, monitoring and policy information, Reef HQ Aquarium visitation levels, and the effectiveness of communication and Reef education programs.

The *Management and Accountability* Section of the Annual Report reports on the delivery of the management framework and support services that help facilitate effective functioning of the GBRMPA, including outputs related to corporate governance, statutory and advisory committees,

management and training of human resources, occupational health and safety, asset management and management of consultants.

The *Finances* Section delivers an analysis of financial performance and a detailed financial statement. *Appendices* complete the Annual Report for the year 2008-09.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

The Great Barrier Reef is a World Heritage Area that is famous throughout the world for its scale, diversity and beauty. As the Australian Government agency responsible for its protection and management, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) works in partnership with government agencies, industry and the community to ensure this precious ecosystem remains healthy and resilient.

The 2008-09 year has presented the GBRMPA with many opportunities and challenges and much has been achieved in the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009 was given to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts on 30 June 2009. This first Outlook Report is a frank and comprehensive assessment of the current state of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem and its likely future. It recognises that the Great Barrier Reef remains one of the world's healthiest coral reef ecosystems but is facing serious pressures from the impacts of climate change.

The Outlook Report is designed to inform future management of the Great Barrier Reef and provide a baseline for measuring the success of that management. It was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* using the best available information. Many scientists, experts and stakeholders contributed to its development, especially through the GBRMPA's Advisory Committees, an Outlook Reference Group and a specially convened Outlook Forum. The GBRMPA is required to prepare an Outlook Report every five years.

Over the last year there have also been significant changes to the fundamental management arrangements for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. A new Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement, signed by Prime Minister Rudd and Premier Bligh, replaced the 30 year-old 'Emerald Agreement' as the framework within which the Australian and Queensland Governments work together in relation to the Great Barrier Reef. At the same time, the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* was amended to provide a modern, future-focused regulatory framework for the long-term protection and ecologically sustainable use of the Reef. In line with these amendments, two new members were appointed to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Board - one an Indigenous person, Ms Melissa George, with knowledge and experience about Marine Park Indigenous issues and the other, Mr Daniel Gschwind, a person with knowledge and experience in Marine Park tourism.

With a history spanning over 40 000 years, the Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef maintain strong connections to their sea country and partnerships with Traditional Owners are becoming an increasingly important aspect of Marine Park management. Work on developing and improving Indigenous Partnerships increased this year as part of the Land and Sea Country Indigenous partnerships component of the Australian Government's Reef Rescue Program. Significant emphasis is being placed on strengthening communications between local communities, managers and reef stakeholders, including establishing an interim Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee to advise the GBRMPA on Indigenous issues.

Indigenous co-management is also a strong feature of the joint Australian and Queensland Government Field Management Program for the Great Barrier Reef. For example, multi-agency patrols in Cape York have gone a long way to enhancing liaison and cooperation with Indigenous communities.

The Great Barrier Reef continues to be a significant economic resource for regional communities and Australia and most commercial and non-commercial use of the Reef is founded on the natural ecosystem. A common goal of ensuring a resilient and productive ecosystem into the future is increasingly forming the basis of partnerships with Reef-based industries.

One of the most significant partnerships developed this year has been with the Queensland Seafood Industry Association, the peak body for commercial fishers, seafood retailers and marketers. An initial emphasis of the partnership has been working with the industry to help ensure it is well-placed to cope with the likely impacts of climate change.

At the same time, the GBRMPA maintained its partnership with the marine tourism industry to better protect the ecosystem and further improve industry sustainability. The Great Barrier Reef Tourism Climate Change Action Strategy was finalised this year. The Strategy provides a way forward and framework of actions for the tourism industry to respond to climate change. Fifty per cent of all tourists visiting the Reef are now doing so on an independently certified high standard operation. Visitation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park declined this year, which was consistent with the general downward trend in tourism visitation experienced throughout Australia. Suggested reasons for the decline include global financial crisis, the international spread of swine flu and the restriction of airline access into the Whitsundays and Cairns.

Partnerships with community groups and organisations continue to provide environmental, social and economic benefits to Great Barrier Reef communities. Through the Reef Guardian Councils program, partnerships with individual councils are helping them to recognise and improve their actions in natural resource management as well as helping to build local government and community capacity. Designed to be implemented across all local governments in the catchment, three local governments were Reef Guardian Councils by June 2009.

Now in its seventh year, the Reef Guardian Schools program continues to be an outstanding success as an action-based environmental education program designed to foster environmental stewardship in the next generation. Each of the over 180 participating schools are committed to protecting and preserving the marine environment and achieving environmental outcomes at a local level. During the year, the program was extended to Indigenous Community Schools on Cape York and at Palm Island.

Working in partnership is also a key component of the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan. During the second year of this five-year plan, a better understanding of climate change impacts was promoted in local government and marine industries. The GBRMPA also continued to build initiatives with local government, tourism and fisheries industries, research organisations and community partners to minimise climate footprints, increase adaptive capacity and build Reef resilience.

This Annual Report summarises the activities of the GBRMPA during 2008-09. It shows that the work of the GBRMPA is focussed on the major challenges that lie ahead for the Great Barrier Reef

ecosystem, namely impacts from climate change, catchment runoff, coastal development and some extractive uses. In parallel, the GBRMPA is fulfilling its responsibility for direct management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park through compliance and enforcement, environmental assessment and permitting, engagement, education and facilitating research.

Many people have contributed to the work of the GBRMPA over the last year and the achievements highlighted in this Report are a testament to their commitment and enthusiasm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reichelt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Russell Reichelt

Chairman



OVERVIEW



ABOUT THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is an Australian Government statutory authority within the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio. The GBRMPA reports directly to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts.

The GBRMPA's purpose is the long-term protection and ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef for all Australians and the international community through the care and development of the Marine Park.

Since 1971, the GBRMPA has managed this immensely valuable multiple-use natural asset to ensure its long-term sustainability. It achieves this by balancing ecologically sustainable use, commercial realities and public interest under an overarching conservation objective.

Legislative framework

The GBRMPA is established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 (the Act)* as an Australian Government statutory authority. The objectives of the Act are set out in Section 2, and the specific functions of the GBRMPA are defined in Sections 7 and 7A.

Other Acts administered by the GBRMPA are:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge-Excise) Act 1993*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge-General) Act 1993.*

Regulations in force under the Act are the:

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

The GBRMPA also administers the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*.

Amendments to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act* during 2008-09

Amendments were made to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* during 2008-09 by operation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2008* (No 125 of 2008), which was passed by Parliament on 12 November 2008 and received Royal Assent on 25 November 2008.

The 2008 amendments follow on from amendments made in 2007, relating to governance, accountability and transparency in the management of the Great Barrier Reef, as recommended from the 2006 review into the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Guided by concepts such as ecological sustainability, the precautionary principle, and ecosystem-based management, the 2008 amendments put in place a modern, future-focused regulatory

framework for securing the long-term protection and ecologically sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef.

The principal amendments:

- Recognise the World Heritage status of the Great Barrier Reef as a key consideration in management and regulation
- Provide for better integration and consistency with related key environmental legislation, particularly the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- Streamline assessments and approvals, and improve investigation capacity
- Provide for a stronger and more flexible approach to enforcement with a wider range of enforcement options, and for enforceable Ministerial directions for persons breaching the law
- Establish an environmental duty, that requires Marine Park users to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise environmental harm
- Improve emergency management capacity
- Establish a requirement for one member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (MPA) Board to be an Indigenous person with knowledge of Indigenous issues relevant to the Marine Park and one member to have knowledge of or experience in the tourism industry associated with the Marine Park.

The changes are taking effect in two stages. The first stage commenced in February 2009 for changes relating to the administration of the Act, including the new objects (or purposes), recognition of World Heritage values and the requirement for Indigenous membership of the MPA Board.

The second stage will bring into effect changes to environmental impact assessment, investigation and enforcement and offences and penalties. These changes are expected to take effect in late 2009, once necessary administrative arrangements are established and information relating to the new requirements is available.

Other developments

In June 2009 the Australian and Queensland Governments signed a new Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement. The new Agreement was signed by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Queensland Premier Anna Bligh and replaces the 1979 Emerald Agreement. It recognises challenges not contemplated at that time. It provides the framework for a new era of cooperation between the governments to protect the globally significant Great Barrier Reef.

The new Agreement provides the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council with a clear charter to progress coordinated and complementary action by the Australian and Queensland Governments to ensure the long-term protection and ecologically sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef.

Responsible Minister

During 2008-09, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, as the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, was the Minister responsible for the GBRMPA's operations.

The Minister issued no Ministerial directions to the GBRMPA during 2008-09.

The GBRMPA advises and supports the Minister through briefings and correspondence, see Output 1.3 Strategic Policy Coordination, Advice to Government.

Outcome

During 2008-09, the planned outcome of the agency was: Protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

The GBRMPA works to achieve this outcome through the implementation of legislative measures set out in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, by operating within a statutory framework of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and by complying with other legislation under Commonwealth and Queensland State law, together with international conventions.

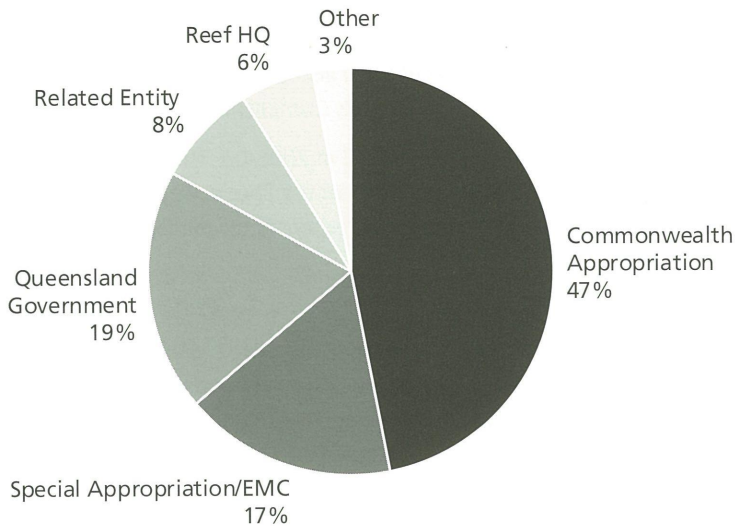
In carrying out its functions, the GBRMPA maintains strong partnerships with a wide range of agencies, stakeholders and community members with an interest in the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

FINANCES

Details of the GBRMPA's financial operations are provided in the *Finances* Section. An overview of the GBRMPA's financial operations follows and a summary of financial and staffing resources is in Table 1 and Table 2 and Appendix A.

Total revenue for 2008-09 was \$44.6 million. Appropriation for 2008-09 of \$28.5 million was \$0.9 million less than the 2007-08 appropriation. This was primarily due to a reduction in Special Appropriation derived from the Environmental Management Charge and an additional two per cent efficiency dividend.

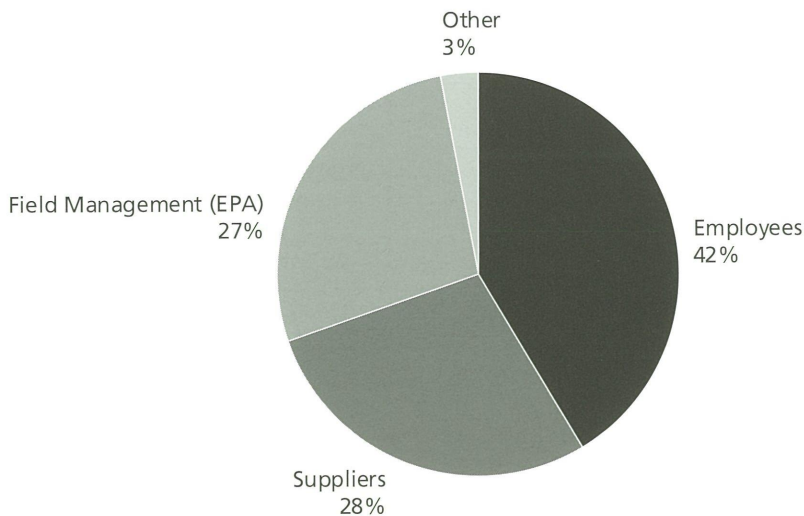
Figure 1: Income by source 2008-09



Income from other sources for 2008-09 of \$16.1million was \$0.7 million less than in 2007-08. This was due to the variations in funding from the Queensland Government for field management and actual resources for water quality monitoring against the objectives of the Government’s Reef Rescue Plan. Revenue from the Reef HQ Aquarium admission sales, memberships and retail operations was seven per cent up on 2007-08.

The Australian and Queensland Governments provided matching funding for field management of the Marine Park, which was implemented in partnership with the former Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (now the Department of Environment and Resource Management) and other agencies.

Figure 2: Expenses by category 2008-09



The operating expense of managing the Marine Park in 2008-09 was \$45 million. Employee expenses increased due to the third stage of the 2006-09 Agency Certified Agreement. Expenses for suppliers were lower than 2007-08 previous year with a number of contractual commitments in place for water quality monitoring. Resources were also allocated to capital projects including the Reef HQ Aquarium and development of the Permits Compliance and Management System.

The GBRMPA had an operating deficit of \$406,392 in 2008-09. This reflects the reduction in appropriation due to the drop in actual revenue from the Special Appropriation derived from the Environmental Management Charge and ongoing expenses for management of the Marine Park.

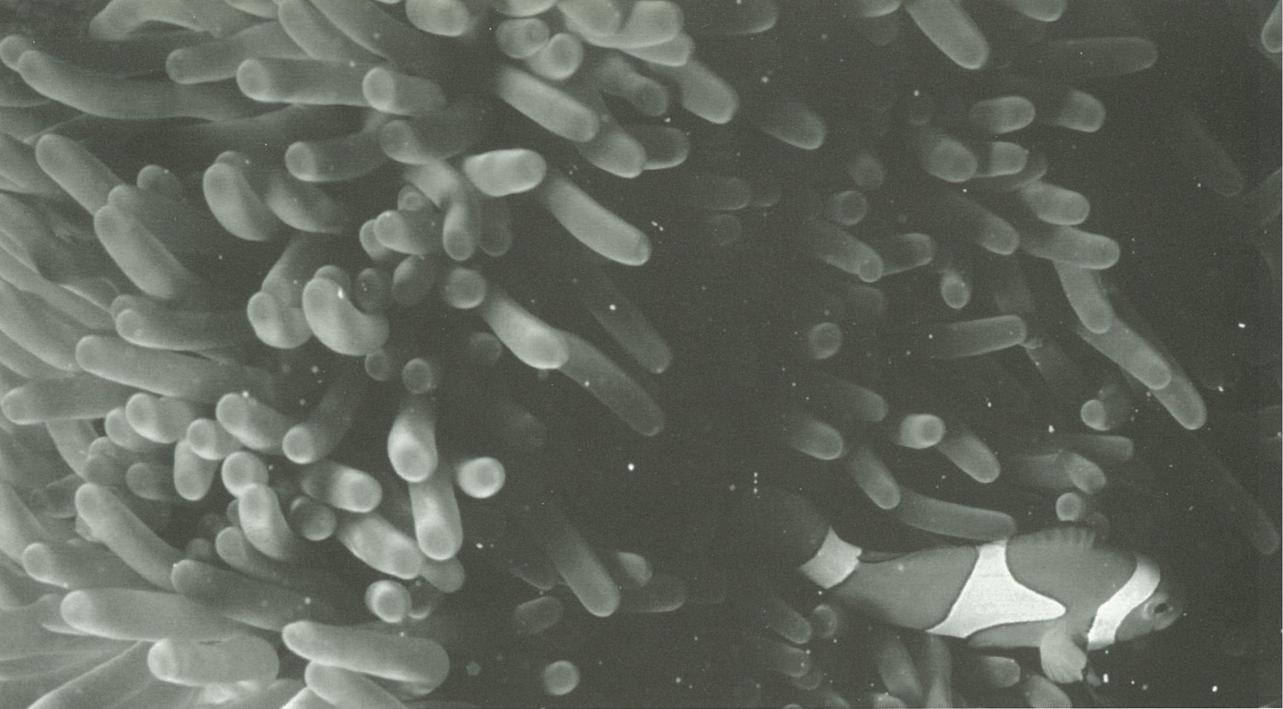
STAFF

A major organisational restructure, which came into effect on 1 July 2008, saw the replacement of the two Executive Director positions (Senior Executive Service Band 2) by four General Manager positions (SES Band 1). The revised Executive Management Group consists of the Chairman and four General Managers:

- Corporate Services
- Strategic Policy Coordination
- Marine Park Management
- Environment and Sustainability.

Employee levels in the GBRMPA decreased in total from 213 in 2007-08 to 208 in 2008-09 – a decrease of 2.5 per cent (see Appendix A for staffing overview and employee numbers and composition at 30 June 2009). This arose from a combination of natural attrition and strategic workforce planning.

The staff figure for 2008-09 includes a number of fixed-term positions linked to climate change and Reef Rescue activities. The GBRMPA also maintains a pool of casual staff who are employed intermittently as required by Reef HQ Aquarium which operates seven days a week.



PERFORMANCE



Figure 3: Performance framework

Drivers ▶	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975, Portfolio budget statements		
Outcome ▶	Protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef		
Output ▶	Marine Park Care and Development	Marine Park Management	Strategic Policy Coordination
Report on performance	Pages 17–25	Pages 26–48	Pages 49–59

PERFORMANCE REPORTING OVERVIEW

As required through its obligations under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, the GBRMPA reports on its performance against the performance framework set out in the Agency's Portfolio Budget Statements.

Outcome and outputs

The performance framework of the GBRMPA for 2008-09 was based on the planned outcome of : Protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

The GBRMPA worked towards achieving this outcome through delivery of three outputs:

- Marine Park Care and Development
- Marine Park Management
- Strategic Policy Coordination.

Purchaser–provider arrangements

This section refers to the provision of funds (through appropriation) for the purpose of paying for Government services to be provided by non-government suppliers. The GBRMPA is not appropriated funds to deliver outcomes through purchaser-provider arrangements.

Table 1: Agency Resource Statement

	Actual available appropriations for 2008-09 \$'000 (a)	Payments made in 2008-09 \$'000 (b)	Balance remaining \$'000 (a – b)
Ordinary annual services¹			
Departmental appropriation			
Prior year departmental appropriation	8,780	1,206	7,574
Departmental appropriation	17,152	17,152	0
Section 31 relevant agency receipts ³	7,657	6,858	799
Total	33,589	25,216	8,373

Administered expenses			
Outcome 1	800	800	
Total	800	800	
Total ordinary annual services	34,389	26,016	
Other services²			
Departmental non-operating			
Equity injections	45	45	
Previous years' outputs			
Total	45	45	
Administered non-operating	0	0	
Total other services	45	45	
Special appropriations			
Special appropriations limited by criteria/entitlement			
Special Appropriation - GBRMPA Act		7,478	
Total special appropriations		7,478	
Special Accounts			
Opening balance	0		
Appropriation receipts	3,868		
Non-appropriation receipts to Special Accounts	8,438		
Payments made		12,306	
Closing balance			0
Total resourcing and payments	46,740	45,845	

¹ Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2008-09 and Appropriation Bill (No.3) 2008-09

² Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2008-09 and Appropriation Bill (No.4) 2008-09

Table 2: Resources—Outcome 1

	Budget ¹ 2008-09 \$'000(a)	Actual expenses 2008-09 \$'000(b)	Variation \$'000(a – b)
Output Group 1.1			
Administered items:			
COAG National Climate Change Adaptation Framework	800	800	0
Special appropriations:			
Special Appropriation Act: GBRMP Act		1,607	-1,607
Departmental outputs	7,557	3,939	3,618
Subtotal for Output Group 1.1	8,357	6,346	2,011
Output Group 1.2			
Special appropriations:			
<i>Special Appropriation Act: GBRMP Act</i>		3,008	-3,008
Departmental outputs	17,617	10,086	7,531
Special accounts			
Great Barrier Reef Field Management Special Account	8,438	12,306	-3,868
Subtotal for Output Group 1.2	26,055	25,400	623
Output Group 1.3			
Special appropriations:			
Special Appropriation Act: GBRMP Act		2,863	-2,863
Departmental outputs	8,376	11,239	-2,863
Subtotal for Output Group 1.3	8,376	14,102	-5,726
Total for Outcome 1	42,788	45,848	-3,060
Departmental	41,988	45,048	-3,060
Administered	800	800	0
Average staffing level (number)	219	215	

¹Full-year budget, including any subsequent adjustment made to the 2008-09 Budget.

OUTPUT GROUP 1.1: MARINE PARK CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

The GBRMPA cares for and develops the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park through specific policies that allow ecologically sustainable uses. Wherever possible those policies are developed collaboratively with major stakeholders, particularly through arrangements with the Queensland Government, Indigenous partnerships, industry and community groups.

In 2008-09, Output Group 1.1, Marine Park Care and Development, delivered the following outputs:

Species and habitat recovery	Ensuring conditions are suitable for recovery of marine species and habitats and prevention of further declines.
Heritage obligations and sea country partnerships with Traditional Owners	Meeting heritage obligations under the World Heritage Convention and the <i>EPBC Act</i> , ensuring effective sea country management, taking into account Traditional Owner aspirations.
Water quality	Improving water quality in the Great Barrier Reef to ensure that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park continues to support its diversity of species and habitats, and maintains its ecological integrity and resilience.
Ecologically sustainable fisheries	Ensuring progress towards ecologically sustainable fisheries to address sustainability of target species, non-target species and the ecosystems on which they depend in a whole of ecosystem approach.
Understanding climate change impacts	Developing a greater understanding of the impacts of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef.
Adaptation to climate change	Developing responses to climate change which increase the resilience of the ecosystem and which assists management, industries and communities to adapt.

Administered Item:

- COAG National Climate Change Adaptation Framework

The Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan will be implemented over five years (2007-2012) as part of the COAG National Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

Key performance indicators	2008-09 target	2008-09 result
Positive biodiversity conservation outcomes for dugong, marine turtles, whales, dolphins, sharks	Population estimates of dugongs and marine turtles show populations are stable or recovering	Achieved
Heritage obligations under the World Heritage Convention and <i>EPBC Act</i> are fulfilled	Heritage Strategy reviewed	Ongoing Review to be completed by end August 2009
Extent and effectiveness of land and sea country partnerships with Traditional Owners	Indigenous component of the Reef Rescue Plan is in place	Achieved
Effectiveness of partnerships that work towards sustainable fishing and collecting	A new co-operative interagency framework for management of fishing in the Great Barrier Reef, in partnership with Queensland and Commonwealth Agencies in place	Achieved

Effectiveness of monitoring and reporting on water quality and ecosystem health	Quality assured monitoring in place in accordance with requirements of the Reef Rescue Plan	Achieved
Extent of implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan	Public reports indicate programs and partnerships in place and operating effectively for all elements of the Plan	Achieved
Amount of external expert engagement in sectoral policy development	Four Reef Advisory Committees in place meeting a minimum of twice per annum	Achieved successful meetings of TRRAC (3); WQCDRAC (3); CRAC (2); FRAC (2)

Species and habitat recovery

In 2008-09 the GBRMPA worked with other managers, industries and educational institutions to research the status of dugong, marine turtles, whales, dolphins and sharks. The most comprehensive information on marine turtle recovery and management is in the final results of a five-year contractual agreement with the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) to monitor marine turtle species at key index nesting and foraging sites.

The year 2008-09 also saw the conclusion of a six-year contract with researchers from James Cook University on the sustainability of the dwarf minke whale swimming-with-whale activity. A report to the GBRMPA on the research findings is currently under review. The report will be used to assess the management arrangements for swimming-with-whales activity in the Marine Park to ensure it is ecologically sustainable and does not place clients or the whales at risk.

Significant biodiversity conservation outcomes and progress:

- Turtle survey data shows an increase in green turtle stocks in the southern Great Barrier Reef.
- The survey data also shows the number of nesting loggerhead turtles in the Great Barrier Reef has increased, but there is a significant decline in juvenile recruitment to the foraging population. This decline is thought to be due to impacts outside the Great Barrier Reef, such as ingestion of marine debris, interaction with long-line fisheries in the Pacific Ocean, and drowning in artisanal fisheries along the western coast of South America.
- The findings of a series of reports to the GBRMPA on marine turtles, will be used to guide and prioritise future management activities.
- A review of the dugong watching policy was initiated during 2008-09 to provide a framework for assessing future applications to conduct commercial dugong watching in the Marine Park.
- The GBRMPA is working with researchers from the University of Queensland to determine the extent to which humpback whales use the Marine Park. This data will be combined with sightings information from the Incidental Sightings Network, the Eye on the Reef program and data supplied by CoastWatch to produce a distribution map of humpback whales to guide future management and research investment.

- The GBRMPA initiated a position statement for the conservation and management of sharks and rays in the Marine Park and provided input to development of Shark Plan II (under the National Plan of Action for Sharks) and recovery plans through its membership on the National Shark Recovery Group.
- The GBRMPA initiated development of a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef. The strategy will aim to provide an overarching framework to ensure coordination of the wide range of actions that currently protect and conserve biodiversity. It is intended to complement Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020 by identifying more detailed strategies for the Great Barrier Reef.
- Masters students from the University of New England and James Cook University were supported with guidance, mentoring and information to undertake research on inshore dolphins and on the impact of underwater noise on aquatic fauna, respectively. The outcomes will help the GBRMPA with related policy development. The collected and assessed biodiversity information as also used in the development of the first Outlook Report.
- Members of the Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Reef Advisory Committee provided advice to the GBRMPA – refer to page 67 for more information.

Heritage obligations

A review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Heritage Strategy commenced in 2008-09 and is scheduled for completion in December 2009.

During the year, an expert heritage consultant updated the Lady Elliot Island Heritage Management Plan to meet the Australian Heritage Council requirements.

The GBRMPA provided advice to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts regarding the Australian Heritage Council's proposal that the Great Barrier Reef be listed as a Commonwealth Heritage Place.

Sea country partnerships with Traditional Owners

The Indigenous Partnerships Group was assigned to help deliver the five-year Reef Rescue Plan, which was provided to strengthen communications between local communities, managers and reef stakeholders to improve understanding of Traditional Owner issues about the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Additional funding was also allocated to the expansion of Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRAs).

Reef Rescue

The Reef Rescue Plan delivers on two activities: enhancement of the TUMRA Program, and strengthening communications and partnerships with Traditional Owners, reef stakeholders and communities.

Key achievements under the Indigenous Partnerships Reef Rescue Program in 2008-09 include:

- Initiated liaison operations with an Indigenous Community Compliance Liaison Officer, a Reef Rescue Cape York Project Manager and a Reef Rescue Program Coordinator.
- Created an Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee to provide strategic level advice to the GBRMPA on Indigenous partnerships related matters. The committee held its inaugural meeting in Townsville in May 2009. The Committee membership comprises leaders in the field of Indigenous partnerships and sea country management. At its first meeting, the Committee provided valuable advice to the GBRMPA on activities that the Reef Rescue Plan should support, including:
 - sea country planning
 - a communications plan
 - a dedicated leadership development program
 - traditional knowledge management.

The value of effective evaluation and reporting frameworks and co-investment strategies was also discussed.

See also Output 1.2, Marine Park Management – Indigenous liaison and engagement and Output 1.3 Communications and Education - Strengthening communications and partnerships with Traditional Owners.

Water quality

During 2008-09, the GBRMPA continued to play a central role in the development of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2003* (Reef Plan) and implementation of the Reef Rescue program, to achieve better outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef.

Achievements during 2008-09 include:

- Developed water quality guidelines for Marine Park waters which determine threshold levels of sediment, nutrients and agricultural chemicals.
- Continued to lead programs and work with partners investing in regional water quality improvement plans, natural resource management, and industry codes of practice as well as education and promotion of changes to farm practices.
- The Reef Guardian Council Program continued to support local governments to promote recognition and improvement in local government actions in natural resource management and to help build local government and community capacity.
- Best practice guidelines for land and waste management practices and engaging the community were prepared for local governments. A project to provide waste oil recycling facilities distributed \$225 500 to four local governments, resulting in five new facilities and included a transport tank for regional centres in Cape York.

- Long-term research and monitoring programs continued with partner organisations reporting on the quality of water entering the Marine Park and the condition of habitats.
- Ongoing participation in the Queensland Wetlands Program to protect wetlands adjacent to the Marine Park, with benefits for water quality and biodiversity. The program has delivered wetland management guidelines, a decision support tool WetlandsInfo, and a school-based wetland education program.
- Members of the Water Quality and Coastal Development Reef Advisory Committee provided advice to the GBRMPA – refer to page 67 for more information.

[CASE STUDY]

Marine Park Care and Development

New tool to improve Reef water quality

The Water Quality Guidelines for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park assist industry and land managers to improve the quality of water flowing into the Reef. Drawing on all the available evidence of the effects on marine ecosystems of land-based run-off, it identifies trigger levels for managers to commence remedial actions if these concentrations are above acceptable levels to support good reef health.

The guidelines were peer reviewed by national and international experts, workshopped with stakeholders including Australian and Queensland Government agencies, Natural Resource Management bodies as well as the agricultural and chemical sectors who expressed their support for the robustness of the development process. A separate report validating the selection of the sediment and nutrient trigger values was contracted to the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

The guidelines give communities and industry a science-based reference guide to assist in understanding the potential implications of land-based pollutants on reef ecosystems, and to guide on-ground management actions. It is important to ensure the Reef's resilience to the impacts of climate change and these guidelines provide a positive and deliverable way forward to achieving this aim.

Ecologically sustainable fisheries

Commercial and recreational fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park contributes \$235 million to the Australian economy each year (Access Economics, 2008). The commercial fishing industry recognises that a healthy industry requires a healthy Marine Park and is working with Marine Park managers to ensure the long-term sustainability of both their industry and the resource.

The *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement* provides a broad outline mandating that fishing and collection will be managed in an integrated manner consistent with ecosystem-based management and the principles of ecologically sustainable use.

