Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

Annual Report 2012–13



Australian Government

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Front cover image: Reef Guardian farmer Paul Gregory from Gordonvale, south of Cairns, is using best practice to improve the quality of water running off his cane farm to the adjoining creek and, eventually, into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. Through initiatives such as the Reef Guardian program and Reef Plan, landholders, communities and government agencies are working together to improve the quality of water entering the Reef.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
PO Box 1379
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1 October 2013

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with subsection 53(1) of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975, I submit the annual report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2013.

This annual report has been prepared following the Requirements for Annual Reports updated by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on 24 June 2013.

Yours sincerely



Russell Reichelt
Chairman



Figure 1: *The Great Barrier Reef Region*

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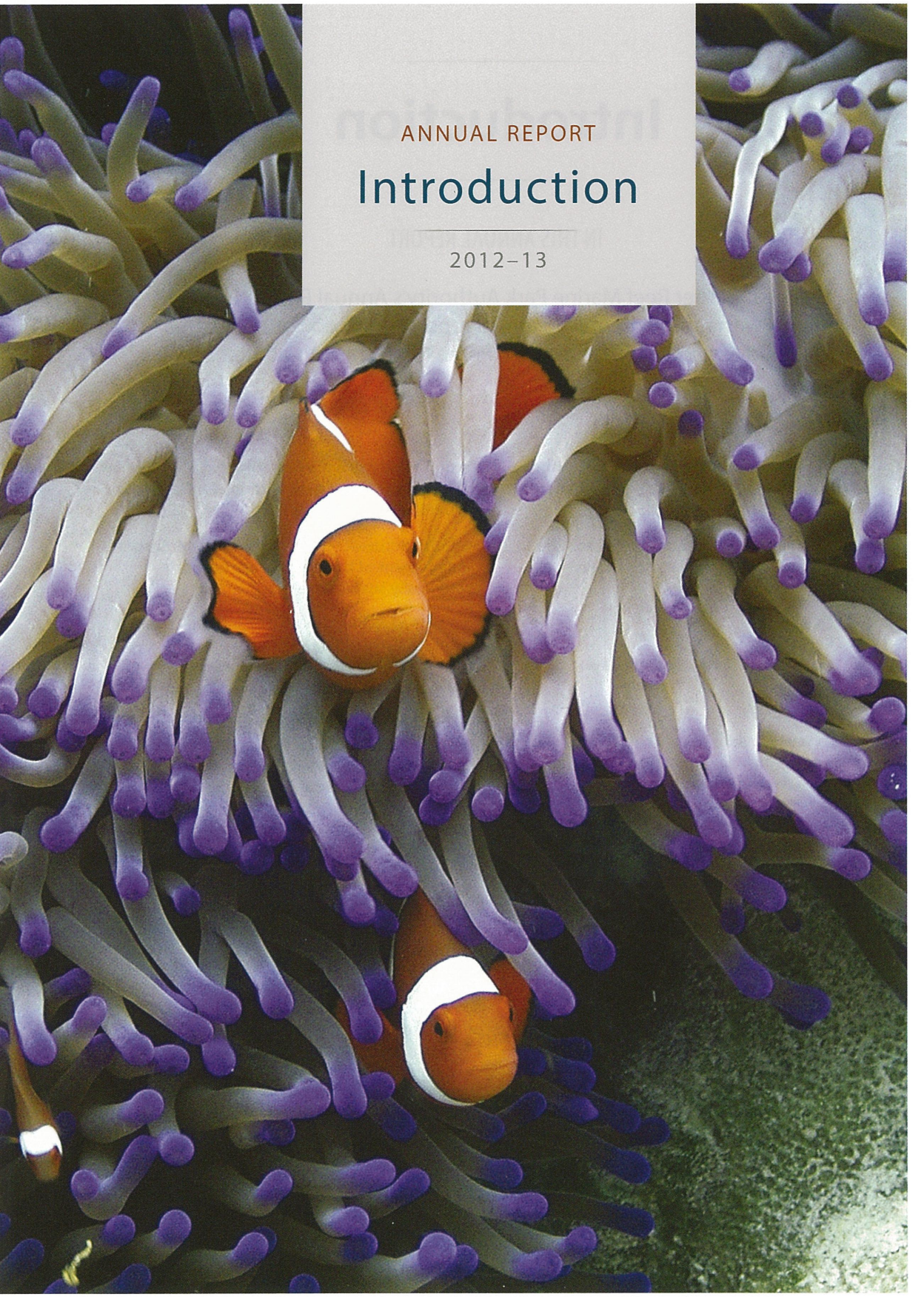
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ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

2012–13

Introduction

IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Annual Report 2012–13 complies with requirements for annual reports outlined by the Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Annual Report 2012–13 is consistent with the structure of the Portfolio Budget Statement for the agency.

Following the *Introduction* and Chairman's review, the annual report comprises five chapters:

- Overview
- Performance
- Management and accountability
- Finances
- Appendices.

The *Overview* provides a corporate background to the agency including its role and functions. It also provides a summary of financial performance and a staff overview.

The *Performance* chapter details the actions taken by the agency in 2012–13 to meet its stated outcome of *long-term protection, 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.*

This chapter is presented in three sections, under the agency's three objectives. It details how the agency has met the deliverables and key performance indicators that relate to the objectives, as outlined in the agency's Portfolio Budget Statement.

Section 1 addresses the first objective: **Address the key risks affecting the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef.**

Section 2 addresses the second objective: **Ensure management of the Marine Park supports ecologically sustainable use.**

Section 3 addresses the third objective: **Foster stewardship by engaging, educating and inspiring people through the care and management of the Marine Park.**

The *Management and accountability* chapter covers the delivery of the management framework that supports effective functioning of the agency. This includes corporate governance, statutory and advisory committees, management and training, work health and safety, asset management, corporate services and management of consultants.

The *Finances* chapter delivers an analysis of financial performance and a detailed financial statement.

The *Appendices* chapter comprises the agency resource statement, staffing overview, advertising and marketing, freedom of information, ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance, staff papers and presentations, and Queensland Government financials.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW



The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's objective is the long-term protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

During the agency's 38-year history, the focus of effort has shifted from mapping and understanding the Great Barrier Reef Region to identifying factors that affect its health and what can be done to protect the Reef's ecosystems. Understanding of the relationships between the reef ecosystems, industrial uses, recreational uses and Indigenous cultural heritage has improved. And, in 1981, the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef was recognised when it was inscribed as the first marine World Heritage Area.

In the past 15 years it has become clear that the most significant long-term risks to the health of the Reef come from outside the Marine Park, namely the effects of climate change and declines in water quality due to land use and coastal development. The agency's well-recognised management plans addressing tourism, fishing, Traditional Owner use, shipping and recreation remain critically important as a means of retaining maximum natural resilience to these external pressures, and to the ongoing risks posed by activities inside the Marine Park.

It has also become very clear that in such a large area — equivalent in size to the states of Victoria and Tasmania combined — the effects of many small decisions about use of the Marine Park will accumulate over time, going almost unnoticed at each single step. This leads to large-scale effects that pose major threats to the Reef. Steps are now under way to address both the external pressures on the Reef and to take a strategic view of the effects of many small decisions on its health. The agency plays a central role in this effort and, as required under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, has been developing partnerships with the major stakeholders who have influence on the factors operating both inside and beyond the Marine Park.

The imperative to step up our efforts increased in 2012 when the Australian Institute of Marine Science reported that the Reef Region had lost half its coral cover in the last 27 years.

The imperative to step up our efforts increased in 2012 when the Australian Institute of Marine Science reported that the Reef Region had lost half its coral cover in the last 27 years. The agency's management decisions continue to be informed by findings from this work — namely, that coral cover has declined by almost 51 per cent, mostly in mid-shelf and offshore reefs, as a result of tropical cyclones, which accounted for 48 per cent of coral loss, predation by crown-of-thorns starfish (42 per cent) and coral bleaching (10 per cent). Fortunately, the far north region has been relatively untouched by these pressures.

There is accumulating scientific evidence indicating that the 'boom and bust' cycles of the crown-of-thorns starfish *(Acanthaster planci)* are likely to be exacerbated by excess nutrient run-off from the land — another reason to step up the efforts to improve water quality, and to improve our understanding of the condition and trends of the coastal habitats affected by this pressure.

In the last decade, Australian governments have taken strong steps to address the risk of declining water quality, principally through the *Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (2003, 2009)* and the various programs that support the actions it prescribes. Some programs are incentive-based, some regulatory and some recognition and stewardship-based. The

...it is pleasing to note that good progress has been made in improving the quality of water entering the Reef lagoon.

agency played a key role in initiating that plan and continues to work with governments, land managers and Traditional Owners to implement on-ground practices that steadily improve the quality of water running off the land to the coastal waters of the Great Barrier Reef.

In the 2012–13 reporting period the agency has focused on conducting a strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef Region through a formal agreement with the Federal Environment Minister. This assessment is being done under the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999,* supported by the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. The Queensland Government is conducting a parallel assessment of the coastal area adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Region. Together these assessments will form the largest and most comprehensive environmental strategic assessment conducted in Australia.

The scale and importance of the strategic assessment, along with the recognition that it will help guide the Reef's management well into the future, means significant agency resources were channelled into this project and almost all staff contributed to the work either directly or indirectly. Developing the strategic assessment has also involved technical experts, technical advisory groups and the broader community through our extensive community engagement program.

The strategic assessment analyses impacts affecting the Reef's values, the effectiveness of the agency's current management arrangements to protect those values, and recommends potential mechanisms to strengthen protection of the Reef. The assessment will also address concerns raised by the World Heritage Committee about the extent of development along the Great Barrier Reef coast. The Committee will consider the combined assessments in 2015.

By 30 June 2013 a draft strategic assessment report was well advanced and work on the program report had begun. The program report will draw on the assessment to provide a roadmap for managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park over the next 25 years, by setting out goals, targets and priorities.

The agency has been active in practical Marine Park management since its inception. The Field Management Program was established in 1979 as a joint program between the agency and the Queensland Government to prevent duplication of effort in Reef management. During the reporting period, the Field Management Program conducted 1460 dedicated compliance vessel patrol days and detected 992 offences in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The compliance program is based on assessments of intelligence and risk, and is gaining international recognition as best practice.

Declining water quality has been identified as a significant threat to the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef, and it is pleasing to note that good progress has been made in improving the quality of water entering the Reef lagoon. The *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009* (Reef Plan) is the principal water quality management program for the Reef. It is implemented through a partnership between the Australian and Queensland governments, regional natural resource management bodies, farmers, graziers, industry bodies, conservation groups and non-government organisations.



The strategic assessment will help guide management of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem well into the future

Reef Plan's second report card, released in April 2013, showed there had been a reduction in sediment, pesticides, phosphorus and nitrogen running off the land in 2009–10. It also highlighted that 20 per cent of sugarcane growers, 11 per cent of graziers and 18 per cent of horticulture producers had adopted improved management practices.

The agency's major contribution to Reef Plan is through coordination of the marine water quality monitoring program. Agency staff also contributed to the Reef Plan 2013 risk assessment and the Reef Plan scientific consensus statement 2013 — both of which will shape further work towards the long-term goal of ensuring that by 2020 the quality of water entering the Reef from adjacent catchments has no detrimental effect on the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

Another key focus in 2012–13 has been efforts to control the presently accelerating crown-of-thorns starfish outbreak, which continues to be one of the most significant threats to the health of coral cover on the Reef, particularly in the northern and central regions. The wave of outbreaks has in the past been a decade-long event. During 2012–13, the agency worked closely with the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators who conducted a targeted crown-of-thorns starfish control program with funding from both the Commonwealth and Queensland governments. The culling removed more than 95,000 of these native pests from 71 reefs.

The Field Management Program assisted the starfish control program by conducting about 3000 manta tow visual surveys and 550 reef health and impact surveys so that the starfish control teams could target hotspots. The agency also assisted the Australian Institute of Marine Science's field trials of a new single-shot injection that will boost culling efficiency.

During the year we released some important reports that will guide our work in addressing the key risks to the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

Informing the outlook for Great Barrier Reef coastal ecosystems details coastal land use changes over many decades and their impact on water quality, habitats and inshore biodiversity in the Marine Park. Importantly, this report provides the context upon which future management decisions on coastal ecosystems can be made.

Our *Ecological risk assessment of the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park* found that the trawl fishing industry's impacts on marine plants and animals have substantially reduced over the last decade. However, some risks remain, and the assessment has given managers and industry a full understanding of where efforts must be focused in order to reduce the remaining risks from trawl fishing.



The targeted crown-of-thorns starfish control program saw more than 95,000 of the native pests being removed from 71 reefs

The *Great Barrier Reef Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2013* provides a framework to protect at-risk plants, animals and habitats of the Great Barrier Reef. The strategy is supported by vulnerability assessments that give an overview of the species and habitats at risk, their health and status, and recommended actions for their protection.

We released a report detailing the outcomes of our first five-year Climate Change Action Plan and launched our action plan for the next five years. The *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change*

Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2012–2017 outlines how we will build the Reef's health so it is better able to cope with stress and reduce the impacts of climate change.

We continued to work with Traditional Owners, tourism operators, the Queensland Government and other partners to ensure ecologically sustainable use of the Marine Park. We accredited two new Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements — for the Lama Lama and Yuku-Baja-Muliku Traditional Owners in Cape York Peninsula — bringing to eight the number of Traditional Owner management agreements with agency accreditation. At the end of the reporting period, about 24 per cent of the Queensland coastline within the Great Barrier Reef Region was covered by accredited Traditional Owner management agreements.

In recognition of the important role stewardship plays in protecting the Reef, the agency changed its third objective this year to 'fostering stewardship by engaging, educating and inspiring people through the care and management of the Marine Park'

The High Standard Tourism program has continued to grow in strength and there are now 60 certified High Standard Tourism operators in the Marine Park, offering a total of 131 accredited products. During the reporting period, more than 65 per cent of visitor days to the Marine Park were with High Standard Tourism operators.

Agency staff also contributed to the successful prosecution of the high-profile *Shen Neng 1* grounding case, which resulted in the first jail sentence ever handed down for damage to the Marine Park. The China-bound bulk coal carrier ran aground on Douglas Shoal, east of Yeppoon, on 3 April 2010, causing the longest known grounding scar on the Great Barrier Reef.

In order to manage the world's largest coral reef ecosystem effectively, the agency needs the best available scientific information. The National Environmental Research Program, funded by the Australian Government, is one of the most important programs delivering science to inform management of the Great Barrier Reef, and we are engaged with this program at project level, as chair of the biodiversity implementation group, and as a representative on the steering committee and water quality implementation group.

The agency also recognises the very high value of the long-term monitoring and fundamental marine research conducted by the Australian Institute of Marine Science. James Cook University and University of Queensland are also significant contributors to the scientific knowledge of the Reef. The Great Barrier Reef Foundation is the largest not-for-profit supporter of critical research on the Reef.

In recognition of the important role stewardship plays in protecting the Reef, the agency changed its third objective this year to 'fostering stewardship by engaging, educating and inspiring people through the care and management of the Marine Park'. Recognition of best practices are key components of this and the agency has worked closely with industry and communities to develop best practice guidelines for each sector.

During the reporting period, we expanded our successful Reef Guardian program, with increases in the number of schools, fishers, farmers and graziers involved. The Reef Guardian Schools program now engages with more than 115,000 students in 293 schools across Queensland, and we reached 1132 students and teachers through our Future Leaders Eco-challenges.

Part of our work in the Reef Guardian Fishers program involved voluntary trialling of electronic data collection in the commercial fishing industry. This equipment can bring benefits for managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Queensland fisheries. It can also improve the efficiency and safety of the fishing operations themselves. We made significant progress in assessing the available hardware for this application and have now sourced five units of a new and cost-effective device that uses satellite connectivity to report vessel location information. The units will be trialled initially on Field Management Program vessels to determine their suitability for commercial fishing vessels.

In June 2013, we launched our expanded Eye on the Reef program, which features a new smartphone application that enables people to make real-time reports of marine animal sightings while they are still out on the water.

The new-look program brings together four existing assessment and monitoring programs that collect valuable information about reef health, marine animals and incidents, plus a new entry-level monitoring program that enables any interested person to collect important data on the Reef. Reports made through the phone app and the four other sub-programs are combined in a central online management and reporting system to give us snapshots of what is happening on the Reef, comparative trend data over time, and early warnings of negative impacts. It is a powerful program that will boost community engagement in reef monitoring and build our knowledge of what's happening in the Marine Park.

The Eye on the Reef program originated as a set of observations collected by tourism operators and, 16 years on, the tourism industry continues to play a key role in collecting valuable reef health trend information. In 2012–13, tourism operators in the Whitsunday, Cairns and Far North regions monitored sites on more than 20 reefs under the Eye on the Reef — Tourism Weekly program. In addition, the agency, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Eye on the Reef monitoring network conducted almost 800 reef health and impact surveys across 91 reefs, providing detailed information on a range of impacts in different geographic areas.

We recognise that education and communication are essential to managing the Reef and preserving it for future generations. Reef HQ Aquarium — the Australian Government's national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef — received 141,417 visitors during 2012–13, just down on the 20-year visitor attendance record set in 2011–12. The aquarium is also leading by example when it comes to energy use minimisation, reducing its energy consumption by about 50 per cent through a 205 kilowatt peak photovoltaic solar power system and other energy-saving measures.

We have expanded our communications reach by using social media tools alongside traditional mediums such as newspaper, radio and television. Our Facebook page reaches an average of 19,000 people a week and our YouTube channel has had about 14,000 views to date. Twitter, the latest addition to our social media toolkit, has been embraced positively by the online community, nearing 200 followers in a matter of months.

We marked World Oceans Day on 7 June 2013 by participating in Reef Live — a ground-breaking live broadcast that used the latest digital technologies to showcase the Great Barrier Reef to a global audience. The Tourism and Events Queensland initiative allowed people to watch underwater divers and reef experts from around the world talk about the Reef over a 12-hour period. Participants could then interact in real time through Twitter. A number of our staff took part in the live broadcast from Reef HQ Aquarium.



Agency staff Chris Briggs (left) and Andrew Skeat (right) wait to be interviewed by Reef Live presenter Anna Daniels at Reef HQ Aquarium

Internationally, we continued our role as co-host of the International Coral Reef Initiative in partnership with the Government of Belize. With support from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), we hosted the successful 27th General Meeting of the initiative in Cairns in July 2012 which attracted 50 delegates from 24 countries around the world.

We also worked with colleagues in Belize to convene the next general meeting, to be held in Belize City in October 2013.

Our work in international engagement includes hosting visiting officials from within Australia and overseas. We hosted 12 groups during the reporting period, which saw a total of 81 international visitors exchanging knowledge and ideas on coral reef management.

Another important project on the international front is the Australia Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration, which we began implementing in July 2012 on behalf of AusAID. This two-year collaboration brings together coral reef managers and policymakers from across the world to help improve the outlook for Caribbean coral reefs in the face of climate change. During the reporting period, we worked with our Caribbean partners on a marine biodiversity offsets framework, a monitoring and assessment tool and a formal reef stewardship program which is based on our very successful Reef Guardian program.

In July 2012, the agency played a leading role in science-management engagement as part of the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium, convened in Cairns by the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies. About 2800 delegates from 80 countries attended this major gathering of coral scientists, and agency officers led a number of mini-symposia focused on the management and policy applications of coral reef science.

The 2012–13 financial report shows that, at 30 June 2013, the agency had a small operating surplus after depreciation. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's achievements are made possible through funding from appropriations from the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, through a special appropriation derived from the environmental management charge paid by tourists to the Great Barrier Reef, through funding from the Caring for our Country Program and from revenue generated from the operations of the Reef HQ Aquarium, permit assessment application fees and other cost recovery activities. We had 222 employees in 2012–13, with staffing levels relatively stable since 2008.

During the year we farewelled one of our longest serving staff members, our General Manager for Environment and Sustainability, Mr Peter McGinnity, who retired in April 2013. Peter made an outstanding contribution to the agency and to the protection of the Great Barrier Reef over most of the period that the agency has existed. We will miss his extensive knowledge and practical advice borne from 30 years of experience in helping to build and manage the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Mr Daniel Gschwind completed his four-year term as a member of the Authority board on 13 April 2013. Daniel's valuable insights and his expertise made a great contribution to the Authority. Mrs Margie McKenzie was appointed to the Authority on 16 May 2013 for a five-year term, bringing with her considerable experience in Reef-related marine tourism.

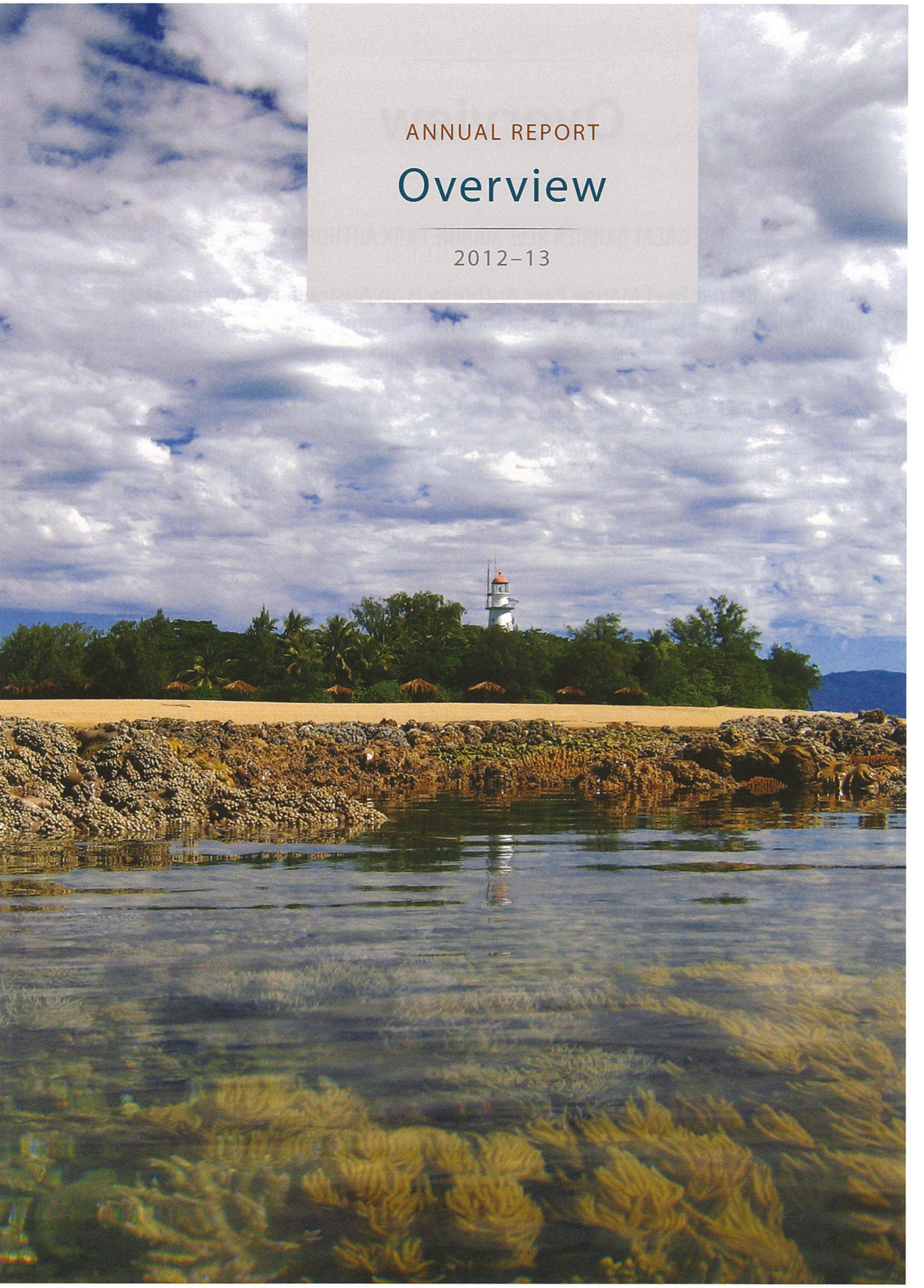
The strategic assessment has been a major resource commitment for the agency during 2012–13 and I thank the dedication of the many staff who contributed to this critical document. It has also provided us with a great opportunity. It has sharpened our focus on synthesising existing science about the Great Barrier Reef and identifying where new knowledge is needed to inform our understanding of the ecosystem. It will also lead to development of policies designed to manage cumulative pressures in a strategic way.

The work on the strategic assessment will contribute to the development of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014, which is a statutory requirement and will be a key focus for the agency in 2013–14.

I thank the Authority's board members and, on their behalf, I thank the agency's staff for their work and achievements in 2012–13. The Authority also acknowledges the work of all the partners and stakeholders who are working together towards the common goal of the long-term protection of the Great Barrier Reef.



Dr Russell Reichelt
Chairman



ANNUAL REPORT

Overview

2012–13

Overview

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is an Australian Government statutory authority within the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is responsible for managing one of the world's premier natural resources, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The agency implements a range of policies and programs, management strategies and legislative measures to work towards the following outcome:

'The long-term protection, 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.'

Delivery of this outcome is through three objectives set out in the agency's strategic and corporate plans:

1. Addressing the key risks affecting the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef
2. Ensuring management supports ecologically sustainable use
3. Fostering stewardship by engaging, educating and inspiring people through the care and management of the Marine Park.

The *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009* has provided a comprehensive assessment of what is known about the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, its use, its management and the pressures it is facing. The Outlook Report states that, while the Great Barrier Reef is one of the healthiest coral reef ecosystems in the world, its long-term outlook is at a crossroad and the decisions made in the next few years are likely to determine its future.

The agency is focused on improving the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef to better withstand the impacts of major threats, particularly climate change, declining water quality from catchment run-off, and degradation of coastal habitats, as well as the remaining impacts from fishing, illegal fishing, poaching, shipping, coastal developments and extreme weather events.

Measures to build the resilience of the Reef include engaging with communities and industries to raise awareness of climate change risks, vulnerability and resilience, and encourage local stewardship actions that can help the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem cope with climate change. The agency also uses a range of programs and partnerships aimed at protecting species and habitats from unsustainable uses and land-based sources of pollution.

The agency actively promotes the sustainable use of the Marine Park, including the use of the adjacent coast and catchments which affect it. Many commercial and non-commercial uses of the Great Barrier Reef Region depend on the biodiversity and health of this ecosystem. The agency aims to ensure these activities occurring within the Marine Park continue to operate on an ecologically sustainable basis.

To effectively manage the Great Barrier Reef, the agency works with a wide range of government agencies, Reef users, industries, Traditional Owners and other community representatives with an interest in the Reef and its outlook. These working partnerships are vital given the

challenges facing the Reef.

The relationship between the agency, the Queensland Government and a range of other government agencies is critical for effective management of the Great Barrier Reef. In particular, the Field Management Program, which is a jointly funded cooperative partnership between the Australian and Queensland governments, coordinates the day-to-day activities and field operations required to manage the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the associated Queensland Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park and the World Heritage Area.

The agency acknowledges and respects the native title rights and cultural responsibilities of the Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef Region. Traditional Owners have a long association with the region. There are more than 70 Traditional Owner groups whose sea country lies within the Great Barrier Reef Region. The agency partners with these groups to help maintain their cultural rights and interests and, through collaboration, to achieve the most effective management of the Marine Park.

Responsible Minister

As Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke MP, was responsible for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority until 30 June 2013.

No Ministerial directions were issued to the agency in 2012–13.

Legislative framework

The agency is established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (the Act) as an Australian Government statutory authority. The objects of the Act are set out in section 2A, and the specific functions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are defined in sections 7 and 7A.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park consists of areas declared by the Great Barrier Reef (Declaration of Amalgamated Marine Park Area) Proclamation 2004 made under the Act.

Other Acts administered by the agency 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:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000.

The agency also administers the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003 and the following plans of management:

- Cairns Area Plan of Management 1998
- Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004
- Shoalwater Bay (Dugong) Plan of Management 1997
- Whitsundays Plan of Management 1998.