Key sustainable fisheries achievements during 2008-09 include:

- Worked closely with Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries (QPIF), providing expert advice into the Management Advisory Committee process, and DEWHA to ensure ecologically sustainable fishing in the Marine Park. Specific issues raised included:
 - East Coast Inshore Finfish (predominantly the commercial large mesh net fisheries)
 - Reefline fisheries
 - Dive-based fisheries (sea cucumber, coral and marine aquarium fish, tropical rock lobster)
 - Crab fisheries (mud crab, blue swimmer crab and spanner crab).
- Provided expert advice to QPIF for the review of coral reef fish spawning protection management regimes. This resulted in Queensland regulation extending the closures for a future five years to include two annual five-day closures Reef-wide.
- Consulted with fishery stakeholders and the wider community on a range of fishing issues relating to the Marine Park including outreach activities at major fishing tournaments and boating and fishing expos.
- Prepared amendments to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983* relating to fishing in response to changes in Queensland fisheries legislation.
- Worked collaboratively with QPIF and ProVision Reef, the peak body for the coral and aquarium fisheries, to develop a Coral Stress Response Plan and a Stewardship Action Plan. Together these form the first industry responses under the Climate Change Incident Response Framework and are the first steps towards an accredited Environmental Management System.
- Community-based monitoring programs CapReef and MackReef, established in 2005 and 2008 respectively, are continuing to work towards a better understanding of recreational fishing and associated impacts on fish stocks in the central and southern parts of the Marine Park. Social, economic and fisheries data continued to be collected through boat-ramp surveys (Capricorn coast and Mackay regions only) and compiled in an online database. Information has been gathered on fish species, biology and sizes and fishing changes over time.
- Collected and assessed fishing information for the Great Barrier Reef Region to assist in preparation of the Outlook Report.
- Chaired the Technical Working Group as part of an interagency taskforce led by Biosecurity Queensland to investigate the unusual mortality of Queensland grouper occurring in the Cairns – Port Douglas area.
- Members of the Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee provided advice to the GBRMPA - refer to page 67 for more information.

Understanding climate change impacts

The Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan (the Action Plan) continued to be rolled out in 2008-09. During the second year of the five-year plan a number of strategies to promote better understanding of climate change impacts by local government and marine industries have been undertaken. These include:

- Reef Guardian Councils Climate Change Module
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Tourism Climate Change Action Strategy
- Coral Stress Response Plan – a collaborative document with fishery managers to build understanding of climate change risk in some dive-based fisheries and prepare adaptive response plans to predicted climate change impacts
- Communication and education strategies for schools, local government, community and industries (refer Strategic Policy Coordination section)
- Climate Change Incident Response Framework – to coordinate assessment and response to impacts.

Research

Co-investment in climate change research supported by the Australian Research Council, Queensland Smart State, and the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF), and in partnership with the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). GBRMPA has invested in the areas of: coral bleaching and water quality; seabird vulnerability; social research; and, bleaching mechanisms and genetic markers.

Building the resilience of reef and non-reef habitats is an important aspect of the protection of vulnerable species. In 2008-09 the GBRMPA focussed on a range of resilience assessment and management strategies to identify priority management sites and to manage the stressors on vulnerable species and their habitats.

Highlights of works undertaken included:

- Developed a preliminary protocol for assessing reef resilience to identify and rank reefs of high biodiversity and adaptive capacity. A resilience-based management approach uses strategies that protect highly resilient sites and provide opportunities for damaged reefs to build tolerance and recover. Short-term protection of sites can be achieved by special management areas, reef protection markers and other local initiatives. A pilot project to explore the feasibility of resilience-based management was established in the Keppel Island region.
- An assessment of the role, importance, threats and risks to top-level predators and the reef ecosystem to facilitate adaptive management as a strategy for building resilience.
- Resilience analysis of marine turtle and seabirds of Raine Island for current impacts and under a changing climate.

Adaptation to climate change

In 2008-09 the GBRMPA continued to build partnerships and develop tools and initiatives with local government, tourism and fisheries industries, research organisations and community partners to minimise the climate footprint, increase adaptive capacity and build resilience of the Reef to the impacts of climate change. These initiatives include:

Local communities and councils

- The Reef Guardian Councils Climate Change Module which identifies actions available to local governments to facilitate best practice adaptation and mitigation activities
- Regional integration of the Reef Guardian Council Program with the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) which aims to achieve 'CCP Plus' status by Reef Guardian Councils.

Tourism industry

Climate change tools were developed to support the Great Barrier Reef Marine Tourism Climate Change Action Strategy specifically:

- Marine Tourism Operators Emissions Calculator
- Ongoing support for Ecotourism Climate Action Certification through EcoCertification Audits and Climate Action Readiness Assessments for key marine tourism operators in the Marine Park.

Fishing industry

Climate change initiatives developed and undertaken in collaboration with the Great Barrier Reef fishing industry include:

- Development of a Fisheries Emission Calculator
- Contributed funding towards a Queensland Seafood Industry Association Climate Change liaison officer, who works with the GBRMPA and fishers to develop and implement a shared strategic framework to promote social and economic resilience in the fishing industry.

Other climate change adaptation achievements and future plans:

- Energy audits and energy efficiency strategy progress on Commonwealth Islands, including Lady Elliot Island and Low Isles. The GBRMPA aims to showcase best practice energy efficiency to island managers and stakeholders, complementing Marine Tourism Operator audits.
- Developing a Climate Neutral Strategy and Environmental Management System for the GBRMPA. A Climate Neutral Strategy will set objectives and interim targets for the reduction of the agency's greenhouse gas emissions under a broader agency Environmental Management System. An Environmental Management System will integrate the Climate Neutral Strategy into the business framework and help the GBRMPA to reduce its impact on the environment through targeted continuous improvement of its environmental performance.
- Reef Friendly Carbon Offsets. In conjunction with the Department of Climate Change,

Queensland Government EcoFund and the National Carbon Offset Standard, the GBRMPA is developing criteria to endorse voluntary carbon reduction projects that also improve the health of the Reef, such as riparian revegetation activities in the catchment to capture atmospheric carbon and improve the water quality of runoff into the Reef.

COAG National Climate Change Adaptation Framework

The GBRMPA has partnered with the Department of Climate Change to implement the five-year Climate Change Action Plan 2007-12. Funding to the value of \$8.9 m has been provided under the COAG National Climate Change Adaptation Framework for its implementation.

OUTPUT GROUP 1.2: MARINE PARK MANAGEMENT

The GBRMPA implements Marine Park management through planning, environmental impact assessment, compliance and enforcement activities and by engaging regional communities and partnerships in management activities.

In 2008-09, Output Group 1.2, Marine Park Management, delivered the following outputs:

Compliance with management arrangements	Ensuring compliance with the <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act</i> , <i>State Marine Parks Act</i> , <i>Nature Conservation Act</i> and subordinate regulations related to net, line and trawl fisheries, dugong protection, zoning plan (especially Marine National Park and Preservation Zones), and emerging compliance issues to prevent serious environmental harm.
Protection of vulnerable species and habitats	Enabling protection works and activities directly related to vulnerable species and their habitat protection.
Protecting high-use areas	Providing essential facilities, information products/services and permits management activities for the protection and presentation of key high-use visitor sites to prevent environmental harm and to provide for public use and information.
Indigenous co-management programs	Implementing Indigenous co-management programs when agreed by the Board.
Impact assessments and permits	Providing impact assessment and permitting arrangements to manage the environmental impacts of specific activities and through development of site plans or plans of management for high priority areas.
Sustainable tourism and recreation	Ensuring sustainable, diverse and high quality tourism and recreation opportunities continue to be provided in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
Leadership, partnerships and knowledge sharing	Providing leadership, brokering partnerships and sharing knowledge with the community to foster stewardship of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
Stakeholder relationships	Ensuring co-operative, effective and sustainable relationships are established with stakeholders and communities, which influence perceptions of the values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and promote appropriate behaviours among users of the Park.

Key performance indicators	2008-09 target	2008-09 result
Effectiveness of compliance	Compliance activity undertaken in accordance with risk profiles	Achieved
Effectiveness of planning	Zoning plans, plans of management and site management arrangements in place and monitored or adjusted as necessary	Achieved Amendments to Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management

Effectiveness of impact assessment and permitting arrangements	600 permit assessments completed including impact assessments for all significant proposals in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	Achieved
Uptake of the GBRMPA's certification program for tourist operators with high environmental standards	40 per cent of tourists to the Great Barrier Reef are carried on operations certified to high environmental standards	Achieved 50 per cent of tourists to the Great Barrier Reef are carried by certified High Standard Tourism operations
Extent of local community engagement in management of the Great Barrier Reef	11 Local Marine Advisory Committees functional and meeting six times per year	Achieved

Compliance with management arrangements

The GBRMPA's Field Management Coordination Compliance Unit (FMCCU) contributes to the preservation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park by implementing best practice models, processes and systems. The GBRMPA has a commitment to the continuous improvement of compliance management through interaction with partner agencies, service providers and stakeholders. Compliance is achieved by:

- Maximising voluntary compliance by encouraging and educating commercial and recreational users to comply with legislation
- Providing an effective deterrent capability (detection, prosecution and administrative sanctions) against non-compliance.

Aerial surveillance

- Border Protection Command (BPC) continues to be the principal providers of aerial surveillance in the Marine Park. The introduction of Dash 8 Aircraft into the fleet has significantly enhanced the evidence collection capability for offences detected during Coastwatch flights. Private charter aircraft services were engaged on occasions where the Coastwatch resources were not available or when additional surveillance was required.

Vessel surveillance

- Patrol resources were directed towards high impact offences, recidivous offenders, special operations, and to intercept and investigate offences already identified by Coastwatch and VMS analysis. The compliance vessels undertook a total of 142 patrol days.
- QPWS undertook a total of 518 patrol days primarily targeted to high use areas where recreational and tourism activities are most frequent. Dedicated QPWS compliance staff participated in additional patrols.
- QBFP directs its resources to focus on commercial and recreational fishing activities. QBFP conducted 758 patrol days in the Marine Park during the 2008-09 year. Funding under a Service Level Agreement was provided to QBFP by the Field Management Program for the 2008-09 year to assist in the undertaking of these compliance operations in the Marine Park and for the provision of incident and patrol reports, intelligence and

other inter-agency administration and liaison. A number of joint QBFP/GBRMPA special operations were also undertaken aboard QBFP vessels during the 2008-09 year, which were partially or fully funded using separate Field Management Program funds reserved for special compliance operations.

- QPWS undertook 39 patrol days which were funded by the Program including Field Management staff.

Incidents/Offences

Historical data displayed in Figure 4 shows a significant increase in reported offences throughout the years 2003/2004 to 2007/2008. Reported offences, have however decreased from 878 in 2007/2008 to 732 in 2008/2009.

Figure 4: Number of offences reported in the Marine Park by year from 2003-04 to present

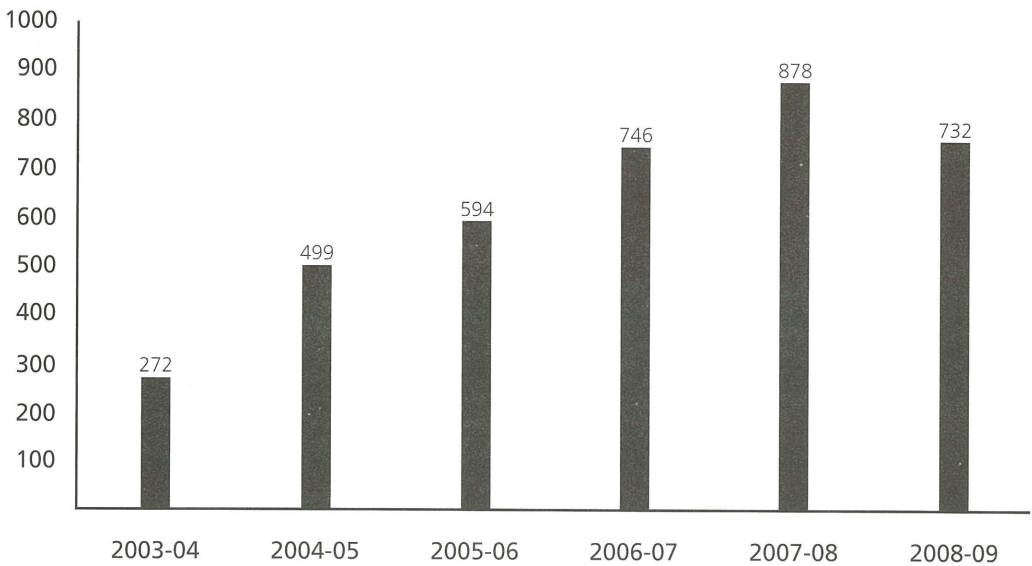
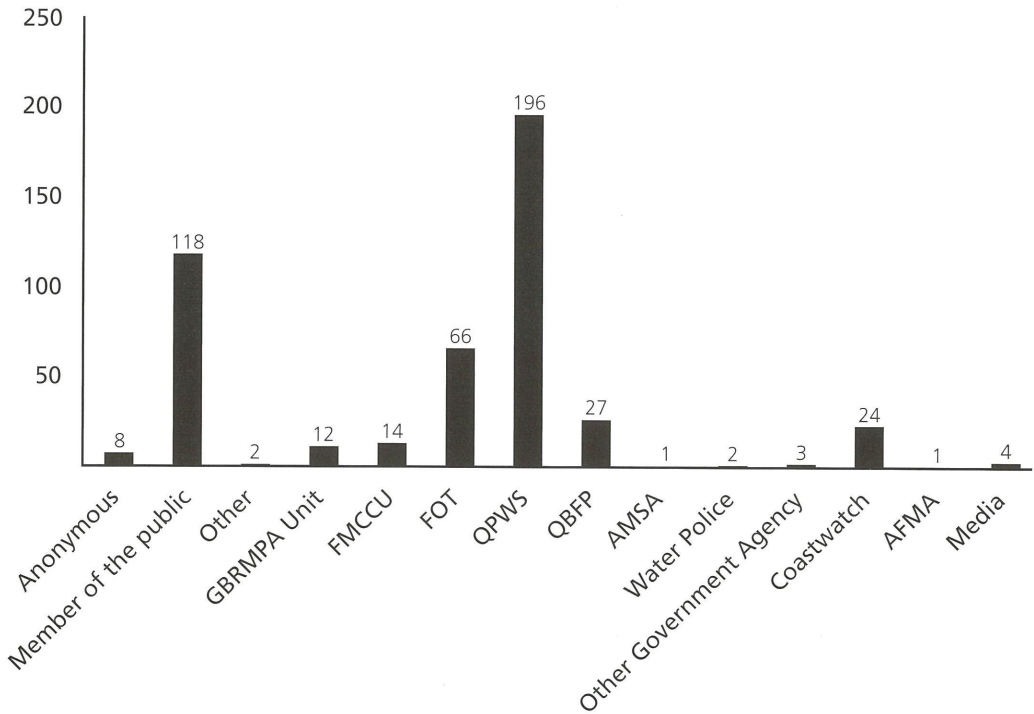


Figure 5: Offences reported 2008/2009 - 732 possible offences were identified from 478 Incident Reports.

Activity	Far Northern	Cairns/ Cooktown	Townsville/ Whitsunday	Mackay/ Capricorn	TOTAL
Commercial Line Fishing	1	0	2	7	10
Commercial Line, Unattached Dory	0	8	6	3	17
Commercial Trawling	1	7	4	1	13
Foreign Fishing Vessels	0	2	0	0	2
Commercial Collecting	40	1	0	4	45
Commercial Longlining Vessels	0	0	0	1	1
Commercial Netting	0	3	0	1	4
Vulnerable Species	2	3	2	6	13
Indigenous Hunting/ Fishing	0	10	0	8	18
Breach Permit (Research)	0	0	2	1	3
Recreational Visitors					
Fishing	3	69	148	49	269
Unpermitted Activity	1	2	3	4	10
Plan of Management	0	1	6	0	7
State Offences	0	1	50	30	81
Tourism Vessels					
Fishing	0	1	0	1	2
Unpermitted Activity	0	5	7	1	13
Breach of Permit	0	3	16	3	22
Plan Of Management	0	2	13	0	15
State Offences	1	4	31	1	37
Shipping Vessels (pollution)	0	0	1	3	4
Commercial Vessel Groundings	0	2	0	4	6
Groundings Recreational Vessels	0	2	1	1	4
Groundings Tourism Vessels	0	2	1	1	4
Moorings					
Commercial	0	39	18	20	77
Recreational	0	0	36	0	36
Other Agency Offences	2	3	14	0	19
TOTAL	51	170	361	150	732

Figure 6: Source of incident reports 2008/2009



Intelligence reporting and analysis

Historical data is provided to illustrate the increasing number of information reports received by the FMCCU since the information collection program commenced in 2004/2005.

Potential reasons for the increase include:

- Continued evolution and implementation of information collection techniques
- The Compliance Program maturing within GBRMPA
- An emphasis has been placed on the use of information reports to develop intelligence products. As a result field staff can see that their reports are being acted on and hence the value of information reporting.

Figure 7: Number of information reports received since 2004-05

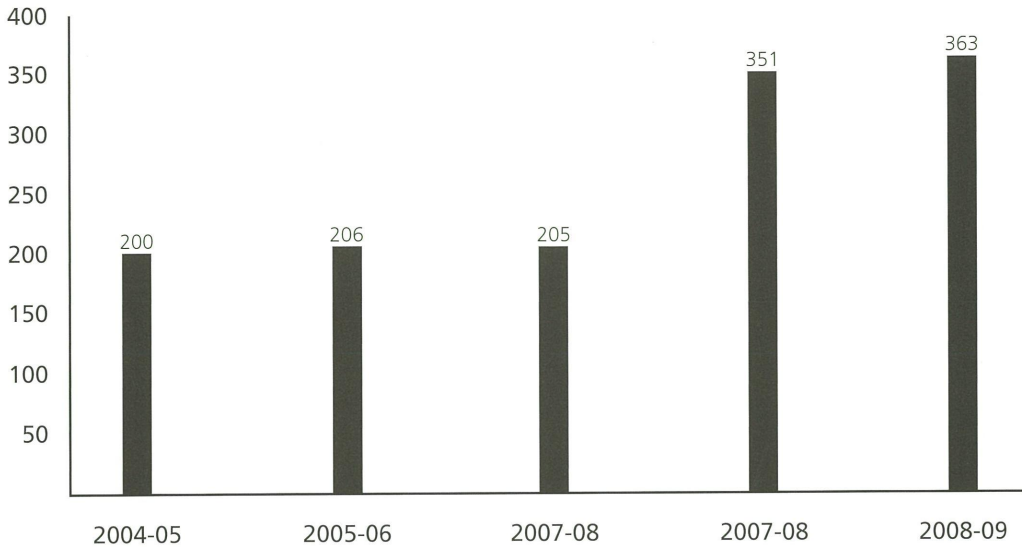
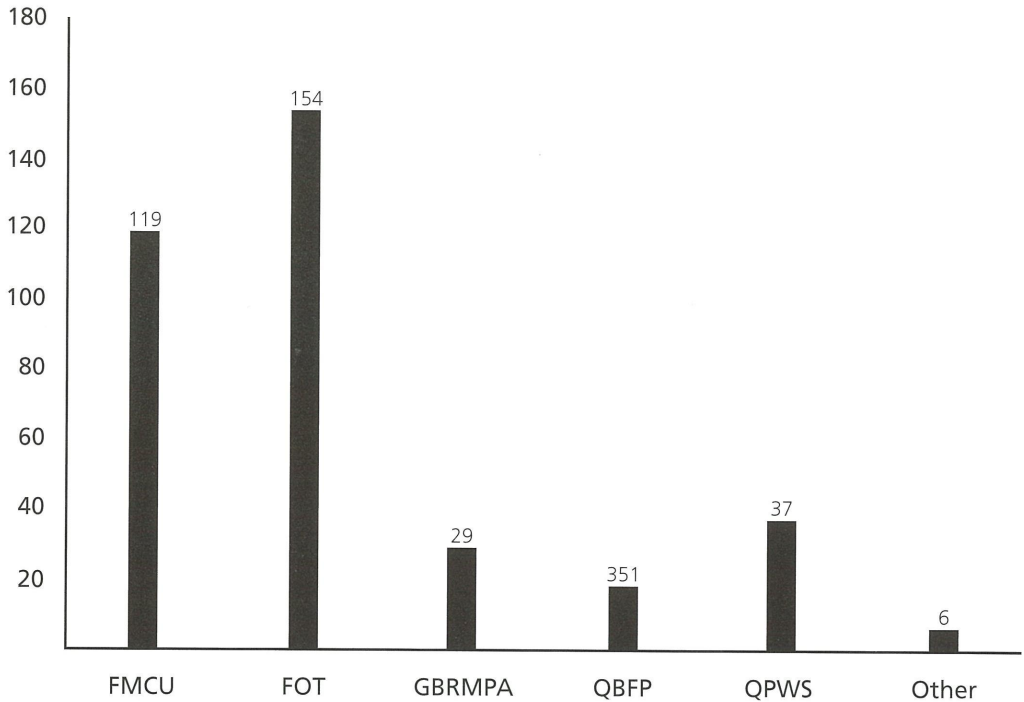


Table 3: Information/Intelligence Reports Received 2008-09

Primary Group Reported	Far Northern	Cairns Cooktown	Townsville Whitsundays	Mackay Capricorn	Reef Wide	Outside Marine Park	Unspecified	Total
Commercial Fishing	72	69	25	30	8	0	0	204
Recreational	10	19	7	10	0	2	0	48
Tourism Operations	2	15	5	3	0	0	0	25
Indigenous Use	15	23	4	1	0	3	0	46
Wildlife	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	6
Other	9	2	1	2	0	2	0	16
State Offences	7	6	4	0	0	0	1	18
TOTAL	119	134	48	46	8	7	1	363

Note: Other primary user group includes Shipping, Research and Foreign Fishing; Indigenous use includes both traditional use and illegal hunting within Marine Park (Commonwealth); Tourism Operations include Plans of Management, permitted operators, unpermitted operators and moorings issues; Wildlife includes mortality/injury to wildlife which is not related to hunting or fishing activities.

Figure 8: Source of Information/Intelligence Reports Received 2008/2009



Historical record of compliance actions

Commonwealth infringement notices were introduced as a form of compliance action in late 2006. This accounts for the reduction in the number of court actions and infringement notices at that time.

Figure 9: Court actions by year from 2004 to the present

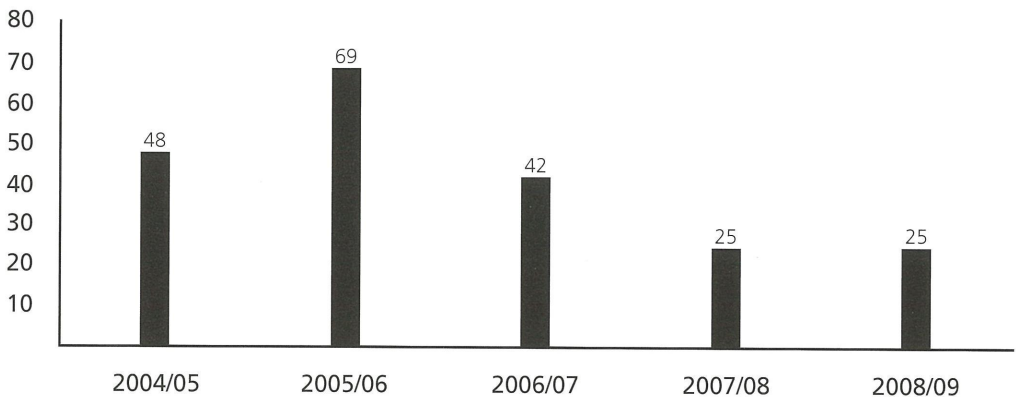


Figure 10: Infringement Notices issued from 2004 to the present

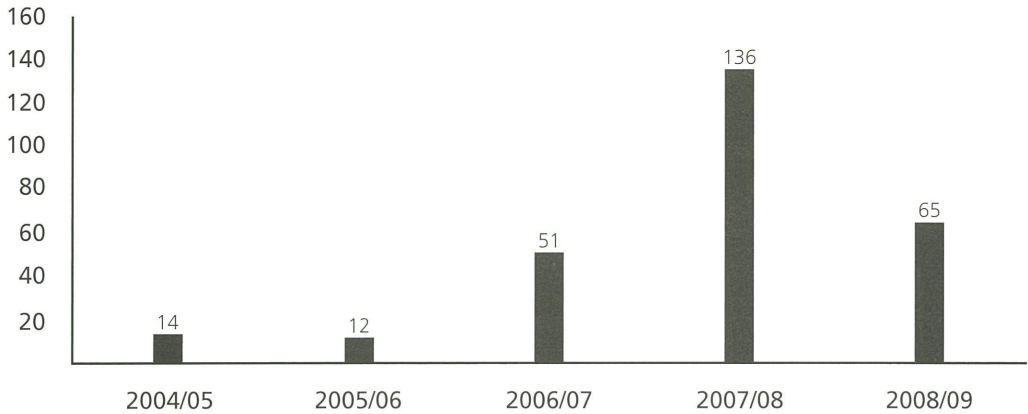
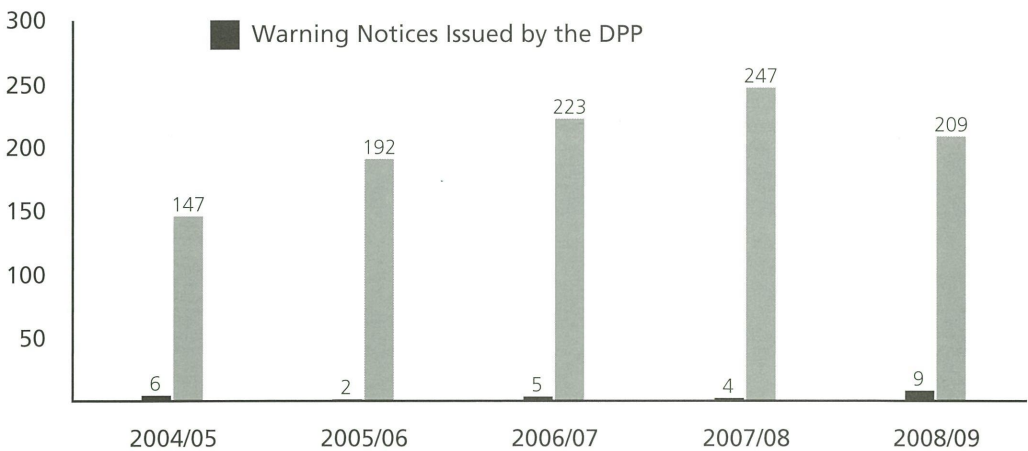


Figure 11: Advisory/Warning Notices issues from 2004 to the present



COMPLIANCE ACTIONS 2008-09

Prosecutions

- Twenty-two court actions were taken in 2008/2009 with fines amounting to \$123,190 imposed.
- Twenty-one of these court actions were taken against commercial fishers (1 trawl and 20 line fishing offences).
- One recreational fisher was convicted and fined \$1500 after failing to pay an infringement notice.

Table 4: Prosecutions in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park 2008-09

Offence	Far Northern		Cairns/ Cooktown		Townsville/ Whitsunday		Mackay/ Capricorn		Totals	
	No.	Fines	No.	Fines	No.	Fines	No.	Fines	No.	Fines
Commercial unpermitted fishing (Fishing Charter)	1	\$5,000	3	\$16,000	1	\$9,000	7	\$40,000	12	\$70,000
Unpermitted trawling	0	\$0	1	\$40,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$40,000
Unattached dory	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$1,250	6	\$10,440	7	\$11,690
	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	Recog. \$1000	1	\$0
Unpermitted recreational fishing	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$1,500	1	\$1,500
TOTAL	1	\$5,700	4	\$56,000	2	\$10,250	15	\$51,940	22	\$123,190

Table 5: Other Compliance Actions 2008-09 – 33 infringement notices, 192 advisory letters and 12 commercial line vessels were seized and action undertaken

Action	Far Northern	Cairns/ Cooktown	Townsville/ Whitsundays	Mackay/ Capricorn	TOTAL
Infringement Notice (Cwth)	0	12	17	4	33
Warning Letter (CDPP)	1	0	1	7	9
Advisory Letter (DDM)	9	28	93	30	160
Administrative Action	0	0	3	0	3
Public Education Process	0	2	4	1	7
NFA Other	0	4	5	3	12
Referred to other Agency	0	1	5	0	6
Recorded for Intel Purposes	0	2	0	0	2
Unable to locate offender	0	5	5	8	18
Insufficient /No evidence	6	9	13	7	35
Not investigated	0	1	0	0	1
No Offence	6	10	30	13	59
TOTAL	22	64	176	73	335

Table 6: Infringement Notices 2008-2009

Offence	Far Northern		Cairns/ Cooktown		Townsville/ Whitsunday		Mackay/ Capricorn		Totals	
	No.	Fines	No.	Fines	No.	Fines	No.	Fines	No.	Fines
Illegal Fishing Unpermitted fishing MNP	0	\$0	8	\$8,800	9	\$9,900	4	\$4,400	21	\$23,100
Illegal Fishing Excess Lines CPZ	0	\$0	3	\$1,320	5	\$2,200	0	\$0	8	\$3,520
POM	0	\$0	1	\$330	3	\$990	0	\$0	4	\$1,320
Litter	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
TOTAL	0	\$0	12	\$10,450	17	\$13,090	4	\$4,400	33	\$27940

Foreign Fishing Vessel Program

- Commonwealth funding which was made available over three years to assist in managing the threat of foreign fishing vessels in the northern waters of the Marine Park ceased on 30 June 2009. This initiative combined with concentrated and targeted Coastwatch flights resulted in there being only two foreign fishing vessel sightings in the Marine Park for the year.

Indigenous engagement

- The Field Management staff coordinated, with assistance from GBRMPA, land based patrolling between Cairns and Cape York with participation from QPWS and Queensland Water Police (QWP). These multi-agency patrols enhance liaison and cooperation with Cape York Indigenous communities. Community leaders were supportive of the patrols and have subsequently provided information and reports of illegal hunting in their area. FMCCU staff provided a compliance overview to people from the Kuuku Ya'u Traditional Owners in relation to the Indigenous Land Usage Agreement (ILUA) between the Kuuku Ya'u and QPWS and the GBRMPA. The attendees at the overview were those people selected as Compliance Rangers to enforce the requirements of the *Nature Conservation Act* associated with the ILUA.

Projects

A project to prepare for the implementation the Marine Park legislation amendments into the Field Management Program was approved and commenced. The project, in summary:

- Expert training to Border Protection Command (BPC) Coastwatch aircrew in gathering and managing evidence and the court process was completed, with training provided to 37 aircrew in Cairns. Further training is planned for the Coastwatch helicopter aircrew from Horn Island and AMSA search-and-rescue aircrew who also conduct surveillance flights over the Marine Park under an agreement with BPC.
- Twenty "Oil Spill Evidence Collection Kits" were assembled and issued to the two compliance vessels and two Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) vessels that

undertake patrols in the Marine Park. Kits were also distributed to the compliance investigations staff, QPWS regional offices, each of the QPWS Senior Rangers Compliance and the GBRMPA Oils Spill Officer.

Protection of vulnerable species and habitats

The Field Management Program has contributed to the protection of vulnerable species and habitats. It has:

- Prepared and applied the Climate Action Plan through rapid health assessments of coral reefs, support for responses to coral bleaching events and developing plans for reef and island resilience assessments.
- Responded to several incidents that threatened vulnerable species including live marine wildlife strandings, an entrapped whale and removal of debris and nets. Responses to marine wildlife strandings provided information on priority species, stranding locations and cause-of-death to help policy, planning and actions to minimise mortalities.
- Redeveloped Strandnet Database which will improve the quality of information collated and interpreted.
- Conducted pest control work on many islands with some pest arrest projects targeting the protection of vulnerable species on Curtis Island and the Broad Sound islands.
- Monitored coastal birds as part of the Coastal Bird Monitoring Strategy. All data is now ready for analysis of bird distribution and breed effort trends. The James Cook University analysis of data collected by field managers at Michaelmas Cay shows a strong link between breeding success and sea surface temperature and the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) index.
- Monitored threatened marine turtle species at the Capricorn Bunker Islands, Peak, Facing and Curtis Islands in Central Queensland with the assistance of Gladstone Marine Parks.
- Cairns Marine Parks engaged Traditional Owners from Cape York to develop strategies to enhance marine turtle and dugong protection.
- Provided vessel, field and management support to a project investigating turtle nest flooding and possible sand loss at Raine Island. This important turtle and seabird breeding island is under serious threat.
- Focussed on the management of Commonwealth Islands such as Lady Elliot, Low and Dent Islands. The priorities were infrastructure review, capital works, maintenance and sourcing a caretaker for Low Isles.

Protecting high use areas

- In accordance with the 2008-09 QPWS Planned Burn Program, a number of prescribed burns were conducted on several islands.

- Pest control work was conducted on many priority sites and included:
 - Black rat eradication and monitoring at Sisters and Stephens Islands, Russell Island and High Island
 - Feral pig control at Hinchinbrook Island and Dunk Island
 - Feral goat control at Orpheus Island
 - Feral cat trapping at Magnetic Island.
- Weed control was conducted at South Barnard Island (post Cyclone Larry) and at Forbes Island, Three Isles and Lizard Island. The Magnetic Island Weed Strategy was implemented.
- Flora and fauna (weed and pest) assessments of islands identified in the seabird monitoring strategy were progressively implemented on a number of islands.
- The Field Management Program responded to 92 reports of oil spills, pollution, vessel sinking and vessel groundings in the Great Barrier Reef Region. As a result of cyclonic conditions, on one single day approximately 50 vessels ground or sank in the Whitsundays and a coal bulk carrier broke its mooring and was holed in a collision with a wharf.
- Staff from the Field Management program assisted with the oiled wildlife and foreshore assessment components of the oil spill at Moreton Island. This enabled them to contribute their skills to southeast Queensland and to put their training into practice for future incidents on the Reef.
- Community engagement programs and posters supported a number of management initiatives including the Island Hitchhikers project, *Pisonia* tree management and Pest Arrest programs.

Amendments to the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management

Amendments to both plans came into effect on 18 December 2008. New interpretive material for recreational users and tourism operators was made available on the corporate website and training workshops were held for staff of the GBRMPA and the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Managing facilities

Highlights and key achievements undertaken to manage facilities and protect natural and cultural resources included:

- Presentation and site protection at high use marine locations (bays and reefs) as follows:
 - 128 public moorings in place and maintained to standards specified in the Moorings Maintenance Procedural Guide
 - 111 Reef Protection Markers maintained - lost moorings or markers replaced
 - Three seabird breeding marker buoys maintained in the Cairns District
 - Moorings and Reef Protection Markers maintenance contracts in place in Cairns, Townsville, and Whitsunday districts

- New on-site interpretive signs for Lizard Island and Stanley Island were completed and installed
- Key island facilities have been maintained including 155 km of walking track, 111 camping and day use areas, 18 boardwalks and lookouts and 15 km of public roads and extensive signage
- Whitsundays Marine Parks undertook project, concept and site planning of the Whitsundays Great Walk on Whitsunday Island
- Work commenced and was completed in order to replace the Lady Musgrave Island sewage treatment plant and to replace a pit toilet at the Haven, Hinchinbrook Island
- Work is continuing for capital works facilities upgrade projects at southern Whitehaven Beach), Hill Inlet lookout (both Field Management Program funds) and Nara Inlet Aboriginal rock art site (Queensland funds) in consultation with Traditional Owners
- Coastal development projects continue to feature as a significant workload for permit assessments.

Development of site management arrangements

Site-specific management arrangements have continued to be collated for key sites throughout the Marine Park. These online documents give guidance to both users and managers about the current management approaches used in that area.

Completed sites include:

- Updates to the Keppel Bay and Islands site management arrangements, to include information on the Keppels Resilience Project and installation of four new No Anchoring Areas. Interpretive materials including a poster, display pyramid and fact sheet were developed to increase community awareness of the new No Anchoring Areas.
- Updates to all site management arrangements occurring within the Cairns and Whitsundays Planning Areas to reflect amendments to the Plans of Management, including Bauer Bay, Blue Pearl Bay, Tongue Bay, Hill Inlet and Whitehaven Beach.
- Updates to Upolu Cay site management arrangements to communicate the decision to retain a no-structures sub-zone.

Moorings

Standard Operating Procedures for reporting on private moorings compliance were developed in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Indigenous co-management programs

The GBRMPA, with the support of the Field Management Program, continues to provide support for the development and implementation of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs), Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs), and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs).

Key achievements for 2008-09 included:

- Attendance at the Native Title Tribunal Determination with the associated commencement of accompanying Kuuku Ya'u ILUA. The process involved preparatory meetings and a written in-principle agreement from Kuuku Ya'u Traditional Owners accepting the GBRMPA's support and assistance for implementation of sea country aspects of the ILUA.
- Continued implementation and operational support to four TUMRA groups: Giringun, Mamu, Wuthathi and Woppaburra.
- Continued liaison with Traditional Owner groups aspiring to be TUMRA holders or to conduct sea country planning initiatives.
- Implementation of the MOU signed between Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Gungandji, the Traditional Owner group based in the Yarrabah community. The MOU deals with matters that have historically been the subject of controversy such as traditional hunting and designated areas for ceremonial practices.

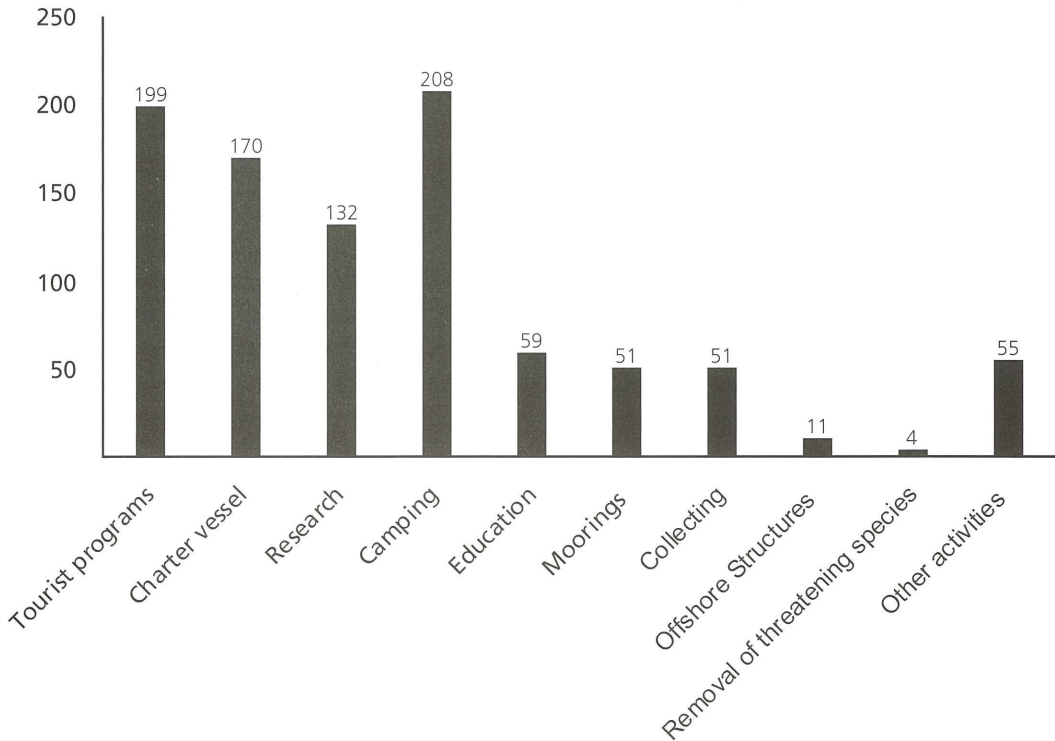
Impact assessments and permits

Approximately 940 permissions were granted during the year. Seven permissions were refused. A further 39 permits were transferred. The joint Marine Parks permit process with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, which provides major efficiencies for both agencies, as well as permit applicants, continued to operate efficiently throughout the year.

Approximately five per cent of the applications processed were for complex projects involving structures or works such as desalination plants, weather stations, dredging, navigation aids, shore protection works, sewage and water supply pipelines, as well as tourism facilities such as tourist and heli-pontoons.

Compliance management relating to Environmental Management Charge (EMC) obligations was carried out in accordance with agreed procedures. For the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 approximately 208 permits were suspended for failing to provide EMC returns on time, 171 permits were reinstated after EMC obligations were subsequently met and 37 permits were revoked after permittees failed to meet their EMC obligations after the permits were suspended.

Figure 12: Type and number of permissions granted



Permits, compliance and management system

The development of the new Permits, Compliance and Management System (PCaMS) database continued through 2008-09. Once implemented the database will increase compliance as well as improve the GBRMPA's ability to understand and manage use of the Marine Park in partnership with industry, government and the community. The aim is to automate a range of (currently) manual compliance checks on permits, bookings and permit returns. It is anticipated that the system will be completed by the end of 2009.

Sustainable tourism and recreation

Tourism and recreation are major activities in the Marine Park. For most visitors, the easiest way to visit and experience the Marine Park is through a commercial tourism operation.

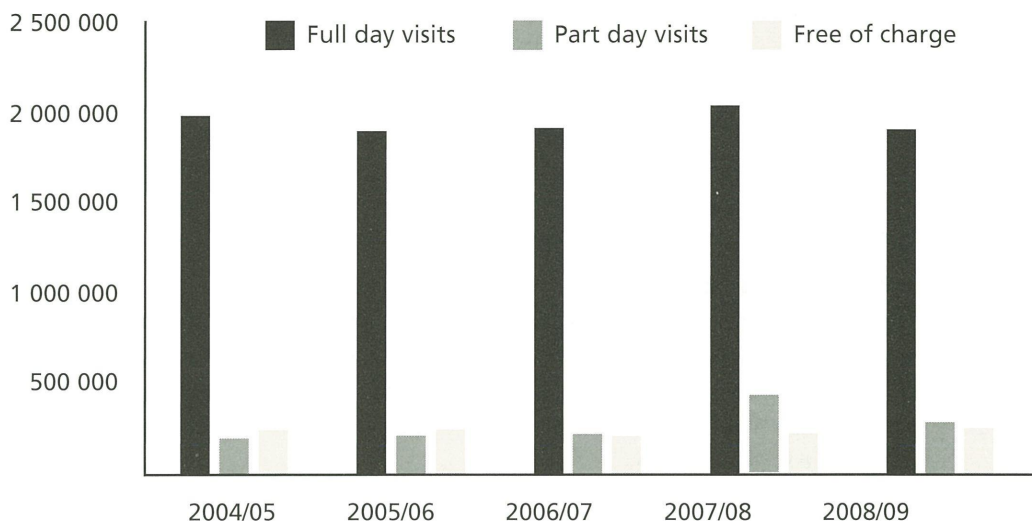
Reef tourism contributes around \$5.1 billion to the Australian economy each year.

The GBRMPA manages the activities of the diverse commercial tourism operations which enabled approximately 1.9 million visitor days to be spent in the Marine Park in 2008-09. This number does not include passengers in transit.

Based on information provided by tourism operators in their Environmental Management Charge (EMC) returns, figure 13 shows the number of tourist visits in the Marine Park since 2004-05. The annual number of visitors to the Marine Park was relatively stable over the last five or so years.

However, the global downturn in tourism experienced during 2008-09 has also resulted in a decrease in visits to the Great Barrier Reef. For 2008-09, there were approximately 120 000 fewer visits (-5.9 per cent) to the Marine Park than in the previous 12-month period.

Figure 13: The number of tourist visits in the Marine Park since 2004/05 (source: GBRMPA EMC records)



There are about 770 individual permittees in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park who operate marine tourism businesses offering a range of tourism experiences including diving and snorkelling, scenic flights, visits to pontoons, semi-sub and other underwater craft, chartered or self-skipped sailing, cruise shipping, swimming-with-whales and beach hire operations.

The majority of these commercial experiences are concentrated in the offshore Cairns, Port Douglas and Whitsundays areas representing about 86.6 per cent of visits. Visitation to areas outside these tourism hubs was stable from 2007-08 to 2008-09.

Tourism on the Great Barrier Reef contributes to the management of the Marine Park. Industry collects an Environmental Management Charge from each visitor, from which a special appropriation is derived that contributes approximately 16.7 per cent of the GBRMPA's departmental funding.

A further 14.9 million recreation visits (Fernbach, 2008) are made to the Great Barrier Reef privately each year, without using a commercial tourism operation. Private (recreational) users enjoy swimming, snorkelling, diving, fishing, kayaking, sailing and motorised water sports such as jet skiing. These activities generally occur close to the coast near developed urban areas.

The main achievements during the year relating to ensuring sustainable, diverse and high quality tourism opportunities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park include:

Growth of the High Standard Tourism Program

- Continued to improve the performance of the High Standard Tourism program by increasing the number of High Standard operators to 45, providing 90 individual certified tourism products; these High Standard operators are responsible for 50 per cent of tourism visits to the Great Barrier Reef. High Standard operators are independently certified with

Ecotourism Australia's ECO Certification Program (Ecotourism and Advanced Ecotourism level) as maintaining high standards of environmental, social and cultural sustainability throughout their operations.

- Initiated the alignment of the Climate Action Certification program with the High Standard Tourism program.
- Maintained operator commitment to the High Standard Tourism program by providing incentives such as granting 15-year permits, facilitating the green climate destination image for the Great Barrier Reef at the Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE), developing a series of Google Maps specifically for these operators and ensured the integrity of the High Standard Tourism program through oversight of ten audits of these operations by Ecotourism Australia and three soft audits by the GBRMPA.

Other sustainability initiatives

- Strengthened the Eye on the Reef Monitoring program through successful and well attended quarterly workshops, annual in-water training days and the delivery of Eye on the Reef Nature Diaries to each operation. Continued growth of the Sightings Network. The database now holds more than 2500 sightings and key researchers are using whale sightings for a migration study.
- Adapted the Great Barrier Reef Tourism Staff Training Course to include a climate change module.
- Conducted a certification pilot with Ecotourism Australia with six Marine Park operators who achieved the levels of Climate Action Leader (one), Climate Action Innovator (three) and Climate Action Business (two). Managed climate change readiness audits of another six operations.
- Reconvened and reinvigorated the Marine Tourism Climate Change Action Group and secured Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Tourism Queensland and other industry stakeholder involvement. Managed a significant internal and peer review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Tourism Climate Change Action Strategy.
- Designed and implemented successful Climate Change Business Mitigation and Adaptation workshops for tourism operators and developed a new section on the website of Onboard, The Tourism Operator's Handbook for the Great Barrier Reef to encourage operators to take mitigation and adaptation action.
- Completed second phase enhancement of the Great Barrier Reef Tourism Emissions Calculator.
- Completed Phase One of the International Dive Rating System Scoping Study.
- Proceeded with the Dedicated Use Moorings trial in the Whitsundays and undertook site analysis and inspection for 36 potential new mooring locations in this area. Finalised regulations to allocate limited mooring opportunities and formalised policy position on regulations for misuse of moorings.

- Ensured tourism can sustain growth by administering a policy to reduce the number of latent tourism permissions held by operators. In 2008-09, seven permissions have not met the reasonable use requirements of the policy and six permissions have been revoked for not commencing operations within the first two years of a grant of a permit. In addition, a review of all extensions for not commencing operations was undertaken.
- Continued to work collaboratively with Tourism Queensland, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, the Department of the Environment and Resource Management (DERM) and Ecotourism Australia and provided advice on a range of initiatives designed to strengthen the sustainability of tourism on the Great Barrier Reef.
- Members of the Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee provided advice to the GBRMPA – refer to page 67 for more information.

Leadership, partnerships and knowledge sharing

The GBRMPA continues to promote best practice in Marine Park management and to provide advice and mentoring at international, national and regional forums. Details of papers and presentations by GBRMPA staff in 2008-09 are presented in Appendix F.

Activities during 2008-09 include:

Sharing knowledge of climate change adaptation

The GBRMPA has made a significant contribution to national and international understanding of climate change adaptation through:

- Representation on the drafting team for the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan for Marine Biodiversity and Resources, and on the IUCN Working Group on Climate Change and Coral Reefs
- Presentation of keynote addresses on climate change adaptation at major international workshops/conferences, including the IUCN World Congress and the International Marine Conservation Conference
- Appointment of a Director as co-leader of the integration theme for the Marine Biodiversity and Resources Network under the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility
- Contributions to several expert workshops and publications on climate change adaptation.

Indigenous liaison and engagement

Activities in 2008-09 included:

- Liaison and assistance with Indigenous communities on cultural and heritage issues continues with several Indigenous communities, in particular on Cape York and in the Whitsundays
- An Indigenous Compliance Officer continues to work with communities regarding illegal hunting and fishing

- Actively participated in a six-day Indigenous Cultural Emersion Course conducted by Reef Catchments in Mackay
- Regular contact by Cape York Regional Engagement Staff and the Indigenous Community Compliance Liaison Officer with Traditional Owners regarding a range of Sea Country Planning matters and compliance matters
- Facilitation and funding of the Joint Spatial Closures Workshop in Cairns, conducted with James Cook University on 4-5 June 2009 - the workshop was attended by 20 Traditional Owners from Cape York, and other expert scientists, managers and practitioners who discussed spatial management tools for dugong and sea turtles
- Participation in National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) activities, with responsible sea country management messages including presentations by Traditional Owners, cultural performances, displays, and interactive events
- Attendance at the Native Title Conference on 3-5 June in Melbourne, including sponsorship for a Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner to attend
- Continual improvement of the Traditional Owner Information Systems, including Story Place and the Traditional Owner Profile System
- Attendance, presentations and facilitation at various events and gatherings at the invitation of Traditional Owners
- Sponsored the Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference (Townsville) with distribution or communications material as part of the package (three Traditional Owners were sponsored to attend under Reef Rescue Program funding)
- Hosted and facilitated a visit by a contingent of Northern Territory Anindilyakwa Rangers to GBRMPA and with Giringun and Mamu Traditional Owners where co-management techniques and experiences were exchanged
- Coordinated Traditional Owner participation in an international videoconference on the impact of climate change on global Indigenous communities
- Participated in the International Turtle Symposium (Brisbane) including presentations on TUMRA programs. Two Traditional Owners were sponsored to attend the Symposium.

Stakeholder Relationships

Community liaison and engagement is an important function of the GBRMPA. The GBRMPA's main office is located in Townsville in north Queensland. To ensure sustainable and effective relationships with communities along the Great Barrier Reef coast, GBRMPA has three regional offices located in Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton. It also has an office in Canberra which strengthens relationships and provides a conduit for other Australian Government departments and agencies.

Marine Monitoring/Education Program

The two primary areas of focus for the Reef Rescue-funded community monitoring program are direct community participation in data collection and education.

Monitoring and education activities undertaken under this program by the GBRMPA during 2008-09 include:

- Identified and worked with community volunteers to ensure they are properly trained and equipped and recruiting and equipping replacement volunteers as necessary
- Provided specialist technical advice for effective collection of water quality samples and ensuring samples are collected regularly according to sampling, storing and transport protocols
- Assisted with the synthesis of the data (in an appropriate form) to facilitate feedback to the community, volunteers and others to ensure ownership of the program outcomes
- Communicated key messages on a regional level about how community members can reduce/minimise their impact on the Reef by partnering with community organisations and stakeholders and raising awareness about the marine monitoring program and water quality issues through regional shows/events and one-on-one engagement with community members.

Fostering stewardship of the Marine Park

During 2008-09 the GBRMPA conducted extensive liaison with a broad range of stakeholders, other government departments and co-management agencies. Outcomes include:

- Encouraged stakeholder input to the GBRMPA's management decisions
- Improved dissemination and understanding of the GBRMPA's issues in the community and improved consideration of community issues in the GBRMPA's decision making
- Improved issue management through early identification and appropriate elevation of local issues, and addressing issues before they escalate
- Actively participated in a wide range of community-based organisations such as MackReef and CapReef
- Ongoing involvement in regional Natural Resource Management activities
- Serviced Community Access Points (CAPs) through regular visits, particularly during peak season, to foster relationships and replenish zoning maps and other GBRMPA information. The GBRMPA continues to review the effectiveness of the Community Access Points and recruit new ones as required.

Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) provide a forum for local community and representative stakeholder groups to discuss marine resource management issues and advise the GBRMPA accordingly. They provide an opportunity for resource management agencies to meet with the local community and address local concerns.

The LMACs also provide information to the public on issues affecting local marine and coastal regions, thus facilitating communication between user groups and the local community.

There are 11 LMACs in operation in regional centres adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef between Cooktown and Bundaberg:

- Cape York Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Douglas Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Cairns Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Cassowary Coast 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 Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Burnett Local Marine Advisory Committee

In December 2008, another successful three-year term of the LMACs ended, with nominations and appointments between November 2008 and February 2009 for the next three-year term (2009-2012).

Meetings in the new term commenced in March/April 2009 and subsequently Chairs and Secretaries have been elected and endorsed. The Committees are in the process of creating work plans for the next three years to align with the GBRMPA's financial years.

Activities undertaken by the LMACs during the financial year have included:

- Cape York Future Leaders/Reef HQ visit (see Outcome 1.3 Communication and Education – Reef Guardian Schools)
- Fish Barotrauma Project – promoting ways to enhance the survival of catch and release fish
- Local Marine Advisory Committee regionally specific brochures covering on-water management arrangements
- Sponsorship/support of Reef Guardian Schools Projects
- Field trips to monitor coastal development and emerging local issues and creek and beach clean-ups.

During 2008-09, the GBRMPA continued to focus on engaging with and disseminating information to a range of regional communities utilising a variety of opportunities including participation at the following shows and events:

- Agricultural/mining shows (Agrotrend, field days, mining expos)
- Fishing events (Fishing classics, boating and fishing shows, seafood festivals)
- Cultural events and festivals (NAIDOC, Cultural Fest, Laura Dance Festival)

- Home and lifestyle events
- Environmental events (International Year of the Reef, Earth Hour, EcoFests, River/Reef Festival, Landcare Days, Wetlands Days)
- Regional support and involvement with the Reef Guardian Schools program, through school visits, recruitment of new schools to the program, and regional support of the annual Future Leaders Eco Challenges
- Support for development and implementation of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements
- Tourism industry support for the Eye on the Reef Program.

Liaison with Defence, Shipping and Port Authorities

The GBRMPA has maintained liaison with the Department of Defence and Port Authorities about their activities in and adjacent to the Marine Park. The GBRMPA held a successful annual workshop during this financial year with both the Department of Defence and Port Authorities to discuss upcoming issues and ensure the most appropriate management regimes were put in place. A Management Agreement was signed between the Department of Defence and the GBRMPA to facilitate communication and strategically improve environmental management.

The responsibility for management of environmental issues associated with shipping and ports, including activities not requiring a permit, is a role of Marine Park Management. Shipping activity in the Marine Park does involve risk because of the potential for introduced marine pests, sewage, accidents and oil spills. In 2008-09 there was a detection of the Asian green mussel, an introduced marine pest, on a vessel in Gladstone harbour. Response to the detection involved multiple agencies and included inspection, research and vessel cleaning. A simulated oil spill scenario was conducted as an ongoing preparation and incident response training exercise.

There has been continued pressure for expansion of ports that has required environmental assessment of reclamation, deepening and widening of navigation channels, assessment of dredge spoil disposal options and impacts of new infrastructure. The absence of strategic planning for managing new port developments in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is recognised as an ongoing risk to balancing use and protection of the Marine Park.

International visits

- The GBRMPA hosted 13 visits by officials from 10 countries comprising a total of 171 visitors. Topics discussed during these visits included stakeholder engagement, compliance, the Reef Guardian concept, sustainable tourism and the management of large-scale World Heritage Areas.
- Ten GBRMPA staff travelled overseas on 13 occasions visiting 11 countries to discuss marine protected area management, as invited speakers at key international conferences or as members of official Australian delegations including the delegation to the World Heritage Committee. The GBRMPA resources were required to cover the costs of only six of those visits.

- Mentoring to delegations of government officials from New Caledonia and Vietnam and a delegation from Anindilyakwa (Groote Eylandt) in marine and fishery management with a focus on tourism and sustainable management of tourism for positive marine park outcomes (November 2008, April and May 2009)

[CASE STUDY]

Marine Park Management

Working together to manage sea country

An historic Native Title determination for the Kuuku Ya'u People took place in 2009 - this was first time Native Title rights over a large area of sea were recognised through an agreement between the parties, rather than litigation. The determination recognised the Kuuku Ya'u People's non-exclusive rights to hunt and fish over an expansive area of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, some 197 000 hectares of sea located east from Portland Roads in the Cape York region.

As a signatory to the agreement, the Kuuku Ya'u People volunteered to limit their take of green turtles and dugongs to fifteen per species per calendar year and agreed to not take other protected species which are detailed in the schedule. The GBRMPA, in conjunction with the Queensland Government, will provide training for Kuuku Ya'u People in Marine Park compliance.

The Indigenous Land Use Agreement is an agreement between the Kuuku Ya'u People, the State of Queensland, the Northern Kuuku Ya'u Kanthanampu Aboriginal Corporation and the GBRMPA on behalf of the Australian Government.

OUTPUT GROUP 1.3: STRATEGIC POLICY COORDINATION

The GBRMPA develops policies that align strategically with Australian Government priorities and objectives, are underpinned by the best available knowledge, and are disseminated to the community.

In 2008-09, Output Group 1.3, Strategic Policy Coordination, delivered the following outputs:

Outlook Report	Providing a regular assessment (Outlook Report) of the Great Barrier Reef and its future that will guide management.
Advice to government	Provision of timely and effective advice to government.
Alignment with government priorities	Ensuring the development of the GBRMPA's policies concur with government priorities and objectives.
Science, technology and information	Generating, capturing and delivering the best available science, technology and information to underpin the GBRMPA's policies, decisions and programs.
Communications and education	Providing effective Reef education, communication and interpretive programs.

Key performance indicators	2008-09 target	2008-09 result
First five-yearly Outlook Report produced	Outlook Report with Minister by June 2009	Achieved
Advice, briefing and support to the Minister on policy issues relating to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	Provision of quality and timely policy advice	Achieved
Effectiveness of research, monitoring and other information required to underpin policy development	Research by key providers is focussed on the key pressures facing the Great Barrier Reef	Achieved
Reef HQ visitation levels	Reef HQ Aquarium visitation exceeds 118 000 visitors	Achieved 125 108 visitors recorded
Reach and effectiveness of Great Barrier Reef education programs	110 Reef Guardian Schools in place	Achieved

Outlook Report

A recommendation of the 2006 Review of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* was to prepare a five-yearly Outlook Report for the Great Barrier Reef. The aim of the Outlook Report is to provide a regular and reliable means of assessing performance in an accountable and transparent manner.

The Report assesses the current state of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem's environmental, social and economic values, examines the pressures and current responses and finally considers the likely outlook. The first five-yearly Outlook Report was presented to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts on 30 June 2009.

[CASE STUDY]

Strategic Policy Coordination

Outlining the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef

Developing the first Outlook Report for the Great Barrier Reef involved extensive liaison with advisory groups, ongoing input from each GBRMPA Reef Advisory Committee, and an Outlook Reference Group. The GBRMPA also sought input from scientists, leaders from industry, interest groups, community and government representatives at a forum that was attended by 42 participants.

The Outlook Report is based on the best available published science, supplemented by community recollections of the Great Barrier Reef and historical accounts. The contents of the report are supported by an online system, containing more detailed information on the factual scientific material cited in the report.

Two experts in protected area management, monitoring and evaluation, public policy and governance were commissioned to undertake an independent assessment of existing protection and management. Their assessment followed an evaluation framework developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas and examined the complete management cycle from design and planning to delivery of outcomes. The assessment considered all activities that contribute to protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem and a number of Australian and Queensland Government agencies were engaged throughout. The assessment report forms the basis of the Outlook Report chapter 'Assessment of existing measures to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem'.

To ensure the robustness of the report, an independent review of its contents was undertaken by four reviewers appointed by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts. These reviewers are recognised national and international experts with biophysical and/or socio-economic expertise and achievements, including conducting high level policy and scientific reviews. Their comments were considered and incorporated where appropriate in finalising this Report.

Advice to Government

The GBRMPA advises and supports the Minister through briefings and correspondence. In 2008-09 the Minister responded to letters from people primarily concerned about the impacts on the Reef from climate change, agriculture, industrial development, and fishing.

The GBRMPA has also advised the Minister on issues including:

- impacts on climate change
- the economic downturn and its impact on tourism to the Reef
- partnerships with Traditional Owners

- research, monitoring and management arrangements
- the development of the first Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report.

To support delivery of timely and effective advice to the Minister, the GBRMPA established access points in the Townsville and Canberra offices for the ministerial workflow system used by the Environment, Heritage and the Arts Portfolio.

Alignment with government priorities

During 2008-09 the GBRMPA ensured that due consideration was given during the planning stages to align new GBRMPA initiatives and policies with broader Australian Government priorities and objectives. Examples include:

- Reef Rescue Marine Monitoring Program
- Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Program
- Coordination requests across the whole of portfolio/government.

Science, technology and information

The GBRMPA continues to work closely with the scientific community to deliver the scientific information needed to underpin the GBRMPA's policies, decisions and programs. This is achieved through partnerships with all the major research providers and funders relevant to the Great Barrier Reef including the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) implementing the Australian Government's Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the Bureau of Meteorology, James Cook University, the University of Queensland, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries and Department of Environment and Resource Management. Among the achievements of 2008-09:

- The major focus this year has been the capture and synthesis of scientific information for the Outlook Report. Developing an on-line information system that contains the detailed scientific information cited in the Outlook Report and other relevant scientific information. This is a significant information resource to underpin the Outlook Report, and will also provide a useful tool for ongoing capture and delivery of scientific information for Marine Park planning and decision making. As part of the Outlook Report the 'Reef Recollections' project collected oral histories from 50 long-term residents of the Great Barrier Reef catchment.
- The Marine Monitoring Program continues to be operated as a component of the Reef Rescue theme of the Caring for Our Country program (refer to Appendix G – Research and investigations funded by the GBRMPA, 2008-09). This year was particularly eventful, with significant flooding in most major river systems that feed into the Great Barrier Reef.