While the Great Barrier Reef is one of the healthiest coral reef ecosystems in the world, its long-term outlook is at a crossroad

Organisational structure

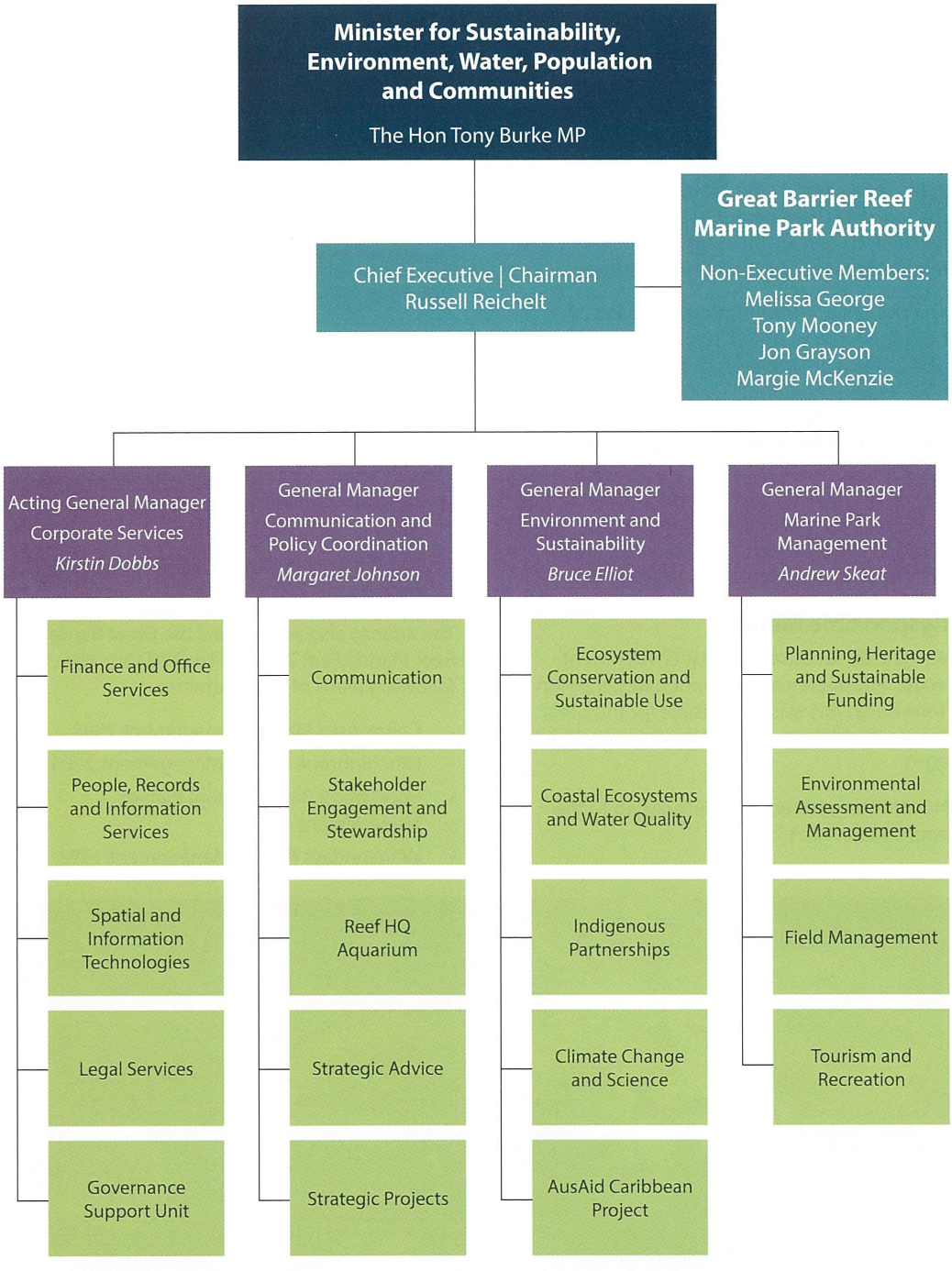


Figure 2: *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority organisational structure (as at 30 June 2013)*

Amendments to legislation during 2012–13

No amendments were made to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* during 2012–13, or to other legislation administered by the agency.

New legislative instruments during 2012–13

No new legislative instruments administered by the agency were made during 2012–13.

Finances overview

Details of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's financial operations are provided in the *Finances* chapter. An overview of the agency's financial operations follows and a summary of financial and staffing resources is in Figure 3, Figure 4 and Appendix A.

Total operating revenue for 2012–13 was $54.1 million. Appropriation for 2012–13 of $27.939 million was $3.040 million less than the 2011–12 appropriation. This was offset by an increase in own source income.

Own source income includes support for the continuation of the agency's work and measures to improve the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef being funded from the Caring for Our Country Program. This is included in funding from related entities, which are bodies that either form part of the Australian Government or are controlled by the Australian Government. In the figure below, related entity refers primarily to funds received from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Own source income for 2012–13 was $26.180 million, $6.294 million more than in 2011–12. Significant funding was received for ensuring the resilience of the Reef, for the marine monitoring program and Land and Sea Country Indigenous

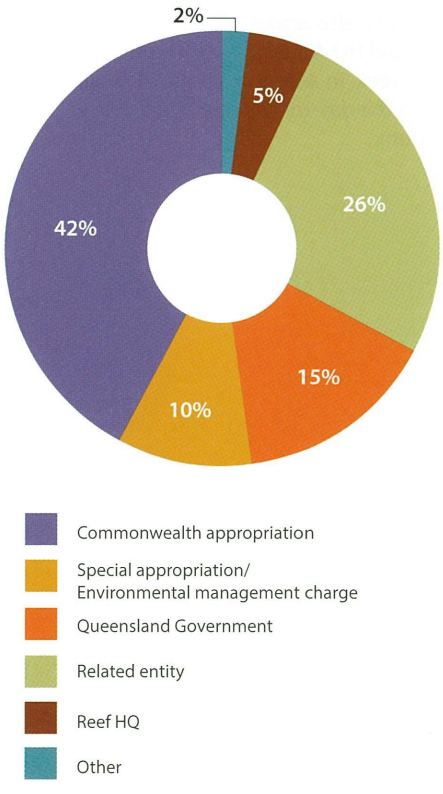


Figure 3: *Income by source 2012–13*
Note: The Special appropriation/Environmental management charge represents 10 per cent of income in 2012–13 compared to 16 per cent in the previous two financial years because of a reduction in the standard tourist program charge.

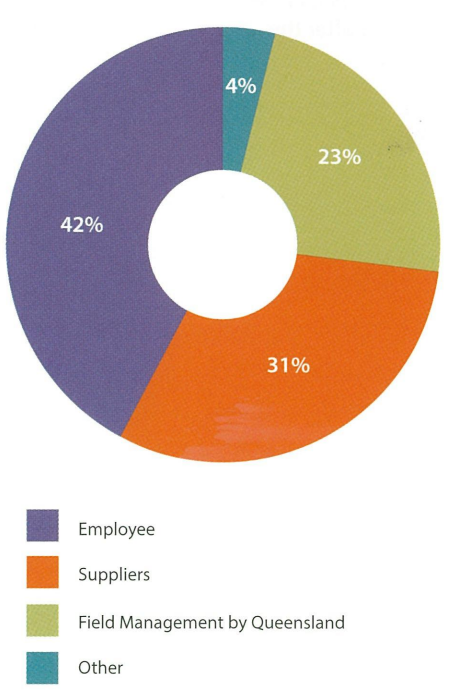


Figure 4: *Expenses by category 2012–13*

Partnerships program as part of the Australian Government's Caring for Country Reef Rescue program, for regional sustainability planning projects and for a targeted crown-of-thorns starfish control program.

The Australian and Queensland governments provided matching funding for field management of the Marine Park, which was implemented in partnership with the Queensland Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing and other agencies.

The operating expense of managing the Marine Park in 2012–13 was $53.956 million. Employee expenses were higher than in 2011–12 with staff working on regional sustainability planning projects which were used to inform the strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef Region. Expenses for suppliers were $3.249 million more than 2011–12 with consultancies on the marine monitoring program and Regional Sustainability Planning projects.

The agency had an operating surplus of $212,000 in 2012–13 after the unfunded depreciation expense.

Staff overview

The Executive Management Group consists of the Chairman and four Senior Executive Service (SES) Band 1 General Managers:

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

The number of employees in the agency was 222 for 2012–13, which is an increase from 211 in 2011–12 (see Appendix B for an overview of staffing, employee numbers and composition at 30 June 2013).

The staff figure for 2012–13 includes a number of fixed-term, non-ongoing positions arising from funding provided by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country — Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships program and the Reef Guardian program.

The agency also employs casual staff to work in the Reef HQ Aquarium which operates seven days a week. In addition, about 140 volunteers assist in the day-to-day operation of the aquarium.



ANNUAL REPORT

Performance

2012–13

Agency performance

In 2012–13 the agency successfully delivered a range of programs and initiatives to manage the Great Barrier Reef and protect it from potential threats. Its three main objectives were to:

- address the key risks affecting the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef
- ensure management of the Marine Park supports ecologically sustainable use
- foster stewardship by engaging, educating and inspiring people through the care and management of the Marine Park.

The agency's performance report is based on its Portfolio Budget Statement 2012–13, which details the deliverables and key performance indicators for the year.

These provide a framework for the agency to measure progress in meeting its three objectives.

SECTION 1
ADDRESSING THE KEY RISKS AFFECTING THE OUTLOOK FOR THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Overview	p. 19
Assess progress towards water quality target	p. 19
Climate Change Action Plan	p. 23
Remaining impacts from fishing	p. 28
Biodiversity Conservation Strategy	p. 29
Outlook Report 2014	p. 31

Table 1: *Objective 1, deliverables, key performance indicators and achievement highlights 2012–13*

OBJECTIVE 1: Address the key risks affecting the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef	
ASSESS PROGRESS TOWARDS WATER QUALITY TARGET	
Deliverable	Assess the progress towards the 2020 target identified under the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009* for Reef water quality
Key performance indicator	The declines in coastal ecosystem health, particularly declines in water quality and biodiversity, are halted and reversed; and where time scales for this change are long, then plans are in place to achieve it as soon as possible
Achievement highlights	• Managed marine monitoring program to assess progress towards Reef Plan goals • Assisted in development of Reef Plan 2013 • Contributed to Reef Plan scientific consensus statement 2013
CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN	
Deliverable	Implement the *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2012–2017*
Key performance indicator	Coastal communities and Great Barrier Reef users understand and have capacity to adapt to pressures of climate change and prevent damaging practices threatening reef health
Achievement highlights	• Launched the *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2012–2017* • Released outcome report from *Climate Change Action Plan 2007–2012* • Created new climate change display at Reef HQ Aquarium to educate visitors about climate change issues
REMAINING IMPACTS FROM FISHING	
Deliverable	Implement strategies to address the remaining impacts from fishing including, targeting illegal fishing and poaching, reducing incidental catch of species of conservation concern, and reviewing issues associated with the extraction of top predators, death of discarded species and fishing of fish spawning aggregations
Achievement highlights	• Completed ecological risk assessment for East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery • Contributed to Queensland Government's netting buyback scheme • Assisted in first stock assessment of coral trout to determine the size and status of the species • Expanded Reef Guardian Fishers program

OBJECTIVE 1: Address the key risks affecting the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef	
OUTLOOK REPORT 2014	
Deliverable	Implement the plan for developing the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014
Achievement highlights	• Analysed new information for conditions, trends, risks and resilience that will be used in Outlook Report
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRATEGY	
Deliverable	As part of implementing the *Great Barrier Reef Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2013*, develop a roadmap for an inshore biodiversity program
Achievement highlights	• Published Biodiversity Conservation Strategy in April 2013 • Completed 12 of the vulnerability assessments identified in the strategy

OVERVIEW

Addressing the key risks to the health of the Great Barrier Reef is a high priority for the agency. The impacts of climate change have been identified as the greatest environmental risk to the Reef, but declining water quality due to catchment run-off, loss of coastal habitats from increasing coastal development and the remaining impacts from fishing are other key risks. Emerging threats include port expansions and increased shipping.

In 2012–13, the agency dedicated substantial effort and resources towards addressing these risks. Key work in this area included assessing long-term water quality targets, publishing a new climate change action plan and launching a biodiversity conservation strategy.

ASSESS PROGRESS TOWARDS WATER QUALITY TARGET

The G*reat Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009* recognised that the decline in the quality of water entering the Reef was a significant threat to its health and resilience. *The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009* (Reef Plan) is the principal water quality management program for the Great Barrier Reef with $375 million in Australian and Queensland government funding provided over five years (2008–2013). Reef Plan is delivered through a partnership between the Australian and Queensland governments, regional natural resource management bodies, farmers, graziers, industry bodies, conservation groups and non-government organisations. The immediate Reef Plan goal is to halt and reverse the decline in the quality of water entering the Reef by 2013. The long-term goal is to ensure that, by 2020, the quality of water entering the Reef from adjacent catchments has no detrimental effect on the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. The agency is directly responsible for the delivery of the marine monitoring program under Reef Plan.

Key performance indicator

The declines in coastal ecosystem health, particularly declines in water quality and biodiversity, are halted and reversed; and where time scales for this change are long, then plans are in place to achieve it as soon as possible.

The development of Reef Plan in 2003 and its single urgent goal of 'halting and reversing the decline in the quality of water entering the Reef by 2013' was critical in providing an integrative program that requires governments and responsible agencies to work collaboratively in addressing this issue and its impact on the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

Reef Plan provides the toolbox governments can use to achieve this goal, and the flexibility to adaptively focus their management actions. This is important to inform understanding of the best and most cost-effective activities for improving water quality.

The initial 10 years of Reef Plan actions have seen governments achieve the original objective to 'reduce the loads of non-point source pollutants entering the Great Barrier Reef'. The renewal and revitalisation of Reef Plan in 2009 and again in 2013 demonstrates the Australian Government's long-term commitment to the new goal of ensuring that 'by 2020 water quality does not have a detrimental impact on the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef'.

The recently announced investment by the Australian Government, through its Reef Rescue initiative, to provide dedicated investment into coastal repair activities should now begin to address the declines in coastal ecosystem health and biodiversity in the Great Barrier Reef.



The Reef Plan second report card indicates good progress has been made in improving the quality of water entering the Reef lagoon (view of Dent Island from Hamilton Island)

Reef Plan goals

During the reporting period, the agency assisted the development of Reef Plan 2013. New targets have been defined that continue to guide progress towards achieving the Reef Plan goal for 2020.

The Reef Plan second report card was released in April 2013 and indicated that a two per cent reduction in sediment, eight per cent reduction in pesticides, two per cent reduction in phosphorus, and four per cent reduction in nitrogen had been achieved in 2009–10. It also highlighted the positive changes taking place on farms and grazing land across the catchment, with 20 per cent of sugarcane growers, 11 per cent of graziers and 18 per cent of horticulture producers having adopted improved management practices.

Significant work was also done during the year on the Reef Plan third report card, which was due to be released in July 2013. It was anticipated that the investment in on-ground actions would result in a reduction in the loads of sediment, pesticides and nitrogen.

Based on the findings of the second report card and subsequent progress, the 2013 water quality targets for sediment and pesticide loads may be met, while the target for nitrogen is unlikely to be achieved.

Reef Plan risk assessment

Agency staff contributed to the Reef Plan 2013 risk assessment which updated our understanding of areas of the Great Barrier Reef catchment that posed the greatest risk of delivering poor water quality to reef ecosystems. The findings were due to be released in July 2013.

Scientific consensus statement

Agency staff contributed to the development and review of the Reef Plan scientific consensus statement 2013, which was due to be released in July 2013. Staff also authored chapters on marine and coastal ecosystems impacts, resilience of marine ecosystems and drivers of change, and the relative risk to the Great Barrier Reef from degraded water quality.

Marine monitoring program

The agency continued to manage its $2 million a year marine monitoring program which is funded by Reef Rescue. The program assesses site-specific water quality, remotely sensed water quality, pesticides, flood plume dynamics, and the condition of seagrass meadows and inshore coral reefs. Agency staff developed a synthesis report of the program which brings together the outcomes of the six individual component reports from the various monitoring providers. The key findings were:

- No cyclones were experienced in the Great Barrier Reef in 2011–12. River discharges were below the levels experienced in 2010–11, though they were still significantly above long-term median volumes in the central regions of the Reef.
- The overall condition of the Reef in 2011–12 remained poor, though the individual water quality, seagrass and coral indicators that comprise this overall condition assessment varied between the sites monitored.
- Inshore water quality improved from a poor to moderate condition rating in 2011–12, reflecting an absence of major flooding. This improvement in water quality is a return to the trend for the majority of years since the program started in 2005–06.
- A wide range of herbicides, pesticides and industrial chemicals were detected at pesticide monitoring sites in 2011–12. There was a clear decrease in the maximum concentrations of herbicides detected at all 12 routine monitoring sites when compared to the previous monitoring year, with the greatest decreases observed in the Burdekin, Mackay–Whitsunday and Fitzroy regions. When compared to the baseline reporting year, most sites show a decrease in the maximum concentrations of herbicides.
- Inshore seagrass meadows remained in very poor condition in 2011–12, and their condition has continued to decline since 2006–07. Seagrass abundance and reproductive effort was very poor overall, while nutrient status was poor.
- Inshore coral reefs in the central and southern regions declined to a poor condition overall in 2011–12. Coral cover and the level of cover from competing macroalgae were both moderate. The density of hard coral juveniles and the rate of change in coral cover were very poor overall, indicating recovery potential from disturbances may be poor at many inshore reefs.

The six marine monitoring reports which feed into the report card are published on the agency's website.



Rudi Yoshida and Louise Johns monitor seagrass status and health on Green Island for the marine monitoring program. Photograph courtesy of Len McKenzie, Seagrass-Watch HQ

Informing the outlook for coastal ecosystems

During the reporting year, the agency completed a three-year study titled *Informing the outlook for Great Barrier Reef coastal ecosystems*. This report was released in October 2012 and details coastal land use changes over many decades and their impact on water quality, habitats and inshore biodiversity in the Marine Park.

This report for the first time:

- provides a standardised methodology for the collection, collation and validation of coastal ecosystem information
- gives an update on the extent of changes (at a spatial level) to functional coastal ecosystems in the Reef catchment as at 2009 compared to pre-European settlement
- documents areas of the Reef catchment where connectivity has been lost, resulting in decreased health and resilience of the Reef ecosystem
- identifies areas where restoration and rehabilitation of degraded (or lost) coastal ecosystem functions would improve the health and resilience of adjacent Reef ecosystems.

The management of coastal ecosystems and the numerous pressures they face are complex, particularly given the size and scale of the Reef catchment. This report provides the context upon which future management decisions on coastal ecosystems can be made.



Vince and Rita Papale on their farm at Home Hill and, below, the wetland they created

WETLAND CAPTURES FARM RUN-OFF

Burdekin cane farmers Vince and Rita Papale are a leading example of how good environmental practices can also benefit the bottom line.

Since converting four low-lying hectares of their Home Hill cane farm into wetland, the area has become a home to ducks, pelicans, sea eagles, kites, seagulls, fish and even a crocodile. Most importantly, it has improved the quality of water flowing from their farm to the Reef.

The area was once prone to flooding and waterlogging, and consequently difficult to grow cane on. But, by rethinking the once problematic site, the Papales have created a wetland that traps and filters water before it eventually runs out to sea. It not only minimises nutrient and chemical run-off, but also makes their farm more productive and profitable.

The wetland — the jewel in the crown of a range of innovative projects on the property — has been a lengthy but rewarding journey for the couple, whose farm has been in the family for four generations.

The transformation of their land using best management practices is also a source of great pride.

With help from a Reef Rescue grant, which they more than matched with their own funds, they reconfigured their cane blocks and drainage.

They measure their success simply: by managing to grow cane where it never grew before and knowing the water that runs off from their farm has minimal impact on the Reef.

The initiative has mitigated a lot of risk for the couple because the farm is now self-draining. It also helped them win the 2013 Queensland Premier's Rural Sustainability Award.

The Papales are in the process of becoming Reef Guardians so they can spread the message about how cane farming can be more sustainable and Reef-friendly.



Inshore coastal ecosystems

The agency in collaboration with the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation developed a five-year business case for repairing Great Barrier Reef estuarine and inshore coastal ecosystems. The business case identified priority areas of Reef catchments that required on-ground works and/or remediation. The aim of the works program is to restore connectivity between Reef, estuarine and freshwater ecosystems. This work will further guide the investment of funds available under Reef Plan that focus on improving ecosystem health in Reef catchments. This work was funded through the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund (2012–2013).

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

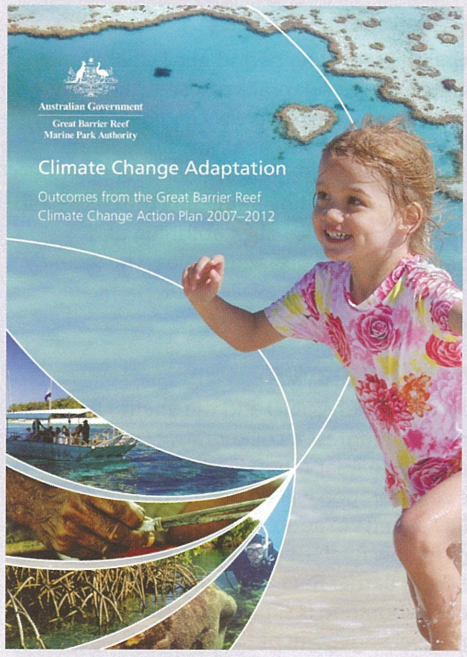
Climate change is recognised as one of the greatest threats to the long-term health of the Great Barrier Reef, with predicted effects including severe weather events, ocean acidification, rising sea temperature and rising sea levels. The agency's *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007–2012* represented a concerted effort by governments, industries and communities to identify and test strategies that could help give the Great Barrier Reef the best chance of coping with climate change. In December 2012, the agency launched the *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2012–2017*, which outlines how it will build the Reef's health so it is better able to cope with stress and reduce the impacts of climate change.

Key performance indicator

Coastal communities and Great Barrier Reef users understand and have capacity to adapt to pressures of climate change and prevent damaging practices threatening reef health.

The stories shared in the report *Climate Change Adaptation: Outcomes from the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007–2012* demonstrate that the agency's work has been successfully growing the awareness and capacity to adapt among Reef managers, users and communities over the last five years.

In 2012–13 the Climate Change Action Plan program has supported a range of awareness and capacity-raising initiatives. These include the key engagement and best practice programs Eye on the Reef and Reef Guardians, a new climate change display at Reef HQ Aquarium, and work with the seafood industry to consider climate change risks and explore approaches to adaptation.



The outcomes report showcases the people and organisations that were part of the agency's climate change program

There has also been significant advancement in the understanding and capacity of Reef managers, and this is evidenced by the advances in thinking demonstrated in the outputs from projects developing resilience frameworks and incorporating climate change considerations into environmental assessment processes. The agency has shared its learning and knowledge with other natural resource management and climate adaptation practitioners through partnerships, conferences and publications.

Outcomes report

To mark five years of work addressing the challenge of climate change, the agency released *Climate Change Adaptation: Outcomes from the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007–2012* in December 2012. The magazine-style publication showcases the range of people and organisations that were part of the climate change program. The stories describe what was done and the positive changes that resulted.

Adaptation conference

In June 2013, the agency organised a special session at Australia's national climate adaptation conference. Titled *Adaptation in Action for the Great Barrier Reef*, the session shared successes from the first Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan, some of the challenges Reef managers are now facing and the solutions they are exploring.

Spotlight on case study

During the reporting period, the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility selected the *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007–2012* as a case study for its Climate Change Adaptation Good Practice project. The case study highlights the leadership shown by the agency in establishing and implementing the first action plan. The recently released case study is available at www.nccarf.edu.au/localgov.

Research program

In January 2013, CSIRO and the agency formally agreed to progress a collaborative Great Barrier Reef Climate Adaptation Research program. The collaboration will further involve relevant CSIRO experts in addressing critical knowledge gaps in how Reef users and ecosystems within the Great Barrier Reef adapt to climate change. The collaboration is similar in purpose to the high-level engagement the agency already has in place with other research organisations. These relationships help the agency work more closely with organisations that have relevant expertise on topics of interest.

Partnerships with industries

During the reporting period, the agency maintained its partnership approach to the climate change challenge through work with Reef industries such as commercial fishing and tourism. This included:

- continuing our partnership with the Queensland Seafood Industry Association to progress work around Reef resilience, stewardship and climate change issues, including support for industry liaison to disseminate key climate change messages
- supporting a workshop in Brisbane in May 2013 to conduct an ecological risk assessment for the Queensland Coral Fishery
- preparing publications to share the learnings and results from 2011–12 work with the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery which explored climate change risks and adaptation for the industry. The publications will be released later in 2013
- hosting a Great Barrier Reef Operator Workshop at the Global Eco Asia–Pacific Tourism Conference in October 2012 which featured climate change action at Lady Elliot Island
- providing training in Eye on the Reef — Tourism Weekly Monitoring and Reef Health and Impact Surveys to marine tourism staff in Port Douglas, Cairns and the Whitsundays.

Raine Island

The agency has continued working closely with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on adaptation work at Raine Island — the world's largest green turtle rookery and the most significant seabird island on the Great Barrier Reef. This high-value island is particularly susceptible to climate change impacts, and long-term monitoring programs have identified declining trends in seabird populations and concerns for the green turtle population that nests there. Managers have been trialling adaptive management actions to help reduce mortality of adult female turtles that nest on the island, thereby enhancing the population's resilience to other climate-related impacts. *(The Raine Island adaptation work is reported on in more detail under Objective 2, page 55.)*

Climate change exhibition

As part of efforts to educate the broader community about climate change and the Great Barrier Reef, the agency redesigned the climate change display at Reef HQ Aquarium. The new display better connects visitors with how climate change threatens the Reef, what they can do to help the Reef cope with climate change, and what others are doing. *(The display is also reported on under Objective 3, page 96.)*



Fishermen at Grenada. Photograph courtesy of Roland Baldeo

AUSTRALIA SHARES GREAT BARRIER REEF EXPERTISE WITH CARIBBEAN

While the Caribbean and Australia may seem worlds apart, they have the largest coral reefs on the planet and share the challenges of protecting them.

In July 2012, the agency began implementing the Australia Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration on behalf of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

The two-year collaboration brings together coral reef managers and policymakers from across the world to share expertise and knowledge, to explore new ideas, and to initiate joint projects that can help improve the outlook for Caribbean coral reefs in the face of climate change.

It aims to develop new tools and demonstrate practical measures that coral reef managers and policymakers can deploy for real-world outcomes.

The program of activities includes a regional plan of action, collaborative projects and a website with resource portal.

During the first year, the agency worked with Belize to develop a marine biodiversity offsets framework. This will provide a template for governments, corporations and stakeholders to work together to achieve sustainable coastal development while reducing the vulnerability of coral reef ecosystems and coastal communities to climate change.

Work is also progressing on a monitoring and assessment 'multi-tool' to provide reef managers with an integrated system for keeping their finger on the pulse of ecosystem health, pressures and threats, and reef-derived benefits to local communities. The monitoring tool is being developed for testing in St Lucia.

Another project, based in Grenada, is the development of a framework for formalising and supporting reef stewardship activities. This project draws heavily on the agency's successful Reef Guardian program, and will help Grenada and other Caribbean countries extend their work with local communities as stewards of their local coral reefs.

The Caribbean collaboration will continue through to June 2014.



Caribbean collaboration team leader Paul Marshall (left) and Grenada Marine Parks warden Coddington Jeffries inspect a large elkhorn coral (Acropora palmata) *in the Moliniere/Beausejour Marine Park, Grenada*

Summer response program

Summer can be a period of increased risk to the Reef from temperature related coral bleaching and extreme weather such as cyclones and flooding. Stressful conditions can lead to coral disease outbreaks, and poor water quality can lead to an increase in coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish. In order to prepare for these risks, the agency held a pre-summer workshop with relevant experts, Marine Park rangers, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority staff and a selection of tourism operators. The October 2012 workshop focused on reef health and impact survey techniques and reporting, helping the agency to monitor the health of the Reef over summer. Regular updates on current conditions were provided on the agency's website.

Reef health and impact surveys

The agency, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Eye on the Reef monitoring network conduct reef health and impact surveys throughout the year to gain a better understanding of what's happening in the Marine Park. The surveys conducted during the hotter months are particularly important because most impacts occur during summer, and this data can alert the agency to specific impacts that require a management response.

As part of the summer response program, the agency, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Eye on the Reef monitoring network conducted 792 reef health and impact surveys across 91 reefs on the Great Barrier Reef between 1 December 2012 and 30 April 2013. Most of the surveys conducted in this five-month period (76 per cent) were in the Cairns–Cooktown sector of the Marine Park. Of all the surveys throughout the Marine Park, 28 per cent recorded healthy coral reefs with no impacts, 34 per cent recorded the presence of one type of impact per survey and another 38 per cent recorded a combination of impact types.

The impacts surveyed included predation (299 surveys), coral bleaching (289), coral damage (245) and coral disease (184). The survey results provided a valuable assessment of the extent and severity of crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks in the Cairns–Cooktown region. *(Reef health and impact surveys are also reported on under Objective 2, page 52, and Objective 3, page 86.)*

Cyclone recovery checks

In October 2012, the agency collaborated with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to survey reefs in the Townsville to Cairns areas to assess the level of recovery following cyclone Yasi. The surveys revealed that damage from cyclone Yasi — which crossed the North Queensland coast on 3 February 2011 — was still very evident and low-level coral bleaching and disease was observed. However, corals were beginning to recover, with juvenile corals and regrowth of surviving coral colonies observed on many reefs.



As part of the summer response program, 792 reef health and impact surveys were conducted across 91 reefs over a five-month period



Under current levels of effort and fishing practices, the overall risk levels from trawling activities are generally low

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FISHING ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

In a collaborative project for the Great Barrier Reef, an assessment of the otter trawl fishery found impacts on marine plants and animals have substantially reduced over the last decade.

Marine park zoning, the introduction of a fishery management plan, and improved fishing practices have contributed to the reduced risk, as the fishery targets species such as prawns and scallops.

The *Ecological risk assessment of the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park* is the result of a comprehensive process involving the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Fisheries Queensland and the Queensland Seafood Industry Association. Other organisations and, importantly, trawl industry members also provided expert input into the assessment.

The risk assessment looked at more than 900 species, 10 habitat types, 16 species assemblages (or communities) and 14 ecosystem processes such as predation, scavenging and symbiosis.

The key findings were that, under current levels of effort and fishing practices, the overall risk levels from trawling activities are generally low. However some risks remain, particularly for 11 species of skates and rays, two species of sea snakes and a deep water habitat in the southern Great Barrier Reef that includes some fishing grounds for eastern king prawns.

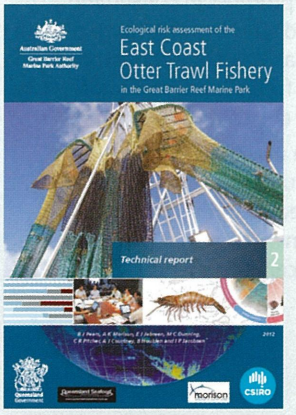
The risk assessment of the fishery has given managers and industry a full understanding of where efforts to reduce the remaining risks need to focus. Continuing to work with the trawl industry on further improvements, including innovation in bycatch reduction, is part of the answer to addressing the remaining risks.

Recent initiatives have looked at how to reduce impacts on sea snakes and other bycatch across the fishery using 'fisheye' and 'square mesh codend' bycatch reduction devices.

Some of the best performing devices are now being trialled by fishers.

The East Coast Trawl Fishery is the largest commercial fishery in Queensland and is an important source of income and jobs for Queensland coastal communities and the Queensland seafood industry.