Information and communications technology

The GBRMPA continued to design, develop and implement strategies and contingencies to meet the ongoing and changing information system and technology needs of the GBRMPA while maintaining

the expected high standard of service and usability. A major focus this year was the continuing development of the Permits, Compliance and Management System (PCaMS).

Network and server availability continued to be maintained at a very high level (99.96 per cent) with continual improvements on storage, backup and security procedures in place.

Library and Image Services

The GBRMPA continued to focus on quality service delivery of library and image services with an emphasis placed on augmenting the range and types of electronic services available for clients. Achievements include:

- Introduction of an alerting service to enable staff across the GBRMPA to remain abreast of the latest developments in their discipline or on specific topics through a simple notification system providing staff with newly published material from books, journal articles and websites. This service has been a valuable introduction assisting staff in being well informed of the latest available information.
- Launch of a new web-based image management system called Look@Me. The new system provides significant improvements in both staff and public access to GBRMPA images, and in administrative efficiencies.
- Significant contribution to the development of the Outlook Report.
- Celebrated 30th anniversary of the establishment of GBRMPA Library and its services.

Spatial Data Centre

The Spatial Data Centre continued to provide service delivery to all GBRMPA staff and external clients through the supply of map products, spatial analysis and digital spatial datasets pertaining to the Great Barrier Reef. Major achievements:

- Continued support to Field Management on issues of zoning compliance
- Contribution of map products and spatial analysis for the development of the Outlook Report
- Development of the spatial components of the Permit Compliance and Management System
- Oversaw the consultative process under the Tripartite Agreement to officially name Isobel Bennett Reef 21-505
- Successfully negotiated the inclusion of the spatial delineation of the Great Barrier Reef into Google Maps
- Contributed spatial information of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to the IUCN World Database on Protected Areas.

Communications

The GBRMPA developed and implemented communications activities on issues relating to the Great Barrier Reef including zoning and other management arrangements, the risks to and pressures

on the ecosystem and the intrinsic ecological, social, cultural and economic values of the Reef. Achievements in 2009-09 include:

Corporate Brand

A review of the existing Corporate Brand was undertaken and a refreshed corporate identity was developed and rolled out.

Zoning Education

A communications plan to raise awareness about general zoning information and to deal with clusters of specific non-compliant behaviour in targeted regional locations.

Activities included tactical newspaper and print advertising in mainstream print media, television and radio and targeted news releases during holiday periods and other times of the year when Marine Park visitation was at its peak. The campaign was again supported by eight billboards strategically located for the road traveller, as well as SeaRead articles, maps and other supplementary information distributed through Community Access Points, purpose designed signage, integrated through external website content and other targeted communications.

A possible indication of the effectiveness of the zoning education campaign relating to recreational fishing on a regional scale has been identified through research (Arias & Sutton, 2009) conducted at a regional boat ramp. This research revealed that 95 per cent of respondents had good or very good knowledge of green zone locations, 78.5 per cent indicated that fishing in green zones could result in a fine, while 90 per cent of sampled fishers indicated that they had complied with zoning rules relating to green zones during the last year.

Water quality – including Reef Guardian Councils

Activities in 2008-09 included a re-run of the highly successful social marketing television campaign called 'Reef House' which involved two television commercials that focussed on how our actions can damage the health of the Reef, and reminders of actions we can take at home to protect the Reef.

The campaign ran throughout the Great Barrier Reef catchment including the Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns markets. Feedback received from the community during this repeat campaign relating to the recall and delivery of the messages was very positive.

The GBRMPA continued to work on Reef Guardian Councils initiative throughout 2008-09 highlight the value of the brand through various promotional and product opportunities.

Climate change

The GBRMPA continued to work with stakeholders to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef and to promote ways in which individuals can reduce their climate footprints.

Five animations were developed to explain the impacts that climate change is expected to have on the Great Barrier Reef. These animations were produced as part of GBRMPA's suite of educational resources about the Reef and climate change and were included in the 2009 Reef Beat DVD.

Strengthening communications and partnerships with Traditional Owners

Helping to meet the objectives tied to Caring for Our Country, the GBRMPA participated in several

festivals and events and commenced work on a series of long-term communication activities including:

- A Sea Country Display in Reef HQ designed to educate visitors on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's connection to Sea Country and the relevance of this connection today
- Communication support for TUMRA holders including the development of strategic communications plans
- Sponsorship of, and participation in, the West Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference, which included supporting a group of Indigenous students to attend the conference
- Communications support for NAIDOC week celebrations and activities.

Table 7: Summary of Communication and Education outputs 2008-09

Communication/education tool	Detail and quantity
Development of communication products to support organisation and communication outcomes	More than 250 items produced or revised.
News releases	94 news releases were distributed with a 98 per cent uptake by media outlets.
Newsletters and updates	Six editions of the SeaRead newsletter were distributed to more than 3000 stakeholders (hard copies) and available online. Additional stakeholder updates distributed on an as needs basis – Fish n Tips and Reef Retailers Update sent to fishing writers and reef-related businesses respectively.
Public inquiries	Zoning related - 1470, Other – 1250 Zoning maps distributed – approximately 180 000 Teacher educations packs - 620
Website (external)	3000 new pages were added or updated.

Education

Reef Guardian Schools is an action-based environmental education program designed to foster environmental stewardship by engaging schools to promote their ideas, initiatives and activities to communities, and encourage people within their school and broader community to protect the Great Barrier Reef and its supporting environments.

In 2008-09 education activities implemented through the Reef Guardian Schools Program maintained a focus on climate change, including:

- Continued support of the Energy Wise Schools Program to raise awareness among students about energy use behaviour and the implications for the Great Barrier Reef. Energy Wise actions and Reef Guardian initiatives are incorporated into school curriculums inspiring energy efficiency projects such as recycling, compost and worm farms, community education and school partnerships with councils and local businesses. Average reductions in electricity usage by the Energy Wise schools over the first year of the program ranged from eight to 33 per cent.

- Development and distribution of 1557 copies of the Climate Change Reef Beat educational posters to schools across Queensland (includes activity books and teaching aids).
- Conducted the Reef Guardian Schools annual awards and presented prizes to 30 schools across the Great Barrier Reef Catchment in recognition of their efforts to build the resilience of the Reef and protect it against the impacts of Climate Change.

During the year the Reef Guardian Schools Program was extended to Indigenous Community Schools on Cape York and at Palm Island. The GBRMPA sponsored Cape York School children to visit Townsville and Reef HQ Aquarium to gain first hand experience from Reef Guardian Schools in the area on how to develop and implement environmental sustainability projects in their schools.

Reef HQ Aquarium

Reef HQ Aquarium is the education centre for the Great Barrier Reef. It is also a major tourist attraction in the Townsville and north Queensland region. As the world's largest living coral reef aquarium Reef HQ provides visitors of all ages with an opportunity to experience the beauty and wonder of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and appreciate the need for its protection.

Reef HQ Aquarium continues to strive to be an example of best practise in all areas of its operations. Major achievements in 2008-09 include:

- Reef HQ Aquarium welcomed 125 108 visitors during 2008-09. This represents a 0.2 per cent increase compared with 2007-08. Tourism Queensland figures for the year ending March 2009 show a significant downturn in domestic and a minor downturn in international visitation to the Townsville Region.
- Overall revenue generation increased by five per cent in 2008-09 compared with the previous year. A modest price rise was implemented across all ticket types and Aquarium Membership from 1 July 2008, due to rising costs.
- The Reef HQ Aquarium's membership program continued to grow this year and the total number of Aquarium members for the year was 12 170, representing an increase of five per cent on the previous year.
- Reef HQ Aquarium won the Major Tourism Attraction Award and Outstanding Contribution by a Volunteer or Volunteer Group Awards at the North Queensland Tourism Awards and was a finalist in the Queensland Tourism Awards.
- The implementation of a self-guided audio visual tour. The intention is to make this tour multi-lingual in 2009-10.
- The opening a new thematic Reef Tourism exhibition and the implementation of a new thematic Protected Species exhibition.
- Delivering face-to-face education opportunities for school children at the Aquarium with 7340 students participating in formal education programs this year.

- Reaching a \$60 000 target through sponsorship and a community campaign to build phase one of the new Turtle Hospital.
- Maintaining Advanced Eco-Certification status from Eco-tourism Australia.
- Hosting conferences and events such as the International Youth Coastal Conference, the International Pacific Marine Educators Conference and the Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference.
- Receiving an Australian Research Council grant in collaboration with James Cook University titled 'Towards closing the life cycle of marine sponges: benefits for public aquarium display and coral reef conservation'. The key national benefit is the provision of critical information to facilitate the sustainable culture of marine invertebrates for use in public aquariums and the ornamental aquarium market thereby removing the reliance on wild collections. This is pivotal to reducing the overall pressure on coral reefs.
- The aquarium also continued a successful in-house breeding program including hybrid anemone fish, seahorses, leopard sharks and coral propagation.
- Implementing an automated chilling monitoring system that results in immediate and long-term energy use reductions.
- Completed energy audits and a Strategic Infrastructure Plan which will form the basis of future capital works planning to climate-proof Reef HQ Aquarium and provide long-term efficiency gains.
- Undertook significant structural rectification work to meet Australian Standards.
- Positive visitor feedback was received through the Annual Visitor Survey. All respondents rated their overall satisfaction level as being good or excellent when asked about their Reef HQ Aquarium experience.

Reef HQ Volunteers

Reef HQ volunteers assisted in a wide range of Reef HQ Aquarium activities. In 2008-09, the Reef HQ Volunteers Association had 140 active volunteers aged between 22 and 85 years.

Significant achievements of the Reef HQ Volunteers Association in the 2008-09 year include:

- Contributing 12 672 hours of voluntary service to Reef HQ Aquarium with 38 new volunteers recruited into the volunteer program.
- Celebrating a collective milestone of 300 000 voluntary service hours in June 2009.
- Running a two-day Volunteer Training Workshop. Presentations included a range of topics aimed at enhancing volunteer's skills and knowledge.
- Financially supporting a \$1500 bursary for a third year Marine Science student at James Cook University and also provided support funding to Reef HQ Aquarium's turtle hospital to the value of \$5000.

- Writing a second edition of *Seaworks* (first published in 1996), a marine educational resource for teachers. This resource was distributed free of charge to all primary schools in Queensland.

Reef Videoconferencing

Students of all ages from around Australia and the world have been able to experience the Great Barrier Reef with Reef Videoconferencing. This state-of-the-art technology enables students and their teachers to take a virtual dive on the Great Barrier Reef, speak live to a scuba diver and reef expert from their classroom and discover more about the amazing animals that call it home.

Achievements in 2008-09 include:

- Establishing a partnership with Polycom, an internationally renowned communications provider that delivers leading tele-presence, video and voice solutions. Reef HQ Aquarium's Reef Videoconferencing program is Polycom's inaugural Australian content provider and is an integral partner within its Education Solutions Program. This partnership has provided more education institutions and their students with the opportunity to participate in a Reef Videoconferencing 'virtual field trip' experience.
- Seventy-seven Reef Videoconferences were facilitated to 4265 students from around the world, including schools in Australia, Canada, America and the United Kingdom.
- International recognition as an example of video conferencing best practice, winning the Berrien RESA Teacher's Choice Award for Best International Content Provider and a Centre for Interactive Learning and Collaboration's (CILC) Pinnacle Award that recognises outstanding performance by a content provider

Corporate Services

Corporate Services contributes to GBRMPA's outcome by providing the foundation for effective management and governance. In addition to delivering services, Corporate Services enables management to ensure the GBRMPA's workforce, resources, equipment, facilities and corporate systems are managed in a framework based on best practice and good governance grounded in the legislative, regulatory and policy framework of the APS. Along with Management, Corporate Services is responsible for providing a safe, equitable and harmonious working environment that sees to the welfare of staff and provides a positive work experience. The provision of services, support and advice are across a range of functions including:

- People management
- Travel
- Finance
- Legal Services
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Information and Communications Technology
- Facilities management

- Records management
- Education and training
- Security.

The Corporate Service objectives are:

- Delivery of effective and efficient corporate services that:
 - Align with stakeholder needs
 - Ensure adherence to legislative, regulatory and reporting requirements
 - Engender good governance and best practice
 - Ensure efficient management of human, financial and information resources
- Cultivate a safe workplace, a positive work environment and a supportive work culture for all GBRMPA staff
- Develop, integrate and continuously improve core business processes, systems and modules.

Performance of the branch is measured against:

- Performance against relevant legislative and regulatory requirements
- Performance against GBRMPA, portfolio and government reporting timeframes for reporting
- Effectiveness and efficiency of Corporate Services Branch
- Quality of policy, advice and services provided.

Legislative and regulatory requirements

Corporate Services provided verbal advice and written policy, instructions and guidelines to ensure staff of the GBRMPA met requirements under the *Australian Public Service Act 1999*, the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, *Financial Management and Accountability Regulations*, the *Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines*, the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and other legislative and regulatory responsibilities.

Reporting timeframes

Regular monthly financial and human resources reports were provided throughout the year. Some issues were encountered during the organisational restructure. This has been addressed through finalisation of the structure, reinvigoration of annual financial and corporate planning and workforce planning.

Numerous routine and ad-hoc reporting requirements were fulfilled during the year including those related to the implementation of the Gershon Review of Government Information Communication Technology.

Effectiveness, efficiency and quality

High quality, effective and efficient human, financial, facilities, legal and information and communications technology services to maintain operations of the GBRMPA while achieving significant enhancements in most areas. Further information on the performance of aspects of corporate services is included within the Management and Accountability section of this report.



MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Outcome	Outputs	Performance
To deliver a management framework and support services that help facilitate effective functioning of the GBRMPA	To provide a people management function that is customer focussed and supports the achievement of corporate objectives by aligning employees with business requirements while concurrently assisting them to reach their personal career goals.	Achieved
	To provide a safe and secure working environment consistent with OH&S requirements and Australian standards for field and office equipment.	Achieved
	To provide ongoing corporate services which are benchmarked to appropriate standards and responsive to organisational needs.	Achieved

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Summary

The GBRMPA's governance framework is based on the legislative requirements of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, the *Australian Public Service Act 1999* and a focus on engaging the community in management of the Marine Park.

Membership of the Authority

Qualifications of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Board members



Dr Russell Reichelt was appointed as Chairman and Chief Executive of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on 1 November 2007. He is presently a board member of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre. He has a PhD in marine science from the University of Queensland (1980), and has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Chairman of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and as a two-term member of Australia's State of the Environment Committee. Dr Reichelt has previously chaired the National Oceans Advisory Group, CSIRO's Wealth from Oceans Flagship Advisory Committee and Seafood Services Australia Ltd. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (UK) and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. His current term of membership ends on 31 October 2012.



Ken Smith has been a member of the GBRMPA Board since 2007. Mr Smith has been the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet since September 2007. He has also been Queensland's Co-ordinator General and Director-General in the Departments of Infrastructure, Education and the Arts, Employment and Training, Families, Youth and Community Care and Housing, Local Government and Planning. As a senior public servant in Queensland for more than 18 years, Mr Smith has taken a lead role in many fundamental reforms in the State particularly in education. Mr Smith is a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators and Adjunct Professor of Education at the University of Queensland, Griffith

University and the University of Sydney. In 2008, he was appointed Chair of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG). His current term of membership ends on 30 January 2011.



Russell Beer is a lawyer and partner of Queensland law firm MacDonnells Law where he leads the firm's commercial team and practices commercial and business law and government advisory. Mr Beer's recent work includes commercial advice on climate change and Australia's proposed emissions trading scheme, and air and sea port issues. Before returning to full-time legal practice in 2008, Mr Beer was the firm's Chairman of Partners for a decade. Mr Beer lives in Cairns and is currently Chairman of Advance Cairns.

He also holds committee roles in sporting and charity organisations. He is a former member of the Ministerial Advisory Council for the Australian Government's Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility. His current term of membership ends on 28 August 2011.



Melissa George is a Wulgurukaba woman whose traditional area includes Magnetic Island and the greater Townsville region. She has been actively involved in protecting and managing land and sea through community natural resource management projects and liaising with and advising the Queensland and Australian Governments. Ms George has been a member of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (EPBC Act) since 2002 and has been Chair since 2006. Her current term of membership ends on 28 August 2012.



Daniel Gschwind is the CEO for the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC). QTIC is Queensland's peak tourism industry body with members across all regions and all tourism sectors. Mr Gschwind is a board member of the National Tourism Alliance (NTA) and the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC). He represents QTIC on various tourism committees, including the Tourism Forecasting Council, the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council and the Statewide Tourism Industry Forum for National Parks. He has

been a member of the GBRMPA's Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee since 1999. He is an Adjunct Professor to the School of Tourism at the University of Queensland. Mr Gschwind is the Honorary Consul of Switzerland for Queensland. He holds an honours degree in economics from the University of Queensland and has worked as a senior economist with Queensland Treasury. His current term of membership ends on 8 April 2013.



Ms Fay Barker, OAM, has been a member of the GBRMPA since 2001, and a member of the Audit Committee since 2003. Her role on the Board concluded on 7 October 2008. Ms Barker is currently a Director of the Royal Automobile Club Queensland Limited, Breakwater Island Community Benefit Fund and the Townsville Hospital Foundation. Ms Barker has held directorships with the Townsville Port Authority and served as a Council Member of James Cook University. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute

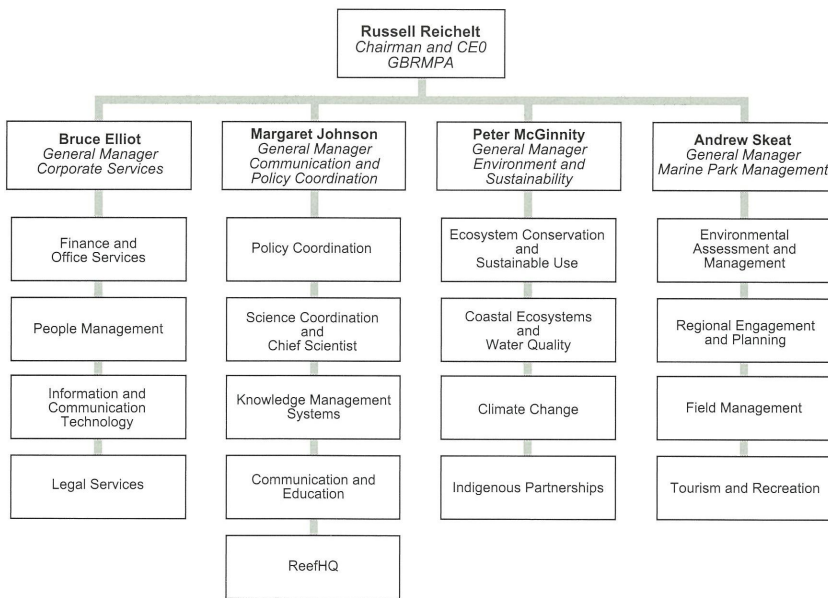
of Company Directors. Ms Barker also serves on a number of community service organisations.

During 2008-09, the MPA Board held four meetings:

Table 8: Meetings of the MPA Board 2008-09

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
MPA 206	19 August 2008	Brisbane	Dr Russell Reichelt, Ms Fay Barker OAM, Mr Ken Smith
MPA 207	18 November 2008	Brisbane	Dr Russell Reichelt, Mr Russell Beer, Ms Melissa George
MPA 208	18 February 2009	Townsville	Dr Russell Reichelt, Mr Russell Beer
MPA 209	10 June 2009	Brisbane	Dr Russell Reichelt, Mr Ken Smith, Mr Russell Beer, Ms Melissa George, Mr Daniel Gschwind

Senior executive



Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Audit Committee

The GBRMPA is a prescribed agency under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act). Under the FMA Act, the Chairman as Chief Executive must establish and maintain an Audit Committee.

The objective of the Audit Committee is to ensure that the Authority adheres to a high standard of corporate governance, manages public funds in an efficient and effective manner, 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*.

The following people were members of the Audit Committee during 2008-09:

- Mr Barry Sheedy, Chairman

- Ms Fay Barker, OAM FAICD, member, and part-time member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority until 7 October 2008
- Mr Garry Videroni, member until 19 March 2009, Executive Director, Audit Evaluation and Risk Services, Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Mr Andrew Skeat, member and General Manager on the Authority's staff
- Mr Russell Beer, member from 29 April 2009, and part-time member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority from 29 August 2008
- Ms Lisha Mulqueeny, member as Acting General Manager on the Authority's staff.

During 2008-09, the Audit Committee held four meetings:

Table 9: Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Audit Committee 2008-09

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
AC 40	26 August 2008	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker OAM, Mr Andrew Skeat, Mr Garry Videroni
AC 41	14 November 2008	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Mr Andrew Skeat, Mr Garry Videroni
AC 42	5 February 2009	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker OAM, Ms Lisha Mulqueeny, Mr Garry Videroni
AC 43	1 May 2009	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker OAM, Mr Russell Beer

Business activities of the Audit Committee addressed:

- Annual financial statements
- External audit reports
- Environmental Management Charge
- Internal audit services contract
- Various internal audit reports
- Valuation of Commonwealth Islands
- Intellectual Property Register, policy and guidelines
- The Strategic Internal Audit Plan
- Appointment of internal auditors.

The Committee has no executive powers except those expressly provided by the Finance Minister's Orders or delegated to it by the Chief Executive.

The Committee is directly responsible and accountable to the Chief Executive for the exercise of its responsibilities. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee must at all times recognise that primary responsibility for management of the GBRMPA under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* rests with the Chief Executive.

The responsibilities of the Committee may be revised or expanded in consultation with, or as requested by, the Chief Executive and the Board from time to time.

Roles and responsibilities are set out in the Audit Committee Charter of Operations, reflecting requirements under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act and Regulations*. It covers:

- Risk Management
 - Risk Management Framework
 - Disaster Recovery Plans
 - Fraud Control Plan
- Control framework
 - Chief Executive Instructions
 - Policies and procedures
 - Delegations
 - External accountability
 - Financial statements
 - Parliamentary Committee Reports
 - Performance management framework
 - Legislative compliance
 - Legal and compliance risks
 - Compliance with relevant laws, Regulations and associated government policies
 - Internal audit
 - Internal audit strategic coverage and annual work plan
 - Internal audit Charter
 - Review of Audit Committee performance
- External audit
 - Review of external plans and reports regarding planned/completed audits
 - Monitoring of management's implementation of audit recommendations
- Responsibilities of members
 - Members are expected to understand and observe the legal requirements of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

Advisory Committees

The Authority has a number of committees that provide support and strategic advice. These include four issues-focussed Reef Advisory Committees, the Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee and 11 Local Marine Advisory Committees .

The GBRMPA appoints members to these committees. 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 GBRMPA. Committee composition and membership is reviewed as required.

Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Reef Advisory Committee

The Reef Advisory Committee for Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships met on 8 and 9 October 2008 and 18 and 19 March 2009. The Committee comprises 14 members including an independent Chairman.

The Committee provided guidance on a variety of matters, in particular species conservation issues, Commonwealth heritage, Indigenous tourism and the traditional use of marine resources, and the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report.

Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee

The Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee met on 19 and 20 August 2008 and 26 and 27 March 2009. The Committee comprises 17 members including an independent Chairman. The committee provided guidance on a variety of matters, in particular a review by QPIF of the Inshore Fin Fish Management Arrangements, reef fish spawning fishing closures, collaborative management and the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report.

Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee

The Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee met on 24 and 25 July 2008, 5 and 6 November 2008 and 2 and 3 April 2009. The Committee comprises 20 members including an independent Chairman. The Committee provides a diverse range of expertise, from day operations, bareboats and aircraft operations, to marketing, best practice, business acumen, and commercial and recreational fishing.

The committee provided guidance to the GBRMPA on the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, climate change initiatives for the tourism industry, tourism compliance priorities, coastal development, recreational use of the Reef, allocation of tourism permissions, the Environmental Management Charge and moorings within the Marine Park.

Water Quality and Coastal Development Reef Advisory Committee

The Reef Advisory Committee for Water Quality and Coastal Development met three times, on 30 and 31 July 2008, 22 October 2008 and 26 and 27 February 2009. The Committee comprises 16 members including an independent Chairman.

The committee provided guidance on a variety of matters, in particular a review of Reef Plan's coastal management, stakeholder engagement, integrated approaches to monitoring, third party audits, Reef Plan, Outlook Report and community education.

Great Barrier Reef Local Marine Advisory Committees

Refer to Output Group 1.2 Marine Park Management Section - Fostering Stewardship for information on the Great Barrier Reef Local Marine Advisory Committees.

Great Barrier Reef Environmental Research Ethics Committee

The Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee was not required to meet during the 2008-09 financial year. The two-year term ended on 14 February 2009.

Indigenous representation on Authority committees

During 2008-09 there were 18 positions available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on various committees within the GBRMPA's management structure. This includes statutory and voluntary representation on the Authority Board, each of the four Reef Advisory Committees, and all the Local Marine Advisory Committees. At the time of preparing this report, some Indigenous committee member positions were vacant or new appointments were being processed.

Organisation Plans

The GBRMPA has a number of levels of planning at a strategic and operational level.

Outlook Report

An Outlook Report for the Great Barrier Reef was one of the key recommendations of the Review of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The first Outlook Report, which assessed performance of the long-term protection of the Marine Park in an accountable and transparent manner, was completed in 2009. More information is provided in the Output Group 1.3 Strategic Policy Coordination section.

Annual Operating Plan

The GBRMPA develops detailed annual operating plans for each Section of the agency. These plans clearly set out, at a detailed level, objectives, strategies, outputs, relevant performance indicators and targets and resources available.

Fraud control and risk management plans

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Fraud Control Plan 2008-2010 was adopted in 2008 and ensures that the GBRMPA has in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection procedures and processes, which meet the specific needs of the GBRMPA and comply with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines.

Service Charter

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

Ethical standards

The GBRMPA is committed to the Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct set out in the *Australian Public Service Act 1999*. The Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct is an integral part of the People Management framework and referred to in the Agency Agreement.

Information is provided to staff through the intranet, induction and staff seminars. The Chief Executive Instructions have been updated to reflect recent changes to the *Financial Management*

and *Accountability Act 1997* promoting efficient, effective and ethical use of Commonwealth resources.

Senior executive remuneration

Information on senior executive remuneration is included in the Financial statements.

Social justice and equity

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

The Local Marine Advisory Committees continued to operate effectively along the coastline adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef, providing valuable advice and input to the GBRMPA'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 GBRMPA makes ongoing efforts to encourage representation from a wide range of individuals and interest groups in the interests of access and equity.

Internal and external scrutiny

The Audit Committee Charter and other documents reflect the requirements for Audit Committees under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

Internal audit was outsourced to Pacific Bridge Pty Ltd until December 2008. Following a tender selection process, Stanton International Pty Ltd have been contracted to provide internal audit services from March 2009 to February 2012. Stanton International have commenced work in accordance with an agreed Strategic Internal Audit Plan.

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 *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

Australian National Audit Office reports

HLB Mann Judd, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office, undertook the external audit of the GBRMPA's 2008-09 Financial Statements (See *Finances* section).

The GBRMPA was included in the following Auditor-General's Reports tabled in Parliament during 2008-09:

- No. 14 – Audits of Financial Statement of Australian Government Entities for the Period Ended 30 June 2008
- No. 25 – Green Office Procurement and Sustainable Office Management.

The following Auditor-General Reports of 2008-09 contain recommendations of relevance to the GBRMPA:

- No. 5 – The Senate Order for the Departmental and Agency Contracts (Calendar Year 2007 Compliance)
- No. 13 – Government Agencies’ Management of their Websites
- No. 15 – The Australian Institute of Marine Science’s Management of its Co-investment Research Program
- No. 21 – The Approval of Small and Medium-sized Business Systems Projects
- No 43 – Interim Phase of the Audit of Financial Statements of General Government Sector Agencies for the Year Ending 30 June 2009.

Internal audit reports

The GBRMPA’s Audit Committee met four times during the year and considered external and internal audit reports. During 2008-09 internal audits were undertaken in the following areas of operation:

- Compliance
- Environmental Management Charge
- Revenue collection
- Reef HQ Aquarium
- Human resources management (payroll)
- Purchasing and procurement
- Permits Compliance and Management System Project
- Financial management.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Overview

A Staffing Overview table is provided in Appendix A.

People management

The GBRMPA supports all areas of the organisation to achieve its outputs and outcomes through the development, implementation and monitoring of customer focussed products and services. Managers are actively supported in workforce planning, recruitment, development of high performing employees, and succession planning. Contemporary learning and development training and activities are researched and delivered to ensure employees have the right skills and knowledge to achieve corporate objectives as well as meeting personal aspirations and career

goals. Occupational Health and Safety practices and procedures ensure a safe and secure working environment is provided for all staff.

During 2008-09, the GBRMPA's major achievements in people management included:

- Monthly reports on people management covering organisation and staffing data as well as metrics outlining administrative processing times and key corporate health indicators
- Increasing staff capability through the management and delivery of training and development in areas of executive leadership, policy and strategic management, risk management, conflict management, communication, recruitment and occupational health and safety
- Successful first year of the 2009-2011 graduate recruitment program
- Management of a whole-of-agency workforce planning exercise to achieve budget reduction while concurrently meeting mandatory agency outputs
- Reduction of corporate overhead costs through the widespread use of the Employee Self Service facility for leave, payroll, attendance and personal details queries.

Workplace relations

Staff continued to operate under the GBRMPA Workplace Agreement 2006-2009. Negotiations between management and staff representatives for a new Workplace Agreement commenced in November 2008 in accordance with the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*. Negotiations were ongoing as at 30 June 2009. The replacement Enterprise Agreement will be introduced in accordance with the *Fair Work Act 2009*.

At 30 June 2009 one Senior Executive Service employee and one Executive level employee were remunerated by way of an Australian Workplace Agreement. In 2009 one employee was eligible to receive performance payments through their Australian Workplace Agreement. Three Senior Executive Service employees were remunerated by way of section 24(1) determinations under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

Workforce planning

A strategic planning workshop was conducted in March 2009. The workshop included a workforce planning activity to reduce staff numbers to sustainable levels. Reductions were based on a review of functions within the GBRMPA's structure, seeking to reveal areas where resources could be reduced and less achieved without compromising core responsibilities. The proposed draw-down included both ongoing and non-ongoing positions, staged over multiple years, commencing in April 2009. Significant engagement ensued before any reductions were confirmed. The Chairman and the General Manager Corporate Services concurrently engaged the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) and the Agency Consultative Group (ACG) were concurrently engaged over the proposed changes and how they were to be implemented. Workforce planning will continue in 2009-10.

Employment agreements

The majority of the GBRMPA's staff operated under the GBRMPA Workplace Agreement 2006 – 2009 with 202 non Senior Executive Service (SES) staff covered by the agreement during the 2008/09 financial year. The salary ranges available for staff covered by this agreement varied from \$30 482 for an APS level 1 staff member to \$115 758 for an Executive Level 2 staff member.

Three SES staff members were covered by section 24(1) determinations under the *Public Service Act 1999* and one SES and one non SES staff members were covered by an Australian Workplace Agreement (AWA). The average salary for employees covered by an AWA or section 24 (1) determination was \$131 743 with an average performance pay of \$13 657.

Training and staff development

The GBRMPA expended a total of \$100 657 on capability development in 2008-09. Significant use was made of in-house resources to deliver training in the areas of communication skills and technology, policy and strategic management, conflict management, risk management fundamentals and recruitment and selection. In addition, a number of seminars in the Australian Public Service Commission 'Focus on People Series' were attended.

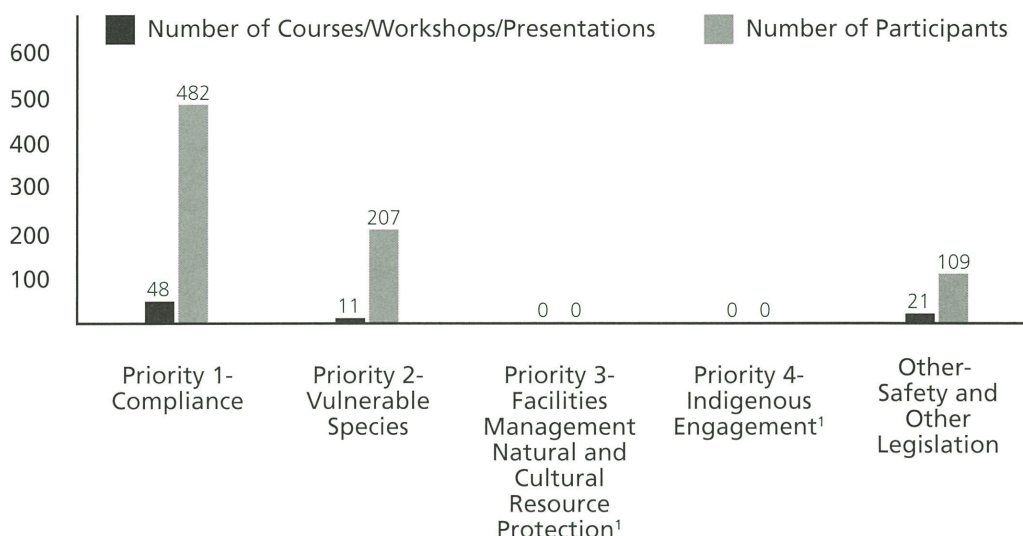
Individual employee learning and development opportunities continued to be explored and provided in the areas of executive leadership/management development, conference attendance, study assistance, information technology up skilling, occupational health and safety awareness, specialised technical/ professional skills development and on-the-job training and coaching. New employee induction and orientation programs continued, including the use of the Australian Public Service Commission's Induction e-learning program.

Field Management training activities

- The 2008/09 Field Management Training Program was successfully implemented with 798 participants taking part in 80 training courses, workshops, presentations and briefings.
- The personnel who participated were from:
 - GBRMPA
 - Department of Environment and Resource Management
 - Customs Coastwatch
 - Queensland Police Service
 - Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries
 - Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol
 - Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions
 - Wildlife carer groups/volunteers and members of the public.
- Training courses were convened throughout the Great Barrier Reef region and targeted Field Management program priorities. Refer Figure 14 for breakdown of course and participant numbers by Field Management Program priority.

- Courses focussed on facilities management and natural and cultural resource protection were scheduled, but these cancelled due to bad weather and the oil spill at Moreton Island.
- Training on Indigenous Engagement is being developed by Field Management Program staff as part of agency internal training programs.
- A compliance (surveillance and reporting) training package was developed and delivered to Kuuku Ya'u Traditional Owners on 10 and 11 February 2009 in conjunction with the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Figure 14: 2008-09 DDM training program courses/presentations held and participant numbers by DDM program priority



¹Courses were scheduled but cancelled due to bad weather and an oil spill

Occupational health and safety

A significant number of positions within the GBRMPA involve outdoor physical activity including day and night boat patrols, diving and aquarium engineering and water quality maintenance. The agency has continued to make a safe and secure working environment a high priority. In 2008-09, employees of the GBRMPA lodged 15 incident reports, six fewer than in 2007-08. These were primarily minor in nature. One claim for compensation was accepted by Comcare.

Management and staff have sustained an elevated level of hazard reporting and hazard awareness through working with the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, and in turn, reduced the overall number of workplace injuries and compensation claims. The GBRMPA Occupational Health and Safety system has provided staff with the opportunity to obtain training certificates relevant to their specific area, consequently increasing overall personnel safety. Training was conducted in Apply First Aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and oxygen provision as well as Automated External Defibrillation (AED). The annual update and servicing of First Aid kits, Oxygen and AED equipment enables the agency to respond to emergency situations.

Triggered by the swine flu outbreak, the development of the GBRMPA Pandemic Influenza Action Plan provided the GBRMPA with an essential platform to counter future pandemic situations.

Continued review of the Dive Manual and Dive Policy has been central to dive accident prevention. Induction of new divers to ensure they conform to strict regulations and logging procedures has continued. Increasing diver skills and qualifications has maintained compliance with emerging regulatory requirements.

The creation of an effective lockout system at Reef HQ Aquarium has ensured divers are free from the threat of serious injury caused by the Coral Reef Exhibit's circulation system. Perpetual servicing of dive equipment and plant continued, ensuring the high standards are maintained.

Other Occupational Health and Safety activities included:

- Providing induction training for supervisors on occupational health and safety to enable them to effectively undertake their duties
- Training in risk management processes for staff and supervisors
- Installing Occupational Health and Safety noticeboards
- Reviewing and upgrading workplace inspection and reporting systems
- Assessing workstation ergonomics by qualified occupational therapists
- Providing influenza injections for all staff
- Training for staff undertaking development of a Health and Safety Management Arrangement to comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991*
- Remote Area First Aid training for Field Officers
- Training and certification in specified plant use
- Purchasing equipment to improve diving safety
- Training dive supervisors, reviewing diver rescue skills, and running diver safety meetings.

Workplace diversity

Workplace diversity data for the GBRMPA's employees is provided in Appendix A.

The long-term objectives of the GBRMPA's Workplace Diversity Program are to ensure:

- Annual operating plans and longer term strategic plans acknowledge the diverse backgrounds of employees and incorporate the varied skills and experiences of its employees
- Workplace structures, systems and procedures continue to assist employees in balancing their work, family and other caring responsibilities
- Recruitment selection decisions are made taking into account the diversity of the Australian community, as well as organisational and business requirements and the skills required to perform the relevant duties

- Merit and equity in employment is promoted and upheld.

During 2008-09, a wide range of employment conditions were provided through the agency's Workplace Agreement that recognise and provide for a diverse workforce. These include:

- Flexible work hours and time off in lieu of overtime
- Maternity leave at half pay, parental leave, paternity leave, 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
- Provision to work outside of the GBRMPA
- Provision of a carer's room.

In addition, differing employee needs were also addressed by:

- Study leave and fee assistance
- Timely and comprehensive information on employment related activities through the use of the intranet and internal emails
- Provision of an Employee Assistance Program
- Support for employees with a disability through the provision of reasonable and necessary workplace adjustments.

Assets management

There are four significant components of the GBRMPA's asset management:

- Reef HQ Aquarium
- Commonwealth Islands
- Office fit-out
- Information Communication Technology.

During 2008-09 significant capital works were undertaken to ensure the ongoing operations of the Reef HQ Aquarium. An Infrastructure Assessment and Management Plan has been developed to assist future capital planning.

Capital works were undertaken on Low Isles and Lady Elliot Island to improve sustainable energy use.

The GBRMPA initiated preparation of an asset management plan for office fit-out, ICT and major equipment and systems purchases.

PURCHASING

Delegations

The *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and *Financial Management and Accountability Regulations 1997* confer powers and functions on chief executives that may be delegated. The Chief Executive has, in writing, delegated certain powers and functions to officials. The delegate does not have the power to sub-delegate, without a specific provision in legislation.

Chief Executive's Instructions

Chief Executive's Instructions are the primary mechanism for a Chief Executive to set out the processes to promote the proper use of Commonwealth resources, including public money and property by officials in his or her agency. The GBRMPA has updated its Chief Executive's Instructions to ensure alignment with recent changes to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and to facilitate compliance with Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTS

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on contracts for consultancies. Information on the value of contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website www.tenders.gov.au.

Consultancies

New consultancy services contracts were let during 2008-09 including research consultancies, consultancies for improvements in management practices, information management and more effective community engagement. Total expenditure for new consultancy services contracts was \$2.670million.

Thirty-four ongoing consultancy services contracts were active in the reporting year involving actual expenditure of \$858 291.

Field management of the Marine Park is implemented through the Field Management Program, the majority of which is carried out by Queensland Government agencies.

Details of consultancy services used by the GBRMPA in 2008-09 are listed in Appendix B.

Competitive tendering and contracting

In accordance with the GBRMPA's purchasing guidelines and depending on the estimated value of the tender, the selection and engagement of consultants may involve public tender, select tender, or where appropriate, direct engagement of a recognised and pre-eminent expert. Consultants are engaged when specialist expertise is not available within the GBRMPA or where an independent assessment is considered desirable.

Exempt contracts

During 2008-09 no contract was exempted by the CEO from publication in AusTender.

Access by Auditor-General

All contracts provided for the Auditor-General to have access to the contractor's premises.

PROVIDING ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The GBRMPA provides fair and equitable employment opportunities for all members of the community and has developed a disability action plan in line with the Australian Government Disability Strategy. Details are provided in Appendix C.



FINANCES



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

Scope

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2009, which comprise: a Statement by the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer; Income Statement; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies; Schedule of Administered Items and Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements, including a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

The Responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer for the Financial Statements

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards (which include the Australian Accounting Interpretations). This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected

depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Chief Executive Officer, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's 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 *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's financial position as at 30 June 2009 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Mark A. Moloney
Senior Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
29 September 2009

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER)

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2009 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, as amended.



Russel Reichelt
Chief Executive Officer

17 September 2009



John Barrett
Chief Financial Officer

17 September 2009

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
INCOME STATEMENT

for the period ended 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME			
Revenue			
Revenue from Government	3A	28,498,453	29,444,177
Sale of goods and rendering of services	3B	2,644,220	2,463,599
Project revenues	3D	4,542,033	5,449,687
Other	3E	470,584	611,578
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	6(b)	8,438,000	8,292,000
Total revenue		<u>44,593,290</u>	<u>46,261,041</u>
Gains			
Sale of assets	3F	-	4,313
Other	3G	48,000	48,000
Total gains		<u>48,000</u>	<u>52,313</u>
Total Income		<u>44,641,290</u>	<u>46,313,354</u>
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	4A	18,562,401	17,467,499
Suppliers	4B	12,499,533	14,066,437
Depreciation and amortisation	4C	1,410,495	1,513,877
Write-down and impairment of assets	4D	12,579	8,045
Cost of goods sold	3C	188,168	200,720
Grants	5	37,720	16,041
Losses from asset sales	3F	30,906	-
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	6(c)	12,305,880	13,031,376
Total Expenses		<u>45,047,682</u>	<u>46,303,995</u>
Operating result before income tax		<u>(406,392)</u>	<u>9,359</u>
Surplus (Deficit)		<u>(406,392)</u>	<u>9,359</u>
Surplus (Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government		<u>(406,392)</u>	<u>9,359</u>

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
BALANCE SHEET
as at 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7A	438,795	950,206
Trade and other receivables	7B	8,949,410	9,912,223
<i>Total financial assets</i>		<u>9,388,205</u>	<u>10,862,429</u>
Non-Financial Assets			
Land, buildings and leasehold improvements	8A, D	14,717,870	14,742,944
Plant and equipment	8B, D	2,869,931	3,142,580
Intangibles	8C, D	1,705,175	1,131,904
Inventories	8E	141,528	154,588
Other non-financial assets	8F	197,422	166,792
<i>Total non-financial assets</i>		<u>19,631,926</u>	<u>19,338,808</u>
Total Assets		<u>29,020,131</u>	<u>30,201,237</u>
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	9A	853,466	985,566
Other payables	9B	1,751,382	2,858,441
<i>Total payables</i>		<u>2,604,848</u>	<u>3,844,007</u>
Provisions			
Employee provisions	10A	4,331,733	3,912,288
Other provisions	10B	90,000	90,000
<i>Total provisions</i>		<u>4,421,733</u>	<u>4,002,288</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>7,026,581</u>	<u>7,846,295</u>
Net Assets		<u>21,993,550</u>	<u>22,354,942</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		14,329,047	14,284,047
Reserves		9,948,814	9,948,814
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)		(2,284,311)	(1,877,919)
Total Equity		<u>21,993,550</u>	<u>22,354,942</u>
Current Assets		9,727,155	11,183,809
Non-current Assets		19,292,976	19,017,428
Current Liabilities		6,101,055	7,130,015
Non-current Liabilities		925,526	716,280

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the period ended 30 June 2009

	Retained Earnings		Asset Revaluation Reserve		Special Purpose Reserves		Other Reserves		Contributed Equity/Capital		Total Equity	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening Balance	(1,877,919)	(1,887,278)	9,948,814	11,508,344	200,000	200,000	8,376,043	8,376,043	5,708,004	4,563,004	22,354,942	22,760,113
Balance carried forward from previous period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustment for errors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustment for changes in Accounting policies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjusted Opening Balance	(1,877,919)	(1,887,278)	9,948,814	11,508,344	200,000	200,000	8,376,043	8,376,043	5,708,004	4,563,004	22,354,942	22,760,113
Income and Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation adjustment	-	-	-	(134,502)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(134,502)
Subtotal income and expenses recognised directly in equity	-	-	-	(134,502)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(134,502)
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	(406,392)	9,359	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(406,392)	9,359
Total income and expenses of which:	(406,392)	9,359	-	(134,502)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(406,392)	(125,143)
attributable to the Australian Government	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with Owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions by Owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appropriation (equity injection) refer Note 1.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,000	1,145,000	45,000	1,145,000
Restructuring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Transactions with Owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,000	1,145,000	45,000	1,145,000
Transfer of lighthouse properties to Administered Assets	-	-	-	(1,425,028)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,425,028)
Closing balance at 30 June	(2,284,311)	(1,877,919)	9,948,814	9,948,814	200,000	200,000	8,376,043	8,376,043	5,753,004	5,708,004	21,993,550	22,354,942
Closing Balance attributable to Australian Government	(2,284,311)	(1,877,919)	9,948,814	9,948,814	200,000	200,000	8,376,043	8,376,043	5,753,004	5,708,004	21,993,550	22,354,942

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the period ended 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations		29,101,906	30,974,177
Permit assessment fees		259,687	351,186
Reef HQ admission fees		1,488,531	1,360,981
Net GST received		864,852	962,137
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management		8,438,000	8,292,000
Other receipts		5,946,034	5,539,974
Total cash received		<u>46,099,010</u>	<u>47,480,455</u>
Cash used			
Grants		37,720	16,041
Employees		18,887,915	17,611,507
Suppliers		12,908,134	14,510,242
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management		12,305,880	13,031,376
Funds returned to Official Public Account		798,823	-
Environmental management charge payments to Commonwealth		-	-
Total cash used		<u>44,938,472</u>	<u>45,169,166</u>
Net cash from operating activities	11	<u>1,160,538</u>	<u>2,311,289</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		26,000	35,699
Investments		-	-
Total cash received		<u>26,000</u>	<u>35,699</u>
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		1,742,949	2,429,683
Net cash from investing activities		<u>(1,716,949)</u>	<u>(2,393,984)</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriation - Contributed Equity		45,000	1,145,000
Net cash from financing activities		<u>45,000</u>	<u>1,145,000</u>
Net increase or (decrease) in cash held		(511,411)	1,062,305
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		950,206	(112,099)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	7A	<u>438,795</u>	<u>950,206</u>

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 2009

BY TYPE	2009 \$	2008 \$
Capital Commitments		
Plant and equipment ¹	452,368	95,449
<i>Total capital commitments</i>	<u>452,368</u>	<u>95,449</u>
Other commitments		
Operating leases ²	2,343,385	1,118,458
Other commitments ³	1,678,686	2,026,957
<i>Total other commitments</i>	<u>4,022,071</u>	<u>3,145,415</u>
Commitments receivable		
GST Recoverable on Commitments	(406,767)	(294,624)
Net commitments by Type	<u>4,067,672</u>	<u>2,946,240</u>
BY MATURITY		
Commitments payable		
Capital commitments		
One year or less	452,368	95,449
<i>Total capital commitments</i>	<u>452,368</u>	<u>95,449</u>
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	1,097,423	591,401
From one to five years	1,245,962	527,057
<i>Total operating lease commitments</i>	<u>2,343,385</u>	<u>1,118,458</u>
Other commitments		
One year or less	1,478,546	2,026,957
From one to five years	200,140	-
<i>Total other commitments</i>	<u>1,678,686</u>	<u>2,026,957</u>
Commitments receivable		
One year or less	(406,767)	(294,624)
<i>Total commitments receivable</i>	<u>(406,767)</u>	<u>(294,624)</u>
Net commitments by Maturity	<u>4,067,672</u>	<u>2,946,240</u>

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
 as at 30 June 2009

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 were subject to current open market rent review in 2008-09
	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

3. As at 30 June 2009, other commitments comprise amounts to be paid under contracts for consultancy services and purchase orders for other services and supplies.

In addition, the GBRMPA 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 2009*

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Contingent liabilities		
Claims for damages/costs	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED ITEMS

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
Income administered on behalf of Government <i>for the period ended 30 June 2009</i>	17A		
Revenue			
Rent from lighthouse properties		268,717	283,050
Infringement notices		25,570	47,740
Environmental management charge		7,478,453	9,527,177
Total revenues administered on behalf of Government		<u>7,772,740</u>	<u>9,857,967</u>
Total income administered on behalf of Government		<u>7,772,740</u>	<u>9,857,967</u>
Expenses administered on behalf of Government <i>for the period ended 30 June 2009</i>	17B		
Suppliers		799,590	699,500
Total expenses administered on behalf of Government		<u>799,590</u>	<u>699,500</u>
Operating result before income tax		<u>6,973,150</u>	<u>9,158,467</u>

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Assets and liabilities administered on behalf of Government
as at 30 June 2009

Financial assets	17C		
Cash and cash equivalents		113,928	174,190
Receivables: Environmental management charge		1,505,085	1,500,000
Non-Financial assets			
Lighthouse properties		10,750,000	3,504,322
Total assets administered on behalf of Government		<u>12,369,013</u>	<u>5,178,512</u>
Liabilities administered on behalf of Government	17D		
Suppliers		113,518	-
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government		<u>113,518</u>	<u>-</u>

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Administered cash flows
*for the period ended 30 June 2009***OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Cash received			
Rent from lighthouse properties		268,717	283,050
Infringement notices		25,570	47,740
Environmental management charge		7,478,453	8,030,432
Total cash received		<u>7,772,740</u>	<u>8,361,222</u>
Cash used			
Suppliers		686,570	699,500
Environmental management charge refunds		4,587	3,255
Total cash used		<u>691,157</u>	<u>702,755</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		<u>7,081,583</u>	<u>7,658,467</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		<u>7,081,583</u>	<u>7,658,467</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		174,190	-
Cash from Official Public Account for:			
- Appropriations		804,587	703,255
		<u>804,587</u>	<u>703,255</u>
Cash to Official Public Account for:			
- Appropriations		7,652,145	7,856,742
- Other		294,287	330,790
		<u>7,946,432</u>	<u>8,187,532</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	17C	<u>113,928</u>	<u>174,190</u>

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Administered commitments and contingencies

There were no administered commitments or contingencies as at 30 June 2009, (2008: Nil).

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2009

Note	Description
1	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
2	Events after the Balance Sheet Date
3	Income
4	Expenses
5	Grants
6	Day-to-day Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
7	Financial Assets
8	Non-Financial Assets
9	Payables
10	Provisions
11	Cash Flow Reconciliation
12	Executive Remuneration
13	Remuneration of Auditors
14	Financial Instruments
15	Appropriations
16	Reporting of Outcomes
17	Notes to the Schedule of Administered Items
18	Special Accounts

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ended 30 June 2009

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Objectives of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMMPA) is established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. Following the Government's response to the *Review of Corporate Governance of Statutory Authorities and Office Holders* (Uhrig 2003), GBRMMPA's status as a statutory agency under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* was revoked and re-established as a 'prescribed agency' under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*. The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Bill 2007* which amended the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* was passed by Parliament in June 2007, received Royal Assent on 28 June 2007 and the change came into effect from 1 July 2007.

The goal of the GBRMMPA is to provide for the long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The GBRMMPA is structured to meet the outcome:

- Protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

GBRMMPA activities contributing toward this outcome are classified as either departmental or administered. Departmental activities involve the use of assets, liabilities, income and expenses controlled or incurred by the GBRMMPA in its own right. Administered activities involve the management or oversight by the GBRMMPA, on behalf of the Government, of items controlled or incurred by the Government.

The continued existence of the GBRMMPA in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the GBRMMPA's administration and programs.

1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements and notes are required by section 49 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and are a general purpose financial report.

The Financial Statements and notes have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (or FMO) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2008; and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

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The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and values are in whole dollars unless otherwise specified.

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FMO, assets and liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity or a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under Agreements Equally Proportionately Unperformed are 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.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the income statement when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

Administered revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities and cash flows reported in the schedule of administered items and related notes are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, except where otherwise stated at Note 1.20.

Administered property, plant and equipment include lighthouse properties valued at fair value.

1.3 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

No accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

1.4 Changes in Australian Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard.

The following new standards/ revised standards/ amending standards were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the chief executive and chief financial officer, were applicable to the current reporting period and had a financial impact on the entity:

AASB 2007-9 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Review of AASs 27, 29 and 31* relocated a number of paragraphs from AASs 27, 29 and 31 substantively unamended into the following existing standards AASB 3, 5, 8, 101, 114, 116, 127 and 137.

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AASB 1004 *Contributions* also received a number of substantively unamended paragraphs from AASs 27, 29 and 31 following their withdrawal.

AASB 1050 *Administered items* and AASB 1052 *Disaggregated Disclosures* were created and received a number of substantively unamended paragraphs from AASs 27 and 29. It is not expected that the relocation of AASs 27, 29 and 31 will have a material financial impact but may affect the disclosure presented in future financial reports.

AASB 1051 *Land Under Roads* was created and takes over from AASs 27, 29 and 31 in respect of land under roads. The new standard allows entities to recognise or not to recognise as an asset land under roads acquired before the end of the first reporting period ending on or after 31 December 2007. The GBRMPA elects not to recognise. The standard also clarifies that the principles in other Standards (including AASB 116 *Property, Plant and Equipment*) apply to land under roads, except to the extent that AASB 1051 requires or permits otherwise, including the requirement that land under roads acquired after the end of the first reporting period ending on or after 31 December 2007 is accounted for in accordance with AASB 116. It is not practicable to determine the financial impact this will have.

AASB 123: *Borrowing Costs* and AASB 2007-6: *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123 (AASB 1, AASB 101, AASB 107, AASB 111, AASB 116 and AASB 138 and Interpretations 1 and 12 applicable for annual reporting periods commencing from 1 January 2009)* The revised AASB 123 has removed the option to expense all borrowings costs and will therefore require the capitalisation of all borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset.

It is not expected that any changes will have a material effect on future financial statements.

AASB 2008-5: *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project (July 2008)* and AASB 2008-6: *Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project (July 2008)* detail numerous non-urgent but necessary changes to accounting standards arising from the IASB's annual improvement project. No changes are expected to materially affect the Authority.

Other new standards/revised standards/amending standards that were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the chief executive and chief financial officer and are applicable to the current reporting period did not have a financial impact, and are not expected to have a future financial impact on the entity.

Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

The following new standards/revised standards/amending standards were issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board prior to the signing of the statement by chief executive and chief financial officer, which are expected to have a financial impact on the entity for future reporting periods.

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AASB 3: Business Combinations, AASB 127: Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements, AASB 2008-3: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 3 and AASB 127 (AASB Standards, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 101, 107, 112, 114, 116, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138 and 139 and Interpretations 9 and 107) (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing from 1 July 2009) and AASB 2008-7: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Cost of an Investment in a Subsidiary, Jointly Controlled Entity or Associate (AASB 1, AASB 118, AASB 121, AASB 127 and AASB 136) (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing from 1 January 2009). These Standards are applicable prospectively and so will only affect relevant transactions and consolidations occurring from the date of application. Neither of these Standards are currently applicable to the GBRMPA.

AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 2007-8: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101, and AASB 2007-10: Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101 (all applicable to annual reporting periods commencing from 1 January 2009). The revised AASB 101 and amendments supersede the previous AASB 101 and redefine the composition of financial statements including the inclusion of a statement of comprehensive income. There will be no measurement or recognition impact on the GBRMPA.

Other new standards/revised standards/amending standards that were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the chief executive and chief financial officer and are applicable to the future reporting period are not expected to have a future financial impact on the entity.

1.5 Revenue

Revenue from Government

Amounts appropriated for departmental output appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as revenue when GBRMPA gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned.

Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

The GBRMPA, as agent for the Commonwealth, collects an environmental management charge (EMC) from tourist operators. Amounts collected are paid into the Official Public Account (OPA). The GBRMPA receives an equivalent amount via a special appropriation for its operations. Special appropriation is recognised when the GBRMPA has the right to receive the revenue and it can be reliably measured. This is deemed to occur when monies are received by the GBRMPA from tourist operators. Refer to note 3A.

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Other Types of Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- The risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- The seller retains no managerial involvement nor effective control over the goods;
- The revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- It is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the GBRMPA.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be measured
- the probable economic benefits with the transaction will flow to the GBRMPA.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government agency or authority as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements (Refer to Note 1.7).

Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

1.6 Gains

Sale of Assets

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

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1.7 Transactions with the Government as Owner

Equity injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

Restructuring of Administrative Arrangements

Net assets received from or relinquished to another Australian Government agency or authority under a restructuring of administrative arrangements are adjusted at their book value directly against contributed equity.

Other Distributions to Owners

The FMOs require that distributions to owners be debited to contributed equity unless in the nature of a dividend.

1.8 Employee Benefits

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

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 Employee Benefits) and termination benefits due within twelve months are 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 at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Leave

The liability for employee 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 GBRMPA is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration, at the estimated salary rates that applied at the time the leave is taken, including the GBRMPA'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 has been determined by reference to the work of an actuary as at 30 June 2009. 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 GBRMPA recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

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Superannuation

Staff of the GBRMPA are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported by the Department of Finance and Deregulation as an administered item.

The GBRMPA makes employer contributions to the employee superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government of the superannuation entitlements of the GBRMPA's employees. The GBRMPA accounts for contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

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

1.9 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 rewards incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

The GBRMPA has no finance leases.

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

1.10 Cash

Cash and cash equivalents includes notes and coins held and any deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

1.11 Financial Assets

The GBRMPA classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- 'loans and receivables'.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

Effective interest method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

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Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis except for financial assets that are recognised at fair value through profit or loss.

Loans and receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. They are included in current assets, except for maturities greater than 12 months after the balance sheet date. These are classified as non current assets. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at each balance date.

- *Financial assets held at amortised cost* - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the income statement.

1.12 Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities.

Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs.

Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

1.13 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but are reported in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset, or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

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1.14 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. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and incomes 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 agency's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.15 Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Balance Sheet, 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).

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. This is particularly relevant to 'make good' provisions in property leases taken up by the GBRMPA where there exists an obligation to restore the property to its original condition. These costs are included in the value of the GBRMPA's leasehold improvements with a corresponding provision for the 'make good' recognised.

Reef HQ

The Reef HQ building was funded as a Commonwealth-State Bicentennial project, through the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Association Incorporated (the Association) on land leased from the Townsville Port Authority. Following the winding up of the Association in September 2001 the lease arrangement for the land is now between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Townsville Port Authority.

Revaluations

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

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

Following initial recognition at cost, property plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amount of assets do not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

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Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised through operating result. Revaluations decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly through operating result except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset restated to the revalued amount.

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the GBRMPA using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

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

	2009	2008
Buildings	50 years	50 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and equipment	1 to 20 years	1 to 20 years

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2009. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the GBRMPA were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

1.16 Intangibles

The GBRMPA's intangibles comprise purchased software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses, 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 GBRMPA's software is 3 to 8 years (2007-08: 3 to 8 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2009.

1.17 Inventories

Inventories held for sale are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

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1.18 Taxation

The GBRMPA is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) 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.

1.19 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 GBRMPA, payments to the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency for day-to-day management are fully expensed in the year of payment (refer to note 6 for details of the day-to-day management items).

1.20 Reporting of Administered Items

Administered revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and cash flows are disclosed in the schedule of administered items and related notes.

Except where otherwise stated below, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

Administered Cash Transfers to and from the Official Public Account

Revenue collected by the GBRMPA for use by the Government rather than the GBRMPA is Administered Revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account maintained by the Department of Finance and Deregulation. Conversely, cash is drawn from the OPA to make payments under Parliamentary appropriation on behalf of Government. These transfers to and from the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by the GBRMPA on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the statement of cash flows in the schedule of administered items and in the administered reconciliation Table in Note 17. The schedule of administered items largely reflects the Government's transactions, through the GBRMPA, with parties outside the Government.

Revenue

All administered revenues are revenues relating to the course of ordinary activities performed by the GBRMPA on behalf of the Australian Government.

The GBRMPA, as agent for the Commonwealth, collects an environmental management charge (EMC) from tourist operators. Amounts collected are paid into the OPA. The GBRMPA receives an equivalent amount via a special appropriation for its operations. Special appropriation is recognised when the GBRMPA has the right to receive the revenue and it can be reliably measured. This is deemed to occur when monies are received by the GBRMPA from tourist operators. Refer to note 3A.

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Revenue is also generated from rent that is charged under leases associated with a number of lighthouse properties. Administered rent revenue is recognised when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured and the transaction has been completed and recorded.

Expenses

All administered expenses are expenses relating to the course of ordinary activities performed by the GBRMPA on behalf of the Australian Government.

Administered expenses are payments for work commissioned by the GBRMPA to understand better the possible impacts of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef and to develop effective ways to help adapt to these impacts, in line with the National Adaptation Framework endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments.

Loans and receivables

Administered receivables include amounts due to be collected from tourist operators in relation to the Environmental Management Charge.