For more information on the assessment visit the agency's website at www.gbrmpa.gov.au.



The ecological risk assesment will guide efforts to reduce the remaining risks to marine plants and animals

Crown-of-thorns starfish

The agency also conducted reef health and impact surveys on reefs in the Cairns and Port Douglas area in May and June 2013, primarily to assess impacts from crown-of-thorns starfish. The surveys assessed the number of starfish at each site to help understand the extent of crown-of-thorns starfish on the Great Barrier Reef and to inform the current control program. Surveys also evaluated the condition of the Reef and recorded any other impacts on reef health such as coral bleaching and disease. *(The crown-of-thorns starfish control program is reported on in more detail under Objective 2, page 61.)*

Science for management

During the reporting period, the agency supported a number of projects, including:

- funding a report on exposure maps of the key environmental drivers of health impacts in reef and non-reef areas of the Great Barrier Reef Region. This information is helping to assess current and future habitat vulnerability in the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem
- co-investing with the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation to examine physical oceanographic influences on reef fish and scallops to improve assessments, forecasting and sustainable management for these species
- co-investing with the marine monitoring program to address key knowledge gaps on the impacts of pollutants on Reef health and resilience by synthesising and integrating nine years of monitoring data from the program
- preparing articles about no anchoring areas introduced to reduce coral damage in Keppel Bay, progress in conserving tropical seabirds under a changing climate on the Great Barrier Reef, and historical and projected future exposure of the Great Barrier Reef to environmental factors
- engaging with researchers and their project teams under a number of significant research initiatives including the National Environmental Research Program Tropical Ecosystems Hub, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, the Reef Rescue Research and Development program, and the Queensland Reef Protection Research and Development program.

The agency also recognises the importance of the marine research and long-term monitoring work done by the Australian Institute of Marine Science. James Cook University and University of Queensland are also significant contributors to the scientific knowledge of the Reef.

Reef Futures Genomics

In 2012–13, the agency continued its support of the Reef Futures Genomics (ReFuGe 2020) consortium. This project was formed by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to bring scientists and managers together to focus on the use of genetics based approaches for understanding and enhancing the adaptability of coral reef ecosystems in the face of climate change. The agency is the key management partner of the consortium.

REMAINING IMPACTS FROM FISHING

Sustainable fishing is an important use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area. The agency addresses the impacts of fishing using an ecosystem-based management approach and works cooperatively with managers from the Queensland and Australian governments and a range of fisheries stakeholders to deliver ecologically sustainable fishing. A number of key initiatives were implemented and achieved during 2012–13, including those reported below.

Ecological risk assessment

The ecological risk assessment for the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery was completed in 2012 following a joint project between the agency, Fisheries Queensland and the Queensland Seafood Industry Association with input from fishers, managers, scientists and other stakeholders. *(The assessment is reported on in more detail on page 27.)*



Vulnerability assessments have been published for inshore and coastal foraging seabirds, including the caspian tern

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY TARGETS INSHORE IMPACTS

The Great Barrier Reef is internationally recognised for its outstanding biodiversity, a key aspect of its World Heritage status.

The *Great Barrier Reef Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2013*, published in April 2013, provides a framework to protect at-risk plants, animals and habitats of the Great Barrier Reef.

While the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's zoning plan is protecting biodiversity and the quality of water entering the Reef lagoon is improving through Reef Plan actions, more is needed to address the cumulative impacts on inshore biodiversity.

A strong focus of the strategy is improving inshore biodiversity where species and habitats are under the greatest pressure from a range of threats, including coastal developments.

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy is supported by vulnerability assessments that give an overview of the species at risk, their health and status, as well as recommending actions to protect them so that resources can be directed to those plants, animals and habitats that most need help.

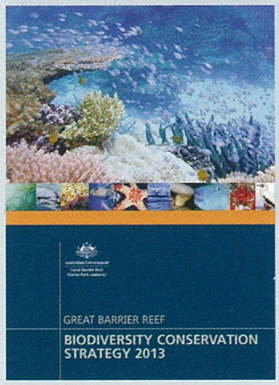
Twenty at-risk habitats, species and groups of species have been identified as requiring vulnerability assessments.

Sixty per cent of these vulnerability assessments have been completed and published and a further 20 per cent will be published in the second half of 2013.

The strategy also highlights the importance of working with government, industry, researchers and the community to restore degraded habitats and reconnect coastal ecosystems along the Reef.

For example, the agency is working with its partners including scientists, the Queensland Government, natural resource management groups, Traditional Owners and local communities to identify the best ways to rehabilitate wetlands so they are healthy and support the inshore area of the Reef.

At the end of the reporting period the agency had begun building an inshore biodiversity program into the outcomes framework for the strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef Region.



The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy provides a framework to protect at-risk plants, animals and habitats

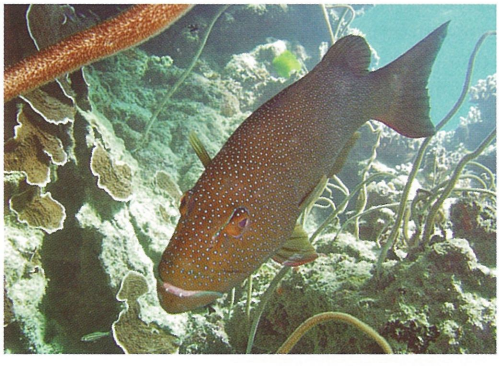
Netting buyback scheme

The agency has been a member of the Netting Buyback Working Group that provides advice to the Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on the Queensland Government's $9 million East Coast inshore net buyback scheme. This voluntary scheme targets large mesh nets and gill nets, with the aim of helping to restore the health and well-being of the East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery, and the sustainability of the commercial fishing industry. Such outcomes would be beneficial to the longer term conservation of the Great Barrier Reef. The first stage of the scheme finished in June 2013, resulting in a buyback of 35 commercial fishing licences at a total cost of $2.2 million. The Netting Buyback Working Group has provided advice to the Minister on eligibility criteria for the next stage of the buyback scheme, scheduled for 2013–14.

Management of the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery

The agency has been assisting scientists from the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry with the inaugural stock assessment of coral trout — the major target species group in the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery — by providing data and facilitating informal discussions between scientists and experienced commercial fishers.

The agency has continued to contribute to the valuable CSIRO–led project, *Evaluating candidate monitoring strategies, assessment procedures and harvest control rules in the spatially complex Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery*, which incorporates valuable up-to-date economic and other fishery data. The preliminary coral trout stock assessment and CSIRO project results have been considered by the Fisheries Queensland–led Line Review Working Group of which the agency is a member.



The agency assisted with the inaugural stock assessment of coral trout

These projects have shaped future alternative management options for the fishery being developed by the Line Review Working Group.

The agency also supported the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities in developing conditions and recommendations related to the Declaration of Approved Wildlife Trade Operations for the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery. The declaration was accredited in June 2013.

Reef Guardian Fishers program

The Reef Guardian Fishers program was strengthened and expanded in 2012–13. The program now includes 11 commercial fishing operations from the Coral Reef Fin Fish and the Marine Aquarium Fish and Coral Collection fisheries, totalling 64 fishing vessels. By comparison, there were seven fishing operations and up to 46 fishing vessels in the program at the beginning of the reporting period. The Reef Guardian Fishers program provides recognition of the environmental initiatives and active stewardship of fishers involved. Through the positive relationships developed with fishers and Fisheries Queensland, additional initiatives have been possible, including trialling electronic data collectors that have logged location, catch and effort information, and tagging coral trout by commercial fishers. Discussions have been held with representatives from other fishing sectors who are interested in becoming involved in the program, including many from the trawl and net sectors. *(The program is reported on in more detail under Objective 3, page 83.)*

Review of remaining impacts

In preparation for the next Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, to be written in 2013–14, the agency has begun reviewing the remaining impacts of fishing. This review examines improvements in the sustainability of fishing activities since the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009*, and the remaining ecological

risks that the agency needs to address with its partners.

OUTLOOK REPORT 2014

Agency resources for the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014 were diverted to assist with the development of the strategic assessment because of the significant overlap in information and analyses required for these two documents. In particular, the Outlook Report assessments for biodiversity, ecosystem health, commercial and non-commercial use, factors influencing ecosystem resilience, and risk will draw heavily upon the work conducted for the strategic assessment. The strategic assessment has provided an analysis of new information for conditions and trends for the assessments noted above, as well as for assessing measures to protect and manage the Reef. Agency officers will focus on the Outlook Report in the second half of 2013.

Summary of achievements for Objective 1

- Released the *Great Barrier Reef Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2013* and published 12 of the 20 vulnerability assessments for at-risk habitats, species and groups of species that were identified through the strategy
- Released an ecological risk assessment of the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery, which found that its impacts on marine plants and animals have reduced substantially over the last decade as a result of Marine Park zoning, the introduction of a fishery management plan and improved fishing practices
- Completed the *Informing the outlook for Great Barrier Reef coastal ecosystems* report which details coastal land use changes over many decades and their impact on water quality, habitats and inshore biodiversity
- Managed the marine monitoring program, which monitors the condition of water quality and the health of key marine ecosystems, to assess progress towards Reef Plan goals
- Assisted in the development of Reef Plan 2013 and helped set new targets towards achieving the 2020 water quality goal
- Released *Climate Change Adaptation: Outcomes from the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007–2012*, a magazine-style publication showcasing the achievements of the first climate change action plan
- Launched the *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2012–2017*, which outlines how the agency will build the Reef's health so it is better able to cope with stress and reduce the impacts of climate change
- Began collaborating with CSIRO to progress a Great Barrier Reef Climate Adaptation Research program
- Helped develop a marine biodiversity offsets framework under the Australia Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration
- Assisted the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry with the first stock assessment of coral trout to determine the size and status of population, and determine ecologically sustainable levels of harvest
- Provided advice to the Queensland Government on its inshore net buyback scheme, which resulted in the buyback of 35 fishing licences by 30 June 2013.

SECTION 2
ENSURING MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE PARK SUPPORTS ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE USE

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Table 2: *Objective 2, deliverables, key performance indicators and achievement highlights 2012–13*

OBJECTIVE 2: Ensure management of the Marine Park supports ecologically sustainable use	
IMPLEMENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES	
Deliverable	Implement the legislative changes proposed in the Annual Regulatory Plan 2012–2013
Achievement highlights	• Obtained Ministerial in-principle approval to increase compliance effectiveness for public moorings and infrastructure, and worked with Office of Best Practice Regulation to prepare regulatory amendment • Prepared documentation to register *Dent Island Lightstation Heritage Management Plan* • Obtained in-principle approval to progress regulatory amendment to include assessment of heritage values in the Outlook Report
PRIORITY POLICY DOCUMENTS	
Deliverable	Review and update priority policy documents
Achievement highlights	• Assessed special tourism and mooring permissions so some of these capped opportunities can be made available to the market • Completed public consultation on the Marine Tourism Contingency Plan
SEA COUNTRY MANAGEMENT	
Deliverable	Deliver the Indigenous Land and Sea Country Partnerships program and evaluate the effectiveness of the program
Achievement highlights	• Accredited Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements for Lama Lama and Yuku-Baja-Muliku Traditional Owner groups • Delivered compliance training to 31 community rangers and Indigenous community groups • Hosted Saltwater Women's Gathering on Magnetic Island
FIELD MANAGEMENT	
Deliverable	Implement the 2012–13 annual business plan for Field Management
Key performance indicator	The protective legal measures built into the Marine Park and related laws are effective and supported by a comprehensive Field Management Program delivered jointly with the Queensland Government

OBJECTIVE 2: Ensure management of the Marine Park supports ecologically sustainable use	
Achievement highlights	• Completed 1460 dedicated compliance vessel patrol days • Detected 992 offences in the World Heritage Area • Contributed to prosecution of *Shen Neng 1* grounding case, resulting in the first custodial sentence ever handed down for damage to the Marine Park • Successfully prosecuted 24 matters of higher environmental concern with fines of $121,500 • Fenced cliff edges and trialled other on-ground work at Raine Island to prevent turtle deaths • Trained more than 150 volunteers in marine animal stranding response
CROWN-OF-THORNS STARFISH OUTBREAK	
Deliverable	Investigate strategies to respond to the emerging crown-of-thorn starfish outbreak
Achievement highlights	• Managed control program that resulted in more than 95,000 crown-of-thorns starfish being culled from 71 reefs • Conducted 2942 manta tow surveys and 556 reef health and impact surveys through the Field Management Program to identify crown-of-thorns starfish locations • Assisted in field trials of alternative single-shot injection that will boost culling efficiency
RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	
Deliverable	Implement the research and communication components of the Recreation Management Strategy
Achievement highlights	• Collaborated with CSIRO to ensure agency's needs for recreation research and monitoring are met • Enhanced communication with recreational users as part of work to implement the Recreation Management Strategy • Investigated new approaches to deliver key messages to recreational fishers

OBJECTIVE 2: Ensure management of the Marine Park supports ecologically sustainable use	
TOURISM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	
Deliverable	Develop a Tourism Management Strategy
Achievement highlights	• Progressed draft Tourism Management Strategy through the Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee considering audit results on the use of tourism permissions and an audit of Great Barrier Reef tourism experiences • Increased number of tourism operators in the High Standard Tourism program from 57 to 60
REEF MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	
Deliverable	Deliver the 2012–13 tranche of the Reef Management System
Achievement highlights	• Completed first three modules for the Reef Management System • Reduced administration for tourism operators by implementing an online system for the environmental management charge
HERITAGE OBLIGATIONS	
Deliverable	Fulfil heritage obligations under the World Heritage Convention and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
Achievement highlights	• Assessed current condition and trend of the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area • Identified values relevant to the Indigenous and historic components within the Great Barrier Reef as part of strategic assessment • Finalised a joint heritage management plan for Dent Island Lightstation in conjunction with Australian Maritime Safety Authority • Completed restoration works on Lady Elliot Island lighthouse through a partnership between the agency, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the lessee of Lady Elliot Resort

OBJECTIVE 2: Ensure management of the Marine Park supports ecologically sustainable use	
STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT	
Deliverable	Undertake a strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
Achievement highlights	• Worked with Queensland Government on demonstration cases to assess the effectiveness of programs to protect and manage matters of national environmental significance • Consulted extensively with coastal communities about the Reef's values, threats to those values and the management of those threats • Managed five projects to inform the strategic assessment • Progressed draft strategic assessment, which is being finalised for submission to the Australian Environment Minister
ECOSYSTEMS MAINTAINED OR RESTORED	
Key performance indicator	The natural functions and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystems are maintained, or if necessary restored through effective decisions governing natural resource management and environmental protection and working in partnership with Traditional Owners, coastal communities, Great Barrier Reef users and local government.
Achievement highlights	• Implemented a range of strategies, mechanisms and programs to maintain or restore the natural functions and resilience of Reef ecosystems, including the work done through the Sea Country Partnerships program, Field Management Program and Climate Change Action Plan

OVERVIEW

Ensuring management supports ecologically sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef is central to the agency's role and is vital as the Reef faces increasing pressures from continued growth and development — both within and outside the Marine Park.

The agency recognises the importance of the Reef to the social and economic health of the region and supports the legitimate use of the Marine Park by tourism operators, commercial fishers, recreational fishers, Traditional Owners, scientists, shipping and other stakeholders.

The agency has a dedicated compliance regime to manage use of the Marine Park. Our Field Management Program, which is run jointly with the Queensland Government, also covers marine conservation management, incident response, cultural heritage protection, and planning and permits.

Building strong partnerships with stakeholders, such as tourism operators and Traditional Owners, is a high priority in achieving ecologically sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef.

IMPLEMENT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Bait netting provisions

In 2012–13 the agency began work on amending the bait netting provisions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983 to complement changes to the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Marine Park. At the end of the reporting period, instructions for drafting the regulation were being prepared for submission to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

Revocation of aquaculture regulations

The agency decided not to revoke the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000 until it is known whether the Queensland Government's new policy position on aquaculture is consistent with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations accreditation agreement. The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has advised the agency of proposed changes to the operational policy for aquaculture and the new waste to water operational policy and has committed to providing information on other proposed changes. The agency has agreed to give high level comment on any likely issues that may arise from these changes.

Moorings and public infrastructure regulation

The regulation prohibiting the removal of, misuse of, and damage to public moorings in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983 required clarification on the term 'misuse' and the definition of 'public mooring' to ensure it is enforceable and meets management needs. The scope of the regulation also needed to be expanded to protect other types of public infrastructure in the Marine Park. The agency obtained the Environment Minister's in-principle approval to progress the required regulatory amendments and worked with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel to prepare the draft regulatory amendment. At the end of the reporting period, the regulation was with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel before being put up for Ministerial approval. It is expected to be submitted to the Federal Executive Council in the second half of 2013, then registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.

Dent Island Lightstation

At the end of the reporting period, the agency was preparing the documentation required to register the joint Dent Island Lightstation Heritage Management Plan as a legislative instrument. The draft plan was prepared by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in



This image of the historic Dent Island Lighthouse was taken in 1917. Photograph courtesy of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority

conjunction with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. It was endorsed by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in June 2013 and is expected to be approved by the agency and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in the second half of 2013. *(The plan is also reported under heritage obligations, page 65.)*

Outlook Report and typographical amendments

The agency obtained the Environment Minister's in-principle approval to make amendments to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983 to include the 'assessment of heritage values' in future Great Barrier Reef Outlook Reports and to rectify typographical errors. At the end of the reporting period, drafting instructions for the amendments had been provided to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

PRIORITY POLICY DOCUMENTS

Amend framework and processes

To ensure best practice corporate governance, there's a focus on continual improvement to ensure our policies are consistent, accurate and up-to-date. In September 2012, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority approved a number of measures in this area including draft procedures and checklist for consistency across all policies, and ensuring staff utilise these systems. This work covers all policies, position statements, site management arrangements and guidelines produced by the agency and is consistent with keeping such documents updated under the Information Publication Scheme requirements.

A status summary provides a mechanism for monitoring the review and development of all policy documents across the agency. This policy documents register is available on the intranet for staff to access.

Review of permissions

Special permissions allow opportunities for tourism operations, facilities, or endorsed activities in the Marine Park that have been limited by legislation, or under a plan of management. In 2012–13, the agency conducted a review of special permissions that were available for allocation. This included a full assessment of potential environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts of the permissions. As some special permissions were identified for potential allocation, the agency undertook targeted consultation with industry associations, councils, tourism bodies, state government and community groups in the Whitsundays, Hinchinbrook and Cairns areas. An expression of interest process will be used to allocate the permissions in 2013–14.

Moorings Policy

The Moorings Policy provides a framework for the management and use of moorings that protects the environment and provides for ecologically sustainable access in the Marine Park. The policy

was last amended in 2005. A review of the policy is now under way with advice received from the Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee and working groups. The Moorings Policy will go out to public consultation in 2013–14 before it is presented to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority board for approval.

Marine Tourism Contingency Plan

The Marine Tourism Contingency Plan aims to provide business focused contingency arrangements for marine tourism operators who are impacted by a severe environmental incident. Such arrangements must protect the environment and be compatible with other uses of the Marine Park. In 2012–13, the agency completed public consultation on the policy for the Marine Tourism Contingency Plan and relevant comments were taken into consideration in the final document. Board approval will be sought in 2013–14.

SEA COUNTRY MANAGEMENT

More than 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owner clan groups have long continuing relationships with the Great Barrier Reef Region and its natural resources, dating back more than 60,000 years. This unique relationship was recognised when the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area was inscribed in 1981 and it forms part of the outstanding universal value for the World Heritage Area. The agency works in partnership with Traditional Owner groups to manage sea country, primarily through the Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships program.

Reef Rescue funding

The first phase of the Australian Government's $10 million Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships program (Reef Rescue program) ended on 30 June 2013. The agency's Indigenous Partnerships group successfully administered the five-year program under the Caring for our Country initiative, effectively delivering on the expansion of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements, enhanced compliance and improved understanding of Traditional Owner issues in managing the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. In April 2013, the Australian Government committed a further $10 million over five years — 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2018 — to implement phase two of the Reef Rescue program.

Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders undertake traditional use of marine resources to practice 'living maritime culture', provide traditional food for families, and educate younger generations about traditional and cultural rules, protocols and activities in sea country. The agency supports Traditional Owners in developing and implementing marine resources agreements, each of which has an implementation plan that describes priority work around the protection and conservation of important species and habitats, cultural heritage protection and compliance.

In 2012–13, seven Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements and one Indigenous Land Use Agreement were recorded as being accredited by the agency. These agreements cover a total of 46,271 square kilometres of sea country or 24.20 per cent of the Queensland coastline within the Great Barrier Reef, and involve 16 Traditional Owner groups. *(See Figure 5, page 40.)*

Agency accredits new Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements

In June 2013, the Lama Lama and Yuku-Baja-Muliku Traditional Owner groups had their agreements accredited by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The Lama Lama agreement extends over the western half of Princess Charlotte Bay in Cape York Peninsula and covers 2323 square kilometres, stretching south from Massy Creek to the entrance of the Normanby River and extending easterly to Hedge Reef. The Yuku-Baja-Muliku agreement covers 1088 square kilometres, just south of Cooktown stretching from Monkhouse Point to Forsberg Point and extending east to just past the Ribbon Reefs. *(Development of the Lama Lama people's agreement is detailed in a case study, page 43.)*

TUMRA workshop

More than 30 Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners from seven Traditional Owner groups

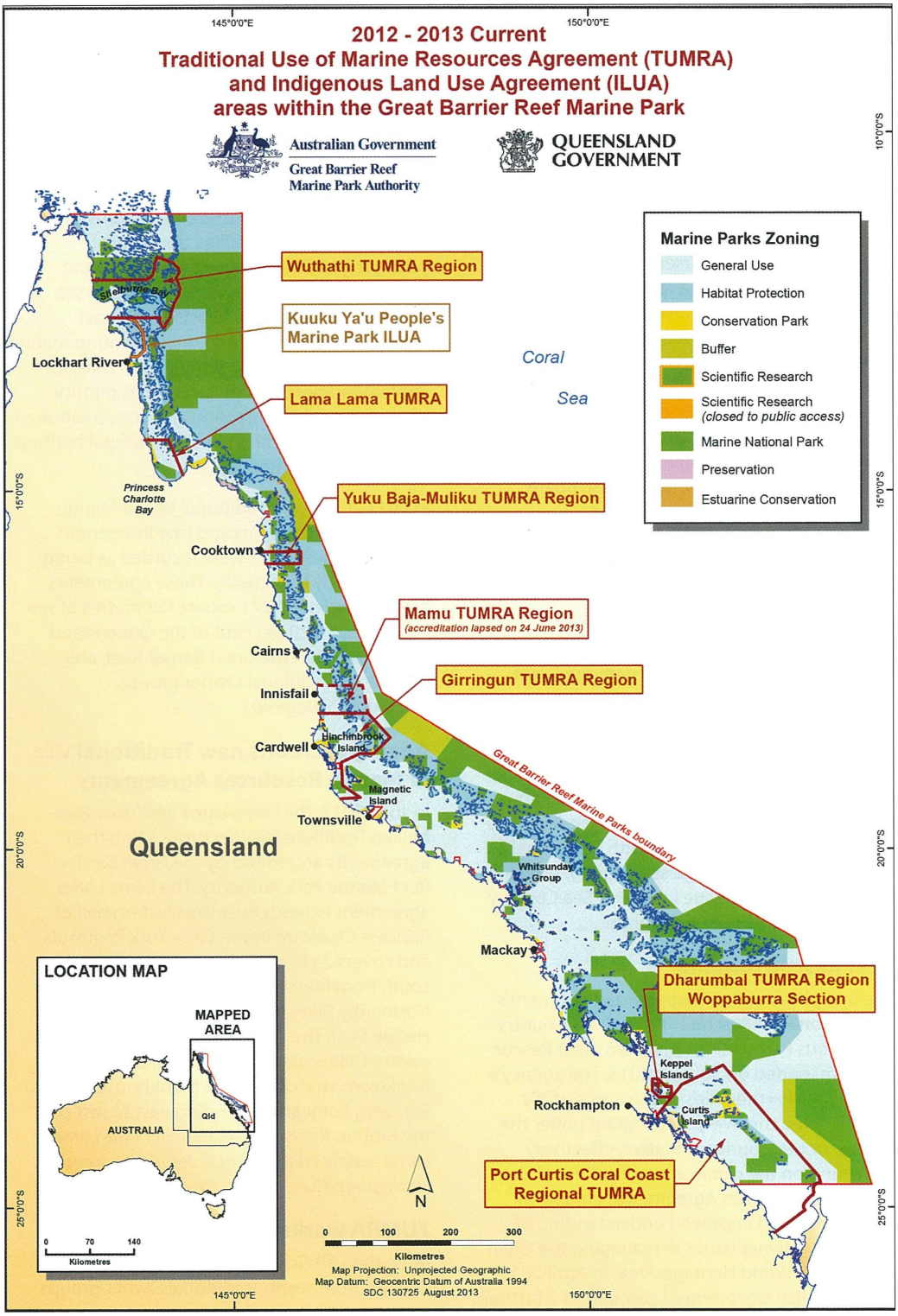


Figure 5: *Traditional Use of Marine Resources agreements and Indigenous Land Use Agreements within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*



The agency works in partnership with Traditional Owner groups to manage sea country in the Great Barrier Reef Region

attended a Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement workshop in Townsville from 23–25 October 2012 to share information about developing or implementing their respective agreements. Traditional Owners identified several attributes of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements that they particularly valued, including: the ability to maintain and pass on culture, practice and knowledge through generations; the opportunity to share and network with others; and the ability to undertake management activities on country. The workshop was one of the priority actions that came out of the Sea Country Partnerships Forum held in Cairns in May 2010.

Strengthened cultural authority

More than 30 per cent of Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners have recognised formal management arrangements in place, empowering cultural authority through the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement process, and compliance training and planning. Traditional Owners observe their traditional laws and customs within their sea country, and may formalise a relationship with the agency to enforce customary laws through the Indigenous compliance program.

Through the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement program, 11 groups have exercised their cultural authority by imposing hunting bans in their sea country following the environmental damage caused by severe weather in early 2011. The bans, imposed on top of the limits already in place under their marine resources agreements, have been declared until there is satisfactory evidence that the environment has recovered enough to allow the resumption of hunting and other customary activities.

Enhanced compliance

The agency's Field Management compliance section is working with community ranger groups on potential incidents in the park, demonstrating the effectiveness of the Indigenous community compliance liaison program.

Key achievements in the compliance area in 2012–13 include:

- continued success with the establishment of an Indigenous communities compliance liaison team, which operates under an annual business plan and has one member assigned to manage the interests of Indigenous women
- continued development of compliance management plans and risk assessments for each individual Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement, to be updated annually in consultation with the respective Indigenous communities
- drafting regional compliance management plans for specific areas where compliance matters are of high concern.

Delivery of compliance training

The agency continued the successful delivery of four compliance training packages in 2012–13. They included a two-day Eyes and Ears training package for Indigenous rangers, a one-day compliance training package for Indigenous community members and a one-day package to train field management inspectors

in Indigenous compliance issues. A detailed inspectors training package was delivered under the Field Management Program to broaden staff knowledge of cultural issues and to manage interactions with Indigenous members in an operational environment. This last package is being reviewed and expanded.

During the reporting period, the agency delivered six days of compliance training to 31 Indigenous community rangers and Indigenous community members, including Traditional Owners. More than 300 people have taken part in the on-ground training packages since the project began in 2009. Participants have included Indigenous rangers, Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members and Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef. There has been strong interest from other Indigenous community members in attending training in the future.

Compliance patrols

In 2012–13, seven Indigenous community rangers participated in four multi-agency compliance patrols, logging nine patrol days under the Field Management Program. These rangers provided high-standard surveillance and evidence collection on several investigations, including:

- an oil spill investigation by Injinoo Rangers at Changodoo Point, Newcastle Bay
- a joint patrol between Yuku-Baja-Muliku rangers and Queensland Boating and Fisheries



Lama Lama rangers undertaking a land based compliance patrol

- the detection of unattended and unmarked commercial mesh nets at Walker Bay, south of Cooktown, where five live turtles were released. Infringement notices were subsequently issued
- an investigation by a Lama Lama ranger into the take of vulnerable species. The information gathered was reported to the Queensland Government and the alleged offenders were successfully prosecuted.

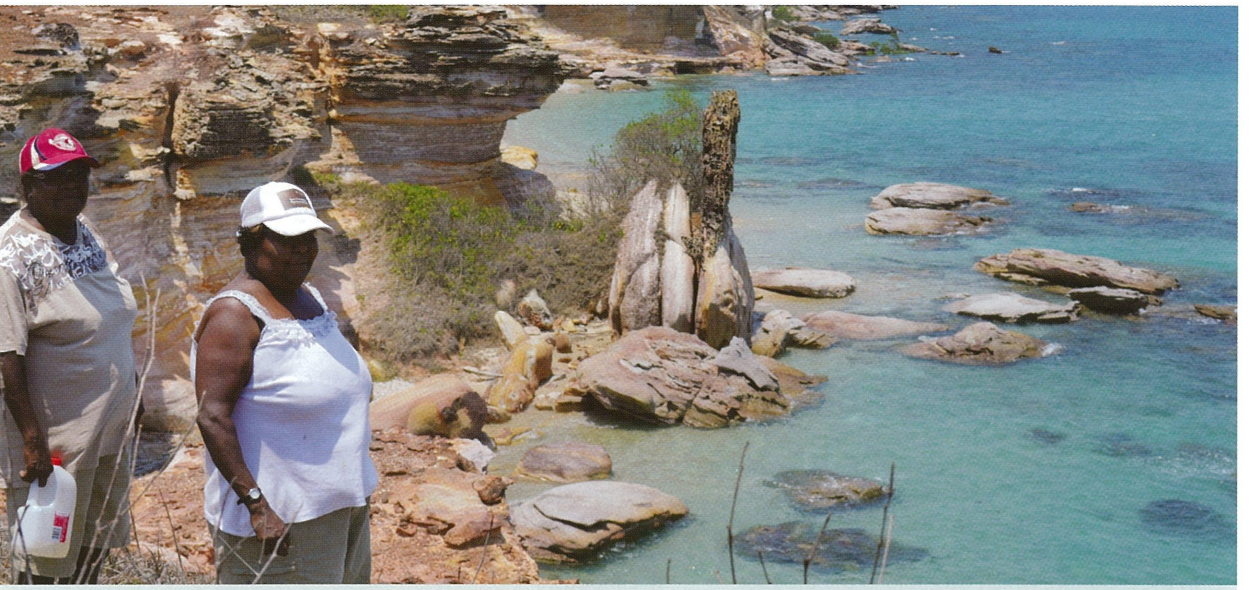
Sea country sponsorships

In 2012–13, the agency's Sea Country Partnerships sponsorship program provided $42,000 to 13 Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners to enable them to be more involved in sea country management. The program provides sponsorship of up to $5000 per person to cover the costs of participating in training, events and exchanges. During the reporting period, Traditional Owners took part in a range of events, including attendance at the World Indigenous Network conference held in Darwin in May 2013 and attendance at the first international sponsored activity, where a young Traditional Owner from Yirrigandji attended the Go4BioDiv 2012 International Youth Forum in Hyderabad, India. Another participant received a Certificate IV in Community Culture through the sponsorship program. Since the program began in 2010, it has supported more than 95 Traditional Owners in sharing and increasing their skills in sea country management.

Sea country grants

During the reporting period, 11 sea country management projects involving more than 15 Traditional Owner groups were completed under the 2011–12 Sea Country Partnerships grants program. The program provided grants up to $50,000 to support Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners in undertaking projects such as sea country planning, and coastal and wetland rehabilitation. Projects completed in 2012–13 included:

- training of the Gudjuda Reference Group's natural resource management team in coastal wetland management and rehabilitation in the lower Burdekin wetlands, the land and sea country of the Juru Traditional Owners



Karen and Alison Liddy walking along the eastern side of Marrpa Island (Princess Charlotte Bay) on a cultural heritage trip in December 2012

CONSERVING LAND AND SEA COUNTRY

The Lama Lama people of eastern Cape York Peninsula are the Traditional Owners of the land and sea country that extends through Princess Charlotte Bay to the Normanby River in the south and are known as the 'sand beach' people of Cape York.

Lama Lama Traditional Owners have made major inroads for the health of their country over the past few years through the Lama Lama Land Trust and a joint management arrangement with the Lama Lama National Park.

With the agency's support, the Lama Lama have created an active land and sea program which improves land management practices across the region, including weed and feral animal control, protecting sea country and protecting cultural heritage.

In 2012–13 the Lama Lama Traditional Owners completed a two-year planning process including electing a steering committee made up of representatives of all Lama Lama family groups and holding a series of on-country meetings to discuss and record their aspirations for sea country management.

A week of on-country activities in May 2013 focused on building partnerships within the Lama Lama Traditional Owner group, with neighbouring Indigenous groups, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and other partners. The workshop included ranger training, scientific monitoring, junior ranger activities, cultural heritage mapping and recording. Importantly, it brought Traditional Owners together to reconnect on country.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for the steering committee and agency officers to hold final discussions on the development of a Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement.

The voluntary agreement with the agency and Queensland Government was designed by Lama Lama Traditional Owners to help develop partnerships with management agencies in compliance activities, monitoring the condition of plants and animals, and monitoring human activities on their sea country.

The agreement was accredited by the agency on 19 June 2013. It recognises the commitment by Lama Lama Traditional Owners to manage traditional use activities sustainably, including the hunting of culturally iconic animals, and to work in partnership to address compliance issues and education, as well as research and monitoring activities.

The agreement will be implemented with support from the Australian Government's Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships program, which is administered by the agency with funding from Caring for our Country.

- a sea country knowledge forum for 120 sea country rangers and elders of North Queensland and Cape York that provided the latest information about sea country planning and activities occurring on country. The forum was part of the Girringun Indigenous Rangers conference, held in Cardwell in September 2012.

Sense Activity program

In February 2013, the agency delivered the fourth Sense Activity program in partnership with Traditional Owners, local community members, local high schools and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Sixteen Traditional Owners from Woppaburra, Port Curtis Coral Coast, Nywaigi and Koinjmal groups took part in the program, which was held in the broader Rockhampton region and North Keppel Island over four days.

The leadership program was developed in 2011 for Indigenous male students and has now expanded cross-culturally to both male and female students, mentors, community leaders and broader community members. The program is based on sensory activities and holistic learning. Participants learn from cultural mentors, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and marine scientists about connection with land and sea country, and how to protect and conserve that country.

Indigenous mentors who were involved in the first three rounds of the Sense Activity program attended the February event to discuss their experiences and talk about how the program might best translate to other parts of the Great Barrier Reef Region.

Saltwater Women's Gathering

The agency hosted the Saltwater Women's Gathering on Magnetic Island from 27–29 August 2012 to better understand the female role in Indigenous land and sea country management. The event provided a unique opportunity for 24 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner women to network and learn from each other's sea country experiences. The participants also identified the different roles women have at a family, community, local government and national level regarding sea country.

World Indigenous Network conference

Twelve agency staff and 10 sponsored Traditional Owners attended the inaugural World Indigenous Network conference in Darwin from 26–29 May 2013. The conference — hosted by the Australian Government in partnership with Brazil, Norway and New Zealand — attracted 1200 delegates from more than 50 countries. It brought together Indigenous peoples, local communities, and land and sea managers from all around the world to share ideas about best practice management that focused on environmental protection of the world's natural ecosystems, and support of sustainable livelihoods.

The agency made two presentations at the conference — one about the evolution of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements on the Great Barrier Reef and one showcasing the Sense Activity program. More than 100 delegates from all over the world attended each session.

The conference was a valuable opportunity for the agency to showcase the enhanced engagement with Traditional Owners and the empowerment of cultural authority being achieved through the Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships program. It was also a valuable opportunity to develop new sea country management partnerships and strengthen existing partnerships.

Committees

The Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee met twice during the reporting period to provide expert advice and guidance to the Reef Rescue program. The meetings were held on 24–26 July 2012 and 28–29 November 2012, both in Townsville.

Traditional Owner representation on Local Marine Advisory Committees increased during the reporting period. Eight of the 12 committees currently have multiple Traditional Owner group attendance.

FIELD MANAGEMENT

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area are jointly managed by the Australian and Queensland governments, as agreed under the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009*.

The Field Management Program is responsible for planning and executing field operations in the Commonwealth and State marine parks, including Commonwealth islands and on island national parks. These activities are delivered over an area of 348,000 square kilometres that stretches about 2300 kilometres in length and contains more than 1050 islands.

Field management is delivered principally through the Australian Government's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, which includes the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. This $17 million joint program comprises 121 full-time equivalent staff based at 12 locations along the Great Barrier Reef coast, using a fleet of 18 vessels over six metres in length for field deployments. Field management activities are grouped under 10 operational strategies, which are reported below.

Key performance indicator

The protective legal measures built into the Marine Park and related laws are effective and supported by a comprehensive Field Management Program delivered jointly with the Queensland Government

A well-developed compliance management program is an important element of the comprehensive joint Field Management Program. Awareness and education are the primary means of encouraging users to comply with regulations, with enforcement reserved for high impact and repeat offenders. The program also uses a risk-management approach to target areas where high-impact breaches are most likely to occur. In addition, the program maintains a cooperative, multi-agency approach to compliance within the World Heritage Area, through the coordination of available Commonwealth and State resources. Key compliance results for 2012–13 include delivering 1460 dedicated compliance vessel patrol days, detecting 992 possible offences, 24 court prosecutions with fines totalling $121,500 and the first jail sentence ever handed down for damage to the Marine Park.



Field management officers assisted in a multi-agency response to the grounding of a fishing trawler off Lady Elliot Island

Compliance

Compliance is managed across the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area for both the Australian and Queensland governments.

Surveillance

The Field Management Compliance Unit coordinates vessel and aerial surveillance activities across the World Heritage Area. A cooperative multi-agency approach to patrolling is used to enable the application of a broad range of legislation and compliance management tools in an efficient 'whole of government' manner.

Across the participating agencies, there were 1460 dedicated compliance vessel patrol days in 2012–13. Four operations totalling 49 land-based patrol days focused on high-risk priorities were also undertaken in remote areas, particularly in the Far Northern management area. Sixty targeted aerial patrol days using chartered helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft complemented the Border Protection Command aircraft surveillance program. These included both northern and southern areas of the World Heritage Area, with helicopters focused on coastal and inshore areas and fixed-wing aircraft offshore.

Inshore helicopter surveillance provided a highly visible compliance presence in remote areas of the Marine Park and resulted in the detection of a large number of possibly illegal incidents, including commercial netting and crabbing, unlawful hunting and recreational fishing. The inshore helicopter surveillance program is considered to be a very effective and successful patrolling method for both detection of and deterrence against these illegal activities.

Incidents and offences

Figure 6 shows the number of potential offences reported to the Field Management Program each year since the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park came into effect in July 2004. During 2012–13, 992 potential offences from 662 incident reports were reported from across the Commonwealth and Queensland jurisdictions of the World Heritage Area. This included 763 Commonwealth offences and represents the highest annual number of offences reported since 2004. Although a wide variety of offences were reported during 2012–13, recreational offences, particularly recreational fishing offences, were the most common Commonwealth offences reported (Table 3). Figure 7 provides a summary of the number of information reports received by the Field Management Program each year since 2004–05.

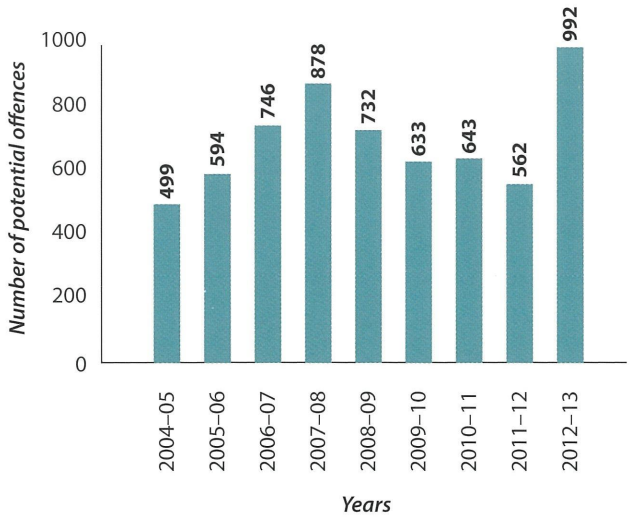


Figure 6: *The number of potential offences reported to the Field Management Program since the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in July 2004*

Table 3: *Number of potential Commonwealth offences by user group and type reported to the Field Management Program in 2012–13*

Activity 2012–13		Far Northern	Cairns–Cooktown	Townsville–Whitsunday	Mackay–Capricorn	Unspecified	Total
COMMERCIAL FISHING (GENERAL)							
Breach of permit		2	0	0	0	0	2
Fishing	Bait netting	0	0	2	0	0	2
	Collecting	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Unattached dory (collecting)	5	3	0	0	0	8
	Crabbing	3	1	10	2	0	16
	Line fishing	1	0	2	3	0	6
	Unattached dory (line fishing)	2	2	0	1	0	5
	Netting	1	2	1	0	0	4
	Trawling	3	4	7	17	0	31
Maritime incident	Groundings	0	0	1	2	0	3
Unpermitted activity	Restricted access areas	0	0	0	2	0	2
Wildlife	Bycatch	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other		0	0	1	0	0	1
GOVERNMENT							
Breach of permit		0	0	2	0	0	2
Maritime incident	Groundings	0	0	0	1	0	1
INDIGENOUS							
Fishing	Line fishing	0	4	3	0	0	7
	Netting	0	2	1	0	0	3
	Spearfishing	0	7	0	0	0	7
Plan of management	Cairns	0	3	0	0	0	3
Unpermitted activity	Camping	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Fire	0	1	0	0	0	1
Wildlife	Hunting	0	1	1	6	0	8
	Non traditional take	2	0	1	0	0	3
	Unknown take type	3	5	0	0	0	8
RECREATIONAL							
Fishing	Crabbing	0	1	1	0	0	2
	Line fishing	1	58	153	155	0	367
	Netting	0	0	0	3	0	3
	Spearfishing	0	8	20	30	0	58

Activity 2012–13		Far Northern	Cairns–Cooktown	Townsville–Whitsunday	Mackay–Capricorn	Unspecified	Total
Historical shipwrecks		0	0	1	0	0	1
Maritime incident	Groundings	0	1	4	3	0	8
	Pollution/discharge	0	1	0	1	0	2
	Sinkings	0	0	1	1	0	2
Moorings offence	Unpermitted	0	0	50	0	0	50
Plan of management	Cairns	0	3	0	0	0	3
	Whitsunday	0	0	2	0	0	2
Unpermitted activity	Commercial activity (tourist)	0	1	3	0	0	4
	Littering	0	1	1	0	0	2
	Restricted access areas	0	0	4	13	0	17
	Other	0	2	1	0	0	3
Wildlife	Interaction with cetacean	0	0	2	2	0	4
RESEARCH							
Breach of permit		0	0	2	0	0	2
Maritime incident	Groundings	0	1	0	0	0	1
SHIPPING							
Maritime incident	Pilotage	0	2	0	0	0	2
	Pollution/discharge	1	0	2	1	0	4
TOURISM INDUSTRY							
Breach of permit		0	12	6	0	2	20
Environmental charge		1	4	7	0	0	12
Fishing	Line fishing	1	1	4	4	0	10
Maritime incident	Groundings	0	7	2	0	0	9
	Pollution/discharge	0	2	1	0	0	3
	Sinkings	0	1	0	0	0	1
Moorings offence	Unpermitted	0	2	5	0	0	7
	Other	0	1	2	0	0	3
Plan of management	Cairns	0	4	0	0	0	4
	Whitsunday	0	0	3	0	0	3
Unpermitted activity	Commercial activity (tourist)	1	0	6	2	0	9
	Littering	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Restricted access areas	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Other	0	0	1	0	1	2

Activity 2012–13		Far Northern	Cairns–Cooktown	Townsville–Whitsunday	Mackay–Capricorn	Unspecified	Total
Wildlife	Interaction with cetacean	0	2	1	0	0	3
	Non traditional take	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other		0	0	0	0	1	1
OTHER							
Maritime incident	Groundings	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Pollution/discharge	0	0	0	2	1	3
	Sinkings	0	0	1	0	0	1
Moorings offence	Unpermitted	0	1	0	1	0	2
Unpermitted activity	Commercial activity (tourist)	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Other	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other		0	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL		**28**	**154**	**323**	**252**	**6**	**763**

Information reports

During 2012–13, 447 information reports relating to a wide variety of issues and activities were recorded and analysed, enabling a greater understanding and enhanced response to ongoing compliance issues and emerging trends in the World Heritage Area. Figure 7 shows the number of information reports received since 2004–05.

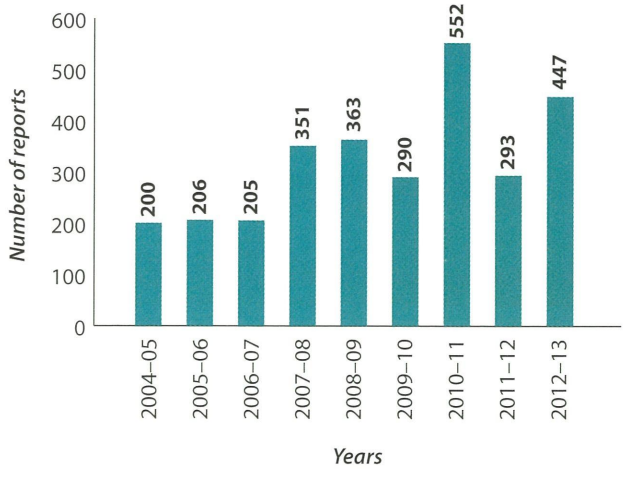


Figure 7: *The annual number of information reports recorded by the Field Management Program since 2004–05*

Compliance actions

Table 4 provides details of the assessments and compliance actions other than prosecution that were taken in relation to reported offences during 2012–13. The individual circumstances of each matter are assessed and considered before a decision on appropriate action is made. As in previous years, a significant number of offences were addressed with an advisory letter. There were very few instances of reoffending after receipt of an advisory letter, which demonstrates that advisory letters remain an effective compliance action. More serious matters were dealt with through an infringement notice or court prosecution. The 24 court prosecutions finalised during 2012–13 resulted in fines totalling $121,500 (Table 5).



One of the Field Management Program's vessels, the Bimbi Eungie

Table 4: *Outcomes of assessments and compliance actions taken in relation to reported offences during 2012–13*

Summary of offences resulting in compliance actions	
Action	**Total 2012–13**
Administrative action	7
Advisory letter (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)	425
Advisory letter (State)	26
Infringement notice (Commonwealth)	5
Infringement notice (State)	24
Insufficient evidence	38
Insufficient evidence (Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions)	2
Moorings letter issued	2
No further action	62
No offence	32
Permit suspended	0
Public education process	25
Recorded for information	3
Referred to other agency	9
State warning notice	31
Unable to locate offender	19
TOTAL	**710**

Table 5: *Fines resulting from court prosecutions for different types of offences during 2012–13*

Activity		Far Northern		Cairns–Cooktown		Townsville–Whitsunday		Mackay–Capricorn		Unspecified		Total	
		Number	Fines ($)	Number	Fines ($)	Number	Fines ($)	Number	Fines ($)	Number	Fines ($)	Number	Fines ($)
Breach of permit		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7500	0	0	1	7500
Fishing	Line fishing	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	18,500	0	0	4	18,500
	Trawling	0	0	0	0	10	50,000	1	4000	0	0	11	54,000
Historical shipwrecks		0	0	0	0	1	2500	0	0	0	0	1	2500
Maritime incidents	Groundings	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	25,000	0	0	3	25,000
Unattached dory	Line fishing	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8500	0	0	2	8500
Wildlife	Non traditional take	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5500	2	5500
TOTAL		**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**11**	**52,500**	**11**	**63,500**	**2**	**5500**	**24**	**121,500**

Enhanced legislative powers and offences provisions

During 2012–13, the program was involved in a range of actions to achieve greater compliance with Marine Park legislation and better recovery of fines. These included:

- developing a process to request that vessels be forfeited under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This allows the agency to make a court application for the forfeiture of any property used in connection with an illegal activity within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- supporting changes to the *Crimes Act 1914* to enable the Queensland State Penalties Enforcement Registry to recover unpaid fines. This has resulted in more outstanding fines being paid and more offenders entering into fine payment plans with the registry. A total of $115,142 in outstanding fines was paid during 2012–13
- developing an environmental management charge compliance plan, which has boosted the collection of outstanding and incorrectly remitted charges
- developing new moorings compliance management guidelines which underpin the processes to be adopted in responding to non-compliant moorings and removing unpermitted moorings from the Marine Park.

Shen Neng 1 prosecution

The successful prosecution of the *Shen Neng 1* grounding case resulted in the first jail sentence ever handed down for damage to the Marine Park.

The China-bound bulk coal carrier ran aground on Douglas Shoal, east of Yeppoon, on 3 April 2010, carrying about 68,000 tonnes of coal. It caused the longest known grounding scar on the Great Barrier Reef.

Following the incident, staff from the agency, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the



The grounding of Shen Neng 1 caused a large coral plume
Photograph courtesy of Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Australian Transport Safety Bureau and other relevant organisations coordinated a joint task force to investigate the grounding. A court brief was prepared and included more than 30,000 exhibits and reports together with formal statements from scientists and technical experts. Internal and external stakeholders supported the investigative team which included Field Management Program investigators and senior compliance staff, Australian Federal Police, Queensland Police Service, Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Maritime Safety Queensland.

On 26 October 2012, the first mate was convicted and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, to serve three months and then enter into a two-year good behaviour bond, after pleading guilty to being in control of the vessel when it damaged the Marine Park. This was the first custodial sentence to be handed down under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Marine Park Act). The ship's master was convicted and fined $25,000 at a separate hearing on 14 November 2012, when he pleaded guilty to causing damage to the Marine Park.

Marine conservation management

The program delivered a range of field management activities to assist in maintaining or improving the condition of the Reef, including at specific sites where direct threats are a high risk and where management actions and interventions will have a positive and ongoing benefit.

Reef health and impact surveys

During the reporting period, 2042 reef health and impact surveys were undertaken within the World Heritage Area. Of those, field management staff from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service conducted 1058 surveys on 131 reefs (see Table 6 and Figure 8). *(Reef health and impact surveys are also reported on under Objective 1, page 26, and Objective 3, page 86.)*

Table 6: *Reef health and impact surveys undertaken in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area in 2012–2013*

Organisation	Surveys undertaken 2012–13
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service	1058
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	111
Tourism	40
Other (including Australian Institute of Marine Science and Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators)	833
TOTAL	**2042**

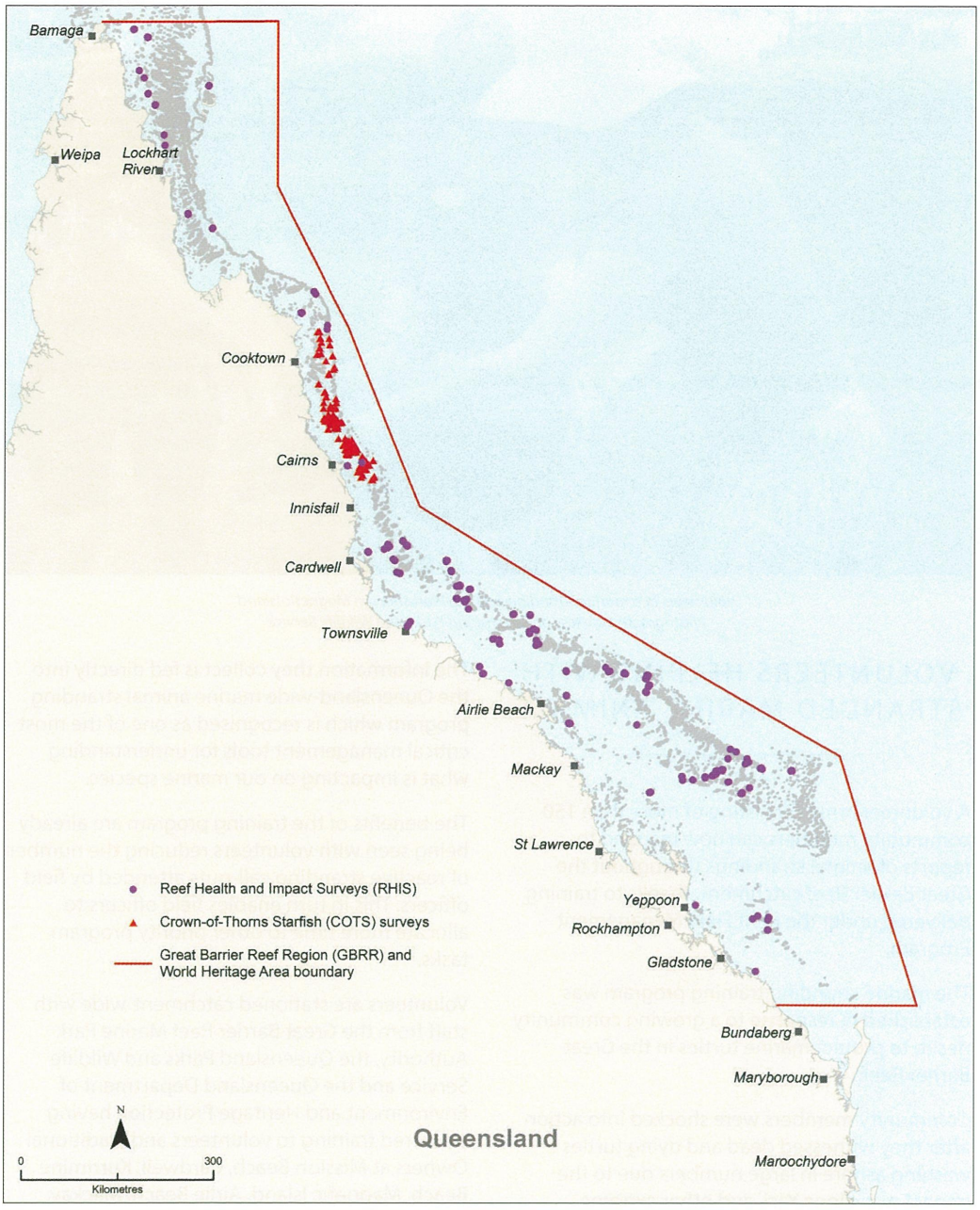


Figure 8: *Location of sites at which reef health and impact surveys were conducted by field management staff. The red triangles are associated with surveys undertaken specifically to locate outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish, enabling control teams to better target their efforts to cull these marine pests.*

Animal strandings

The Marine Wildlife Stranding program is the agency's main source of knowledge about human-related mortality of protected species such as dugongs, marine turtles, whales and dolphins. During the reporting period, the program continued to manage responses to strandings, which were lower than in 2011–12. There were 723 reports of turtle strandings in 2012–13 compared with 1117 in the previous reporting period. Dugong strandings in 2012–13 totalled 33 compared to 116 the previous financial year.



Volunteers at a marine stranding training workshop on Magnetic Island
Photographs courtesy of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

VOLUNTEERS HELPING WITH STRANDED MARINE ANIMALS

A volunteer army consisting of more than 150 community members can now respond to reports of animal strandings throughout the Great Barrier Reef catchment, thanks to training delivered under the joint Field Management Program.

The marine stranding training program was established in response to a growing community desire to protect marine turtles in the Great Barrier Reef.

Community members were shocked into action after they witnessed dead and dying turtles washing ashore in large numbers due to the impact of cyclone Yasi, and other extreme weather events on seagrass — the turtles' main food source.

The marine stranding training program has resulted in the development of an on-call register of community volunteers who are willing and able to respond to stranding reports.

Through the training program, volunteers are taught what to do in responding to a call-out and how to collect valuable information about these stranded animals.

The information they collect is fed directly into the Queensland-wide marine animal stranding program which is recognised as one of the most critical management tools for understanding what is impacting on our marine species.

The benefits of the training program are already being seen with volunteers reducing the number of reactive stranding call-outs attended by field officers. This in turn enables field officers to allocate more time to other priority program tasks.

Volunteers are stationed catchment-wide with staff from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection having delivered training to volunteers and Traditional Owners at Mission Beach, Cardwell, Kurrimine Beach, Magnetic Island, Airlie Beach, Mackay, Green Island and Mossman.



The training covered theoretical and practical aspects of strandings

Island conservation management

Field management actions on islands focused on high conservation value islands of the Great Barrier Reef and on vulnerable fauna such as marine turtles and seabirds.

Raine Island adaptive management project

Raine Island — situated on the outer edges of the Great Barrier Reef about 620 kilometres north-north-west of Cairns — is the largest remaining green turtle rookery in the world, with about 90 per cent of the northern Great Barrier Reef green turtle population nesting there. Monitoring has shown a decline in nesting success over the past 15 years due to a host of factors, including seawater inundation of eggs in nests, and adult females dying from cliff falls, entrapment in beachrock crevices, and through exhaustion and dehydration following disorientation in the nesting area.

To offset these deaths, the program has been implementing adaptive management actions in a collaborative project involving the agency, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Traditional Owners and research institutions.

There is now 250 metres of fencing along the edges of phosphate rock cliffs, effectively reducing the number of turtle deaths through falls or overturning. A remote sensing network is collecting valuable data which fills knowledge gaps, particularly about the island's water table. Research trips have continued throughout the nesting season and trials of other techniques to reduce turtle deaths occurred, including installing one-way ramps on cliffs and filling crevices in tidal beachrock.



Field management officers monitor nesting turtles at night on Raine Island. Photograph courtesy of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

This project has demonstrated that management intervention on a small scale with low-risk actions can increase the resilience of marine and island ecosystems. Traditional philosophies of non-intervention at significant high-value sites are being challenged as the underlying reasons for impacts and population declines are better understood. *(Raine Island is also reported on under Objective 1, page 24.)*

Habitat restoration

Great Barrier Reef islands are an important component of the ecosystem, especially for

Table 7: *Habitat restoration projects benefiting coastal birds*

Island	Project/s	Benefit for coastal bird populations
Three Isles (Three Islands Group National Park)	Weed control — fire	Created nesting habitat for bridled terns
Boydong Island and Little Boydong Islet (Denham Group National Park)	Successful eradication of black rats *(Rattus rattus)*	Increased numbers of seabirds returning to these islands: Black-naped terns recorded nesting Hundreds of endangered little terns observed roosting in November 2012 prior to breeding season

Island	Project/s	Benefit for coastal bird populations
Tryon Island (Capricornia Cays National Park)	Control of scale insect Replanting of *Pisonia grandis*	
Mitirinchi (Quoin) Island National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land)	Replanting of *Pisonia grandis*	Restore nesting habitat for coastal birds (specifically black noddies)
North West Island (Capricornia Cays National Park)	Rodent baiting	Positive impact on coastal birds
Green Island National Park	Rodent baiting	Positive impact on coastal birds
Curtis Island National Park and Conservation Park	Feral pig control Fox and wild dog baiting	Restoring habitat for the rare and threatened yellow chat Restoring habitat and reducing disturbance for wading birds
Shoalwater Conservation Park and Capricorn Coast Marine Park	Fox and wild dog baiting	Restoring habitat and reducing disturbance for wading birds
Lady Elliot Island	Weed control	Improve habitat for ground nesting birds (terns)
Lady Musgrave Island	Weed control	Improve habitat for terns

key species groups such as seabirds that rely on islands with a high level of natural integrity as breeding locations. Field management has delivered a number of multi-year projects that have had a positive effect on coastal bird numbers in the Great Barrier Reef Region. Over the past five years substantial effort has gone into habitat restoration projects on a number of islands and the program is now seeing significant environmental benefits. Table 7 presents a current snapshot of the projects and associated benefits.