Property, plant and equipment

Administered property, plant and equipment include lighthouse properties valued at fair value. On 30 June 2009, an independent valuer K Adams (AAPF) conducted the valuation.

2 Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Principles which were agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Emerald Agreement of 1979 and the Basis of Agreement of 1980 relating to the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park were reviewed in the 2008-09 financial year. The new agreement was signed in June 2009. There is no impact upon the 2008-09 financial statements.

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	2009	2008
	\$	\$
3 Income		
<i>Revenue</i>		
3A Revenue from Government		
Appropriations:		
Departmental outputs	12,587,000	12,164,000
Departmental special appropriation	7,478,453	8,027,177
Commonwealth contribution to day-to-day management: refer Note 6 (b)	8,433,000	9,253,000
<i>Total revenue from Government</i>	<u>28,498,453</u>	<u>29,444,177</u>
3B Reef HQ Revenue		
Admission fees - external entities	1,488,531	1,360,981
Donations and sponsorship - external entities	42,268	5,256
Membership program - external entities	-	1,364
Shop sales - external entities	391,673	432,516
Other revenue - external entities	721,748	663,482
<i>Total Reef HQ Revenue</i>	<u>2,644,220</u>	<u>2,463,599</u>
3C Reef HQ shop trading results		
Shop sales	391,673	432,516
Less: Cost of goods sold		
Opening stock	145,786	80,101
Plus: Purchases	181,919	266,405
Less: Closing stock	(139,537)	(145,786)
Cost of goods sold	<u>188,168</u>	<u>200,720</u>
Gross profit from trading	<u>203,505</u>	<u>231,796</u>
3D Project Revenue		
Project revenue from related entities	3,626,250	5,366,875
Project revenue from external entities	915,783	82,812
<i>Total project revenue</i>	<u>4,542,033</u>	<u>5,449,687</u>

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	2009	2008
	\$	\$
3E Other Revenue		
Other revenue - from external entities		
- Sale of the GBRMPA's education and information material	2,576	7,316
- Permit assessment fees	259,687	351,186
- Cost recovery	196,198	125,237
- Other	12,123	127,839
<i>Total other revenue</i>	<u>470,584</u>	<u>611,578</u>
3F Sale of Assets		
Plant and equipment:		
Proceeds from disposal	26,000	35,699
Value of assets sold	(56,906)	(31,386)
<i>Carrying Net gain / (loss) from sale of assets</i>	<u>(30,906)</u>	<u>4,313</u>
3G Other Gains		
Resources received free of charge	48,000	48,000
<i>Total other gains</i>	<u>48,000</u>	<u>48,000</u>

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	2009	2008
	\$	\$
4 Expenses		
4A Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	14,410,836	13,337,213
Superannuation		
Defined Contribution Plans		
Defined Benefit Plans	2,070,288	1,850,088
Other	204,158	274,964
Leave and other entitlements	1,786,208	1,701,236
Separation and redundancy	-	197,849
Other employee benefits	90,911	106,149
<i>Total employee benefits</i>	<u>18,562,401</u>	<u>17,467,499</u>
4B Suppliers		
Provision of goods - external entities	1,492,465	1,713,860
Rendering of services - related entities	963,775	1,765,833
Rendering of services - external entities	9,029,117	9,660,044
Operating lease rentals:		
Minimum lease payments	956,821	863,354
Workers compensation premiums	57,355	63,346
<i>Total supplier expenses</i>	<u>12,499,533</u>	<u>14,066,437</u>
4C Depreciation and Amortisation		
Depreciation:		
Buildings and leasehold improvements	762,593	916,652
Plant and equipment	562,803	504,075
<i>Total depreciation</i>	<u>1,325,396</u>	<u>1,420,727</u>
Amortisation:		
Intangibles:		
Computer software	85,099	93,150
<i>Total amortisation</i>	<u>85,099</u>	<u>93,150</u>
<i>Total depreciation and amortisation</i>	<u>1,410,495</u>	<u>1,513,877</u>

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	2009	2008
	\$	\$
4D Write-down and Impairment of Assets		
Asset write-downs and impairments from:		
Impairment of non-financial assets	-	8,045
Other	12,579	-
<i>Total write-down and impairment of assets</i>	<u>12,579</u>	<u>8,045</u>
5 Grants		
Augmentative research grants	21,082	9,091
Other grants	16,638	6,950
<i>Total grants</i>	<u>37,720</u>	<u>16,041</u>

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6 Day-to-Day Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

- (a) Principles agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Emerald Agreement of 1979 and the Basis of Agreement of 1980 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 GBRMPA 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;
 - 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 GBRMPA 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:

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Queensland Government contribution		
Refer Note 6(c) below	8,438,000	8,292,000
Commonwealth Government appropriation		
Recurrent and post-initial capital programs		
Refer: Note 3 (a)	8,433,000	9,253,000
Other revenue from permit assessment fees.	70,638	92,488
	<u>16,941,638</u>	<u>17,637,488</u>

- (c) Payments to the Queensland Government for day-to-day management for 2008-09 totalled \$12,305,880 (2007-08 \$13,031,376).
- (d) The balance of the funds available are used by the GBRMPA for the operations of the Day-to-day Management Co-ordination Unit, and for compliance and enforcement operations.

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	2009	2008
7 Financial Assets	\$	\$
7A Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Day-to-day management account	279	430
Cash on hand	48,645	29,978
GBRMPA operations accounts	389,871	919,798
<i>Total cash and cash equivalents</i>	<u>438,795</u>	<u>950,206</u>
7B Trade and Other Receivables		
Goods and services - external entities	102,145	84,769
Goods and services - related entities	689,905	1,827,722
Appropriations Receivable for Existing Outputs	7,987,809	7,830,224
Other receivables	29,722	35,026
	<u>8,809,581</u>	<u>9,777,741</u>
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	140,729	135,382
<i>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</i>	<u>8,950,310</u>	<u>9,913,123</u>
Less Allowance for Impairment		
Goods and Services	(900)	(900)
<i>Total trade and other receivables (net)</i>	<u>8,949,410</u>	<u>9,912,223</u>
Receivables are aged as follows		
Not overdue	8,868,860	9,743,945
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	-	-
30 to 60 days	29,573	141,205
61 to 90 days	4,554	7,316
more than 90 days	47,323	20,657
<i>Total receivables (gross)</i>	<u>8,950,310</u>	<u>9,913,123</u>

All receivables are current assets.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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	2009	2008
	\$	\$
The Impairment allowance account is aged as follows:		
Not overdue	-	-
Overdue by:		
30 to 60 days	-	-
61 to 90 days	-	-
more than 90 days	900	900
<i>Total Impairment allowance account</i>	<u>900</u>	<u>900</u>

8 Non-Financial Assets

8A Land, buildings and leasehold improvements

Land and buildings		
- at fair value	23,894,441	23,245,220
- accumulated depreciation	<u>(9,475,637)</u>	<u>(8,946,641)</u>
<i>Total land and buildings</i>	<u>14,418,804</u>	<u>14,298,579</u>
Leasehold improvements		
- at fair value	2,472,983	2,388,685
- accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,173,917)</u>	<u>(1,944,320)</u>
<i>Total leasehold improvements</i>	<u>299,066</u>	<u>444,365</u>
Lighthouse properties		
- at fair value	-	-
<i>Total land, buildings and leasehold improvements</i>	<u>14,717,870</u>	<u>14,742,944</u>

All valuations have been made by members at fair value with independent advice sought for some items. All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1.

No indications of impairment were found for land, buildings and leasehold improvements.

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Movements in Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Increment for leasehold improvements	-	-
Increment for plant and equipment	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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	2009	2008
	\$	\$
8B Plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment		
- at fair value	6,711,987	6,449,939
- accumulated depreciation	(3,842,056)	(3,307,359)
<i>Total plant and equipment</i>	<u>2,869,931</u>	<u>3,142,580</u>

All valuations have been made by members at fair value with independent advice sought for some items. All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1.

No indications of impairment were found for plant and equipment.

8C Intangibles		
Software purchased	2,523,054	1,864,684
- accumulated amortisation	(817,879)	(732,780)
<i>Total intangibles</i>	<u>1,705,175</u>	<u>1,131,904</u>

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8D. Analysis of Property, Plant, Equipment and Intangibles

TABLE A — Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2008-09)

	Land and Buildings	Leasehold Improvements	Total Land, Buildings and Leasehold Improvements	Plant and Equipment	Computer Software	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
As at 1 July 2008						
Gross book value	23,245,220	2,388,685	25,633,905	6,449,939	1,864,684	33,948,528
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation and impairment	(8,946,641)	(1,944,320)	(10,890,961)	(3,307,359)	(732,780)	(14,931,100)
Net book value 1 July 2008	14,298,579	444,365	14,742,944	3,142,580	1,131,904	19,017,428
Additions:						
By purchase	653,221	84,298	737,519	347,060	658,370	1,742,949
from recognition of 'make good' provision	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations and impairment through equity	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation/ amortisation expense	(532,996)	(229,597)	(762,593)	(562,803)	(85,099)	(1,410,495)
Other disposals	-	-	-	(56,906)	-	(56,906)
Net book value 30 June 2009	14,418,804	299,066	14,717,870	2,869,931	1,705,175	19,292,977
Net book value as of 30 June 2009 represented by:						
Gross book value	23,894,441	2,472,983	26,367,424	6,711,987	2,523,054	35,602,464
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation and impairment	(9,475,637)	(2,173,917)	(11,653,554)	(3,842,056)	(817,879)	(16,309,489)
	14,418,804	299,066	14,717,870	2,869,931	1,705,175	19,292,976

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8D Analysis of Property, Plant, Equipment and Intangibles (cont)

TABLE A — Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2007-08)

	Land and Buildings \$	Leasehold Improvements \$	Lighthouse Properties \$	Total Land, Buildings and Leasehold Improvements \$	Plant and Equipment \$	Computer Software \$	Total \$
As at 1 July 2007	22,754,981	1,931,894	1,559,530	26,246,405	5,589,911	1,341,828	33,178,144
Gross book value							
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation and impairment	(8,491,383)	(1,563,155)	-	(10,054,538)	(2,906,882)	(639,630)	(13,601,050)
Net book value 1 July 2007	14,263,598	368,739	1,559,530	16,191,867	2,683,029	702,198	19,577,094
Additions:							
By purchase	578,425	456,791	-	1,035,216	995,099	522,856	2,553,171
Revaluations and impairment through equity	-	-	(134,502)	(134,502)	-	-	(134,502)
Depreciation/ amortisation expense	(535,487)	(381,165)	-	(916,652)	(504,075)	(93,150)	(1,513,877)
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other movements: Transfer lighthouse properties to Administered Disposals:	-	-	(1,425,028)	(1,425,028)	-	-	(1,425,028)
Other disposals	(7,957)	-	-	(7,957)	(31,473)	-	(39,430)
Net book value 30 June 2008	14,298,579	444,365	-	14,742,944	3,142,580	1,131,904	19,017,428
Net book value as of 30 June 2008 represented by:							
Gross book value	23,245,220	2,388,685	-	25,633,905	6,449,939	1,864,684	33,948,528
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation and impairment	(8,946,641)	(1,944,320)	-	(10,890,961)	(3,307,359)	(732,780)	(14,931,100)
	14,298,579	444,365	-	14,742,944	3,142,580	1,131,904	19,017,428

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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	2009	2008
	\$	\$
8E Inventories		
Inventories held for sale	141,528	154,588
<i>Total inventories (current)</i>	<u>141,528</u>	<u>154,588</u>

Inventories held for sale are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

8F Other non-financial assets		
Prepayments	197,422	166,792
<i>Total other non-financial assets</i>	<u>197,422</u>	<u>166,792</u>

All other non-financial assets are current assets.

No indications of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

9 Payables

9A Suppliers

Trade Creditors	853,466	985,566
<i>Total supplier payables</i>	<u>853,466</u>	<u>985,566</u>

All supplier payables are current liabilities.

Settlement is usually made net 28 days.

9B Other payables

Salaries and wages	248,458	184,557
Superannuation	37,327	26,526
Separations and redundancies	39,729	-
Revenue received in advance	682,542	1,770,873
Amounts owed to Commonwealth	5,085	172,823
Cash Bonds lodged by permit holders	656,062	636,062
Other	82,179	67,600
<i>Total other payables</i>	<u>1,751,382</u>	<u>2,858,441</u>

All other payables are current liabilities.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ending 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
10 Provisions		
10A Employee provisions		
Long service leave	2,420,338	2,159,151
Annual leave	1,881,823	1,725,618
Other	29,572	27,519
<i>Total employee provisions</i>	<u>4,331,733</u>	<u>3,912,288</u>
Current	3,496,207	3,286,008
Non-Current	835,526	626,280
<i>Total employee provisions</i>	<u>4,331,733</u>	<u>3,912,288</u>

The classification of current includes amounts for which there is not an unconditional right to defer settlement by one year, hence in the case of employee provisions the above classification does not represent the amount expected to be settled within one year of reporting date. Employee provisions expected to be settled in one year: 2009 \$1,975,527 (2008: \$1,859,259), in excess of one year: \$2,356,206 (2008: \$2,053,029).

10B Other provisions

Provision for 'Make Good'	90,000	90,000
<i>Total other provisions</i>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>
All other provisions are non-current liabilities.		
Carrying amount 1 July 2008	90,000	
Additional provisions made	-	
Amounts used	-	
Amounts reversed	-	
Closing balance 30 June 2009	<u>90,000</u>	

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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11 Cash Flow Reconciliation	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement		
Report cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash Flow Statement	438,795	950,206
Balance Sheet	<u>438,795</u>	<u>950,206</u>
Difference	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Reconciliation of operating result to net cash from operating activities:		
Operating result	(406,392)	9,359
Depreciation and amortisation	1,410,495	1,513,877
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of assets	30,906	(4,313)
Net Write down of non-financial assets	-	8,045
(Increase) / decrease in receivables	962,813	1,679,007
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	13,061	(70,680)
(Increase) / decrease in other assets	(30,630)	(614)
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	419,445	318,435
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	(132,101)	234,131
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	<u>(1,107,059)</u>	<u>(1,375,958)</u>
<i>Net cash from operating activities</i>	<u>1,160,538</u>	<u>2,311,289</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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12 Executive Remuneration

The number of executives who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$130,000 or more:

	2009	2008
\$130,000 - \$144,999	1	2
\$145,000 - \$159,999	1	2
\$160,000 - \$174,999	2	-
\$220,000- \$234,999	1	1
\$415,000 - \$429,999	-	1
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

During the financial year ended 30 June 2009, a restructure of the GBRMPA was implemented. The numbers of executives for 2009 in the table reflect the new executive management structure.

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of executives shown above:	\$ 868,653	\$1,234,642
The aggregate amount of separation and redundancy/termination benefit payments during the year to executives shown above:	\$ -	197,849

13 Remuneration of Auditors

Financial statement audit services are provided free of charge to GBRMPA.

The fair value of the services was: \$ 48,000 \$ 48,000

No other services were provided by the Auditor-General.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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14 Financial Instruments

14A Categories of Financial Instruments	2009	2008
Financial Assets	\$	\$
Loans and receivables		
Cash and cash equivalents	438,795	950,206
Receivables for goods & services (gross)	792,050	1,912,491
Other receivables	29,722	35,026
Carrying amount of financial assets	<u>1,260,567</u>	<u>2,897,723</u>
 Financial Liabilities		
Other Liabilities		
Trade creditors	853,466	985,566
Other payables	743,326	876,485
Carrying amount of financial liabilities	<u>1,596,792</u>	<u>1,862,051</u>

14B Credit risk

GBRMMPA is exposed to minimal credit risk as loans and receivables are cash and trade receivables. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the risk that arises from potential default of a debtor. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade receivables (2009: \$821,770 and 2008: \$1,947,517). GBRMMPA has assessed the risk of the default on payment and has allocated \$900 in 2009 (2008: \$900) to an allowance for doubtful debts account.

GBRMMPA manages its credit risk by limiting the extension of credit to customers, acting promptly to recover past due amounts and withholding credit from defaulting customers until accounts are returned to normal terms. In addition, GBRMMPA has policies and procedures that guide employees debt recovery activities including the use of debt collection agents if required.

GBRMMPA has no significant exposures to any concentrations of credit risk with particular customers and does therefore not require collateral to mitigate against credit risks.

Credit quality of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired

	Not Past Due Nor Impaired	Not Past Due Nor	Past due or impaired	Past due or impaired
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loans and receivables				
Cash and cash	438,795	950,206	-	-
Trade receivables	740,322	1,778,339	81,450	169,178
Total	1,179,117	2,728,545	81,450	169,178

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2009

	0 to 30 days	31 to 60 days	61 to 90 days	90+ days	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loans and receivables					
Trade receivables	-	29,573	4,554	47,323	81,450
Total	-	29,573	4,554	47,323	81,450

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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14 Financial Instruments continued

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2008

	0 to 30 days	31 to 60 days	61 to 90 days	90+ days	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loans and receivables					
Trade receivables	-	141,205	7,316	20,657	169,178
Total	-	141,205	7,316	20,657	169,178

14C Market risk

GBRMPA holds basic financial instruments that do not expose it to certain market risks. GBRMPA is not exposed to 'Currency risk', 'Interest rate risk' or 'Other price risk'.

14D Liquidity risk

The GBRMPA's financial liabilities are payables and other non-interest bearing liabilities. The exposure to liquidity risk is based on the notion that GBRMPA will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This is highly unlikely as the GBRMPA is appropriated funding from the Australian Government and GBRMPA manages its budgeted funds to ensure that it has adequate funds to meet payments as they fall due. In addition, GBRMPA has policies in place to ensure timely payments are made when due and has no past experience of default.

Maturities for financial liabilities 2009

	On demand	within 1 year	Total
	2009	2009	2009
	\$	\$	\$
Other liabilities			
Trade creditors	-	853,466	853,466
Other payables	-	743,326	743,326
Overdraft	-	-	-
Total	-	1,596,792	1,596,792

Maturities for financial liabilities 2008

	On demand	within 1 year	Total
	2008	2008	2008
	\$	\$	\$
Other liabilities			
Trade creditors	-	985,566	985,566
Other payables	-	876,485	876,485
Total	-	1,862,051	1,862,051

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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15 Appropriations

Table A: Acquital of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations

Particulars	Departmental Outputs ¹		Administered Expenses		Total	
	2009 \$'000's	2008 \$'000's	2009 \$'000's	2008 \$'000's	2009 \$'000's	2008 \$'000's
Balance brought forward from previous period (Appropriations Acts)	8,128	8,563	-	-	8,128	8,563
Appropriation Act:						
Appropriation Act 1	21,020	21,417	800	700	21,820	22,117
Appropriation Act 3	729	710	-	-	729	710
Appropriations to take account of recoverable GST (FMA s30) ²	7,657	8,525	-	-	7,657	8,525
Annotations to 'net appropriations' (FMA s31) ²	37,534	39,215	800	700	38,334	39,915
Total appropriation available for payment	29,814	31,087	800	700	30,614	31,787
Cash payment made during the year (GST inclusive)						
Balance of authority to draw cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for ordinary annual services appropriations and as represented by:	7,720	8,128	-	-	7,720	8,128
Cash and cash equivalents	439	950	-	-	439	950
Departmental appropriations receivable	7,281	7,178	-	-	7,281	7,178
Total as at 30 June	7,720	8,128	-	-	7,720	8,128

1. Departmental Outputs refers to the 2008-09 year.

Departmental and non-operating appropriations do not lapse at financial year end. However, the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of a departmental or non-operating appropriation is not required and request the Finance Minister to reduce that appropriation. The reduction in the appropriation is effected by the Finance Minister's determination and is disallowable by Parliament. There was no reduction in departmental outputs appropriation for GBRMPA in the year 2008-09.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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Table B: Acquittal of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund
 - Special Appropriations

Special Appropriation is appropriated in accordance with Section 391 of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act for the operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.	Departmental Outputs		Total	
	2009 \$'000's	2008 \$'000's	2009 \$'000's	2008 \$'000's
Balance of Special Appropriation brought forward from previous period	652	652	652	652
Appropriation Act:				
Special Appropriation	7,478	8,030	7,478	8,030
Appropriations to take account of recoverable GST (FMA s30)				
Total appropriation available for payment	8,130	8,682	8,130	8,682
Cash payment made during the year (GST inclusive)	7,474	8,027	7,474	8,027
Refunds paid out of CRF	4	3	4	3
Balance of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Funds for Special Appropriations	652	652	652	652
Represented by:				
Cash	-	-	-	-
Appropriation receivable	652	652	652	652
Total	652	652	652	652

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.

1. Departmental Outputs refers to the 2008-09 year. Departmental and non-operating appropriations do not lapse at financial year end. However, the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of a departmental or non-operating appropriation is not required and request the Finance Minister to reduce that appropriation. The reduction in the appropriation is effected by the Finance Minister's determination and is disallowable by Parliament. There was no reduction in departmental outputs appropriation for the GBRMPA in the year 2008-09.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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16 Reporting of Outcomes

16A Outcomes of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

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

The individual outputs and output groups associated with the outcome are:

Output group 1.1 - Marine Park Care and Development

Protection of the environment and sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is achieved through policies and management strategies that address risks to the ecosystem and heritage values.

Output group 1.2 - Marine Park Management

Protection of the environment and sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is achieved through field management, impact assessment, permitting, planning, community engagement and ecologically sustainable management of tourism and recreation.

Output group 1.3 - Strategic Policy Coordination

The development and strategic alignment of policy with Commonwealth government priorities and objectives that are underpinned by best available knowledge and are disseminated to the community.

16B Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1	
	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses		
Administered	800	700
Departmental	45,048	46,304
Total expenses	45,848	47,004
Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non-government sector		
Administered	-	-
Departmental	3,771	2,807
Total costs recovered	3,771	2,807
Other external revenues		
Administered	7,772	9,858
Departmental		
Sale of goods and services - to related entities	3,626	5,367
Interest	-	-
Net gains from disposal of assets	-	4
Permit assessment fees	260	351
Other	8,438	8,292
Total Departmental	12,324	14,014
Total other external revenues	20,096	23,872
Net cost/(contribution) of outcome	21,981	20,325

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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 for the period ended 30 June 2009

16 Reporting of Outcomes

16C Major Classes of Departmental Income and Expenses by Output Groups and Outputs

	Outcome 1									
	Output Group 1.1 Marine Park Care and Development		Output Group 1.2 Marine Park Management		Output Group 1.3 Strategic Policy Coordination		Non-attributable		Total	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Departmental expenses										
Employees	3,894	3,182	7,868	6,642	6,800	7,644	-	-	18,562	17,468
Suppliers	1,532	1,440	4,849	5,437	6,355	7,342	-	-	12,736	14,219
Grants	-	-	13	-	25	13	-	3	38	16
Depreciation and amortisation	136	168	349	335	925	1,011	-	-	1,410	1,514
Write-down of assets	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	13	8
Net loss from disposal of assets	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	31	-
Contribution to Qld Govt - DDIM	-	-	12,306	13,031	-	-	-	-	12,306	13,031
Total departmental expenses	5,562	4,790	25,416	25,445	14,105	16,018	13	3	45,096	46,256
Funded by:										
Revenues from Government	4,313	4,503	16,504	15,952	7,681	8,989	-	-	28,498	29,444
Sales of goods and services	1,154	288	297	1,203	6,254	7,094	-	-	7,705	8,525
Revenue from Sale of Assets	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments from Qld Govt - DDIM	-	-	8,438	8,292	-	-	48	-	48	-
Total departmental revenues	5,467	4,791	25,239	25,451	13,935	16,023	48	-	44,689	46,265

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

16D Major Classes of Administered Income and Expenses by Outcome

	Outcome 1	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Administered income		
Rent from lighthouse properties	269	283
Infringement notices	25	48
Environmental management charge	7,478	9,527
Total administered income	7,772	9,858
Administered expenses		
Suppliers	800	700
Total administered expenses	800	700

Outcome 1 is described in Note 1.1.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2009

17 Notes to the Schedule of Administered Items

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
17A Income administered on behalf of Government		
Revenue		
Rent from lighthouse properties	268,717	283,050
Infringement notices	25,570	47,740
Environmental management charge	7,478,453	9,527,177
Total revenues administered on behalf of Government	7,772,740	9,857,967

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
17B Expenses administered on behalf of Government		
Expenses		
Suppliers		
Provision of goods - external parties	799,590	699,500
Total expenses administered on behalf of Government	799,590	699,500
Operating result before income tax	6,973,150	9,158,467

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
17C Assets Administered on Behalf of Government		
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	113,928	174,190
Receivables: Environmental management charge	1,505,085	1,500,000
Non-Financial assets		
Lighthouse properties	10,750,000	3,504,322
Total assets administered on behalf of Government	12,369,013	5,178,512

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
17D Liabilities Administered on Behalf of Government		
Payables		
Payables: Suppliers	113,518	-
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government	113,518	-

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
17E Administered Reconciliation Table		
Opening administered assets less administered liabilities as at 1 July	5,178,512	-
Plus: Administered income	7,772,740	9,857,967
Less: Administered expenses	(799,590)	(699,500)
Administered transfers to/from Australian Government	-	1,425,028
Appropriation transfers from OPA		
Annual appropriations for administered expenses	804,587	703,255
Transfers to OPA	(7,946,432)	(8,187,532)
Administered revaluations taken to reserves	7,245,678	2,079,294
Closing administered assets less administered liabilities as at 30 June	12,255,495	5,178,512

17F Administered Contingent Assets and Liabilities

There were no Administered Contingent Assets and Liabilities for the 2008-09 Financial Year

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ending 30 June 2009

18 Special Accounts

Great Barrier Reef Field Management Special Account (Departmental)	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Legal Authority: <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975; s49</i>		
Purpose: (a) the management, protection or maintenance of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area;		
(b) purposes incidental to the management, protection or maintenance of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area;		
(c) meeting the expenses of administering the Account.		
Balance carried from previous period	430	-
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	8,438,000	8,292,000
Transfer of Appropriation	3,867,790	4,739,844
Total credits	<u>12,306,220</u>	<u>13,031,844</u>
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	(12,305,880)	(13,031,376)
Bank fees	(62)	(38)
Balance carried to next period and represented by:	<u>278</u>	<u>430</u>
Cash held by the GBRMPA	<u>278</u>	<u>430</u>
Total balance carried to the next period	<u><u>278</u></u>	<u><u>430</u></u>



APPENDICES



APPENDIX A – STAFFING OVERVIEW

Table 10: Employee Overview as at 30 June 2009

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	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
APS2	10	7	6	0	23	4	1	2	0	7
APS3	9	5	6	0	20	6	0	1	0	7
APS4	17	2	6	0	25	2	0	1	0	3
APS5	17	0	4	0	21	3	0	3	0	6
APS6	12	4	19	0	35	1	1	3	0	5
EXEC1	13	1	19	0	33	1	0	1	0	2
EXEC2	4	0	9	1	14	0	0	0	0	0
SES1	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
SES2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
CEO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	83	19	73	1	176	17	3	12	0	32

As at 30 June 2009 the total number of employees = 208

Table 11: Workplace Diversity as at 30 June 2009

Classification	Total	Women	ATSI	NESB	NESB1	NESB2	PWD
CEO	1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
GAPS1	2	1 (50%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
GAPS2	30	21(70%)	2(6.6%)	5(16.7%)	6(20%)	6(20%)	0(0%)
GAPS3	27	19(70.3%)	1(3.7%)	3(11.1%)	2(7.4%)	0(0%)	1(3.7%)
GAPS4	28	23(82.1%)	0(0%)	4(14.3%)	4(14.3%)	4(14.3%)	2(7.1%)
GAPS5	28	21(75%)	2(7.1%)	4(14.3%)	4(14.3%)	4(14.3%)	1(3.6%)
GAPS6	40	18(45%)	3(7.5%)	6(15%)	5(12.5%)	6(15%)	2(5%)
EL1	35	15(42.9%)	1(2.9%)	2(5.7%)	2(5.7%)	1(2.9%)	0(0%)
EL2	13	4(30.8%)	0(0%)	2(15.4%)	3(2.3%)	1(7.7%)	0(0%)
SES1	4	1(33.3%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
SES2	0	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Total	208	123(59.1%)	9(4.3%)	26(12.5%)	17(8.2%)	22(10.6%)	6(2.9%)

NESB (Non-English Speaking Background)

NESB1 (Non-English Speaking Background, second generation (Mother))

NESB2 (Non-English Speaking Background, second generation (Father))

PWD (People with a disability)

APPENDIX B – CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Table 12: Consultancy Services let during 2008-09, of \$10,000 (ex GST) or more

Consultant Name	Description	Contract Price	Selection Process ¹	Justification ²
Pacific Bridge	Internal Audit Services	\$19,200	Direct Sourcing	B
B Gillian	Assessment of Management Effectiveness	\$10,000	Direct Sourcing	C
M Hockings	Assessment of Management Effectiveness	\$10,000	Direct Sourcing	C
Infofish Services	CapReef Community Monitoring	\$30,000	Direct Sourcing	C
Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)	Reef Water Quality Protection Plan Marine Monitoring Program – nearshore component	\$54,000	Select tender	B
Technology One	Development of Financial Reports	\$11,614	Direct Sourcing	B
Dr J Veron	Writing, editing of Outlook Report	\$30,000	Direct Sourcing	B
James Cook University (JCU)	Marine research	\$75,000	Direct Sourcing	C
Tropical Energy Solutions	Develop Tourism Operators Emissions Calculator V2	\$19,545	Direct Sourcing	B
Tony Charters	Climate Change Case Studies	\$14,750	Direct Sourcing	B
Reef & Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC)	Project Management co-ordination and synthesis: Reef Water Quality Marine Monitoring Program	\$2,229,494	Direct Sourcing	C
C&R Consulting	Data Analysis	\$12,100	Direct Sourcing	C
Stratsec.Net Pty Ltd	ITC Security Assessment	\$13,600	Select Tender	B
Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd	Engineer Design	\$12,990	Direct Sourcing	B
Stanton International Pty Ltd	Internal Audit Services	\$154,545	Open tender	B
Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators (AMPTO)	Develop Climate Change workshops	\$10,000	Select tender	B
Sellwood Aitken Management Solutions	Audit Services	\$12,273	Select tender	B
Centre for Public Management	People Management Services	\$20,000	Select tender	B
KPS & Associates	Field Management Compliance Program	\$22,907	Direct Sourcing	B
KPS & Associates	Field Management Compliance Program	\$34,360	Direct Sourcing	B

RRRC	Climate Change research	\$20,000	Direct Sourcing	C
Planz Town Planning	Reef Guardian Council Climate Change Module	\$45,000	Open tender	B
Thorburn Consultants (NZ) Ltd	Strategic Infrastructure Plan Reef HQ	\$22,772	Direct Sourcing	B
SMEC Australia Pty Ltd	GBR Climate Change Action Plan Evaluation	\$18,766	Select tender	B
Sea Research	Coral Trout Surveys	\$18,000	Select tender	C
RRRC	Fisheries response to Cyclone Hamish	\$20,909	Direct Sourcing	C
Eco-Tourism Australia	Project management – Tourism Audits	\$12,421	Direct Sourcing	B
RRRC	Reef Water Quality monitoring project	\$22,727	Direct Sourcing	C
Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd	Development of Environmental Management System and Climate Neutral Strategy	\$71,972	Select tender	B
Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils	MOU - Build local capacity for climate change	\$10,000	Direct Sourcing	B
C&R Consulting	Marine research	\$27,273	Select tender	C
NGIS Australia	Reef Health Indicator Project	\$15,400	Select tender	C
Interlated Pty Ltd	Fishing Industry Emissions Project	\$19,201	Direct Sourcing	B
Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)	Climate Change Partnership	\$50,000	Direct Sourcing	B
Management Solutions (QLD) Pty Ltd International	Dive Site rating scheme	\$13,300	Direct Sourcing	B
Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsundays Inc	Mackreef Community Based Monitoring	\$10,000	Direct Sourcing	C
Reef Check Australia	Reef Check Database and web application	\$50,000	Direct Sourcing	C
JCU	Dwarf Minke Whale Project	\$25,811	Direct Sourcing	C
University of Queensland	Collaborative Research	\$30,000	Direct Sourcing	C
Peter Marquis-Kyle	Heritage Services	\$11,091	Direct Sourcing	B
JCU	Coral Disease Monitoring	\$29,787	Direct Sourcing	C
QSIA	Fishing Emissions Workshops	\$27,273	Direct Sourcing	B
Indigo C Pty Ltd	Eye on the Reef Tourism training	\$10,000	Select tender	B

Ecofund Queensland	Carbon offset advisory Services	\$20,560	Select tender	C
Dr Peter Driscoll	Coastal Bird Atlas	\$15,909	Select tender	C

¹*Explanation of selection process terms drawn from the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines (December 2008):*

Open Tender: A procurement procedure in which a request for tender is published inviting all businesses that satisfy the conditions for participation to submit tenders. Public tenders are generally sought from the Australian Government AusTender internet site.