Pest plant and animal control

In addition to the restoration projects focused on seabirds, the program implemented strategic pest plant and animal projects and two priority fire management projects which resulted in 29 planned burns on islands. Key outcomes on the Reef's high conservation value islands included:

- reducing feral pig numbers on Curtis Island to a level that has allowed the marine plain to recover
- implementing a reviewed fox control program at Southend Conservation Park on Curtis Island, resulting in no predation of known turtle nesting sites during the reporting period
- significantly reducing feral goat and deer numbers on High Peak and Wild Duck islands through a successful aerial and ground shooting program. There are now fewer than 50 goats remaining on High Peak Island and fewer than 20 deer left on Wild Duck Island
- conducting surveys on Boydong Island to confirm the successful eradication of black rats. No black rats have been observed on the island for more than two years — a long enough period to confirm eradication
- conducting field trips to Wuthara Island National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) in July, August and November 2012 to undertake surveys and control measures under the lantana eradication project. Native vegetation is now established in many areas which were previously thickets of lantana and the project is on track to achieve eradication
- conducting conservation burns on 15 islands within Gloucester, Whitsunday and Lindeman islands, including a large burn of about 1000 hectares on Hook Island. In some of these areas fire had been absent for up to 27 years
- conducting a 30 hectare rubbervine



Crested terns (foreground) and common noddies on Michaelmas Cay

management burn in steep, rugged terrain at Magnetic Island to support an existing weed control program.

Remote sensing of seabird populations

The population trend of seabirds and their breeding effort and success can tell a lot about what is happening across the Reef and beyond. Regular monitoring by direct observation at all important nesting sites is not possible. However, technology may now enable the deployment of autonomous sensors to do the job. The program is working with international collaborators to explore the potential for digital audio recorders and cameras to record seabird activity year round, instead of relying upon occasional counts. This will enable a more reliable assessment of seabird breeding and form a firmer basis for management actions.

During 2011–12, the required equipment and method was established and two trial sites were selected. In 2012–13 trials of high definition pan-tilt-zoom cameras, fixed field of view cameras and audio recorders began. Key highlights included:

- completing the initial trial of the high definition pan-tilt-zoom remote camera on North Keppel Island, identifying technical issues and making the necessary upgrades
- preparing to install the high definition pan-tilt-zoom remote camera on Michaelmas Cay for its first seabird trial in August 2013
- undertaking the first trial of passive acoustic monitoring technology on the Capricornia Cays in conjunction with staff counts of wedge-tailed shearwaters and black noddies for comparison purposes. The two sets of data have been passed to Conservation Metrics, the world leaders in employing acoustic data to estimate seabird numbers, and the results are due in late 2013.

Incident response

During the reporting period the Field Management Program managed, or assisted with, a range of incident responses in the World Heritage Area for both the Queensland and Australian governments.

Pollution and vessel incidents

In 2012–13, more than 150 pollution and vessel incidents were reported to the program in or adjacent to the World Heritage Area, up from 125 reported last year. There was no major ship spill or grounding in 2012–13. The program worked in collaboration with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Maritime Safety Queensland to deliver an effective response to reported incidents, including assessing environmental risks of all reported vessel incidents, the issuing of eight orders (made under regulation 94 of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations

1983) to remove property and assessing eight grounding sites for damage.

Trawler grounding

The program worked with Maritime Safety Queensland, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in response to the grounding of an 18 metre fishing trawler near Lady Elliot Island on 6 June 2013. The vessel remained aground on the Reef with its hull intact and fuel on board for several days before being re-floated on 12 June 2013. An inspection was undertaken on the vessel before it was towed to Bundaberg for repairs. Arrangements for appropriate site remediation were put in place and this was scheduled for completion in July 2013.

Crown-of-thorns starfish response

Field management supported the crown-of-thorns starfish control program by conducting surveys to identify starfish outbreak hotspots. Staff conducted a total of 2942 individual broadscale manta tows of inshore, mid-shelf and offshore reefs, surveying approximately 453 kilometres of reef. The manta tows covered 31 reef locations from Maori Reef north to Mackay Reef and identified nine reefs with outbreaks requiring follow-up control by the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators. In conjunction with the manta tows, a total of 556 reef health and impact surveys were completed. *(The crown-of-thorns starfish control program is reported in more detail on page 61.)*

Cultural heritage protection

Field management is responsible for managing cultural heritage on island national parks and Commonwealth islands, with a small number of sites where active maintenance and restoration works are performed. Cultural heritage protection highlights in 2012–13 include:

- the Dent Island Lightstation Heritage Management Plan was endorsed by the Australian Heritage Council and approved by the Minister's delegate. The plan was prepared by the agency in conjunction with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority — the first such Heritage Management Plan to be prepared jointly by two federal agencies
- the first stage of the joint agency–Australian Maritime Safety Authority Low Island Heritage Management Plan — addressing the European cultural heritage values of the site — was completed. The second stage of the plan will address the Indigenous cultural values at the site
- significant refurbishment works were carried out on the Commonwealth heritage listed Lady Elliot Island Lighthouse
- new decking was installed on the Raine Island tower platform to rectify safety issues caused by corrosion.

Visitor facilities

Field management activities ensure visitor facilities are in place for a wide range of recreational and tourism industry uses to promote enjoyment and minimise visitor impacts on reefs and islands. There are 124 public moorings, 134 reef protection markers, 163 kilometres of walking track, 111 campgrounds or day use areas and 21 lookouts and boardwalks within the World Heritage Area. The program undertakes regular maintenance and assessments to ensure safety and a high-level visitor experience. Highlights for visitor facilities delivered during the reporting period include:

- rebuilding the Nina Bay toilet on Hinchinbrook Island's Thorsborne Trail. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service carried out the work as part of asset restoration following cyclone Yasi, under National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
- repairing walking tracks on Fitzroy Island, near Cairns, following cyclone Yasi. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service carried out the labour-intensive work — with help from the Djunbiji Rangers and Traditional Owners from Yarrabah — to ensure repairs and reports were completed before Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements deadlines
- replacing the original timber boardwalk on Lizard Island National Park, about 240 kilometres north of Cairns. The new boardwalk is constructed with composite fibre posts and joists, and decking made

from recycled plastic. The project was funded by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and delivered through the Field Management Program.



Field management officers build a new boardwalk on Lizard Island National Park.
Photograph courtesy of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Indigenous engagement

Field management supports the Land and Sea Country management initiatives of Traditional Owners, Indigenous communities, the Australian Government and Queensland Government. This includes support for compliance training through the agency's Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships program. In addition to these achievements, outlined on page 41, the Field Management Program continued to employ officers that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, and employed temporary Indigenous rangers from Raine Island Traditional Owner groups to assist with monitoring and on-ground work as part of the Raine Island adaptive management project. *(The Raine Island adaptive management project is reported in more detail on page 55 and under Objective 1, page 24.)*

Joint management

There are 13 islands which have been converted to joint managed National Park, Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land. These agreements are with two Traditional Owner groups and lie within the northern part of Princess Charlotte Bay (Lama Lama people) and north of Lockhart River (Kuuku Ya'u people).

Kuuku Ya'u Traditional Owners participated in far northern vessel patrols to jointly manage Wuthara, Ma'alpiku, Mitirinchi and Piper Island National Parks (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) in 2012–13. Works included the continued control of lantana on Wuthara Island National Park as part of the eradication program, revegetation of Mitirinchi Island National Park with *Pisonia grandis* cuttings to restore vegetation after the 2011 wildfire, seabird surveys, sign maintenance, reef health and impact surveys, and surveys of cultural sites.

Lama Lama Traditional Owners participated in a joint land-based patrol of Marpa National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land). Works included installation of restricted access area signage and surveys of cultural sites.

Planning and permits

Significant progress was made in completing management statements for island national parks during the reporting period and all island national parks now have a management plan or management statement in place.

The Lady Elliot Island and Low Isles management statements were drafted but are awaiting finalisation of the Lady Elliot Island climate change adaptation plan to include as an attachment and for a decision on future options for Low Isles.

The agency and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service use a joint assessment and permit framework to manage applications for marine parks as well as island and adjacent coastal national parks. During the reporting period, the program processed 486 applications for joint marine parks permits, 40 State-only Marine Park permit applications and 59 national parks permit applications (including Green Island Recreation Area permit applications). More than 80 per cent of these applications were processed within service standard and agreed timeframes.

Education and communication

For many users, the public face of the Australian and Queensland governments' management of the Great Barrier Reef is the field management officers they meet while out using the Reef and islands. Field officers also deliver public information on how to enjoy using the Great Barrier Reef responsibly. In 2012–13, the agency

completed production of 19 redesigned zoning maps for Marine Park and island users. The areas shown on each map have been realigned so that the maps are more user-friendly. About 100,000 maps were printed and made available through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's offices, visitor information centres, caravan parks, fishing and boating stores, and other community access points. In addition, field officers distributed the new maps to park users while on vessel patrols.

Communication products

Up-to-date information was provided to Great Barrier Reef visitors through the agency's website, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service website, and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service customer phone and email service. On-site signs were also used to maximise visitor enjoyment of island national parks, ensure visitor safety and encourage sustainable use of the islands and surrounding waters.

Camp site bookings for the Great Barrier Reef parks were managed through a new and improved ParksQ booking system, with corresponding updates to webpages to include the Commonwealth's Kent and Russell islands. The Queensland Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing provided a customer phone and email service to address all public enquiries and complaints and assist camp site bookings.

Island biosecurity

A biosecurity communications strategy was completed during the reporting period. Implementation of priority actions will proceed in 2013–14 to encourage visitors to reduce the spread of weeds and assist Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to protect the resilience of fragile island communities.

Program support

Delivery of the broad range of field management activities relies on the skills and commitment of staff and the support they are given to perform their roles. Although there is more work to be done, the program has been making good progress towards the goal of establishing a modern, fit-for-purpose vessel fleet through replacement of its ageing vessels. This is being achieved through well-planned commitments of funding and hard work to procure and dispose of vessels. Highlights of program support activities delivered during 2012–13 include:

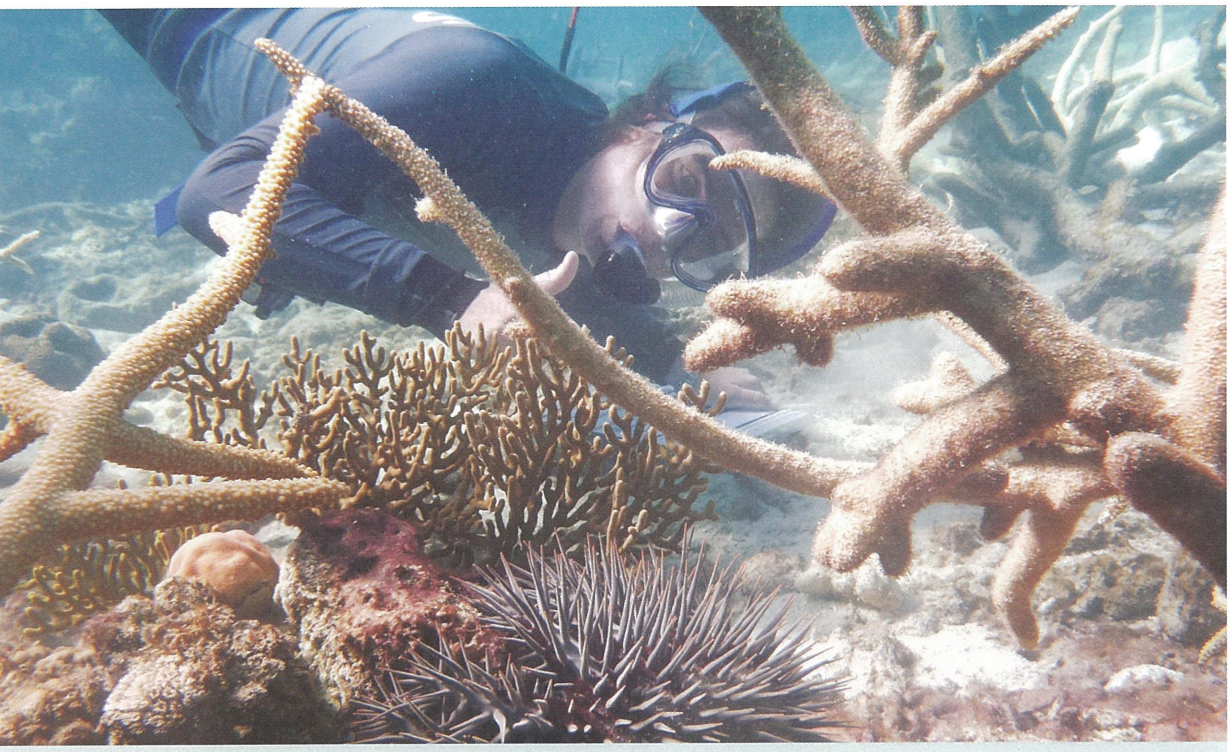
- awarding a $5 million contract to construct a 24-metre fast catamaran to replace one of the program's large vessels. The replacement vessel — which is being jointly funded outside the core program by the Australian and Queensland governments — is expected to be delivered in April 2014
- replacing three rigid hulled inflatable boats and refitting one 12-metre fast patrol vessel
- disposing of four vessels without replacement and realigning vessels to bases at Cairns, Townsville, Whitsundays and the Capricorn Coast
- upgrading the Low Isles renewable energy system, making Low Isles carbon-neutral.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The *Recreation Management Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park* provides a framework for managing recreation within the Marine Park. It also facilitates the coordinated management of recreation with other managing agencies and sets out the agency's management approach in the public arena. The strategy was launched in March 2012 and published on the agency's website. In 2012–13 the agency focused on implementing the research and communication components of the strategy.

Research and monitoring

The agency collaborated with CSIRO through the social and economic long-term monitoring program to ensure the agency's needs for recreation research and monitoring were met. At the end of the reporting period, surveys were being conducted to collect information on recreational use patterns in the Great Barrier Reef Region, including beaches, bays, islands, shoals and reefs. *(This program is also reported on under Objective 3, page 79.)*



A marine park ranger counts crown-of-thorns starfish as part of a reef health and impact survey during a far northern survey trip
Photograph courtesy of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

CONTROL PROGRAM REDUCES CROWN-OF-THORNS STARFISH NUMBERS

The crown-of-thorns starfish outbreak continues to be one of the most significant threats to the health of coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef, particularly in the northern region between Lizard Island and offshore Cairns.

The Australian and Queensland governments provided a total of $3.03 million for the targeted control of crown-of-thorns starfish in 2012–13.

The agency engaged the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators to undertake the in-water control of starfish using divers who inject the native pests with sodium bisulphate — an environmentally safe way to control crown-of-thorns starfish. The method requires starfish to be injected multiple times to be effective but, importantly, prevents them from entering the next summer breeding season.

The association undertook 23 10-day voyages with the original funding, operating on reefs from Lizard Island south, with particular focus on the tourism hotspots of Cairns, Port Douglas and the Whitsundays. A second vessel was chartered in February 2013, adding another 10 voyages to the control program.

In total, the trained divers have culled more than 95,000 crown-of-thorns starfish from 71 reefs since August 2012.

The joint Field Management Program has been assisting with starfish control by scheduling specific survey patrols to identify reefs with crown-of-thorns starfish aggregations.

The program conducted 2942 manta tow surveys and 556 reef health and impact surveys, covering approximately 453 kilometres of reef. These observations supported the crown-of-thorns starfish control teams by directing them to hotspots, greatly improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the control program.

The success of the program at high-value tourism sites has resulted in an ongoing funding commitment for 2013–2015.

Tourism operators are also assisting researchers in the field trials of an alternative single-shot injection that will significantly boost culling efficiency and protect coral cover.

The control program is being implemented in cooperation with the agency and the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

Communications plan

A plan to enhance communication with recreational users was drafted in 2012–13, with a focus on educating people about key risks to the Reef, threats and management arrangements. The agency investigated new approaches of delivering information to recreational fishers, as well as sourcing information from this key focus group.

Plans to update the agency's webpage to boost the profile of recreation opportunities, recreation management and best environmental practices were delayed due to additional workloads from the strategic assessment.

TOURISM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Tourism is a major commercial use of the Marine Park and makes a significant contribution to communities along the Great Barrier Reef coast. The total, value-added economic contribution generated in the Reef catchment in 2012 was $5.17 billion, with employment of more than 64,000 people. The agency works with a range of tourism partners to promote ecologically sustainable use of the Reef.

Develop strategy

In 2012–13 the agency worked closely with the Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee to progress the draft Tourism Management Strategy. As part of this work, the committee considered the outcomes of audits on the use of tourism permissions and on tourism brochures about the Great Barrier Reef tourism experience. The strategy will provide an overarching framework for the management of tourism and facilitate coordination with other management agencies. Public consultation on the draft has been delayed until early 2013–14 due to resources being diverted to the strategic assessment and managing the tactical response to the crown-of-thorns starfish outbreak.

High Standard Tourism program

The High Standard Tourism program has continued to grow in strength since it began in 2004 and, in 2012–13, High Standard Tourism operators carried 66 per cent of the total number of visitor days to the Marine Park. At the end of the reporting period, there were 60 certified High Standard Tourism operators in the Marine Park, offering a total of 131 certified products. This is an increase on the previous year when there were 57 operators, offering a total of 115 products (Figure 9). *(The program is also reported on under Objective 3, page 86.)*

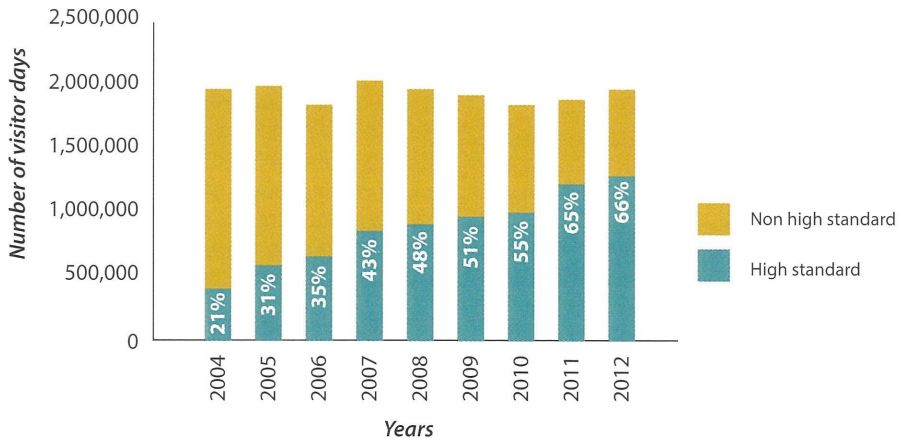


Figure 9: *Percentage of visitor days undertaken on high standard operations since 2004*

The agency continues to promote these operators on its website and in other media where appropriate. In April 2013, the agency partnered with Ecotourism Australia at the Australian Tourism Exchange in Sydney. The agency's presence at Australia's premier tourism trade event reinforced its support for ECO certification and showcased High Standard Tourism operators as offering quality Great Barrier Reef tourism products.

Tourism visitation

The Great Barrier Reef remains an iconic destination for both international and domestic visitors. Visitation in 2012–13 grew in comparison to 2011–12 and there is a continuing trend of a slow but steady recovery. Figure 10 below is based on information provided by tourism operators in their environmental management charge returns.

During the reporting period, the agency continued to work on analysing tourism visitation. Through this project, the agency has identified the need to refine permit and environmental management charge data to ensure that finer scale data is available on tourism visitation patterns to the Marine Park, is timely and of the highest quality. Quarterly tourism visitation figures continue to be available through the agency's website.

REEF MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The agency is developing the Reef Management System to assist in the administration, management and reporting of all matters relating to the environmental management charge, permits, moorings and bookings to plan of management areas within the Marine Park. The system will have an internal interface accessible to managers of the environmental management charge and permits. It will also have an external interface to make it easier for tourism operators and Marine Park users to submit their environmental management charge and make bookings. When completed, the system will have five modules: environmental management charge online, environmental

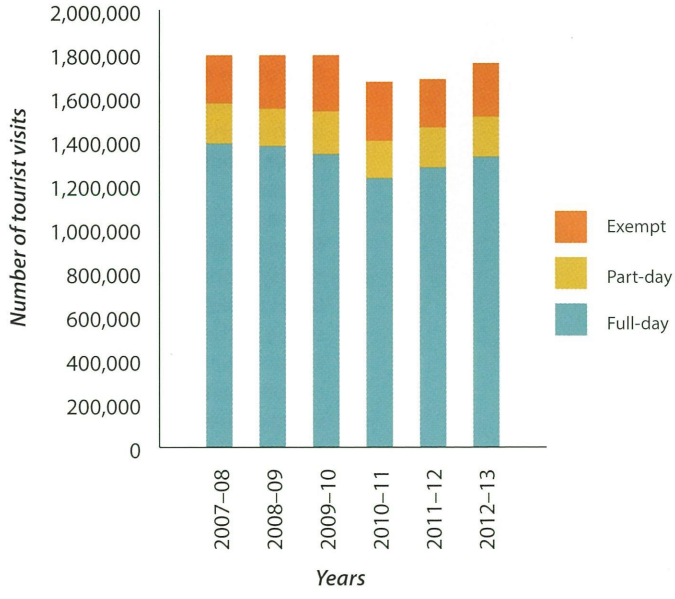


Figure 10: *Tourist visits* to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park since 2007–08*
Source: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority environmental management charge records
** These figures do not include stand alone coral-viewing activities and scenic flights*

management charge internal, bookings online, permits internal and permits online. The first three modules have been completed and the remaining two are under development.

The environmental management charge online module has been adopted widely by the tourism industry since being implemented in February 2012. By the end of the reporting period, environmental management charge online was being used to capture more than 73 per cent of Marine Park visitation — up from about 61 per cent the previous year. This has reduced administration for tourism operators and improved the agency's efficiency in accounting for environmental management charges received. Figure 11 shows the relatively high percentage of Marine Park visitation captured by environmental management charge online.

The environmental management charge internal module — an internal interface used to manage and administer trip data on visitors to the Marine Park and reconcile the financial contributions — has been used internally since late 2012, delivering considerable improvements for the management and administration of the environmental management charge.

Bookings online — a secure external interface that allows tourism operators to book visits to Plan of Management areas and cruise ship anchorages — was used externally through the first half of 2013 and was being rolled out to operators at the end of the reporting period.

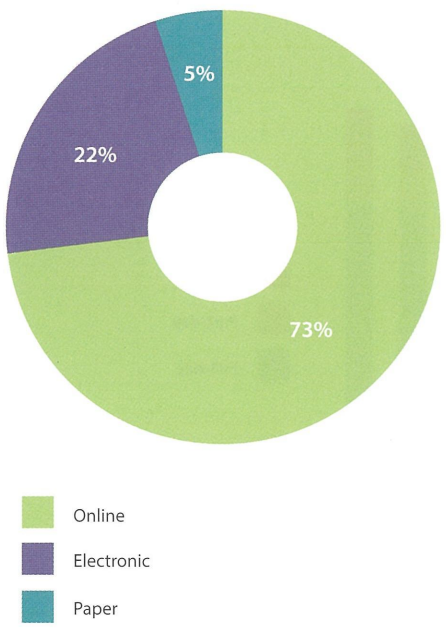


Figure 11: *Percentage of passengers reported using environmental management charge online compared to electronic and hard copy logbooks*

HERITAGE OBLIGATIONS

The Great Barrier Reef has long been recognised both nationally and internationally for its significant biodiversity and heritage values. This recognition has been expressed in a variety of ways including: World Heritage listing since 1981, national heritage listing since 2007 and various Commonwealth heritage specific listings, such as historic lightstations.

This wide-ranging significance was further recognised in 2009 when the main object of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (s. 2A) was amended "…to provide for the long-term protection and conservation of the environment, biodiversity and heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef Region".

One of the subsidiary objects of the Act (s. 2A) involves assisting "…in meeting Australia's international responsibilities in relation to the environment and the protection of world heritage…". Only those values, or attributes, that are consistent with the four natural criteria for which the Great Barrier Reef was inscribed on the World Heritage List can be considered to be its world heritage values. However the broad scope of the world heritage criteria for which the area was listed means the following aspects all contribute to the outstanding universal value of the area: the Region's biodiversity, its geomorphological features, Traditional Owner connections to the area, its environmental processes and its aesthetic values.

Assessing outstanding universal value

One important component of the strategic assessment conducted in 2012–13 was an assessment of the current condition and trend of the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. This has

been benchmarked against the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value as a way of assessing changes in the property's condition since its inscription in 1981.

The values associated with the four relevant world heritage criteria have been assessed against grading statements based on those used by the International Union for Conservation of Nature to assess natural world heritage sites.

The overall assessment shows the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Area remains largely intact with many values remaining in good condition. However the trends for about two-thirds of the values assessed are considered to be deteriorating compared to their condition in 1981.

This approach of assessing the condition and trend of the outstanding universal value of a world heritage property, which was developed by agency officers, is now being utilised by other world heritage properties, both within Australia and overseas.

Other world heritage matters addressed by agency officers during 2012–13 included:

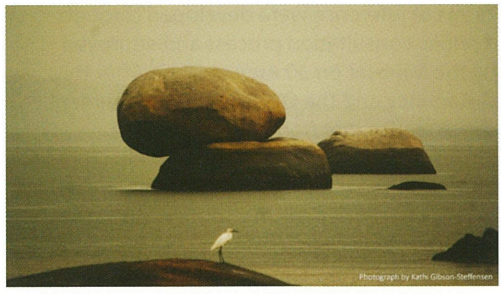
- providing input into the 2013 State Party Report submitted to the World Heritage Centre
- attending the meeting of the World Heritage Committee in July 2012
- participating in a national symposium titled *'Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional: the Future of World Heritage in Australia',* including the provision of a paper which has now been published in the proceedings of the symposium
- assisting the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities with two consultancies assessing the aesthetic and geomorphological values of the area.

Indigenous and historic heritage values

The Indigenous and historic components within the Great Barrier Reef include both tangible heritage, such as places, and intangible heritage, such as experiences, traditions, historic events and stories. Some of the values relevant to these two categories have been identified as part of the strategic assessment.

Other key activities during 2012–13 included:

- preparing a joint Heritage Management Plan for the Dent Island Lightstation with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, which will be the first joint heritage management plan made under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- preparing a formal review of the 2005 Heritage Strategy
- compiling more comprehensive inventories of historic features on islands and aircraft wrecks. These are available on the agency's intranet as the first step towards developing an online publicly available heritage register.



Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with these sacred rocks include the protection over sea country areas
Photograph by Kathi Gibson-Steffensen

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

A key focus for the agency throughout the year has been the strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef Region, which is examining the cumulative impacts of activities on the Reef's values, and the effectiveness of management arrangements to protect and manage those values. The strategic assessment also forms part of the Australian Government's response to concerns raised by the World Heritage Committee about development impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The process of developing the strategic assessment has involved many agency staff as well as technical experts, technical advisory groups and feedback from the community. A second complementary strategic assessment is being carried out in parallel by the Queensland

Government, which will assess the impacts of actions on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone under the Queensland coastal management, planning and development framework.

In February 2012, the agency and the Queensland Government entered into agreements with the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities to undertake a strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The two strategic assessments, being carried out under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), represent the largest and most comprehensive strategic assessments undertaken in Australia.

Terms of reference were developed through a public consultation process and approved by the Minister on 30 August 2012. After this, the agency and the Queensland Government developed a joint framework to ensure a consistent approach to the methods underpinning the two strategic assessments. In particular it defines the approach used to describe values underpinning matters of national environmental significance and those used to assess direct, indirect and cumulative impacts across the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and coastal zone. The framework also recognises the need for an integrated ecosystem-based approach to management of onshore and offshore activities with the potential to impact on Great Barrier Reef health and resilience, given that the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone contain values that are highly interrelated.

The agency will deliver a final draft strategic assessment to the Environment Minister in the second half of 2013.

Demonstration cases

The terms of reference require the agency and the Queensland Government to develop demonstration cases to assess in finer detail the effectiveness of programs to protect and manage matters of national environmental significance. The agency worked closely with the Queensland Government to develop demonstration cases to illustrate areas of joint management responsibility such as water quality and island management. To showcase some of these joint management arrangements, demonstration cases are being drafted for dugongs, islands and the coastal marine area of the Mackay–Whitsundays.

Management effectiveness

As part of the assessment process, the agency commissioned an independent assessment of its management effectiveness, drawing upon the review undertaken as part of the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009*. The independent assessment used the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Commission on Protected Areas framework for assessing management effectiveness. This globally used framework focuses on six management elements — context, planning, inputs, processes, outputs and outcomes — and links them to provide a comprehensive picture of management effectiveness.

The assessment found there have been considerable improvements in management effectiveness in a number of areas since the *Outlook Report 2009*. Management was most effective where it had direct jurisdiction or on issues which were more limited in scale or intensity and were less complex, such as defence or research activities.

The agency's management effectiveness was not as strong on broadscale issues that are complex socially, biophysically and jurisdictionally. This included issues such as ports, shipping, climate change and extreme weather, coastal development, water quality protection, commercial and recreational fishing, and Indigenous and historic heritage.

Implement engagement strategies

During the development of the strategic assessment, the agency consulted extensively with coastal communities along the Great Barrier Reef to hear people's views on what they valued about the Reef, what they understood were the threats to those values and how effectively those threats are being managed. More than 290 Traditional Owners and stakeholders attended a series of workshops held in Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton during August, September and December 2012. Workshop participants were also invited to complete a short online survey to provide details on their views about the Reef.

The agency's four Reef Advisory Committees and 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees were actively consulted throughout the strategic assessment process.

In addition, coordination of all government agencies contributing to the strategic assessment of the World Heritage Area was achieved through monthly meetings of senior staff representing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and the Queensland Government.



The agency consulted extensively with coastal communities to hear people's views on the Great Barrier Reef

Coordinate regional sustainability projects

During the reporting year, the agency commissioned and managed five projects funded under the Australian Government's Regional Sustainability Planning program. These projects, designed to inform the strategic assessment, were:

1. development of a dredge material management plan for the Great Barrier Reef
2. identification of impacts and proposed management strategies associated with offshore ship anchorages in the Great Barrier Reef
3. development of a Great Barrier Reef resilience framework
4. an assessment of the socio-economic contribution of the Great Barrier Reef
5. basin assessments using the coastal ecosystems assessment framework.

These projects are detailed below.

Improved management of dredge spoil

The agency commissioned Sinclair Knight Merz and Asia-Pacific Applied Science Associates to complete the Improved Dredge Material Management for the Great Barrier Reef Region project. The project focused on six study areas within 50 kilometres of the Port of Gladstone, Rosslyn Bay State Boat Harbour, Port of Hay Point, Port of Abbot Point, Port of Townsville and Port of Cairns.

The project's purpose was to review options for the beneficial reuse and land disposal of dredge material, develop a framework for water quality monitoring and management programs during dredging and disposal, and assess potential alternative dredge material placement sites in the six study areas. It also undertook a comparative assessment of environmental risks from sediment plumes and long-term migration of sediment from both potential and current placement sites.

The research was the first to incorporate the combined influence of waves, tides, local winds and large-scale currents when modelling the movement of dredge material over 12 months at multiple locations. There were a number of limitations with the modelling and the agency continues to work with scientists and industry to interpret the results.

The report will be published on the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities' website in the latter half of 2013.

Ship anchorages study

The agency commissioned Gutteridge Haskins Davey to complete the Ship Anchorage Management in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area project, which encompassed an environmental impact assessment of ship anchorages, a cost benefit analysis of ship anchorage management report and environmental management strategies of ship anchorages in the World Heritage Area.

The report was due to be published on the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities' website in July 2013.

Resilience framework

A prototype framework has been developed to improve our understanding of cumulative impacts and support environmental decisions required to build ecosystem resilience in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The work was completed through a collaboration between the agency, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, CSIRO and the University of Melbourne.

The framework uses qualitative and probabilistic modelling to provide a systems-level understanding of how cumulative impacts affect coral reefs and seagrass ecosystems in the World Heritage Area. These ecosystems underpin matters of national environmental significance, including the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage Area. The approach is valuable for its capacity to rapidly capture the complexity of ecosystems and highlight the key linkages between drivers, activities, impacts and effects on environmental values.

Economic contribution of the Great Barrier Reef

The agency commissioned Deloitte Access Economics to undertake a study of the economic contribution of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to the Australian economy.

The study examined the economic contribution of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area for specified reef-dependent industries and activities, including tourism, recreation, commercial fishing and scientific research. It also provided a breakdown of the economic contribution by natural resource management region.

The study, published in March 2013, estimated that the value-added economic contribution of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to the Australian economy in 2011–12 was $5.68 billion and it generated almost 69,000 full-time equivalent jobs.

A high proportion of the value-added economic contribution and employment generated emanated from tourism activity, with almost $5.2 billion in value added and about 64,000 full-time equivalent jobs generated by the tourism sector.

More than 90 per cent of the direct economic activity in the region came from tourism, and this followed throughout the economy, with tourism accounting for 91 per cent and 93 per cent of the region's value-added and employment contributions to Australia respectively.

Recreation, which covers household recreational activity by people living in the Great Barrier Reef catchment, contributed just over $240 million in value-added economic contribution and about 2800 full-time equivalent jobs. Recreational activity covers both trip-related expenditure for fishing, boating, sailing and visiting islands and household expenditure on recreational equipment.

Basin assessments using coastal ecosystems assessment framework

The agency conducted seven Great Barrier Reef basin assessments in 2012–13. These were carried out using the agency's coastal ecosystems assessment framework which was developed with the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection when the agency prepared the report *Informing the outlook for Great Barrier Reef coastal ecosystems*. The assessments of the Russell–Mulgrave, Haughton, Don, O'Connell, Plane, Lower Fitzroy and Baffle basins provide the baseline information needed to understand each basin's changed functions at a whole-of-landscape scale. This will enable the agency to assess the implications of cumulative development pressures on the Great Barrier Reef's ecosystems and species, and identify priorities for restoration.

The assessment work involved engaging consultants and working with regional experts from natural resource management bodies, local government and State agencies to undertake on-ground assessments. The agency also held stakeholder workshops in Townsville, Ayr, Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton and Agnes Waters to present the basin assessment outcomes, engage regional expertise and identify any regional management issues.

Information collected as part of the basin assessments was used to develop five case studies of how current management and planning decisions support protection of matters of national environmental significance. These reports provide a synthesis of management in a

defined location, the mechanisms that influence the use, management, protection and/or conservation of the coastal ecosystems, and the status of processes and functions that maintain and support the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem.

The reports will be finalised in the second half of 2013, and then published on the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities' website.

Integrated monitoring framework

The agency contributed to the development of an integrated monitoring framework for the Great Barrier Reef during 2012–13. This work included a review of current monitoring as well as prioritising monitoring needs for management to provide a blueprint for an integrated approach to monitoring across the Great Barrier Reef. The framework explicitly links management objectives, monitoring objectives and programs in a driver, pressure, state, impact and response framework to provide a solid foundation for an integrated monitoring program for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. This work has been a key input to the strategic assessment.

The project was funded under the Sustainable Regional Development program and carried out collaboratively by the agency, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and three National Environmental Research Program research hubs (Environmental Decisions Hub, Tropical Ecosystems Hub and Marine Biodiversity Hub).

The work has been a key input to the strategic assessment and is expected to be published on the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities' website in the latter half of 2013.

Position statement on ports

The agency prepared a draft Ports Position Statement and undertook targeted consultation with 25 key stakeholders including government, ports, tourism, conservation and science during March and April 2013. The ports position paper will be progressed during the 2013–14 financial year.

North-East Shipping Management Plan

The agency contributed to the development of the North-East Shipping Management Plan which was close to being completed at the end of the reporting period. It was due to be released for public comment in July 2013.

ECOSYSTEMS MAINTAINED OR RESTORED

Key performance indicator

The natural functions and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystems are maintained, or if necessary restored, through effective decisions governing natural resource management and environmental protection and working in partnership with Traditional Owners, coastal communities, Great Barrier Reef users and local government.

One of the agency's overarching priorities is to ensure that the natural functions and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystems are maintained or, if necessary, restored. The agency works towards this goal through effective decisions governing natural resource management and environmental protection, and working in partnership with Traditional Owners, coastal communities, Reef users and local governments.

The agency has a range of strategies, mechanisms and programs in place to maintain or restore the natural functions and resilience of Reef ecosystems. These include the *Great Barrier Reef Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2013*, *Informing the outlook for Great Barrier Reef coastal ecosystems* report, *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2012–2017*, Field Management Program, Reef Guardian program, Indigenous Partnerships program, High Standard Tourism program, Eye on the Reef program, Crown-of-thorns starfish control program and Reef permits system. All of these strategies, mechanisms and programs are reported on in detail above and elsewhere in the *Performance* chapter.

REGULATING USE OF THE MARINE PARK

The agency regulates use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park through a range of mechanisms, including policy, permits, plans, environmental impact assessments and partnerships. The Queensland Government is an important partner in managing the Marine Park.

The agency adopts a risk based and sector approach to manage major projects, ports and shipping, Defence and routine permits.

Major projects

The agency worked with the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Queensland Government, the community and scientists to assess approximately 50 major projects during the year. Most of the major projects were associated with existing or proposed port, industry or tourism activities.

Tower Holdings' proposed marina at Great Keppel Island was the first deemed application under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Marine Park Act) following a referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). A deemed application is one made under the EPBC Act that is also deemed to be an application under the Marine Park Act. The proposed development was a complicated project that required extensive information, risk assessment and mitigation to minimise environmental, social, cultural and heritage risks. Some of the management tools used included a permit, bond and deed so that the proponent undertakes works that don't significantly impact on the values of the Marine Park.

The agency also worked with key stakeholders to monitor and assess the potential impacts of Queensland Nickel's operations at Yabulu, located north of Townsville, including the potential discharge of contaminated water in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. No discharge to the Marine Park occurred in 2012–13.

Ports and shipping

During the reporting period, the agency provided advice and input into eight port development and port expansion applications under the EPBC Act that were deemed to be applications under the Marine Park Act. Most of these applications involve the dredging and disposal of large volumes of capital dredge material. These are multi-year environmental impact assessment studies and no decisions were required during the reporting period.



The agency provided advice and input into eight port development and port expansion applications

Three small-scale maintenance dredge disposal operations under the Marine Park Act and *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* were granted for existing marina and boat ramp facilities.

The agency continues to provide advice to the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities for port related projects that are located in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and outside of the Marine Park (port exclusion areas).

Permissions issued

A total of 552 permits covering 1565 permissions were granted during the reporting period. Approximately 90 per cent of these permissions were for low-impact, low-risk activities including vessel based tourist programs, charter operations, camping and research. A further 44 permits were transferred during 2012–13. *(See Figure 12 below.)*

Both the agency and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service significantly streamlined the permits process, particularly for low-risk activities. Joint Marine Park permitting is now a much more efficient process with standard permits processed within one to two weeks — a significant improvement on the eight-week process previously in place. In addition, camping permits are now processed via the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service online campsite booking service, ParksQ. The improvements have set the stage for more significant long-term efficiencies.

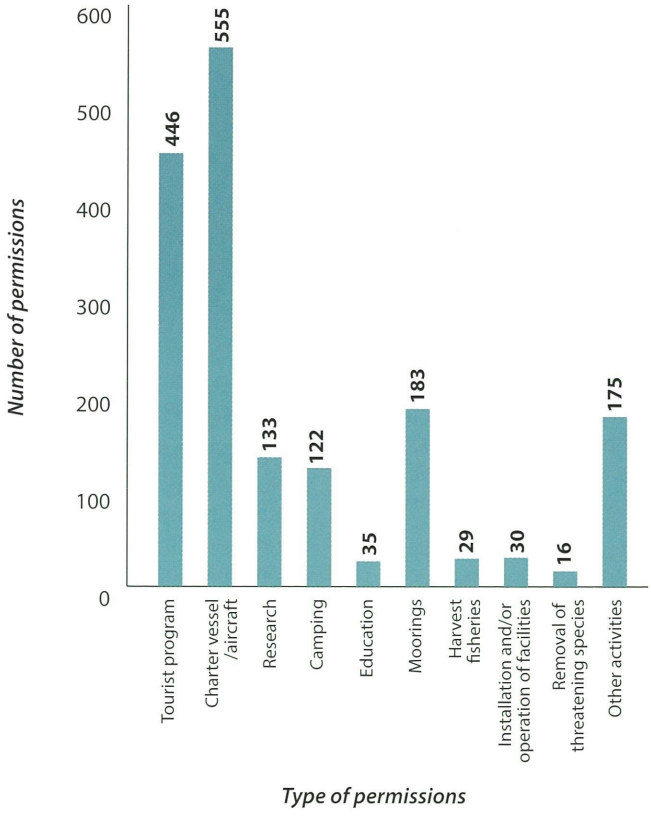


Figure 12: *Type and number of permissions granted during 2012–13*



Shoalwater Bay provides habitat, nesting or feeding grounds for dugongs and green turtles

DEFENCE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT RENEWED

The Defence Department has renewed its long-standing partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to avoid and limit potential impacts on the Reef environment during defence training activities.

In 2012, the two organisations signed a new four-year management agreement, outlining their commitment to work together constructively and to ensure defence activities are managed in an ecologically sustainable way.

Several important defence training areas are located in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, including Shoalwater Bay, Halifax Bay and Cowley Beach — all of which provide habitat, nesting or feeding grounds for dugongs and green turtles.

The areas are regularly used by the Australian Defence Force and occasionally by other countries for exercises including tactical manoeuvres, target firings, amphibious operations, mine hunting and support operations.

Shoalwater Bay, in particular, has significant strategic importance for Australia as it is the only location on the east coast where large-scale military training exercises can be conducted.

As part of the 2012–16 management agreement, the Defence Department pledged to consult with the agency when developing environmental management plans, policies and procedures for actions that may affect the environmental, heritage or cultural values of the Marine Park or park users.

Examples of this in 2012–13 included a joint risk workshop and a strategic environmental assessment workshop for agency and Defence Department representatives. Staff also conducted planning for the biennial Talisman Saber 13 defence exercise and participated in several field inspections and conferences.

As part of the management agreement, the agency is also committed to involving the Defence Department in its environmental decision-making process where relevant and to consulting with the organisation when developing environmental management plans, policies and procedures that may affect its work, property or personnel.

The partnership has provided an effective vehicle for ongoing communication and for continually improving the protection of the Reef environment by ensuring relevant research and management information is provided during the planning phase for defence activities.



Shoalwater Bay is the only location on the east coast where large-scale military training exercises can be conducted

Environmental management charge compliance and education

During 2012–13 the agency completed a number of environmental management charge administrative compliance actions. As noted in Table 8 below, the number of such actions has dropped considerably between the 2011–12 and 2012–13 financial years.

During this time the agency has implemented new systems, developed and integrated under the broader Reef Management System. These systems provide a reliable and easy-to-use interface for tourism operators to manage their environmental management charge obligations, improve the management and administration of the environmental management charge, and improve the accountability and reporting on environmental management charge revenue.

Environmental management charge audits were conducted throughout 2012 and 2013 as a 'health check' to determine the level of compliance with environmental management charge obligations. These audits have enabled the agency to improve management of the environmental management charge through educating operators on their responsibilities.

Environmental management charge reduction

In February 2012, the Australian Government announced a reduction in the Standard Tourist Program Charge, a category of the environmental management charge. From 1 April 2012, the amount paid by a tourist on a full day trip to the Marine Park with a commercial operator was reduced from $6 to $3.50 per visitor. The part day charge (less than three hours) was reduced from $3 to $1.75 per visitor. The reduction in charge ends on 31 March 2015 and is subject to Consumer Price Index adjustments.

Table 8: *The number of environmental management charge administrative compliance actions in 2011–12 and 2012–13*

Action	TOTAL 2011–12	TOTAL 2012–13
Intention to suspend	708	414
Suspended permissions	30	8
Revoked permissions	31	6
Reinstated	33	9
Late payment penalty	14	43
TOTAL	**816**	**480**



The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area generated almost 69,000 full-time equivalent jobs in 2011–12

Summary of achievements for Objective 2

- Managed five projects to inform the strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, including the Improved Dredge Material Management for the Great Barrier Reef Region project
- Progressed a draft strategic assessment report which, at the end of the reporting period, was being finalised for submission to the Federal Environment Minister
- Managed a major control program that resulted in more than 95,000 coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish being culled from 71 reefs
- Contributed to the prosecution of the *Shen Neng 1* grounding case, resulting in the first custodial sentence handed down for damage to the Marine Park
- Accredited Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements for the Lama Lama and Yuku-Baja-Muliku Traditional Owner groups
- Completed 1460 dedicated compliance vessel patrol days, 49 multi-agency land-based days and seven dedicated aerial surveillance operations in addition to aerial surveillance provided by Border Protection Command
- Trained more than 150 volunteers and Traditional Owners throughout the catchment in marine animal stranding response
- Assessed the current condition and trend of the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Achieved more than 65 per cent of visitor days to the Marine Park being carried on High Standard Tourism operators
- Renewed a long-standing partnership with the Department of Defence to avoid and limit potential impacts on the Reef environment during defence training activities
- Prepared documentation to register the Dent Island Lightstation Heritage Management Plan
- Delivered compliance training to 31 community rangers and Indigenous community groups
- Provided $42,000 in sponsorship to 13 Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners to enable them to be more involved in sea country management
- Reduced administrative burden for tourism operators by implementing an online system for the environmental management charge.

SECTION 3
FOSTERING STEWARDSHIP BY ENGAGING, EDUCATING AND INSPIRING PEOPLE THROUGH THE CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE PARK

Overview	p. 78
Information needs	p. 78
Stewardship programs	p. 82
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International Coral Reef Initiative	p. 92
Reef HQ Aquarium	p. 92
Quantitative achievements	p. 96

Table 9: *Objective 3, deliverables, key performance indicators and achievement highlights 2012–13*

Objective 3: Foster stewardship by engaging, educating and inspiring people through the care and management of the Marine Park	
INFORMATION NEEDS	
Deliverable	Ensure science programs focused on the Great Barrier Reef are meeting the Authority's information needs
Key performance indicator	Management and all activities contributing to the health and resilience of the reef are underpinned by the best available science
Achievement highlights	• Played active role in a range of science partnerships, including the National Environmental Research Program Tropical Ecosystems Hub • Made major contributions to International Coral Reef Symposium • Completed review of Citizen Science on the Great Barrier Reef
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS	
Deliverable	Expand implementation of stewardship programs
Key performance indicator	Communities and reef users demonstrate a high level of participation in activities that contribute to the health and resilience of the Marine Park
Achievement highlights	• Increased number of schools, fishers, farmers and graziers involved in Reef Guardian program • Progressed trials of electronic data collection in commercial fishing industry • Launched expanded Eye on the Reef monitoring program, including new phone app to record real-time sightings of marine animals • Increased number of tourism operators in High Standard Tourism operators program
COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY	
Deliverable	Implement the Authority's Communications Strategy

Objective 3: Foster stewardship by engaging, educating and inspiring people through the care and management of the Marine Park	
Achievement highlights	• Expanded the agency's social media toolkit • Conducted media launches for the release of Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2012–2017* and the Coastal Ecosystems report • Participated in Reef Live, a groundbreaking live broadcast that brought the Reef into lounge rooms all over the world • Met the Australian Government's new accessibility requirements for online content • Conducted television and billboard advertising to promote the Reef Guardian program and to recognise the good work of participants
INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE	
Deliverable	Co-host the International Coral Reef Initiative in 2012–2013
Achievement highlights	• Hosted 27th General Meeting of International Coral Reef Initiative • Worked with AusAID to deliver four small grants to community-based projects abroad

OVERVIEW

In recognition of the important role that stewardship plays in protecting the Great Barrier Reef, the agency has this year changed its third objective to 'fostering stewardship by engaging, educating and inspiring people through the care and management of the Marine Park'. The agency is working towards achieving this objective by ensuring its management activities are underpinned by the best available science and through stewardship programs such as Reef Guardians and Eye on the Reef.

Education and communication are essential to managing the Reef and preserving it for future generations. Reef HQ Aquarium — the Australian Government's national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef — plays a key role in teaching people about the Reef's unique values, the threats to those values and what they can do to protect this unique asset.

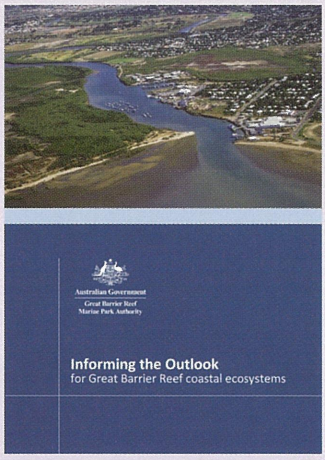
The agency reaches a wider community with key messages about the Reef through the agency's external website, traditional media outlets, social media, awareness campaigns and a range of other mediums. On an international scale, the agency engages with other coral reef nations through the International Coral Reef Initiative.

INFORMATION NEEDS

Science information needs for management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area were identified through the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009* process and were published on the agency's external website in 2009. These information needs will be updated in 2014 after the agency's next outlook report is published. Science information needs are addressed by a number of research and monitoring programs which are summarised below.

Key performance indicator

Management and all activities contributing to the health and resilience of the reef are underpinned by the best available science



Throughout the year the agency has developed a number of key management documents, including the *Great Barrier Reef Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2013,* the report *Informing the outlook for Great Barrier Reef coastal ecosystems* and the *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2012–2017*. A key focus for the agency has also been the comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef Region, which is guiding the development of the program report that will provide a blueprint for managing the Reef over the next 25 years. Without exception each of these important management inputs has been based on the latest and most robust science available. The agency has a number of mechanisms for ensuring it stays in touch with the latest scientific thinking and research outcomes. These are outlined below.

National Environmental Research Program

The National Environmental Research Program, funded by the Australian Government, is a key program delivering science to inform management of the Great Barrier Reef. The agency is engaged with this program at the project level where nominated staff members are part of project teams and/or stakeholder teams. The agency chairs the biodiversity implementation group and is represented on the steering committee and the water quality implementation group. Through these groups, information from the project level is used to help direct the research program. The agency is also a member of the steering committee for the program. The agency's role in this national program not only provides us with front seat access to the latest science about the Reef, it also enables us to have input to the research questions asked to ensure they are relevant to our management needs.

The National Environmental Research Program is performing well and delivering important science for management. Some of the highlights from 2012–13 are:

AIMS Long-term Monitoring Program

The National Environmental Research Program part funds important monitoring in the Great Barrier Reef through the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) Long-term Monitoring Program. This program is the primary source of information on the health of mid-shelf and offshore coral reefs, including status of crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks. The program also focuses on work that synthesises and value-adds to existing data. A highlight of this type of work was the publication of a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Early Edition entitled *Twenty-seven-year decline in coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef and its causes.* In summary the paper outlines:

- coral cover has declined by 50.7 per cent over 27 years, predominantly in mid-shelf and offshore reefs
- coral populations are failing to recover fast enough from disturbances. This points to a widespread loss of resilience of coral reefs
- tropical cyclones accounted for 48 per cent of the estimated coral mortality, predation by crown-of-thorns starfish accounted for 42 per cent and coral bleaching accounted for 10 per cent
- coral in the far north of the Reef ecosystem has not declined over the 27-year period and is in better condition than in the rest of the Reef. This is largely due to better water quality, less coastal development and fewer extreme weather events
- there is a need to reduce local pressures to offset effects of increasing global pressures
- recent frequency and intensity of mass coral bleaching are directly attributable to rising atmospheric greenhouse gases
- reducing crown-of-thorns starfish populations by improving water quality and improving alternative control measures could improve the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef.

Social and economic long-term monitoring program

A project to develop a robust method for a social and economic long-term monitoring program for the Great Barrier Reef is being implemented through National Environmental Research Program funding. The program aligns with the agency's Integrated Monitoring Framework, and will eventually form part of the integrated monitoring program.

Staff from across the agency participate through membership on the social and economic long-term monitoring program steering committee, the stakeholder and scientific advisory panel and several working groups focused on drivers of change, Traditional Owners, coastal communities, catchment industries, tourism, recreation, and commercial fishing and aquaculture.

In April 2013 the program team included several questions in a national survey of 1000 residents which revealed that two-thirds of respondents consider the Great Barrier Reef to be Australia's most inspiring landscape. The project team is surveying people from Bundaberg to Cooktown, with more than 30 casual staff and volunteers involved in implementing this primary data collection phase. Telephone surveys with commercial fishers and tour operators are also being conducted. The results of this survey will

feed into the next Outlook Report, which is due for completion in 2014.

Effectiveness of no-take zones

National Environmental Research Program research is informing the effectiveness of Great Barrier Reef management initiatives such as the zoning plan, using novel techniques to test its performance. The first conclusive evidence has been gathered that marine reserves can act as an interconnected network with no-take areas supplying larvae to each other and to areas open to fishing. This was a key assumption underlying the agency's 2003 Zoning Plan.

Researchers used DNA fingerprinting technology to track the dispersal pathways of coral trout and stripey snapper larvae from the green zones in the Keppel Island group where they were spawned. A very large proportion of larvae (83 per cent of coral trout and 55 per cent of snapper) settled on reefs in areas that are open to fishing, up to 30 kilometres from the place they were spawned. Most of the larvae settled within one to five kilometres of green zones but a significant proportion dispersed 10 kilometres or more. Green zone reserves, which cover about 28 per cent of the 700 hectare reef area of the Keppels, had generated half the larvae, both inside and outside of the reserves.



Researchers enlisted the help of local sportfishing clubs to catch the large numbers of fish needed for the green zones spillover research.
Photograph courtesy of Dr David Williamson, ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies

Water quality

The National Environmental Research Program's water quality research complements the Reef Rescue marine monitoring program by providing a better understanding of coastal turbidity and the chronic effects of pesticides as well as cumulative impacts of declining water quality and climate change–derived pressures on seagrass and coral habitats.

Understanding shifting baselines of the inshore reef

New and innovative techniques are being used to rigorously determine how coral communities have changed over decades and longer time scales, to give management a better understanding of the legacy of impacts that the Great Barrier Reef has faced. A recent publication from this work was published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* entitled Palaeoecological evidence of a historical collapse of corals at Pelorus Island, inshore Great Barrier Reef, following European settlement. In summary, the paper outlines:

- evidence that the coral community composition on an inshore island (Pelorus Island in the Palm Islands group) had remained largely stable for many hundreds of years, before European settlement
- coral community composition underwent significant changes, either to different coral types, or to communities no longer dominated by corals, at various dates in the mid-1900s
- reefs failed to recover their natural coral communities after disturbances due to declining water quality from development of the Great Barrier Reef coast and catchment.

The paper provides important evidence of declines in inshore reefs in this area before extensive monitoring began in the 1980s. This suggests that our current knowledge of the condition of inshore reefs may be under a 'shifted baseline'.

Regional sustainability projects

The comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef Region and program report which guides the Reef's management for the next 25 years has been a critical focus of the agency throughout the reporting year. A key priority has been to ensure this work is underpinned by the most up-to-date research available.

Early in the strategic assessment process, it was identified that more data was needed to fill some key knowledge gaps and critical information requirements, and to address the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee. The Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority have been working together to fund research to directly inform the strategic assessment and regional sustainability planning.

The research is funded under the Sustainable Regional Development program, which aims to secure a sustainable future for Australia's high growth regional areas through regional sustainability planning and strategic assessments. The projects include:

- Economic contribution of the Great Barrier Reef
- Improved dredge material management for the Great Barrier Reef Region
- Identification of impacts and proposed management strategies associated with offshore ship anchorages in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Basin assessments using Great Barrier Reef coastal ecosystems assessment framework
- Great Barrier Reef resilience decision framework
- Integrated monitoring framework for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Defining the aesthetic values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Geological and geomorphological features of outstanding universal value in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

(These projects are reported in more detail under strategic assessment, Objective 2, page 67.)

eReefs marine water quality dashboard

The agency continues to actively engage with the eReefs project — a collaboration between the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, Australian Institute of Marine Science and the Queensland Government, supported by funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country grants, the Queensland Government, the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance, and the Science Industry Endowment Fund.

The first product from the project will be the marine water quality dashboard — an interactive tool for near real-time mapping and visualisation of water quality information derived from satellite remote sensing. This will be a powerful tool that will allow management to react to water quality issues more rapidly.

12th International Coral Reef Symposium

The agency made major contributions to the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium, held in Cairns in July 2012 by the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies. Held every four years, this is a major gathering of tropical marine scientists, and agency officers led a range of mini-symposia focused on the management and policy applications of coral reef science. These included sessions on assessing management effectiveness (of direct relevance to the strategic assessment and Outlook Report) and managing coral reefs under climate change.



Professor Geoff P. Jones from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies gives a plenary address at the International Coral Reef Symposium

Citizen science

Contributions to monitoring of the Great Barrier Reef from community groups and volunteer organisations, known as citizen science, play an increasingly important part in our understanding of the state and trends of the ecosystem. The agency undertook a review of citizen science, providing a comprehensive understanding of

what information is collected, how it contributes and providing recommendations on how to better integrate that information into our overall monitoring and adaptive management programs.

Other science partnerships

The agency partners and engages with a wide range of other research agencies and initiatives, and this work continues to inform our policy development across the spectrum of our management. Prominent partners include the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, Australian Research Council Linkage Grants, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, CSIRO, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and others.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

The Reef Guardian program is the agency's biggest and widest-reaching stewardship program. It creates awareness and understanding of Reef issues, fosters stewardship and recognises people's efforts to improve the health of the Reef. The program began with schools in 2003 and has grown over the years to include councils, fishers, farmers and graziers. In 2012–13, the program expanded the overall number of Reef Guardian participants, with increases in the numbers of schools, fishers, farmers and graziers involved. The Reef Guardian program has been strengthened by ongoing refinement of the assessment and program tools used in the various sectors.

Reef Guardian forum

The agency held a Reef Guardian forum in Townsville on 17 August 2012 to bring together participants who have worked with the agency to build a robust and well-accepted stewardship recognition program. The aim of the forum was to celebrate the successful establishment of the programs, share information and discuss the future of the various Reef Guardian programs. About 65 people attended, including school principals, teachers and staff, elected councillors and council staff, farmers, graziers, commercial fishers and representatives from industry organisations. Feedback from the forum indicated participants enjoyed listening to other Reef Guardians, they appreciated learning more about the other programs, and they felt the Reef Guardian program was developing well. Some participants said they would like to see the program promoted more widely, and they would like to find more innovative approaches to communicating with the wider community.

Mackay stewardship action project

In 2012–13, the Reef Guardian program initiated and coordinated a stewardship action project in Mackay, focused on preserving the health of the Gooseponds and Janes Creek. It saw the



Mackay cane farmer Artie Noonan talks to Glenella State School student Cody Carroll about how his farming practices protect the quality of water flowing into Janes Creek

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority join forces with Glenella State School, Canegrowers Mackay, Mackay Regional Council and Pioneer Catchment Landcare Group to boost community awareness of the proactive steps being taken to ensure the continued health of the Gooseponds, Janes Creek and its catchment. The project strengthened stakeholders' understanding of others' roles and highlighted opportunities for future collaboration in caring for shared environmental assets. It also provided opportunities to enhance linkages between a Reef Guardian school and partners in natural resource management. For example, Year 5–7 students at Glenella State School visited a cane farm and met farmers, council staff and other community members who use the waterway and catchment. Media coverage of the various activities was effective in capturing public interest and promoting awareness of the Reef Guardian program.

The use of collaborative projects such as this is likely to become a key strategy in the Reef Guardian program into the future. The experience gained from the Gooseponds–Janes Creek project will be used to inform the development and implementation of such projects in other regions.