Select Tender: A procurement procedure in which the procuring agency selects which potential suppliers are invited to submit tenders. This procurement process may only be used under certain defined circumstances.

Direct Sourcing: A form of restricted tendering, available only under certain defined circumstances, with a single potential supplier or suppliers being invited to bid because of their unique expertise and/or their special ability to supply the goods and/or services sought.

Panel: An arrangement under which a number of suppliers, initially selected through an open tender process, may each supply property or services to an agency as specified in the panel arrangements. Quotes are sought from suppliers that have pre-qualified on the agency panels to supply to the government. This category includes standing offers and supplier panels where the supply of goods and services may be provided for a pre-determined length of time, usually at a pre-arranged price.

²*Justification for decision to use consultancy:*

A – skills currently unavailable within agency

B – need for specialised or professional skills

C – need for independent research or assessment

Table 13: Media advertising organisations used 2008-09

HMA Blaze Pty Ltd (Recruitment)	\$94,609
HMA Blaze Pty Ltd (Zoning Campaign)	\$118,205
HMA Blaze Pty Ltd (Reef HQ Aquarium)	\$60,636
HMA Blaze Pty Ltd (Water Quality)	\$77,326

APPENDIX C – AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DISABILITY STRATEGY

The Commonwealth Disability Strategy recognises the Australian Government has an impact on the lives of people with disabilities. The GBRMPA has developed a disability action plan, which provides for reporting requirements identified in the strategy. The GBRMPA has identified that it performs the roles of policy adviser, provider, regulator and employer.

The GBRMPA provides fair and equitable employment opportunities for all members of the community in accordance with the merit principle. The GBRMPA's recruitment selection guidelines 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 APS Jobs (Australian Public Service Gazette) and the Press, are accessible through the GBRMPA web site.

The 2008-09 workplace diversity data identifies 2.9 per cent of employees as having some form of disability. The actual number of employees with disabilities is potentially higher due to the voluntary nature of disclosure.

The principle of reasonable adjustment is applied. 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, Field Management office, Reef HQ, the conference room and meeting rooms are wheelchair accessible.

Training and development programs are accessible to staff with disabilities and, where appropriate, contain information on disability issues. Complaints and grievance mechanisms are in place and available to all staff.

The GBRMPA has networks of harassment and diversity contact officers, and appropriate policies and mechanisms are in place should staff have concerns or issues needing to be addressed and resolved. GBRMPA employees also have access to an employee assistance program to discuss issues and concerns and to the Australian Public Service Commission for external reviews of actions.

APPENDIX D – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) requires that an application fee of \$30 accompany requests for access to information. If you decide to lodge a freedom of information request with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the GBRMPA), please send your written request and \$30 payment to:

The FOI Officer
 c/- Legal Services Unit
 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
 2-68 Flinders Street
 PO Box 1379
 TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
 Telephone: [07] 4750 0700
 Facsimile: [07] 4772 6093

The GBRMPA has discretion to consider remission of the application fee for any reason, including either of the following reasons:

- The payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause you, or the person on whose behalf the application has been made, financial hardship
- The giving of access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to have the application fee remitted, you should provide adequate supporting evidence to clearly demonstrate that either one of the relevant criteria has been met, or the overall circumstances justify remission.

Until such time as the application fee is either paid or remitted, your request does not constitute a

request for the purposes of the FOI Act and there is no obligation on the GBRMPA to process your request.

If you decide to proceed with your request, additional charges may also be payable in relation to the time spent searching for and retrieving relevant documents, decision-making time, photocopying and postage, etc. In the event that the GBRMPA decides that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of processing your request, you would be notified of the preliminary assessment of the charge and have the opportunity to contend that the charge should not be imposed, or should be reduced.

If any difficulty arises in identifying a document or in providing access in the form requested, an officer of the GBRMPA will contact you with a view to resolving the difficulty. In consultation with you, documents will be made available by mail to the address specified by you or at the official freedom of information access point.

The authorised decision-makers under the FOI Act for the GBRMPA are:

Chairman	General Managers
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
PO BOX 1379	PO BOX 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810	TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Freedom of Information Operations

During the 2008-09 financial year, the GBRMPA received five requests for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

In two cases, access to documents was granted in full. In one case, access to documents was granted in part. In one case, the application was withdrawn. In one case, the decision is still pending.

No applications for internal review of decisions made under the FOI Act were received during 2008-09.

No applications to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of decisions made under the FOI Act were received during 2008-09.

No applications to amend records under the FOI Act were received during 2008-09.

A total of \$1696.70 was received in respect of applications and fees under the FOI Act during 2008-09.

The GBRMPA maintains a Freedom of Information Handbook, which provides guidelines for handling FOI requests and other matters under the FOI Act.

APPENDIX E – 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 report on 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 that integrates environmental, economic and social considerations and helps improve the environmental and ecologically sustainable development performance of Australian Government agencies.

The following is a summary of activities by the GBRMPA in 2008–09 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 following activities of the GBRMPA accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development:

- Administering and enforcing the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, which explicitly recognises these principles
- Working with the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, other agencies and stakeholders to promote ecologically sustainable development focused on:
 - Ensuring the long term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef through the control, care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
 - Providing policy advice to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts to ensure that the GBRMPA's environment policies are mutually supportive.

The following activities accord with the principle of integrating environmental, social, and economic considerations:

- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef by managing the Zoning Plan introduced on 1 July 2004, in consultation with stakeholders, communities and agencies
- Implementing monitoring and assessment programs flowing from Reef Plan, an intergovernmental agreement that aims to halt and reverse the decline in water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef within 10 years – closely collaborating with other Australian Government agencies and the Queensland Government to further the sustainability objectives of the Reef Plan
- In conjunction with the Australian Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, and Fisheries Queensland, the GBRMPA contributes to the continuation of, and consultation on improvements to, a wide range of fisheries management initiatives
- In partnership with Australian and Queensland Government enforcement agencies, the GBRMPA maintained the level of its compliance operations during 2008-09, resulting in detection and fines against illegal activities in the Marine Park
- Continued the GBRMPA's outreach to the community, through the Regional Engagement initiative with five regional offices to deliver a regionally focused community partnership program

- Identifying and conserving natural, historic and cultural heritage in the Great Barrier Reef, including developing partnerships for collaborative sea country management with Traditional Owners through the establishment of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements
- Preparation of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report. The report is an important stocktake of the Great Barrier Reef, its management and its future.

The following activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, especially by employing or promoting the use of the precautionary principle:

- Making decisions under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 (section 39Z)*.
- Release of publications on climate change and the Great Barrier Reef.

The following activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development by aiming to promote conservation of the environment for the benefit of future generations:

- Contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, including:
 - improving information on the quality and extent of the Great Barrier Reef's water quality
 - developing a comprehensive monitoring and reporting mechanism, in partnership with Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility and other research providers
 - developing a community monitoring program for monitoring of the conservation and heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef for future generations
- Contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in marine ecosystems including through implementing the Representative Areas Program
- Contributing to the conservation of river systems through:
 - Reef Rescue
 - providing advice and assistance for the permit system under the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*
 - implementing the ban on the use of antifouling paints on ships in the Great Barrier Reef
 - public education through a wetlands exhibit at the Reef HQ Aquarium
- Protecting the World Heritage values of Australia's Great Barrier Reef through:
 - Regulation, including the consideration of proposed actions predominantly in, or adjacent to, the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics of Queensland
 - identifying an inventory of areas of interest for the National Heritage Strategy Inventory

- Working in partnership with stakeholder groups, including:
 - collaborating with the International Coral Reef Initiative to provide assistance to the international community to promote the conservation of coral reefs through the Global Reef Coral Monitoring Network and the International Coral Reef Initiative Action Network
 - expanding the Reef Guardian Councils Program to encourage councils to get involved in environmental projects
 - working with CapReef, a community initiative to monitor changes following the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
 - working with Traditional Owners to develop sustainable traditional use of marine resources practices
 - incorporating the views of the community and reef based industry in preparing the Outlook Report
 - operating various advisory groups to assist in the management of particular issues in Marine Park locations and operational programs.

The following activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development by aiming to improve valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms:

- implementing an accreditation program for tourism operators
- working in partnership with Great Barrier Reef businesses and industry to improve valuation by industry to include environmental and social costs and benefits activities in 2008-09 included:
 - having an accounting framework to measure the commercial values of the Great Barrier Reef
 - continuing the partnership with industry associations through community monitoring programs.

2. How the outcomes specified in a relevant Appropriations Act contribute to ecologically sustainable development (Section 516A(6)(b))

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Portfolio Budget Statement – Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority – lists environmental outputs for the GBRMPA for 2008-09 against the three Output Groups:

Table 14: How the Authority's outcomes contribute to ecologically sustainable development

Group	Outcomes
Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships	Natural, traditional and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park protected and World Heritage obligations are met
Water Quality and Coastal Development	Protection of the Great Barrier Reef from the adverse effects of water pollution and coastal development

Fisheries	Progress towards ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area
Tourism and Recreation	Ecologically sustainable tourism and recreation use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park provided for in partnership with the community and industry
Park Management	Planning, assessment and permitting arrangements delivered to manage impacts on the Marine Park. Field management operations that include surveillance, enforcement, public contact, natural resource management and provision of visitor services delivered in partnership with Queensland Government and Australian Government Agencies
Science and Information for Park Management	Coordination and delivery of the best available scientific and technical information for management
Reef Education and Communication	Delivered effective communication, education, and interpretive and marketing programs and provided a readily accessible onshore reef environment (Reef HQ Aquarium)

The three output groups contribute to the GBRMPA's outcome: the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

All outputs contribute directly to ecologically sustainable development by protecting and conserving the Great Barrier Reef. The major focus of the outputs is on protection of natural, cultural, and world heritage values, and sustainable use of the Marine Park. The outputs contribute to protecting biodiversity and ecological systems and to maintaining the health, diversity and productivity of the Great Barrier Reef for future generations. The GBRMPA's activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

The GBRMPA is focused on enhancing community partnerships and improving regional delivery of GBRMPA services.

3. Effect of the organisation's activities on the environment (Section 516A(6)(c))

The GBRMPA manages the Marine Park as a multiple use area, and permits such uses as are ecologically sustainable, and as are permitted by legislation.

Potential large-scale pollution threats to the Great Barrier Reef are managed by a range of statutory protective mechanisms. The GBRMPA's statutes prohibit mining in the Marine Park. Commercial shipping is managed by a wide range of maritime measures, including shipping channel restrictions, compulsory pilotage and interagency incident response protocols. The GBRMPA has significant responsibilities for ensuring the conservation of fish stocks, and the environment that sustains them.

In conjunction with its agency partners, the GBRMPA maintained compliance and enforcement activities during 2008-09, with funding being provided by both Australian and Queensland Governments for field management.

4. Measures being taken by the organisation to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment (Section 516A(6)(d))

The GBRMPA maintains a strong commitment to continuous improvement of its own environmental performance. The GBRMPA conducts environmental audits of its operations to maximise efficient use of resources, reduction of waste, and building of environmental awareness among its employees and volunteers. Activities undertaken in the last year include:

- Engaged a consultant to develop a Climate Neutral Strategy for the GBRMPA's greenhouse emissions under a broader Environmental Management System
- Maintained of eco-certification of the Reef HQ Aquarium by Ecotourism Australia
- Stage 2 energy reduction proposal for the Reef HQ Aquarium
- Operated a Green Office Committee to raise awareness of environmental management within the office
- Used four Hybrid Energy vehicles for fleet use
- Used ethanol inclusive fuels in vehicles
- Used bio-diesel fuel for the Reef HQ Aquarium truck
- Reef HQ Café cooking oils recycled by a local bio-diesel company
- Building materials used in Reef HQ exhibits chosen from environmentally sustainable products
- Pest control undertaken using methods designed to minimise environmental impacts
- Office machines (photocopiers, printers) are automatically programmed to save power
- Printers 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 printed on recycled paper if feasible
- Wherever possible documents are provided electronically to reduce paper usage
- All refrigerators are CFC-free
- Recycled paper used in toilets (toilet paper and hand towels)
- Toilets converted to dual flush as a water conservation measure
- Collection of fluorescent tubes for recycling
- Disused desktop computers and mobile phones are sent to Planet Ark for recycling
- Cardboard waste is collected for recycling by Cleanaway
- Used paper hand towel is put in with cardboard recycling

- Vehicle leasing decisions take into account Australian Greenhouse Office specifications on fuel consumption targets
- Rectification works to the solar energy system at the Low Isles Light Station and ongoing use of bio-diesel fuel.

5. Mechanisms for reviewing and increasing the effectiveness of these measures (section 516A(6)(e))

Over time, the Outlook Report will be an important mechanism to review the effectiveness of these measures. The primary aim of the Outlook Report is to provide a regular and reliable report on the overall condition of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem's environmental, social and economic values, examine the pressures and current responses, as well as a risk-based assessment of the longer-term outlook for the Great Barrier Reef Region.

In accordance with the Government policy Energy Efficiency in Government Operations the GBRMPA reports its annual energy performance through the online Energy Data Gathering and Reporting (EDGAR) system. Public reporting provides a number of benefits to the GBRMPA including:

- increased awareness of energy and greenhouse issues
- measures relative performance
- provides a benchmarking tool
- tracks changes over time
- identifies high-intensity areas
- encourages improvement through transparency.

Close analysis of the report will help the GBRMPA determine how it can most effectively adopt the minimum energy performance measures to meet its needs and the Government's revised energy intensity targets.

In considering future office accommodation lease arrangements, the GBRMPA will be taking into account the need to specify minimum energy performance standards in contracts, leases and other relevant documentation for any new leases over 2000 square metres or major refurbishment.

The GBRMPA has committed to the development of an Environmental Management System (EMS), which has been incorporated as an implementation requirement under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2006 Certified Agreement.

Through a structured Environmental Management System, proposed to be certified to the international standard ISO 14001, the GBRMPA will monitor a range of its operational activities including energy management, transport, waste management, purchasing and water management. The system will provide a framework for considering and minimising environmental impacts within the context of continual improvement.

APPENDIX F – PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS BY GBRMPA STAFF, 2008-09

The following staff papers were either published or presented by GBRMPA staff during 2008-2009. Copies may be obtained from Library & Image Services.

Published Papers

Anthony, S. L. and Thomas, S. 2008, 'Coral husbandry and long-term coral survival in the Coral Reef Exhibit at ReefHQ Aquarium, Townsville, Australia', in *Advances in coral husbandry in public aquariums*, eds R. J. Leewis and M. Janse, Burgers' Zoo, Arnhem, the Netherlands, (Public Aquarium Husbandry Series; vol. 2.), p. 75-84.

Broderick, K. 2008, 'Adaptive management for water quality improvement in the Great Barrier Reef catchments: learning on the edge', *Geographical Research* 46(3): 303-313.

Broderick, K. and Gill, N. 2008, 'Guest editors' introduction: water crisis? Socio-cultural and environmental dimensions of water and rivers', *Geographical Research* 46(3): 255-257.

Day, J.C. 2008, 'Planning and managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', in *The Great Barrier Reef - biology, environment and management*, eds P. Hutchings, M. Kingsford and O. Hoegh-Guldberg, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, p.114-121.

Day, J. C., Twyford, K. L. and Hockings, M. T. 2009, 'Towards a management effectiveness evaluation framework for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area', in *APAC08 Proceedings: Australian Protected Areas Congress 2008: Protected Areas in the Century of Change, Twin Waters, Queensland, 24-28 November 2008*, Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane, p.119, viewed 27 August 2009, <<http://www.asnevents.com.au/apac/images/stories/apac%20papers%20web.pdf>>

Day, J.C. 2009, 'Case study: thinking outside the (MPA) box on EBM: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', *Marine Ecosystems and Management* 2(2): 7-8.

Fenner, D. and Russell, M. 2008, 'Where have all the big fish gone? Fishing removed them before scientists knew', in *Status of coral reefs of the world*, ed C. Wilkinson, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, Townsville, p. 52-53.

Fernandes, L., Day, J.C., Kerrigan B., De'ath, G., Mapstone, B., Coles, R., Done, T., Marsh, H., Poiner, I., Ward, T., Williams, D. and Kenchington, R. 2009, 'A process to design a network of marine no-take areas: lessons from the Great Barrier Reef', *Ocean and Coastal Management* 52: 439-447.

Harman, S. R. and McGinnity, P. 2009, 'Upgrading to a better model - a responsive, community-based marine planning approach', in *APAC08 Proceedings: Australian Protected Areas Congress 2008: Protected Areas in the Century of Change, Twin Waters, Queensland, 24-28 November 2008*, Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane, p. 153-155, viewed 27 August 2009, <<http://www.asnevents.com.au/apac/images/stories/apac%20papers%20web.pdf>>

Hobbs, J-P., Frisch, A.J., Allen, G.R. and Van Herwerden, L. 2009, 'Marine hybrid hotspot at Indo-Pacific biogeographic border', *Biology Letters* 5: 258-261.

Marshall, P. 2009, 'The implications of climate change for coral reefs and their management', in *APAC08 Proceedings: Australian Protected Areas Congress 2008: Protected Areas in the Century of Change, Twin Waters, Queensland, 24-28 November 2008*, Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane, p. 121-123, viewed 27 August 2009, <<http://www.asnevents.com.au/apac/images/stories/apac%20papers%20web.pdf>>

Maynard, J.A., Johnson, J.E., Marshall, P.A., Eakin, C.M., Goby, G., Schuttenberg, H. and Spillman, C.M. 2009, 'A strategic framework for responding to coral bleaching events in a changing climate', *Environmental Management* 44(1): 1-11.

McCook, L., Almany, G.R., Berumen, M.L., Day, J.C., Green, A.L., Jones, G.P., Leis, J.M., Planes, S., Russ, G.R., Sale, P.F. and Thorrold, S.R. 2009, 'Management under uncertainty: guide-lines for incorporating connectivity into the protection of coral reefs', *Coral Reefs* 28: 353-366.

Negri, A. and Marshall, P. 2009, 'TBT contamination of remote marine environments: ship groundings and ice-breakers as sources of organotins in the Great Barrier Reef and Antarctica', *Journal of Environmental Management* 90: S31-S40.

Osborn, D. G. and Briggs, D. S. 2009, 'A community partnerships approach to managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', in *APAC08 Proceedings: Australian Protected Areas Congress 2008: Protected Areas in the Century of Change, Twin Waters, Queensland, 24-28 November 2008*, Queensland Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane, p. 156-158, viewed 27 August 2009, <<http://www.asnevents.com.au/apac/images/stories/apac%20papers%20web.pdf>>

Russell, M., Sadovy De Mitcheson, Y., Cornish, A., Domeier, M., Colin, P. and Lindeman, K. 2008, 'Status of fish spawning aggregations of the world', in *Status of coral reefs of the world*, ed C. Wilkinson, Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, Townsville, p. 50-51.

Sadovy, Y., Mitcheson, D. E., Cornish, A., Domeier, M., Colin, P. L., Russell, M. and Lindeman, K. C. 2008, 'A global baseline for spawning aggregations of reef fishes', *Conservation Biology* 22(5): 1233-1244.

Steneck, R.S., Paris, C.B., Arnold, S.N., Ablan-Lagman, M.C., Alcala, A.C., Butler, M.J., McCook, L.J., Russ, G.R. and Sale, P.F. 2009, 'Thinking and managing outside the box: coalescing connectivity networks to build region-wide resilience in coral reef ecosystems', *Coral Reefs* 28(2): 367-378.

Thomas, S. and Anthony, S. L. 2008, 'The Coral Reef Exhibit at Reef HQ Aquarium, Townsville, Australia: technical operations and water quality', in *Advances in coral husbandry in public aquariums*, eds R. J. Leewis and M. Janse, Burgers' Zoo, Arnhem, the Netherlands, p. 239-250.

Williamson, D.H., Jones, G.P., Thorrold, S.R. and Frisch, A.J. 2009, 'Transgenerational marking of marine fish larvae: stable-isotope retention, physiological effects and health issues', *Journal of Fish Biology* 74: 891-905.

Presentations

Audas, D. 2009, 'From little things, big things grow', presented to Queensland Coastal Conference 2009: Waves of Change, held at Sea World Resort, Gold Coast, 13 - 15 May 2009.

Beeden, R. 2008, 'Climate change on the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Workshop for South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Townsville, 21 August 2008.

Beeden, R. 2008, 'Climate change on the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Joint Cairns and Port Douglas Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC) Risk Assessment Workshop, Clifton Beach, Cairns, 13 August 2008.

Bonanno, V. 2008, 'Ecotourism: value adding to marine protected areas', presented to 1st Conference on Green Travel, Climate Change and Ecotourism, Adelaide, 17 November 2008.

Bonanno, V. 2009, 'Sustainable management of tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Anindilyakwa Land Council, Grootte Eylandt visit, Townsville, 27 April 2009.

Briggs, C. 2008, 'Sustainable management of tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Vietnamese Delegation Visit, Townsville, 10 November 2008.

Carey, J., Hassall, J., Vains, J. and Yorkston, H. 2008, 'Case study 3: strategic risk assessment of coastal development impacts', presented to Environmental Risk Assessment Workshop, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, 22 October 2008.

Day, J.C. 2008, 'Planning and managing World Heritage some lessons learnt', presented to Pacific Islands World Heritage Workshop, Cairns, 13-17 October 2008.

Day, J.C. 2009, 'Marine World Heritage Australia - New Zealand WCPA- Marine Region', presented to Marine World Heritage Workshop, Bahrain, 24-26 February 2009.

Day, J.C. 2009, 'Marine World Heritage lessons learnt from Great Barrier Reef', presented to Workshop of Marine Managers, Bahrain, 24-26 February 2009.

Day, J.C. 2009, 'Networks in Australia with an emphasis on lessons from the Great Barrier Reef', presented to International Marine Conservation Congress/International Marine Protected Areas Congress2: Making Marine Science Matter, Fairfax, VA, USA, 19-24 May 2009.

Day, J.C. 2009, 'Protecting marine ecosystem-based spatial management lessons learnt from the GBR', presented to International Marine Conservation Congress/International Marine Protected Areas Congress2: Making Marine Science Matter, Fairfax, VA, USA, 19-24 May 2009.

Day, J.C. 2009, 'Protecting the Great Barrier Reef ... lessons from planning and managing the GBR', presented to NOAA MPA Scoping Workshop, Monterey, CA, USA, February 2009.

Day, J.C. 2009, 'Restoring the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef - a success story of ecosystem-based management', presented to Beyond the Obituaries: Success Stories in Ocean Conservation Seminar, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington DC, USA, 20 May 2009.

Day, J.C., Chadwick, V. and Kemp, D. 2008, 'Ecosystem-based management - some lessons learnt about planning and managing Australia's Great Barrier Reef', presented to World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Expert Workshop, Berlin, October 2008.

Day, J.C., Hockings, M., Gilligan, B. and Twyford, K. 2008, 'Assessing management effectiveness for the Great Barrier Reef', presented to APAC08 Australian Protected Areas Congress 2008: Protected Areas in the Century of Change, Twin Waters, Queensland, 24-28 November 2008.

Dobbs, K. and Day, J. 2009, 'Insights from rezoning the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park - lessons for the development of marine mammal protected areas', presented to 1st International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, held in Maui, Hawaii, 30 March - 3 April 2009.

Dobbs, K. and Kwan, D. 2009, 'Context for managing indigenous hunting in Australia', presented to 29th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, held in Brisbane, 17-19 February 2009.

Elliot, B. 2008, 'Strategic risk', presented to Environmental Risk Assessment Workshop, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, 22 October 2008.

Groves, P. 2009, 'Identifying current best practice management techniques for local government application', presented to Queensland Coastal Conference 2009: Waves of Change, held at Sea World Resort, Gold Coast, 13 - 15 May 2009.

Groves, P., Yorkston, H., Vains, J., Hatley, T. and Thomas, M. 2009, 'Land, water, waste and community - current best practice for local government motivated towards reef protection', presented to Queensland Coastal Conference 2009: Waves of Change, held at Sea World Resort, Gold Coast, 13 - 15 May 2009.

Harman, S. R. 2008, 'A new approach to marine planning', presented to APAC08 Australian Protected Areas Congress 2008: Protected Areas in the Century of Change, Twin Waters, Queensland, 24-28 November 2008.

Harman, S. R. 2008, 'The Keppels - centre stage for trialing adaptive management responses', presented to Fitzroy Flood Forum, Rockhampton, August 2008.

Harman, S. R. 2008, 'Upgrading to a better model: a new style of planning for the GBRMP', presented to Environmental Protection Agency Planning meeting, Brisbane, September 2008.

Honchin, C., De'ath, G., Fabricius, K., Gray, L., Brodie, J., Haynes, D. and Moss, A. 2009, 'Water quality guidelines for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to GBRMPA Seminar Series, Townsville, 7 May 2009.

Maynard, J., Willis, B.L. and Beeden, R. 2009, 'Predicting white syndrome outbreaks in northern Australia: targeted monitoring and informed management', presented to 3rd Annual Scientific Conference of the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF), Townsville, 28-30 April 2009.

Monkivitch, J. and Wark, N. 2008, 'Risk assessment case study 1: a new port for the GBRMP', presented to Environmental Risk Assessment Workshop, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, 22 October 2008.

Osborn, D. G. and Briggs, D. S. 2008, 'A community partnerships approach to managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to APAC08 Proceedings: Australian Protected Areas Congress 2008: Protected Areas in the Century of Change, Twin Waters, Queensland, 24-28 November 2008.

Palmer, B. 2009, 'GBRMPA tourism policy', presented to Training for GBRMPA Regional Office staff and staff of Department of Environment and Resource Management, Cairns and Whitsundays, 24 April 2009.

Palmer, B. and Caillaud, A. 2009, 'Sustainable management of tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to New Caledonian Study Tour, Townsville, 12 May 2009.

Pandolfi, J.M., Roff, G., Clark, T.R., McCook, L., Done, T. and Zhao, J. 2009, 'The history of mortality in Great Barrier Reef coral communities since European settlement', presented to 3rd Annual Scientific Conference of the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF), Townsville, 28-30 April 2009.

Rainbird, J. 2008, 'Indicators and marine park management', presented to Sustainability Indicators Forum, held at James Cook University, Cairns, 28 August 2008.

Reichelt, R. 2009, 'Welcome - 3rd Annual Scientific Conference of the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility', presented to 3rd Annual Scientific Conference of the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF), Townsville, 28-30 April 2009.

Reichelt, R. 2009, 'What GBRMPA needs to know to manage the GBR as the climate changes', presented to 3rd Annual Scientific Conference of the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF), Townsville, 28-30 April 2009.

Smith, A. and Baldwin, J. 2008, 'Existing consequences and likelihood', presented to Environmental Risk Assessment Workshop, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, 22 October 2008.

Vohland, K., Koloï, P., Van Putten, I. and Trenerry, S. 2008, 'Case study 2: risk and outrage', presented to Environmental Risk Assessment Workshop, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, 22 October 2008.

Wachenfeld, D. 2009, 'The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: scientific, ecosystem-based management', presented to Securing Coral Reef Futures Symposium, Brisbane, 6-7 August 2009.

APPENDIX G – RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS FUNDED BY THE GBRMPA, 2008-09

Projects listed here directly address the research needs of the GBRMPA. The GBRMPA supports this research either through direct funding (Water Quality Marine Monitoring Program, Climate Change Program and other direct contracts), co-investment (such as in the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility), or in-kind contributions. Projects are listed according to major programs in which many institutions are involved. The remaining projects are listed according to institution.

The Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF), managed by the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, is a \$40 million investment in research by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, to support the management of the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics. Approximately half of the total is being invested in projects that are of direct relevance to the business of the GBRMPA. The GBRMPA has invested \$372 000 in cash and a significant in-kind contribution to the MTSRF program.

Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility

- Identification of non-reefal species and potential indicator species at a bioregional scale
- Condition and trend of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem: Indicators, thresholds of potential concerns, and ecological effects of Great Barrier Reef Zoning Plan on mid and outer shelf reefs
- Condition, trend and risk in coastal habitats: seagrass indicators, distribution and thresholds of potential concern
 - Light loggers to measure underwater light at seagrass locations under the Reef Rescue Marine Monitoring Program

- Dating and mapping historical changes in Great Barrier Reef coral communities
- Great Barrier Reef data synthesis and integration for reporting
- Economic analysis of alternative uses and tradeoffs in the Torres Strait
- Condition trends and projected futures of marine species of conservation concern
 - Feeding Habits of Australian Snubfin (*Orcaella heinsohni*) and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins (*Sousa chinensis*)
- Sustainable use of marine species of conservation concern
- Regional climate scenarios
- Early warning and assessment systems for thermal stress on the Great Barrier Reef
 - Research into the vulnerability of high trophic levels on the Great Barrier Reef (e.g. seabirds) to climate change
- Resilience to climate change
 - Identification of links between thermal anomalies and coral disease dynamics to predict the response of coral assemblages to ocean warming associated with climate change
- Tools to support resilience-based management in the face of climate change
- Identification and impact of invasive pests in the Great Barrier Reef
- Marine and estuarine indicators and thresholds of concern
 - Marine and estuarine indicators and thresholds of concern extension project: understanding thresholds and interactive effects between pesticides, water quality and climate change on tropical marine species
- Connectivity and risk: tracing materials from the catchment to the Reef
 - Extension project: Coral coring in the Mackay-Whitsunday and Fitzroy River regions
 - Extension project: Characterisation and modelling of fine sediments
 - Receiving water modelling in the Great Barrier Reef
- Freshwater indicators and thresholds of concern
- Wetlands and floodplains connectivity and hydro ecological function
- Socio-economic constraints to and incentives for the adoption of options for water quality improvement
 - Integrating ecology, economics and people in forest and landscapes (A typology of landowners' attitudes towards management practices for water quality improvements)
- Analysis and synthesis of information for reporting on the health of the catchment and

Great Barrier Reef water quality

- Resilience and connectivity (fish larval movements)
- Effects of the Great Barrier Reef Zoning Plan on inshore habitats and biodiversity, of which fish and corals are indicators
- Evaluation of the resiliency of key inter-reef species
- Evaluation of the impacts from industry and community uses on inshore biodiversity
- Incorporating stakeholders and their values, knowledge and aspirations in the care and development of the Marine Park
 - Extension project: Typology of community awareness and empowerment characteristics in relation to projected climate change impacts on the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, industries and communities.
 - Extension project: Exploring the response of Great Barrier Reef coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery to a major environmental event (Cyclone Hamish)
- Analysis of recreational and tourism use and impact on the Great Barrier Reef for managing sustainable tourism
- Forecasting risk of exposure to *Irukandji*
- Communication, community engagement and enhanced delivery of Program 8
- Indigenous landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
- Integrating ecology, economics and people into forest landscapes
- Strategic regional natural resource management and land use planning
- Understanding social resilience and identification of social resilience indicators for management.

Also managed by the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre

- Reef Rescue marine monitoring program.

Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies

Led by James Cook University, the Centre partnership includes the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the Australian National University, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the University of Queensland. The Centre of Excellence organises its research into five broad programs, listed below. Details of research projects conducted under these programs is available from the Centre at: www.coralcoe.org.au

- Evolutionary and environmental change
- Understanding and managing coral reef biodiversity
- Marine reserves and reef connectivity
- Genetic, molecular and physiological processes

- Resilience of linked socio-ecological systems.

The above research involved collaborations between the major research providers in the Great Barrier Reef region.

The following research projects are not associated with the above collaborations.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

- BleachWatch
- Great Barrier Reef coral bleaching fine scale ecological surveys
- Fish spawning aggregation sites monitoring
- ReefTemp
- Eye on the Reef
- Science for Management Awards
- Pew Fellowship - Coral reef resilience
- Reef Recollections

James Cook University

- Dwarf minke whale tourism monitoring program
- Smart State Fellowship: Adaptation of corals to climate change
- Spatial ecology of inshore predators in tropical marine systems and implications of marine protection zones
- Environmentally controlled infrastructure to investigate the effects of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef

Marsden Jacob & Associates

- Economic research to improve natural resource management in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Maynard Marine Consulting Inc.

- Keppels resilience assessment and resilience based management

Office of Economic and Statistical Research

- Queensland Household Visitor Survey

Queensland Parks and Wildlife

- Compliance - Protecting the Reef
- Monitoring recovery of reef communities at major ship grounding sites
- Monitoring marine turtle nesting and foraging populations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and adjacent Queensland marine parks

Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Inc

- MackReef Community Monitoring Program

Reef Check Australia

- Support for the development of Reef Check database and web application

River Consulting

- The direct impact of recreation on water quality in the Great Barrier Reef

Dr Robyn Cumming, Consultant

- *Drupella* species – Population dynamics and impacts to coral reefs

Uniquist Ltd

- Develop an integrated social-ecological model to assist evaluating social and economic tradeoffs associated with improving land use practices to sustain ecosystem services provided by the Reef in a changing climate (Shifting Baselines)

University of Queensland

- Development and calibration of aquatic passive sampler technologies for emerging aquatic pollutants
- Smart State Premier's Fellowships Program
- Tools to support resilience-based management in the face of climate change

William Sawynok

- CapReef Community Monitoring Program.

APPENDIX H – QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT FINANCIALS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
Appropriations from State Government		6,181,940	6,515,688
Funding from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		6,181,940	6,515,688
Other Revenue		79,110	146,273
<i>Gains</i>			
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment		1,159	-
Total Income		<u>12,444,149</u>	<u>13,177,649</u>
Expenses			
<i>Operating</i>			
Employee expenses		7,357,123	7,176,634
Supplies and services	2	4,280,747	4,196,246
Depreciation	3	546,065	479,283
<i>Losses</i>			
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment		-	42,181
Total Expenses		<u>12,183,934</u>	<u>11,894,344</u>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		<u>260,215</u>	<u>1,283,305</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2009**

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
Current assets			
Cash assets	4	557,154	1,031,125
Receivables	5	244,511	233,762
Prepayments		38,686	43,313
Total Current Assets		840,351	1,308,201
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	6,391,376	5,397,196
Total Non Current Assets		6,391,376	5,397,196
Total Assets		7,231,727	6,705,397
Current Liabilities			
Payables	7	402,317	243,814
Total Current Liabilities		402,317	243,814
Total Liabilities		402,317	243,814
Net Assets		6,829,411	6,461,583
Equity			
Retained surpluses		4,020,899	3,760,684
Asset revaluation reserve	8	2,808,512	2,700,899
Total Equity		6,829,411	6,461,583

The accompanying notes form part of these statements

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Notes	2009 \$	2008 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Appropriation from State		6,181,940	6,515,688
Appropriation from Cwlth		6,181,940	6,515,688
GST input tax credits from ATO		404,568	308,194
GST collected from customers		10,597	18,040
Other		61,200	106,327
Outflows:			
Employee expenses		(7,355,954)	(7,094,724)
Supplies and services		(4,160,784)	(4,206,415)
GST paid to suppliers		(354,365)	(341,383)
GST remitted to ATO		(11,641)	(18,514)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	9	957,502	1,802,901
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Sales of property, plant and equipment		55,939	-
Outflows:			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(1,487,411)	(921,065)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(1,431,472)	(921,065)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(473,970)	881,836
Cash at beginning of the financial year		1,031,126	149,290
Cash at end of the financial year	4	557,156	1,031,126

The accompanying notes form part of these statements

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Retained Surpluses		Asset Revaluation Reserve (Note 8)	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance 1 July	3,760,683	2,477,378	2,700,900	2,600,680
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	260,215	1,304,919		
Non-Owner changes in equity:				
- Non-Appropriated Equity Adjustment				
- Increase/(Decrease) in Asset Revaluation Reserve		-	107,612	100,220
- Correction of Error		(21,614)		
Balance 30 June	4,020,898	3,760,683	2,808,512	2,700,900

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2008-09**

Objectives and Principal Activities

The Field Management Program is a joint arrangement between the Australian and Queensland State Governments that provides the management framework for field operations in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The Field Management Program, which is staffed by both GBRMPA and Department of Environment and Resource Management personnel, administers and coordinates the cooperative arrangements between the Australian and Queensland State Governments through the Marine Park Authority (MPA) Board.

The Field Management Program management activities cover the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Commonwealth), Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park (State) and Island National Parks (State). Field operations are conducted on behalf of the MPA Board through cooperative arrangements involving Australian and Queensland State agencies.

The MPA Board has adopted the following priorities for the Field Management Program.

1. 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.

2. Priority 2 - Vulnerable Species

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

3. 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.

4. Priority 4 - Indigenous engagement

Implementation of indigenous co-management programs when agreed by the Board.

Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Field Management Program of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park have been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. This financial report is a general purpose financial report.

Except where stated, the historical cost convention is used.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2008-09 (continued)**

(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 Field Management Program. The entity also forms part of the Department of Environment and Resource Management 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 and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash assets include all cash at bank and on hand, cash equivalents 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 impairment. 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. However, any training costs are expensed as incurred.

(g) Property, Plant and Equipment

Items of property, plant and equipment with a cost or other value equal to or in excess of the following thresholds are recognised for financial reporting purposes in the year of acquisition:

Buildings and Infrastructure	\$10,000
Other (including heritage & cultural)	\$ 5,000
Land	\$ 1

Items with a lesser value are expensed in the year of acquisition.

(h) Revaluations of Non-Current Physical Assets

Buildings, infrastructure, major plant and equipment and heritage and cultural assets are measured at fair value in accordance with AASB 116 *Property, Plant and Equipment* and Queensland Treasury's *Non-Current Asset Accounting Policies for the Queensland Public Sector*.

Plant and equipment is measured at cost. The carrying amounts for plant and equipment at cost should not materially differ from their fair value.

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.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2008-09 (continued)**

Heritage and cultural assets are not subject to comprehensive revaluations on the basis that these assets could not be replaced. An index is applied to these assets on an annual basis.

Any revaluation increment arising on the revaluation of an asset is credited to the asset revaluation reserve of the appropriate class, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrement for the class previously recognised as an expense. A decrease in the carrying amount on revaluation is charged as an expense, to the extent it exceeds the balance, if any, in the revaluation reserve relating to that class.

On revaluation, accumulated depreciation is restated proportionately with the change in the carrying amount of the asset and any change in the estimate of remaining useful life.

(i) Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment

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

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

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

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

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

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

(j) Impairment of Non-Current Assets

All non-current physical and intangible assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis. If an indicator of possible impairment exists, the Authority determines the asset's recoverable amount. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

An impairment loss is recognised immediately in the Income Statement, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. When the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the asset revaluation reserve of the relevant class to the extent available.

Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase. Refer also Note 1(h).

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2008-09 (continued)**

(k) 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.

(l) Financial Instruments*Recognition*

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the Balance Sheet when the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Classification

Financial instruments are classified and measured as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents - held at fair value through profit and loss

Receivables - held at amortised cost

Payables - held at amortised cost

The Authority does not enter transactions for speculative purposes, or for hedging. It holds no financial assets classified as at fair value through profit and loss or classified as held to maturity.

All disclosures relating to the measurement basis and financial risk management of other financial instruments held by the department are included in Note 13.

(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.

(n) Issuance of Financial Statements

The financial statements are authorised for issue by the Senior Director, Marine Parks, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and the General Manager, Finance and Asset Management at the date of signing the Management Certificate.

(o) Judgements and Assumptions

The Agency has made no judgements or assessments which may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

(p) Comparatives

Comparative information has been restated where necessary to be consistent with disclosures in the current reporting period. Refer to note 14 for the effect on comparatives of the correction of error.

(q) New and Revised Accounting Standards

The Authority did not voluntarily change any of its accounting policies during the period. The only new or amended Australian accounting standards that were applicable for the first time during the period relates to revised accounting standard AASB 1004 Contributions. A review was undertaken and it is considered the financial statements adequately reflect the matters required to be disclosed given the Authority's present operating circumstances.

No Standards have been early adopted in 2008-09.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2008-09 (continued)**

At the date of authorisation of the financial report, one of the new or amended Australian accounting standards with future commencement dates will have a significant impact on the Authority. Details of such impact is set out below:

AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements has been revised, but such revisions will not impact on the Authority until 2009-10. This revised standard does not have measurement or recognition implications. Instead, there will be significant changes to the presentation of the Authority's overall financial performance and position, particularly the content of the Statement of Changes in Equity, and preparation of a new Statement of Comprehensive Income (which will include certain items currently disclosed in the Statement of Changes in Equity, in line with the definition of 'comprehensive income' in the revised AASB 101). Ignoring other potential impacts on the operating result, if the revised AASB 101 was applied by the Authority for 2008-09 reporting, it would have reported comprehensive income of \$367,827. The increase in the asset revaluation reserve for 2008-09 (\$107,612) would not therefore be included in the Statement of Changes in Equity.

All other Australian accounting standards and interpretations with future commencement dates are either not applicable to the Authority, or have no material impact on the Authority.

Note 2 Supplies and Services

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Administration costs	842,488	829,097
Corporate support contribution	1,060,913	1,079,250
Maintenance of assets	903,436	913,307
Operating leases	621,239	548,031
Travel – staff and clients	588,270	501,738
Fuel and Oil	264,401	324,823
Total	4,280,747	4,196,246

External audit fees for 2008-09 are paid by the Department of the Environment and Resource Management and not charged directly to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Field Management Program. The program pays an annual corporate support charge to the Department of Environment and Resource Management to meet costs such as these.

Note 3 Depreciation Expense

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Depreciation incurred in respect of:		
Plant and equipment	402,434	347,062
Buildings	135,424	128,322
Infrastructure	8,056	3,748
Heritage and Cultural	151	151
Total	546,065	479,283

Due to revaluations, there was an increase in depreciation on Buildings and Infrastructure during the reporting period of \$99,800.

Note 4 Cash Assets

Funds held	557,154	1,031,125
Total	557,154	1,031,125

Note 5 Receivables

<i>Current</i>		
Trade debtors	168,022	150,111
GST receivable	34,492	83,651
Annual Leave and Long Services Leave receivable	41,997	-
Total	244,511	233,762

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2008-09 (continued)

Note 6 Property, Plant and Equipment

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Buildings		
At valuation	4,771,773	4,490,230
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,346,867)</u>	<u>(2,122,948)</u>
	2,424,906	2,367,282
Infrastructure		
At valuation	506,344	132,958
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(115,921)</u>	<u>(101,760)</u>
	390,423	31,198
Capital works in progress	564,439	608,510
Heritage and Cultural		
At cost	15,452	15,452
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,873)</u>	<u>(1,722)</u>
	13,579	13,730
Plant and Equipment		
At cost	6,297,240	5,482,171
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(3,299,211)</u>	<u>(3,105,696)</u>
	2,998,029	2,376,475
Total	6,391,376	5,397,196

The last comprehensive valuation of all buildings and infrastructure assets was conducted as a 1 July 2005 by State Valuation Services (SVS) based on depreciated current replacement cost. In years when comprehensive revaluations do not occur an interim valuation is conducted using the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) index for relevant construction types. The IPD was again used for the period ended 30 June 2009.

For buildings, infrastructure, and heritage and cultural assets, the basis of valuation is depreciated current replacement cost.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park has plant and equipment with an original cost of \$269,768 and buildings and infrastructure valued at \$126,558 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*.

Asset Reconciliation

	Buildings	Infra-structure	Work in Progress	Heritage & Cultural	Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Carrying amount at 1 July	2,367,282	31,198	608,510	13,730	2,376,475	5,397,196
Acquisitions			682,950		576,061	1,259,011
Disposals					(58,540)	(58,540)
Transfers	87,307	365,409	(727,022)		506,467	232,161
Revaluation	105,741	1,872				107,613
Increments/(Decrements)						
Depreciation	<u>(135,424)</u>	<u>(8,056)</u>		<u>(151)</u>	<u>(402,434)</u>	<u>(546,065)</u>
Carrying amount at 30 June	<u>2,424,906</u>	<u>390,423</u>	<u>564,439</u>	<u>13,579</u>	<u>2,998,029</u>	<u>6,391,376</u>

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2008-09 (continued)**

Note 7 Payables

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<i>Current</i>		
Trade creditors	190,418	73,385
Employee expenses payable	184,846	144,616
GST payable	-	-
Payroll Tax payable	27,053	25,813
Total	402,317	243,814

Note 8 Asset Revaluation Reserve by Class

	Buildings & Land Improve	Major Plant & Equipment	Infra- Structure	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance 1 July 2008	1,713,387	598,345	389,167	2,700,899
Revaluation increments	105,740	-	1,873	107,613
Balance 30 June 2009	1,819,127	598,345	391,040	2,808,512

Note 9 Reconciliation of Net Operating Result to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Surplus/deficit from ordinary activities	260,215	1,283,305
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation	546,065	479,283
(Gain)/loss on disposal of property, plant & equipment	(1,159)	42,481
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(10,749)	(72,160)
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	4,627	12,006
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	158,503	57,986
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	957,502	1,802,901

Note 10 Contingent Assets

There were no contingent assets of a significant nature relating to the Field Management Program of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as at 30 June 2009 (2008 \$nil).

Note 11 Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities of a significant nature relating to the Field Management Program of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as at 30 June 2009 (2008 \$nil).

Insurance

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

Note 12 Commitments

There were no non-cancellable commitments of a significant nature relating to the Field Management Program of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as at 30 June 2009 (2008 \$nil).

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2008-09 (continued)

Note 13 Financial Instruments

The Authority has the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities:

Category	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Financial Assets			
Cash	4	557,154	1,031,125
Receivables	5	244,511	233,762
Total		801,665	1,264,887
Financial Liabilities			
Payables	7	402,317	243,814
Total		402,317	243,814

Credit Risk Exposure

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment.

The following table represents the Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk based on contractual amounts net of any allowances:

Category	Maximum Exposure to Credit Risk		
	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Financial Assets			
Cash	4	557,154	1,031,125
Receivables	5	244,511	233,762
Total		801,665	1,264,887

No collateral is held as security relating to financial assets held by the Authority. No credit enhancements relate to the financial assets held by the Authority.

The Authority manages credit risk through the use of a credit management strategy. This strategy aims to reduce the exposure to credit default by ensuring that the Authority monitors all funds owed on a timely basis. Exposure to credit risk is monitored on an ongoing basis.

No financial assets and financial liabilities have been offset and presented net in the Balance Sheet.

No financial assets have had their terms renegotiated so as to prevent them from ageing past due or impaired, and are stated at the carrying amounts as indicated. Ageing of past due but not impaired and impaired financial instruments are disclosed in the following tables:

2009 Financial Assets Past Due But Not Impaired

Financial Assets	Contractual Repricing/Maturity Date:					Total \$	Total Financial Assets \$
	Not overdue	Overdue					
	\$	Less than 30 days \$	30-60 days \$	61-90 days \$	More than 90 days \$		
Receivables	240,731	3,780				3,780	244,511
Total	240,731	3,780				3,780	244,511

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2008-09 (continued)

2008 Financial Assets Past Due But Not Impaired

	Not overdue	Contractual Repricing/Maturity Date:			Total	Total Financial Assets
		Less than 30 days	30-60 days	Overdue 61-90 days More than 90 days		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets						
Receivables	177,120			56,642	56,642	233,762
Total	177,120			56,642	56,642	233,762

Liquidity Risk

The Authority's exposed to liquidity risk in respect of its payables.

The Authority manages liquidity risk through the use of a liquidity management strategy. This strategy aims to reduce the exposure to liquidity risk by ensuring the Authority has sufficient funds available to meet employee and supplier obligations as they fall due. This is achieved by ensuring that a minimum level of cash is held within the bank account so as to match the expected duration of the various employee and supplier liabilities.

The following table sets out the liquidity risk of financial liabilities held by the Authority. It represents the contractual maturity of financial liabilities, calculated based on cash flows relating to the repayment of the principal amount outstanding at balance date.

Financial Liabilities	Note	2009 Payable in			Total
		< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years	
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Payables	7	402,317			402,317
Total		402,317			402,317

Financial Liabilities	Note	2008 Payable in			Total
		< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years	
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Payables	7	243,814			243,814
Total		243,814			243,814

Market Risk

The Authority does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to commodity price changes.

Interest Rate Sensitivity Analysis

The Authority is not subject to interest rate sensitivity. It does not receive interest on Cash balances.

Fair Value

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities is determined as follows:

- The fair value of cash, cash equivalents, receivables and payables approximate their carrying amounts and are not disclosed separately below.

The carrying amounts of all financial assets and all financial liabilities are representative of their fair value.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2008-09 (continued)

Note 14 Correction of Error

An adjustment was made to the comparative information due to a transaction being processed subsequent to the completion of the 2007-08 financial statements. This adjustment of \$21,614 related to Employee Expenses.

**CERTIFICATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

In relation to the day to day operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

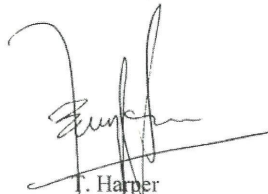
The foregoing Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement and Notes to and forming part of the financial statements have been prepared as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier 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 Department of Environment and Resource Management; 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 Department of Environment and Resource Management in relation to the day to day operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, and of the financial position as at 30 June 2009.



P. Philipson
General Manager
Finance & Asset Management

Date: 24 August 2009



J. Harper
Senior Director, Marine Parks
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Date: 24 August 2009

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Resource Management

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Field Management Program, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies other explanatory notes and certificates given by the General Manager, Finance and Asset Management and the Senior Director, Marine Parks Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Department of Environment and Resource Management's Director-General's Responsibilities for the Financial Report

The Director-General of the Department of Environmental and Resource Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Deed of Agreement dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimate that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with the *Auditor-General of Queensland* Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit is planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement in the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Director-General, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

The *Auditor General Act 2009* promotes the independence of the Auditor-General and QAO authorised auditors. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Queensland 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 audit 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.

Auditor's Opinion

In accordance with the Deed of Agreement dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, I have audited the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park's Field Management Program financial report, and –

- (a) I have received all the information and explanations which I have required; and
- (b) in my opinion the financial report has been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the financial performance and cash flows of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Field Management Program for the financial year 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and of the financial position as at the end of that year; and
- (c) the financial report is in agreement with the accounts and records of the State.



BP WORRALL, FCA
Delegate of the Auditor-General of Queensland

Brisbane, 26 August 2009

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Resource Management

Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Report

The audit report relates to the financial report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Field Management Program for the financial year ended 30 June 2009 included on the Authority's web site. The Board is responsible for the integrity of the Authority's web site. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's web site. The audit report refers only to the statements named below. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these statements. If users of the financial report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report, available from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on this web site.

These matters also relate to the presentation of the audited financial report in other electronic media including CD Rom.

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Field Management Program, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies other explanatory notes and certificates given by the General Manager Finance and Asset Management and the Senior Director, Marine Parks Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Department of Environment and Resource Management's Director-General's Responsibilities for the Financial Report

The Director-General of the Environmental and Resource Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Deed of Agreement dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimate that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with the *Auditor-General of Queensland* Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit is planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement in the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation

of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Director-General, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

The *Auditor General Act 2009* promotes the independence of the Auditor-General and QAO authorised auditors. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Queensland 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 audit 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.

Auditor's Opinion

In accordance with the Deed of Agreement dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, I have audited the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park's Field Management Program Financial report, and –

- (d) I have received all the information and explanations which I have required; and
- (e) in my opinion the financial report has been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the financial performance and cash flows of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Field Management Program for the financial year 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and of the financial position as at the end of that year; and
- (f) the financial report is in agreement with the accounts and records of the State.



BP WORRALL, FCA
Delegate of the Auditor-General of Queensland

Signed at Brisbane, 26 August 2009

A black and white photograph of a sea turtle resting on a bed of sea urchins and other marine life. The turtle's head and front legs are visible, showing its scaly texture. The sea urchins are scattered around, some with their spines visible. The overall scene is a close-up of the turtle in its natural habitat.

ACRONYMS AND INDICES

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- ACG** Agency Consultative Group
- ACT** Australian Capital Territory
- AIMS** Australian Institute of Marine Science
- AFMA** Australian Fisheries Management Authority
- AMPTO** Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators
- AMSA** Australian Maritime Safety Authority
- ANZSOG** Australia and New Zealand School of Government
- APAC** Australian Protected Areas Congress
- APS** Australian Public Service
- ATE** Australian Tourism Exchange
- ATSI** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- AWA** Australian Workplace Agreement
- Act** (the) *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*
- BPC** Border Protection Command
- CAC** Act Commonwealth Companies and Authorities Act 1997
- CAP** Community Access Point
- CCP** Cities for Climate Protection
- CEO** Chief Executive Officer
- CFC** Chloro-fluoro-carbons
- CHIPRAC** Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Reef Advisory Committee
- CILC** Centre for Interactive Learning and Collaboration
- COAG** Council of Australian Governments
- CPR** Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- CPSU** Community and Public Sector Union
- CSIRO** Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
- DERM** Department of the Environment and Resource Management (Queensland)
- DEWHA** Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
- DDM** Day-to-Day Management Program
- EDGAR** Energy Data Gathering and Reporting
- EMC** Environmental Management Charge
- EMG** Executive Management Group
- EMS** Environmental Management System
- ENSO** El Niño-Southern Oscillation
- EPBC** *Act Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

- F/T** Full-time (staff position)
- FMA** Act *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*
- FMCCU** Field Management Coordination Compliance Unit
- FOI** Act *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- FOT** Field Operations Team
- FRAC** Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee
- GBRCC** Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee
- GBRMPA** Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- ICT** Information and communication technology
- ILUA** Indigenous Land Use Agreement
- IUCN** International Union for Conservation of Natural Resources
- JCU** James Cook University
- KPI** Key Performance Indicator
- LMAC** Local Marine Advisory Committee
- MOU** Memorandum of Understanding
- MP** Member of Parliament
- MPA** Marine Park Authority
- MTSRF** Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility
- NAIDOC** National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee
- NESB** Non-English speaking background
- NT** Northern Territory
- NTA** National Tourism Alliance
- OAM** Medal of the Order of Australia
- P/T** Part-time (staff position)
- PCaMS** Permits Compliance and Management Systems
- POM** Plan of Management
- PWD** People with a disability
- QPIF** Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries
- QBFP** Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol
- QPWS** Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- QSIA** Queensland Seafood Industry Association
- QTIC** Queensland Tourism Industry Council
- QWP** Queensland Water Police
- Reef Plan** Reef Water Quality Protection Plan
- RRRC** Reef and Rainforest Research Centre
- SES** Senior Executive Service

TRRAC Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee

TUMRA Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement

VMS Vessel Monitoring System

WQCDRAC Water Quality and Coastal Development Reef Advisory Committee

COMPLIANCE INDEX

Part of report	Description	Requirement	Pages
	Letter of transmittal	Mandatory	III
	Table of contents	Mandatory	V-VII
	Index	Mandatory	175-181
	Glossary	Mandatory	170-171
	Contact officer(s)	Mandatory	II
	Internet home page address and Internet address for report	Mandatory	II
Review by Secretary	Review by departmental secretary	Mandatory	4-6
	Summary of significant issues and developments	Suggested	8-9
	Overview of agency's performance and financial results	Suggested	10-12
	Outlook for following year	Suggested	49-50, 68
	Significant issues and developments	Portfolio departments – suggested	n.a.
Departmental overview	Overview description of department	Mandatory	8
	Role and functions	Mandatory	8
	Organisational structure	Mandatory	64
	Outcome and output structure	Mandatory	14, 16, 17, 26, 49
	Where outcome and output structures differ from PBS format, details of variation and reasons for change	Mandatory	n.a.
	Portfolio structure	Portfolio departments – mandatory	n.a.
Report on Performance	Review of performance during the year in relation to outputs and contribution to outcomes	Mandatory	17, 26, 49
	Actual performance in relation to performance targets set out in PBS/ PAES	Mandatory	17, 26-27, 49
	Performance of purchaser-provider arrangements		14-16

	Where performance targets differ from the PBS/PAES, details of both former and new targets, and reasons for the change	Mandatory	n.a.
	Narrative discussion and analysis of performance	Mandatory	17-59
	Trend information	Suggested	n.a.
	Factors, events or trends influencing departmental performance	Suggested	n.a.
	Significant changes in nature of principal functions/services	Suggested	n.a.
	Performance against service charter customer service standards, complaints data, and the department's response to complaints	If applicable, mandatory	68
	Social justice and equity impacts	Suggested	69
	Discussion and analysis of the department's financial performance	Mandatory	10-12, 79-126
	Discussion of any significant changes from the prior year or from budget.	Suggested	n.a.
	Agency resource statement and summary resource tables by outcomes	Mandatory	16
	Developments since the end of the financial year that have affected or may significantly affect the department's operations or financial results in future	If applicable, mandatory	n.a.
Management and accountability			
Corporate governance	Statement of the main corporate governance practices in place	Mandatory	62
	Names of the senior executive and their responsibilities	Suggested	64
	Senior management committees and their roles	Suggested	2,63,67
	Corporate and operational planning and associated performance reporting and review	Suggested	n.a.
	Approach adopted to identifying areas of significant financial or operational risk and arrangements in place to manage risks	Suggested	n.a.
	Agency heads are required to certify that their agency comply with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines.	Mandatory	68
	Policy and practices on the establishment and maintenance of appropriate ethical standards	Suggested	68-69
	How nature and amount of remuneration for SES officers is determined	Suggested	n.a.
External scrutiny	Significant developments in external scrutiny	Mandatory	69
	Judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals	Mandatory	n.a.
	Reports by the Auditor-General, a parliamentary committee or the Commonwealth Ombudsman	Mandatory	69,77

Management of human resources	Assessment of effectiveness in managing and developing human resources to achieve departmental objectives	Mandatory	70-75
	Workforce planning, staff turnover and retention	Suggested	n.a
	Impact and features of collective agreements, determinations, common law contracts and AWAs	Suggested	n.a
	Training and development undertaken and its impact	Suggested	42,72-73
	Occupational health and safety performance	Suggested	57,71,73
	Productivity gains	Suggested	n.a
	Statistics on staffing	Mandatory	128
	Collective agreements, determinations, common law contracts and AWAs	Mandatory	71
	Performance pay	Mandatory	71, 72
Assets management	Assessment of effectiveness of assets management	If applicable, mandatory	75
Purchasing	Assessment of purchasing against core policies and principles	Mandatory	76
Consultants	Summary statement	Mandatory	76-77
Australian National Audit Office access clauses	Absence of provisions in contracts allowing access by the Auditor-General	Mandatory	77
Exempt contracts	Contracts exempt from the AusTender	Mandatory	77
Commonwealth Disability Strategy	Report on performance in implementing the Commonwealth Disability Strategy	Mandatory	131-132
Financial statements	Financial statements	Mandatory	79-126, 150-168
Other information			
	Occupational health and safety (section 74 of the <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991</i>)	Mandatory	73
	Freedom of Information (subsection 8(1) of the <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>)	Mandatory	132
	Advertising and Market Research (section 311A of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>)	Mandatory	131
	Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance (section 516A of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>)	Mandatory	133
	Grant programs	Mandatory	19-20, 56
	Correction of material errors in previous annual report	If applicable, mandatory	n.a

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