Electronic data collection trials

In March 2013, a staff member was temporarily seconded from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to progress trials of electronic data collection in the commercial fishing industry. Improved reporting of electronic data from commercial fishers is being explored as it can offer benefits to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Queensland fisheries. It can also improve the efficiency and safety of the fishing operations themselves. Starting with trials of simple devices, the agency has been testing this approach with fishers and has discussed alternatives and various approaches with Fisheries Queensland.

Significant progress was made in assessing the available hardware for this application and, in June 2013, five units of a new and cost-effective device were sourced that use satellite connectivity to report vessel location information. The units will be trialled initially on Field Management Program vessels to determine suitability for use on commercial fishing vessels. This trial will be the first to assess the functionality and cost effectiveness of these units for transmitting commercial fishing data in finer detail. Further devices that utilise both satellite and cellular networks are in development and will be trialled, as this can potentially provide more cost savings. Further trialling of data collection devices will be undertaken on Reef Guardian fishers' vessels later in 2013.

Expansion of Reef Guardian Fishers

Working group meetings were held in Townsville in December 2012 and June 2013 to discuss the possibility of developing a Reef Guardian Fishers pilot program in the inshore net fishing sector. Regionally specific approaches were discussed, but the net working group indicated a preference for an outcome based approach that allows individual fishers to tailor their practices in a way that suits their region. The agency aims to launch a pilot program for the net fishing sector during 2013–14. *(The program is also reported on under Objective 1, page 30.)*

Reef Guardian Council action plans

The focus of the Reef Guardian Council program in 2012–13 was securing signed memorandums of understanding between the agency and each of the 13 councils following the April 2012 local government elections, along with each council's annual action plan. All but three of these sets of documents had been received by the end of the reporting period. The action plans include sustainability outcomes and assist in improving inshore biodiversity by undertaking action on water and waste management, climate change and community involvement.

In 2013–14, the Reef Guardian councils will only need to submit an action plan as the memorandums of understanding stand for the term of the council.

Strengthen Reef Guardian program

A key focus during the reporting period was strengthening the existing Reef Guardian program and identifying opportunities for expansion. The agency achieved this in a number of ways.



Townsville school students take part in science experiments as part of the 2012 Future Leaders Eco-challenge

Reef Guardian Schools

The Reef Guardian Schools program engages with more than 115,000 students in 293 schools across Queensland.

In 2012, 1132 students and teachers participated in Reef Guardian Schools Future Leaders Eco-challenges. The 20 regional challenges involved 124 schools and 154 partner organisations across Queensland — an increase on the previous reporting period. The challenges gave students hands-on experience in a range of field based environmental activities in keeping with the 2012 theme *'The Inshore Great Barrier Reef – Bursting with Biodiversity'*. Activities included sea turtle monitoring workshops, beach dune revegetation, water quality monitoring, pest species management in wetlands, marine debris collection and biodiversity surveys.

During the reporting period, the agency presented 10 Reef Guardian schools with $1000 annual awards in recognition of their environmental projects. An additional 20 schools received $500 Ripples of Change grants to kickstart projects that help improve the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

In early 2013, the agency held 16 networking meetings with Reef Guardian schools and partner organisations throughout the catchment. More than 310 teachers from 137 schools attended, along with 205 partner representatives.

The Reef Guardian Schools Curriculum Working Group met in April 2013 to discuss and review the current science teaching units and to provide feedback for future versions of these resources. A new, fully accessible version of these units is being developed and will be made available on the agency's website in late 2013. Activities are also under way to promote these units to a wider audience of teaching professionals.

The 2013 Reef Beat education series was themed *'The amazing Great Barrier Reef, let's keep it great'* and featured an A0 sized map based poster of the Great Barrier Reef with a curriculum linked activity book. It was distributed to all 293 Reef Guardian schools and is available on the agency's website. The Reef Beat theme and some of the activities will flow on into the 2013 series of Future Leaders Eco-challenges across Queensland.

Reef Guardian Councils

The agency has expanded the Reef Guardian Councils program with the Central Highlands Regional Council agreeing to participate in the program. At the end of the reporting period, the council was finalising its required action plan. Once accepted into the program, the Central Highlands Regional Council will bring the number of Reef Guardian councils to 14.

The Yarrabah Shire Council has indicated strong interest in joining the program and was planning to meet with agency representatives in the coming months.

De-amalgamation of three of the current Reef Guardian councils will have implications for the program in the future.

Reef Guardian Fishers

There are now 11 fishing operations involved in the Reef Guardian Fishers program in the reef line and marine aquarium fish and coral collection fisheries, with eight other fishers expressing interest in becoming involved. The peak body for the marine aquarium fish and coral collectors, Pro-vision Reef, is currently revising its own stewardship action plan which will align well with the Reef Guardian Fishers assessment standard and potentially enable a large section of this fishery to become involved. There is also significant interest from 16 fishers in other sectors, including net and trawl fishers.

The development of the electronic data collection project will allow fishers to not only



Gordonvale cane farmer Paul Gregory is part of the working group that is developing standards and procedures for the Reef Guardian Farmers program

demonstrate their good practices to regulating government bodies and the community, but could also deliver improved safety, enhanced business efficiency, finer scale data for fisheries management purposes and further information about the health of the Reef.

Reef Guardian Farmers and Graziers

The agency has completed the initial program development for Reef Guardian Farmers and Graziers. It is now working with the industry groups to refine the assessment tools and process and plan program activities and expansion beyond the pilot phase.

During the reporting period, working groups from the sugar, banana, beef and horticulture sectors participated in the development of assessment standards and evaluation procedures. This resulted in 10 cane farmers, five banana farmers and four graziers being evaluated and recognised as Reef Guardians. A further six farmers are pending final approval and four interested farmers are awaiting evaluation.

Expansion of the program will focus on forming clusters of participants in areas where there are current Reef Guardian farmers. The program will seek opportunities to develop or collaborate on projects in these cluster areas that involve land stewardship activities consistent with the Reef Guardian program objectives.

Traditional Owners and Indigenous communities

The stakeholder engagement team in the regional offices continues to build relationships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous communities to foster stewardship outside the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement process.

Staff in the southern regional office in Rockhampton worked with the Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee to launch the newly formed Gundoo Junior Rangers, who have undertaken activities such as revegetating Moore's Creek in Rockhampton. The rangers also identified weeds and listened to historical accounts of the creek from Indigenous elders.

Central regional office staff members have been assisting the Kionjmal and Yuberia groups to implement works they have been carrying out under the Caring for our Country grant received last year. This included training in turtle monitoring and stranding at Mon Repos Conservation Park, training in seagrass monitoring, as well as working with Elders to map sites of cultural significance.

There are now Traditional Owner representatives on eight of the 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees, which is an increase on the previous reporting period. In May 2013, the Cairns Local Marine Advisory Committee hosted Girringun Elders on a visit to the turtle rehabilitation

centre on Fitzroy Island. The committee is also discussing a beach clean-up event near Yarrabah with Gungandji Traditional Owners.

Eye on the Reef — Tourism Weekly monitoring

Eye on the Reef — Tourism Weekly monitoring is one of the largest tourism-based coral reef monitoring collaborations in the world and represents a highly successful partnership between the tourism industry, Marine Park managers and researchers. Participating tourism operators survey the reef sites they visit on a weekly basis and send their observations to the agency. This provides the agency with both status information and long-term trend data on specific reef sites. Participating tourism operators and crew are being provided with improved access to the data they contribute through a central online data management and reporting system that was completed in 2012–13.

In 2012–13, tourism operators in the Whitsunday, Cairns and Far North regions monitored sites on more than 20 reefs under the Tourism Weekly monitoring program.

The agency conducted Eye on the Reef — Tourism Weekly training workshops for tourism crews in Port Douglas, Cairns and the Whitsundays in August 2012, March 2013 and June 2013. A combined Eye on the Reef — Reef Health and Impact Surveys workshop and training day for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers and select tourism staff was held in Cairns on 7–8 November 2012.

An online training course is under development and due for implementation in late 2013. This will enable new tourism staff to reach competency in field data collection quickly and will support the expansion of the Tourism Weekly program. The agency will continue to conduct face-to-face training at key tourism centres as this is an important aspect of its partnership with the tourism industry. *(The expanded Eye on the Reef program is reported in more detail in a case study, page 87.)*

High Standard Tourism program

High Standard Tourism operators voluntarily operate to a higher standard than required by legislation as part of their commitment to ecologically sustainable use. These operators are independently certified as meeting best practice standards for the key areas of protection, presentation and partnership. The program continued to grow in 2012–13, with more than 65 per cent of the total number of visitor days to the Marine Park being with high standard operators. *(The program is also reported on under Objective 2, page 62.)*

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The agency's corporate communication strategy provides an integrated, holistic approach to agency-wide communications focusing on delivering the outcomes and goals of the agency and fostering behaviour change to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

Core activities covered under the strategy include issues management, website, social media, stakeholder communications, newsletters and publications, media, internal communications, advertising and events.

Progress was achieved in implementing this strategy with the number of news releases generating positive media coverage increasing, continued improvements to the corporate website and our social media platform, and a focus on improving the accessibility of online information.

Media launches

Throughout the year the agency conducted media launches for key reports and strategies, including the public release of the draft Biodiversity Conservation Strategy on 16 August 2012 resulting in the strategy receiving positive coverage by most Townsville media as well as Brisbane, Cairns and national media through Australian Associated Press, with all key messages picked up. The proactive media release generated 23 hits and reached an audience of more than 530,000 people — promotion valued at almost $30,000 in advertising equivalents.

The Coastal Ecosystems report, released on 25 October 2012, received coverage in 17 news outlets as well as online media, reaching an audience of more than 166,000 people with promotion valued in excess of $15,000 in advertising equivalents. The story attracted 58



The new smartphone app enables Reef users to report their sightings in real time

SEE IT, REPORT IT, SHARE IT!

Visitors to the Great Barrier Reef can now report their sightings of marine animals while they're still out on the water.

The real-time reporting system takes the form of a new smartphone app that can be downloaded free from the App store or Google Play.

It enables anyone with a smartphone to send photos, video recordings and observations of marine animals to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, while also sharing these sightings with Facebook friends.

The app is the newest reporting tool in the expanded Eye on the Reef program, which was officially launched by Environment Minister Tony Burke on 17 June 2013.

The new-look Eye on the Reef program brings together four existing assessment and monitoring programs that collect valuable information about reef health, marine animals and incidents, plus a new entry-level monitoring program.

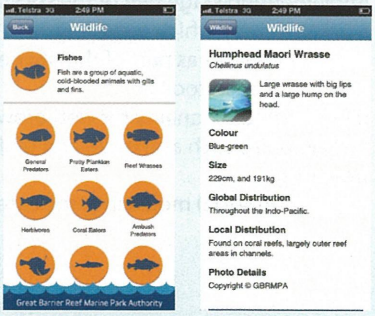
They are: Tourism Weekly monitoring, Reef Health and Impact Surveys, the Sightings Network, Eyes and Ears Incident Reporting, and the new Rapid Monitoring program.

All of the reports made through these programs are combined in a central online management and reporting system, which already stores more than 10,000 Reef health surveys and more than 9500 sightings of protected and iconic species.

Together, this wealth of information gives the agency snapshots of what's happening on the Reef at a single point in time, comparative trend data over time, and early warnings of negative impacts such as crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks.

Another new feature of the expanded program is online training modules for participants.

Eye on the Reef was developed by the agency as a partnership between government, scientists, the tourism industry, Marine Park rangers and other Reef users.



The phone app is easy to use and provides educational information on marine species

Facebook likes and was seen by more than 1000 people.

A stakeholder launch of the agency's *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Adaption Strategy and Action Plan 2012–2017* was conducted at Reef HQ Aquarium together with the release of the report, *Climate Change Adaptation: Outcomes from the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007–2012*. This launch resulted in 24 positive news articles reaching about 176,000 people with an estimated advertising value of $23,000. The story attracted 35 Facebook likes and was seen by almost 1200 people.



Agency Chairman Russell Reichelt in a media interview with international broadcaster Al Jazeera

Website and accessibility

A website project plan was developed and implemented during 2012–13 with the objective of improving the overall user experience on the agency's main website and ensuring the website supports and aligns with key messages outlined in the communications strategy. Implementation of the plan included:

- developing and implementing an agency accessibility policy and procedures for developing accessible publications and online content
- implementing stage two of the social media strategy which including adopting Twitter as part of the online communication toolkit
- increasing functionality for web browsing technologies such as mobile and tablet browsing
- integrating social media into the external website as featured content throughout the site
- improving the online application process for job seekers
- implementing the e-library to consolidate and highlight online publications
- further content editing and improved navigation and site structure
- improving the use of online forms for public consultation and site feedback
- migrating the tourism-focused sub-website *Onboard* to the corporate website
- decommissioning the *reef ED* sub-website and integrating relevant content into the corporate website
- migrating all the external websites to two new servers to facilitate technical upgrades and ongoing improvements.

General online traffic has increased over the last 12 months to almost 500,000 visits — averaging three minutes and 14 seconds per visit. While the online traffic varies month to month, 40 per cent of users are return visitors and the average time spent at the site is about three minutes. Mobile browsing has increased to over 40,000 visits from mobile and tablet users during the last 12 months — averaging two minutes or more for each device.

A focus of our online communication activities throughout the year was ensuring the agency's online communication channels conformed to the Australian Government's mandatory Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.0 by December 2012. These guidelines seek to ensure that people with disabilities have the same fundamental access to information and services as others in the community and affect both internal and external websites. A web accessibility policy was developed, along with an implementation plan including staff information sessions and training for identified staff.

The agency contributed to the government-wide accessibility audit conducted during March–April 2013 to determine compliance with the accessibility guidelines. It has committed to improving the online environment to include accessibility where possible and will continue to improve its compliance to meet the Level AA standard required by 31 December 2014.

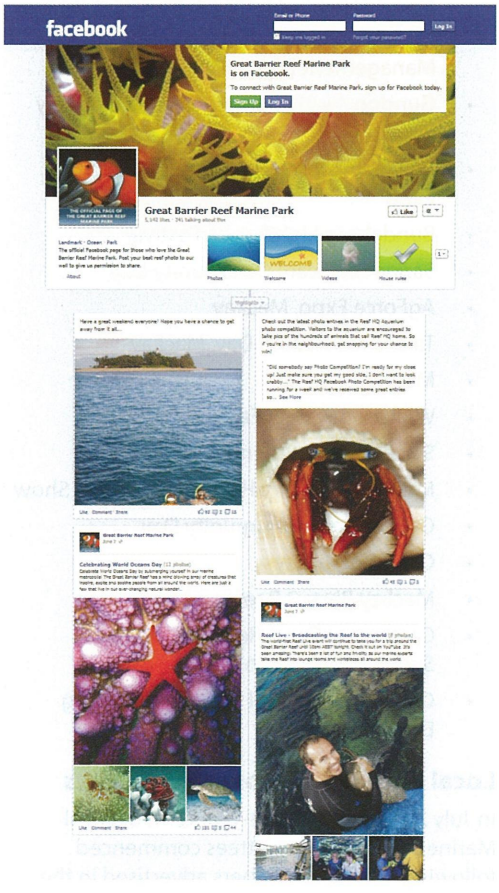
Social media

Social media is a key communication tool which is enabling the agency to inform both national and international audiences of the values of, and threats to, the Reef as well as the good work being done to protect it. During the year, the agency expanded its online communications toolkit to include Twitter as a key social media tool. The agency now participates in three successful social media communities—Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

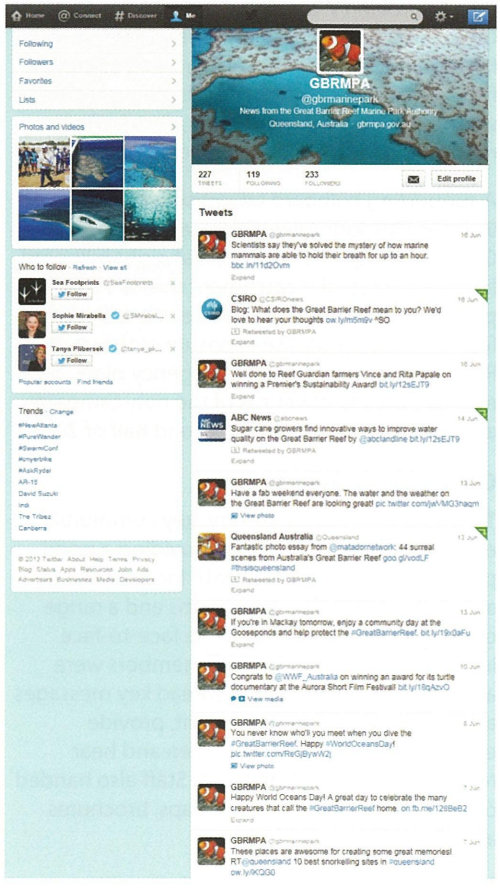
The agency's social media platforms have grown successfully. Facebook averages a weekly reach of more than 19,000 people. Online photo galleries and fan photos help to promote the visual appeal of the Reef. The photo galleries are shared and discussed regularly, helping to spread our key messages. The photos are so successful that expanding this form of social image sharing into a fourth social media platform for photos is being considered — to improve the visual elements via the website.

YouTube has had about 14,000 views to date and users are enjoying a range of visual and educational content about the Reef. Twitter has been positively embraced by the online community, nearing 200 followers in a matter of months.

Agency staff were key participants in Reef Live, an initiative of Tourism and Events Queensland. This very successful social media campaign to promote the Great Barrier Reef as an international destination was broadcast around the globe for 12 continuous hours via Google+ and Google hangouts. *(Reef Live is detailed in a case study, page 91.)*



The agency's Facebook page has an average weekly reach of more than 19,000 people



The agency began using Twitter as a key social media tool in 2012–13

Reef in brief

The agency has now distributed 16 issues of its electronic newsletter, *Reef in brief*, a subscription-based summary of hot topics and achievements. This monthly online newsletter replaces the hardcopy publication *Searead*, the 46th and final edition of which was published in August 2012. *Reef in brief* is currently emailed to an audience of about 940 readers and provides a more timely and efficient vehicle for sharing information with the agency's stakeholders.

Reef Guardian advertising program

During the reporting period, the agency ran a television and billboard advertising program to increase community awareness of the great work Reef Guardians are doing to protect the Reef, and to let Reef Guardians know the agency values their efforts. The non-campaign television advertising involved re-running six Reef Guardian TV commercials featuring Reef Guardian schools, councils, cane farmers, banana farmers, graziers, reef line fishers, and aquarium fish and coral collectors. The ads ran over a four-week period on WIN and Seven, mainly during news and early evening time slots.

A supporting billboard advertising program with Bishopp Outdoor Advertising saw the same Reef Guardian programs promoted at eight billboard locations across the catchment over a 12-week period. The billboard skins were rotated every four weeks to maximise exposure of the various Reef Guardian programs. The agency plans to evaluate the effectiveness of the non-campaign advertising program in the second half of 2013.

Community events

The agency took part in some key community events throughout the year, providing a good platform for staff to speak with local residents about zoning, fishing regulations and a range of other Marine Park issues. The face-to-face interactions with community members were also a good opportunity to spread key messages about Marine Park management, provide educational activities for children and hear residents' views on Reef issues. Staff also handed out hundreds of free zoning maps, brochures and posters.

Events at which the agency had a booth or presence included:



Shonit Abraham makes a pledge for the environment on a sticker fish scale while visiting the agency's stand at the Gladstone Ecofest

- Townsville Fishing and Outdoor Expo
- Boyne Tannum HookUp
- Gladstone Ecofest
- Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative Natural Resources Management Expo
- Gundoo Junior Rangers Creek Discovery Day
- Rockhampton Girl Guides Environment Expo
- Bundaberg Lighthouse Festival
- Sarina Landcare Community Day
- AgForce Expo, Mackay
- Take a Kid Fishing Day, Mackay
- Mackay Eco Expo
- Whitsunday Reef Festival
- St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend
- Moranbah Rotary Home and Leisure Show
- Gooseponds Community Day
- Clermont Show
- Mackay River 2 Reef Festival
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council Sustainability Expo
- Cairns City Council Sustainable Living Expo.

Local Marine Advisory Committees

In July 2012, a new three-year term of Local Marine Advisory Committees commenced following a call for members advertised in the regional press and a selection process. These



Reef Live presenter Anna Daniels (centre) interviews the agency's Mark Read and Krystal Huff about marine turtles

TAKING THE REEF TO THE WORLD

A cast of agency staff took part in a groundbreaking live broadcast, taking people from all over the world on an incredible Reef journey — all from the comfort of their own homes.

Reef Live used a range of the latest digital technologies including social media to showcase the Great Barrier Reef to a global audience.

An initiative of Tourism and Events Queensland, the 12-hour event allowed people to watch underwater divers and reef experts from around the world talk about all things Great Barrier Reef. People could then interact in real time via the Twitter hashtag #reeflive.

Through Google+ hangouts, an underwater reef studio located at Pixie Pinnacles (Ribbon Reef #10), connected divers with the Cairns-based central hub and numerous locations throughout Australia and the world.

Twelve half-hour dive sessions saw divers showing the worldwide audience key features of Pixie Pinnacles while talking about reef-related topics.

The dive sessions were complemented by bringing together participants from a wide range of backgrounds including scientists, tourism operators, academics, conservationists and government agencies to highlight and showcase the Great Barrier Reef.

The agency's Reef HQ Aquarium was a designated Reef Live location, and a number of agency staff were filmed there, helping to bring the Reef to life in people's lounge rooms.

Reef Live was held on 7 June 2013 to mark World Oceans Day and the complete broadcast can be viewed on the Queensland YouTube channel www.youtube.com/queensland

Reef Live by numbers
7 million reach
31,000 viewers online
878,000 people registered for Twitter feed
300 newspaper articles around the world

advisory committees, now totalling 12, advise the agency on Marine Park management issues. Their membership represents the broad community with representatives from fishing, tourism, industry, conservation bodies, local government and Indigenous groups. The committees are located along the Great Barrier Reef coastline stretching from Cape York in the north to Burnett in the south. An additional committee was established this year to represent the Bowen–Burdekin region in response to growing interest by these communities in issues affecting their specific coastal area and the adjacent Marine Park.

During the year the advisory committees played an influential role in advising the agency on a range of regionally specific issues. In addition the Local Marine Advisory Committees provided advice throughout the development of the Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment at regular committee meetings, through discussions at the Chair's workshop in October 2012 and again in a specific meeting in January 2013 reviewing an early draft of the document and providing important feedback. *(Local Marine Advisory Committees are also reported on in the Management and Accountability chapter, page 106.)*

Reef Advisory Committees

The agency has four issue-related Reef Advisory Committees comprising a cross-section of stakeholder interests with experience and expertise in relevant areas. They are the:

- Catchment and Coastal Reef Advisory Committee
- Ecosystem Reef Advisory Committee
- Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee
- Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee.

During 2012–13, the committees provided advice and guidance on a range of issues including the strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef Region. The current three-year term was due to expire on 31 December 2012, but the board agreed to extend the membership of current committee members so they could continue their involvement in the strategic assessment process. *(Reef Advisory Committees are also reported on in the Management and Accountability chapter, page 105.)*

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

International engagement

The agency maintains an effective international engagement strategy that focuses on hosting visiting officials from overseas and Australia. This sees an average of 14 groups and 125 visitors per year, and a total of 160 groups and 1400 visitors over the last 11 years. In 2012–13, 12 groups totalling 81 visitors spent time learning about, exchanging ideas on, and sharing experiences in coral reef management. In 2012 and 2013 this strategy was enhanced through the agency hosting the International Coral Reef Initiative on behalf of the Australian Government. *(The International Coral Reef Initiative is reported on in more detail on page 93.)*

REEF HQ AQUARIUM

As the Australian Government's national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Reef HQ Aquarium has a key role in teaching people about the value of the Great Barrier Reef, the threats to its sustainable future and what they can do to protect the Reef. The aquarium achieves this by providing world-class living exhibits complemented by thematic and interactive educational experiences, which raise community awareness and encourage behavioural changes that will help protect the Reef.

Visitor numbers

Due to well-targeted marketing and public relations strategies, and the provision of a high quality product, Reef HQ Aquarium consistently meets visitor expectations and continues to maintain good visitation numbers. Reef HQ Aquarium received 141,417 visitors during 2012–13, which is slightly lower than the previous year's record attendance.

The Reef HQ Aquarium education team continues to deliver world-class reef education programs to students within all stages of learning, from early childhood through to



Delegates at the 27th general meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative in Cairns

TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO SAVE CORAL REEFS

Australia, through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, is successfully engaged in global work to protect coral reefs.

In 2012–13, the agency continued its role as the co-host of the International Coral Reef Initiative in partnership with the Government of Belize. The Mesoamerican Barrier System off the Caribbean coast of Belize is the second-longest reef in the world.

The initiative involves governments, international organisations and non-government organisations who are striving to raise awareness of the importance of coral reefs and threats to their future.

In July 2012, the agency successfully hosted the 27th general meeting of the initiative in Cairns, attracting 50 delegates from 24 countries around the world.

The meeting was a valuable opportunity for countries with extensive coral reefs to share an understanding of pressures on these systems, and options for reducing those pressures.

Discussions covered a variety of topics including the lionfish invasion of the Caribbean, marine protected areas in East Asia and reef monitoring worldwide, and allowed the agency to showcase Australia's initiatives in coral reef management.

Emphasis was placed on how to gauge the effectiveness of management techniques in marine conservation.

The use of community outreach was highlighted as a powerful management tool and the agency's Reef Guardian program was well received by delegates as a leading edge example of public engagement.

The importance of embracing social media to help spread positive messages about coral reef conservation and management was another major aspect of discussions.

The agency also worked with AusAID to deliver four small grants via the Initiative to community-based projects in Egypt, Kenya, Samoa, and the Federated States of Micronesia for coral reef and related ecosystem management.

Agency officers are continuing to work with colleagues in Belize to convene the next general meeting in Belize City in October 2013 and again enable coral reef managers from around the world to discuss achievements and actions based on their experiences.



Participants engage with a Reef Guardian farmer at Gordonvale

tertiary level. Formal reef education programs have been facilitated to 8735 students during 2012–13.

Almost 103,100 people participated in Reef HQ Aquarium's program of talks and tours. This means more than 73 per cent of people who visited the aquarium have participated in a formal talk or tour which raises awareness of Reef issues and encourages behavioural change.

Eco-certification and awards

Reef HQ Aquarium maintained triple-tier ecotourism certification during the reporting period. A site inspection and audit by Ecotourism Australia in March 2013 saw Reef HQ meeting every criterion to retain certification for Advanced Ecotourism, Climate Action Business and Respecting Our Culture levels. No corrective actions were noted. Maintaining these high levels of certification demonstrates the aquarium's commitment to the provision of quality ecotourism experiences.

Reef HQ Aquarium also maintained T-QUAL Accreditation, the Australian Government's quality framework for the tourism industry. The T-QUAL Accreditation was developed to promote quality experiences for tourism consumers by recognising sustainable and capable tourism businesses and operators nationally. The T-QUAL Accreditation symbol enables consumers to recognise quality products and services easily.

Reef HQ Aquarium's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable business operations was formally recognised when it won the 2012 North Queensland Tourism Award for Eco-Tourism. The aquarium went on to win the Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism at the 2012 Queensland Tourism Awards and was a finalist in this category at the 2012 Australian Tourism Awards.

Outreach education

The aquarium's Reef Videoconferencing program extends the reach of the aquarium's reef education programs by using cutting-edge technology to take a scuba diver and living reef virtually into classrooms all over Australia and the world. The program continues to earn national and international recognition as an example of best practice environmental education content delivery. In 2012–13, outreach reef education programs were facilitated to 3529 students all over the world using the Reef Videoconferencing technology, including such countries as the United States of America, Canada and Mexico. Reef videoconferences have been facilitated into schools on every continent around the world except Antarctica. In the last five years Reef videoconferences have been beamed to more than 700 locations and used to engage with more than 50,000 people.

In 2012–13, Reef HQ Aquarium received a Regional Education Service Agencies — Teachers' Favourite Award for the sixth consecutive year and a Centre for Interactive Learning and Collaboration — Pinnacle Award for the fourth consecutive year for outstanding education content delivered via videoconferencing technology. Both awards were voted on by teachers from across the United States of America.

Turtle hospital

The Reef HQ Aquarium turtle hospital had a successful year in rehabilitating sick or injured turtles, and raising community awareness of the threats faced by these iconic marine animals.

The hospital operates under and promotes the C.A.R.E (Conserve. Act. Rehabilitate. Educate) philosophy, playing a key role in raising community awareness in relation to threatened species and encouraging behavioural change that will benefit these threatened species. Almost 31,000 people participated in the turtle hospital tour during 2012–13, bringing to 88,000 the



Leroy the flatback turtle was one of the many turtles nursed back to health during 2012–13



Reef HQ Aquarium director Fred Nucifora and technical operations manager Sascha Thyer in front of the newest section of solar panels

REEF HQ AQUARIUM POWERS ON USING LESS ENERGY

Reef HQ Aquarium continues to ramp up its commitment to being a climate action business that makes energy use minimisation and environmental sustainability the highest priority in its core business activities.

Two of the highlights of its initiatives in the past financial year were the installation of a 205 kilowatt peak photovoltaic solar power system and a major upgrade of Reef HQ's chilling system.

Reef HQ set itself an ambitious energy use reduction target of 50 per cent in 2006 and, at the end of the 2012–13 financial year, had come very close to reaching this target.

In the 2012–13 financial year, the aquarium commissioned 161 kilowatts which directly feed its power use. The solar array covers 1763 square metres of Reef HQ Aquarium's rooftop and is a registered power station. A further 44 kilowatts will be turned on in the 2013–14 financial year.

The upgrade to Reef HQ's air-conditioning involves an innovative water-cooled system which has reduced overall energy demand by at least 20 per cent. Its best effect has been to deliver a dramatic reduction in days where the temperature exceeds the bleaching threshold in the coral reef exhibit, the world's largest such exhibit and the aquarium's most prized asset.

This year Reef HQ Aquarium paid about $261,000 for electricity. If it had not slashed its power consumption, the bill would have topped $400,000.

It expects to exceed the 50 per cent target in the early months of 2013–14 when phase two of the solar power system is put into action.

In recognition of its efforts, Reef HQ Aquarium won the Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism at the Queensland Tourism Awards in December 2012 and was a finalist in the Australian Tourism Awards in February 2013.

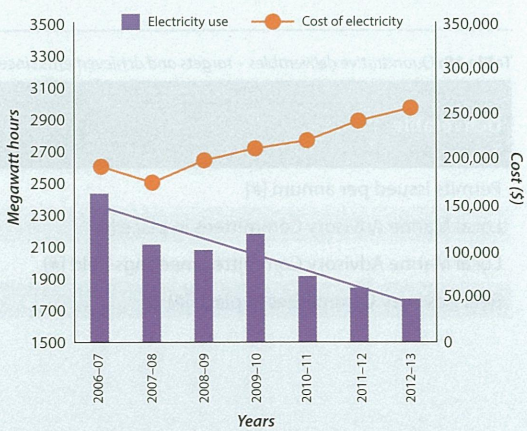


Figure 13: *Reef HQ Aquarium's power consumption compared to the cost of power*

number of people who have toured the hospital since its opening in August 2009.

A total of 152 marine turtles have been cared for by staff and volunteers at the Reef HQ Aquarium turtle hospital since its opening in August 2009. More than 35 per cent of these turtles have been successfully rehabilitated and released back into the Marine Park.

New exhibits and improvements

Reef Research exhibition

Reef HQ Aquarium commissioned the $150,000 Reef Research exhibition in October 2012 to showcase the latest in coral reef research. Co-funded by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australian Institute of Marine Science and James Cook University, the exhibition enables visitors to gain a better appreciation for the importance of scientific research and its contribution to the understanding of marine processes and the threats faced by marine systems. Visitors also gain a greater understanding of the important role that research-focused institutions and organisations play in the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, both now and into the future.

Climate change exhibition upgrade

In June 2013, the aquarium initiated $35,000 in upgrades to the climate change exhibition to increase visitor awareness of the issue of climate change and its impacts on the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem. The primary aim is for visitors to leave the exhibition with a better understanding of what climate change is, the impacts it is having on the Reef ecosystem, the efforts being made by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, stakeholders and other agencies to protect the Reef, and a recognition of the behavioural changes they can adopt to minimise the impacts of climate change on their environment. *(The exhibition is also reported on under Objective 1, page 24.)*

Volunteers reach milestone

As part of National Volunteers Week in May 2013, Reef HQ Volunteers Association celebrated reaching 350,000 hours of volunteer services to Reef HQ Aquarium over its 26-year history. Since Reef HQ Aquarium first opened in 1987, more than 1200 people aged from 18 to 88 have trained as Reef HQ Aquarium volunteers. Three of the volunteers have been with the aquarium since it opened, 12 volunteers have given more than 20 years of service, and eight volunteers have clocked up 15 years. Volunteers are integral to the aquarium's operations. They provide extra value to the visitor experience by sharing their knowledge in a way that is easy to understand and remember.

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

The agency has made changes to its quantitative deliverables and key performance indicators to provide a meaningful indication of program effectiveness. These changes are in response to the Australian National Audit Office *Performance Audit Report No. 5 2011–12 Development and implementation of KPIs to support the outcomes and programs framework*. Some previous quantitative key performance indicators are now treated as deliverables. For the new quantitative key performance indicators, the agency has reported against the targets in both 2011–12 and 2012–13, except where the information was not available.

Table 10: *Quantitative deliverables – targets and achievements since 2010–11*

Deliverable	2010–11 Target (Achievement)	2011–12 Target (Achievement)	2012–13 Target (Achievement)
Permits issued per annum [#]	650 (750)	650 (625)	650 (552)
Local Marine Advisory Committees in place [#]	11 (11)	11 (11)	11 (12)
Local Marine Advisory Committee meetings held [#]	44 (43)	55 (55)	55 (60)
Reef Advisory Committees in place [#]	4 (4)	4 (4)	4 (4)

Deliverable	2010–11 Target (Achievement)	2011–12 Target (Achievement)	2012–13 Target (Achievement)
Reef Advisory Committee meetings held [#]	8 (8)	8 (8)	8 (6) *
Reef HQ Aquarium visitors [#]	114,000 (121,731)	116,000 (145,129)	118,000 (141,417)
Reef Guardian schools [#]	180 (270)	200 (285)	205 (293)
Reef Guardian councils [#]	14 (13)	14 (13)	15 (13)**

* Four meetings scheduled for May and June 2013 were postponed so members could have input into the strategic assessment

** Central Highlands Regional Council has committed to the program and Yarrabah Shire Council has expressed interest in joining the program

Table 11: *Quantitative key performance indicators — targets and achievements since 2011–12*

Key performance indicator	2011–12 Revised budget (Achievment)	2012–13 Target (Achievment)
Trends in sediment loads, nitrogen and phosphorus loads and pesticide loads for end-of-catchment waters of the northern, central and southern regions of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon [increasing/decreasing]	Decreasing (Decreasing)	Decreasing (Decreasing)
At-risk habitats, species and groups of species for which the need for a vulnerability assessment has been identified and a current vulnerability assessment is published to the agency's website [%]	77 (57)	80 (57)*
Marine Park managed in accordance with an accredited Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement or an Indigenous Land Use Agreement [%]**	18 (21)	18 (24)
Reported offences where a compliance action was taken [%]	50 (74)***	50 (78)***
Research projects (that are either the responsibility of the agency or that the agency has influenced) which address science information needs that relate to issues of high or medium concern to management (as identified by the Outlook Report) [%]	100 (100)	100 (100)
Visitors to the Great Barrier Reef using tourism operators accredited as High Standard Operators [%]	50 (>65)	50 (>65)
Participants within the Reef Guardian School program [#]	110,000 (>110,000)	110,000 (114,900)
Visitors to Reef HQ Aquarium that participate in talks and tours that deliver key messages about risks to the Great Barrier Reef [%]	63 (52)	63 (73)
Proactive media releases which have resulted in published articles/news clips [%]	90 (not measured)****	90 (83)

* In 2012–13 agency staff completed the remaining four species vulnerability assessments, ready for publication in 2013–14. Their publication will bring the percentage of published vulnerability assessments up to 81 per cent

** Key performance indicator refers to the length of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park coastline covered by a formal land use agreement

*** Figure represents the percentage of reported possible offences that were allocated for further compliance action following initial assessment. These matters resulted in a variety of outcomes ranging from no further action to education, cautions, prosecution and administrative actions

**** A system was not available to measure this outcome

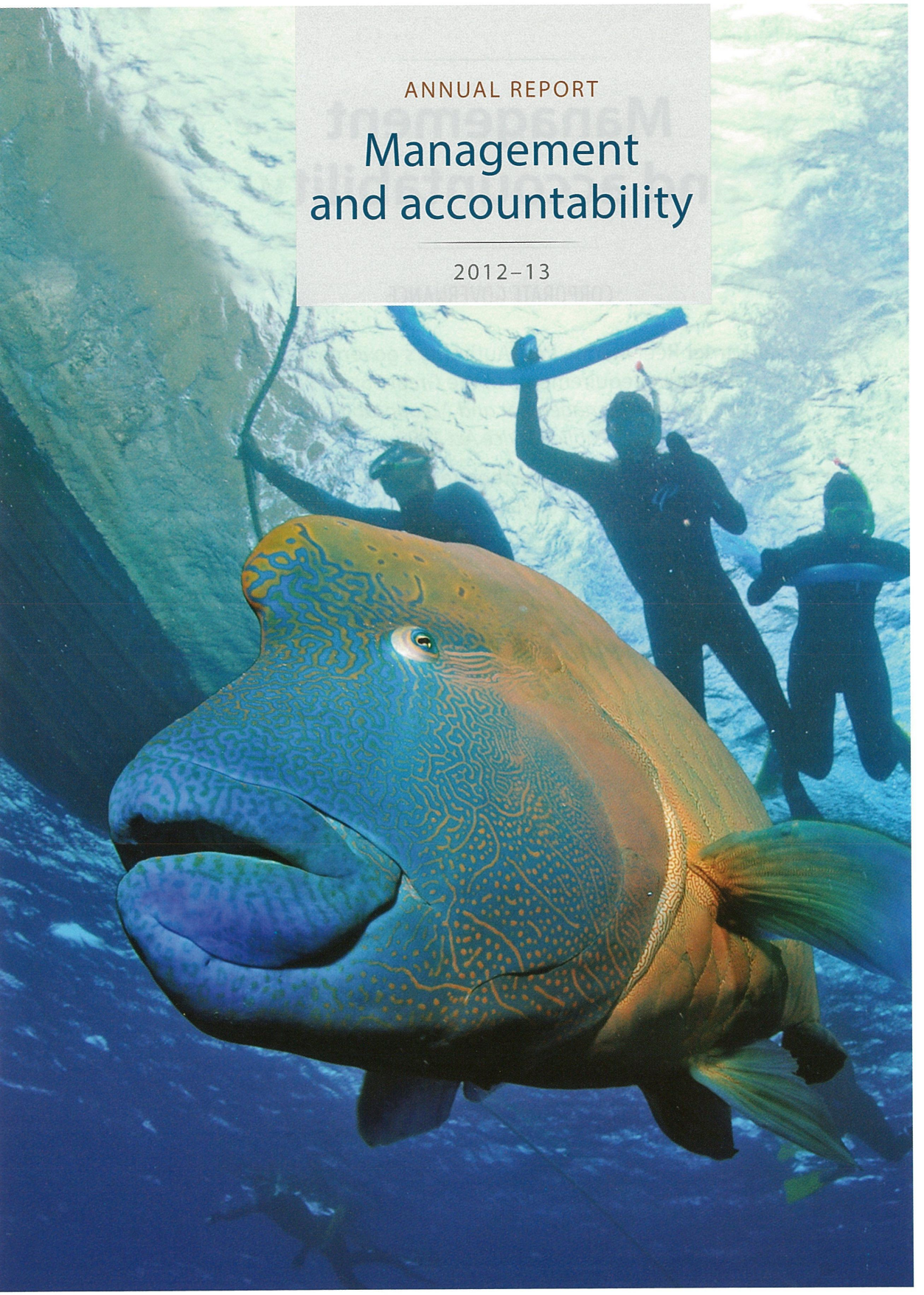
Summary of achievements for Objective 3

- Launched the expanded Eye on the Reef program, including a new phone app that enables Reef visitors to record real-time sightings of marine animals
- Expanded the Reef Guardian program with increases in the number of schools, fishers, farmers and graziers involved
- Reduced energy consumption at Reef HQ Aquarium by about 50 per cent through a 205 kilowatt peak photovoltaic solar power system and other energy-saving measures
- Participated in Reef Live, a groundbreaking live broadcast that brought the Great Barrier Reef into lounge rooms all over the world
- Co-hosted the International Coral Reef Initiative in partnership with the Government of Belize
- Expanded the agency's social media toolkit to include twitter, as well as Facebook and YouTube
- Played a leading role in science-management engagement as part of the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium
- Involved 1132 Reef Guardian students in Future Leaders Eco-challenges which gave them experience in field based environmental activities
- Played an active role in the National Environmental Research Program Tropical Ecosystems Hub at project level, as chair of the biodiversity implementation group, and as a representative on the steering committee and water quality implementation group
- Continued strong partnerships with leading science providers, including the implementation of a major new Social and Economic Long-Term Monitoring Program
- Conducted Eye on the Reef — Tourism Weekly workshops for tourism crew in Port Douglas, Cairns and the Whitsundays
- Conducted television and billboard advertising to promote the Reef Guardian program and to recognise the good work participants are doing to protect the Reef
- Attracted more than 141,400 visitors to Reef HQ Aquarium, the national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Completed a scoping review of citizen science on the Great Barrier Reef.

ANNUAL REPORT

Management and accountability

2012–13



Management and accountability

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority'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 *Public Service Act 1999*.

The agency's senior executives and their responsibilities are shown in the organisational chart in the *Overview* section of this report.

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY (THE BOARD)

The Chairman and Members of the Board are chosen by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and appointed by the Governor-General.

Membership of the Board

Dr Russell Reichelt



Chairman and Chief Executive of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Russell Reichelt joined the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in 2007 as Chairman and Chief Executive. Dr Reichelt is a board member of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. He began diving on the Great Barrier Reef in 1968 and worked as a research scientist at the Australian Institute of Marine Science in the 1980s studying the ecology of coral reefs, particularly the crown-of-thorns starfish.

Dr Reichelt has a PhD in marine science 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 member of Australia's State of the Environment Committee. He has previously chaired the National Oceans Advisory Group, CSIRO's Wealth from Oceans Flagship Advisory Committee and Seafood Services Australia Ltd. He is an Adjunct Professor at James Cook University and the University of Queensland, and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (UK) and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

He was appointed as Chairman of the Authority on 1 November 2007 for five years, and reappointed on 1 November 2012 for a term concluding on 31 October 2017.

Melissa George



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 since 2002 and Chair since 2006.

She was appointed as a member of the Authority on 29 August 2008 for a four-year term, and was reappointed on 22 November 2012 for a five-year term concluding on 21 November 2017.

Daniel Gschwind



(Board membership term ended during 2012–13)

Daniel Gschwind is the Chief Executive Officer for the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, which 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 and the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre. He represents the Queensland Tourism Industry Council 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 agency'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.

He was appointed as a member of the Authority on 9 April 2009, for a four-year term which finished on 13 April 2013.

Tony Mooney



Tony Mooney has extensive experience in infrastructure, economic development, community engagement and regional government.

He served as a Townsville City councillor for 31 years, 19 of them as Mayor, concluding in 2008. During his time as Mayor, he oversaw a period of unprecedented sustainable urban and infrastructure development. In 2008, Mr Mooney was appointed to the Board of Ergon Energy, and in 2009 was appointed to the Board of Townsville Enterprise Limited. Mr Mooney received a Centenary Medal in 2001 for distinguished service to local government, and in 2011 was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for service to local government and to the community of Townsville through a range of tourism, business and infrastructure organisations.

He was appointed as a member of the Authority on 7 December 2011, for a five-year term which finishes on 6 December 2016.

Jon Grayson



Jon Grayson was appointed Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in March 2012 bringing substantial private sector and government experience to the role.

For the two years before his appointment, Jon was principal and founder of Queensland Infrastructure Partners, an advisory and transaction arranging firm specialising in infrastructure investment and development.

He was previously a senior executive with a major international advisory and investment management firm. Jon's investment banking experience was primarily in the infrastructure space, having led successful bids for infrastructure assets including the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal. This experience included two years as the inaugural Chief Executive of Prime Infrastructure, which became one of Australia's largest infrastructure funds, guiding it to an Initial Public Offering on the Australian Stock Exchange.

Prior to his investment banking career, Jon had a long career in Queensland Treasury and Queensland Treasury Corporation. He led major reform processes within government including leading the Suncorp-Metway merger, and the major review of Queensland Rail Corporatisation. At Queensland Treasury Corporation, Jon served on the Executive Management Team, leading the structured finance group, arranging and executing a range of efficient financing structures for government-owned corporations and statutory bodies, including cross-border lease transactions over Queensland Government-owned rail and electricity assets.

He was appointed as the Queensland Government representative member of the Authority for a three-year term concluding on 21 November 2015.

Margie McKenzie



Margie McKenzie has extensive experience in the Queensland marine tourism industry.

She is currently the managing director of a marine tourism consulting company in Cairns, has been a scuba diving instructor for 29 years and is still an active Instructor Certifier with Scuba Schools International.

Mrs McKenzie has been a partner in one of Australia's largest dive training companies based in Cairns, has been the general manager of Dive QLD, a non-profit association committed to promoting and developing the diving industry in Queensland, for 17 years and spent seven years as the general manager of Scuba Schools International.

Mrs McKenzie is a Chartered Practising Accountant and has specialised in assisting tourism and small business in developing into profitable enterprises.

She was appointed as a member of the Authority on 16 May 2013 for a five-year term concluding on 15 May 2018.

Meeting schedule

During 2012–13, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority held six meetings (Table 12).

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Chief Executive of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has established the compliance audit committee under section 46 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and Regulation 22C of the Financial Management and Accountability Regulations 1997.

The audit committee provides independent assurance and assistance to the Chief Executive

and the Marine Park Authority Board on the agency's risk, control and compliance framework, and its financial responsibilities.

The following people were members of the audit committee during 2012–13:

- Ms Fay Barker, Chairman and Medal of the Order of Australia and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Mr Roy Peterson, member
- Mr Daniel Gschwind, member to 13 April 2013, Marine Park Authority Board member and Chief Executive Queensland Tourism Industry Council
- Mr Phillip Fogarty, member from 21 January 2013 and Acting Manager, Financial Services, Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet

During 2012–13 the audit committee held four meetings (Table 13).

Table 12: *Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2012–13*

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
MPA 222	3 August 2012	Teleconference	Dr Russell Reichelt, Ms Melissa George, Mr Daniel Gschwind, Mr Tony Mooney
MPA 223	18 September 2012	Townsville	Dr Russell Reichelt, Mr Jon Grayson, Ms Melissa George, Mr Daniel Gschwind, Mr Tony Mooney
MPA 224	26 November 2012	Canberra	Dr Russell Reichelt, Mr Jon Grayson, Ms Melissa George, Mr Daniel Gschwind, Mr Tony Mooney
MPA 225	22 February 2013	Townsville	Dr Russell Reichelt, Mr Jon Grayson, Ms Melissa George, Mr Daniel Gschwind, Mr Tony Mooney
MPA 226	10 April 2013	Brisbane	Dr Russell Reichelt, Mr Jon Grayson, Mr Daniel Gschwind, Mr Tony Mooney
MPA 227	13 June 2013	Brisbane	Dr Russell Reichelt, Mr Jon Grayson, Ms Melissa George, Ms Margie McKenzie, Mr Tony Mooney

Table 13: *Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Audit Committee 2012–13*

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
AC56*	29 August 2012	Townsville	Ms Fay Barker, Mr Daniel Gschwind, Mr Roy Peterson
AC57	5 November 2012	Townsville	Ms Fay Barker, Mr Daniel Gschwind, Mr Roy Peterson
AC58	21 February 2013	Townsville	Ms Fay Barker, Mr Daniel Gschwind, Mr Roy Peterson, Mr Phillip Fogarty
AC59	14 May 2013	Townsville	Ms Fay Barker, Mr Roy Peterson, Mr Phillip Fogarty

* Ms Tracy Laurence-Johnson (Acting Director, Internal Audit and Risk Services, Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet) attended AC56 as an observer, pending the appointment of a permanent member

Roles and responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities are set out in the audit committee charter of operation, reflecting requirements under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and Regulations. The charter covers:

- Risk management
  - risk management framework
  - management of major risks
  - business continuity and disaster recovery plans
  - fraud control plan
- Internal control
  - internal control framework
  - Chief Executive Instructions
  - policies and procedures
  - use of Commonwealth resources
  - delegations
  - key internal controls
- Financial statements
  - adequacy of key internal controls and management sign-off
  - review and provision of advice to the Chief Executive
  - consistency with information provided in the annual report
- Legislative and policy compliance
  - legal and compliance risks
  - system to monitor compliance with relevant laws, regulations and associated government policies
  - compliance with international conventions
  - annual Certificate of Compliance report
- Internal audit
  - internal audit coverage and its alignment with key risks, annual work plan
  - adequacy of internal audit resources
  - audit program
  - monitoring of management's implementation of audit recommendations
  - review of all audit reports and provision of advice to the Chief Executive
  - review of audit committee performance
- External audit
  - financial statement and performance audit coverage
  - review of external audit plans and reports regarding planned or completed audits
  - monitoring management's implementation of audit recommendations
- Governance arrangements
  - periodic review of governance arrangements
- Other responsibilities
  - parliamentary committee reports and external reviews
  - performance reporting framework.

Responsibilities of committee members

Members of the committee are expected to understand and observe the legal requirements of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and Regulations. Members are also expected to:

- act in the best interests of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- apply good analytical skills, objectivity and good judgment
- express opinions constructively and openly, raise issues that relate to the committee's responsibilities and pursue independent lines of enquiry
- contribute the time required to review the papers provided.

Business activities

Business activities of the audit committee addressed the areas covered in the charter of operations (as detailed in roles and responsibilities) with particular emphasis on:

- annual financial statements
- review charter of operation
- financial management
- internal audit
- external audit
- risk, internal control and compliance management
- legislative framework
- environmental management charge
- sustainable funding
- court-imposed fines
- policies and procedures.

Advisory committees

The agency has a number of committees that provide support and strategic advice. These include four issue-focused Reef Advisory Committees and 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees.

Other committees may be appointed from time to time to deal with specific issues.

All committees have terms of reference and procedures established by the agency. Committee composition and membership is reviewed as required.

Reef Advisory Committees

The four Reef Advisory Committees are:

- Catchment and Coastal Reef Advisory Committee
- Ecosystem Reef Advisory Committee
- Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee
- Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee.

A key role of the advisory committees is to advise the agency about actions that can be taken to address the risks to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park identified in the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009.*

They are competency-based committees comprising a cross-section of stakeholder interests with expertise and experience in relevant areas. Each works closely with staff of the relevant branch and sections to ensure policy development and strategic direction are developed in consultation with stakeholders.

Each committee includes members appointed as a representative of a particular group or sector (e.g. industry, recreational, government) or for their linkages to Traditional Owner groups.

Committee members are appointed by the Marine Park Authority Board for a three-year term and are eligible for reappointment. The current three-year term was due to expire on 31 December 2012. However, the Board agreed to extend the membership of current committee members to enable their continued involvement in the strategic assessment process.

During 2012–13, the Reef Advisory Committees provided advice and guidance on a range of topics and issues including:

- the strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef Region
- the impacts of coastal developments adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef including those associated with ports and shipping
- the Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships program
- Indigenous matters relating to heritage obligations
- the draft Great Barrier Reef Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and the development of a coordinated inshore marine biodiversity program
- the state of the marine tourism industry and the development of a Tourism Management Strategy.

Each of the Reef Advisory Committee's meeting dates during 2012–13 is shown in Table 14.

Table 14: *Meeting dates of the Reef Advisory Committees 2012–13*

Reef Advisory Committee	Meeting dates
Catchment and Coastal	7–8 November 2012
Ecosystem	12–13 September 2012
Indigenous	24–25 July 2012, 14–15 November 2012
Tourism and Recreation	31 October–1 November 2012
Combined Reef Advisory Committee workshop on strategic assessment	20 February 2013

Local Marine Advisory Committees

Twelve Local Marine Advisory Committees operate along the Great Barrier Reef catchment. The newest of these, Bowen–Burdekin, was established in July 2012 due to a concern that issues in Bowen were not being reflected in the Whitsunday region and, likewise, issues in the Burdekin were not being reflected in the Townsville region.

Representing community interests from Cape York south to the Burnett region, these advisory committees provide an avenue for local communities to discuss areas of concern directly with the agency. The committees also have input into the management of the Marine Park and undertake activities that contribute to its long-term protection.

The committees are:

- Cape York
- Douglas
- Cairns
- Cassowary Coast
- Hinchinbrook
- Townsville
- Bowen–Burdekin
- Whitsunday
- Mackay
- Capricorn Coast
- Gladstone
- Burnett.



Members of the Cairns Local Marine Advisory Committee give visitors to the Cairns City Council Sustainable Living Expo some tips on sustainable fishing and boating

Each advisory committee meets five times a year. In addition to these regular meetings, a committee chairs' meeting was held over a weekend in October 2012 and again in February 2013.

Committee members are appointed for a three-year term. The new term began in July 2012 and finishes in July 2015.

(Local Marine Advisory Committees are also reported on under Objective 3 of the Performance chapter, page 90.)

STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANS

The agency carries out planning at the strategic and operational levels. The strategic planning process is shown in Figure 14.

Strategic Plan 2012–2016

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's *Strategic Plan 2012–2016* takes into account the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009* and outlines the direction and priorities of the agency. It focuses on delivering outcomes required by legislation, especially the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, through four objectives:

- Address the key risks affecting the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef
- Ensure management of the Marine Park supports ecologically sustainable use
- Foster stewardship by engaging, educating and inspiring people through the care and management of the Marine Park
- Maintain a high performing, effective and efficient organisation.

Annual operating plans

Each section of the agency develops annual operating plans. These plans clearly set out detailed objectives, strategies, outputs, relevant performance indicators and targets, and resources available. These plans collectively form the agency annual operating plan.

Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009

Developing the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009* was one of the key recommendations from the *Review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*

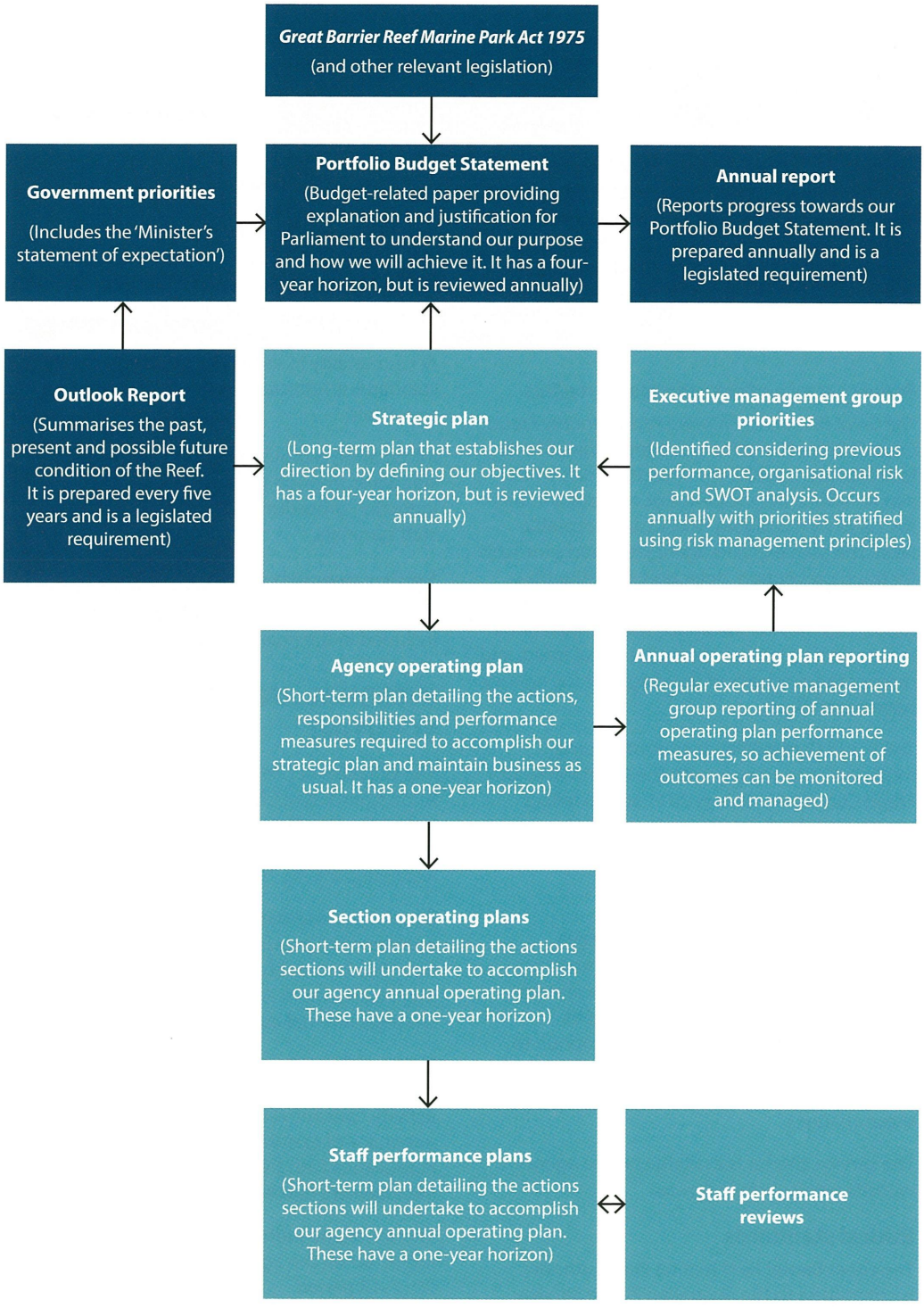
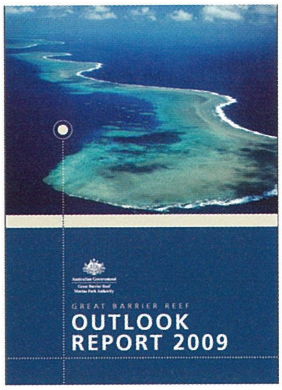


Figure 14: *The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's strategic planning process*



Act 1975 – Review Panel Report 2006. 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.

Fraud control and risk management plans

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Fraud Control Plan 2009–2012 was adopted in 2010 to facilitate the establishment of processes which aim to reduce the incidence of, and opportunity for, fraud by managing risks to an acceptable level. The plan explains agency-tailored protocols for fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection. Collectively, these help provide assurance that all reasonable measures to minimise the incidence of fraud, and recover the proceeds of fraud against the agency, have been taken.

The Fraud Control Plan is currently being modernised to comply with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines 2011 and to reflect agency fraud risk assessments undertaken in January 2013.

Service charter 2011–2015

The service charter outlines the agency's goals, aims, customers, and commitments to those customers. The agency aims to provide the appropriate service to meet all of its commitments. These services will continue to develop as new issues arise and the service charter will be reviewed regularly in line with these changes.

The service charter is available on the agency's website www.gbrmpa.gov.au.

Ethical standards

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 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's *Corporate Plan 2011–2014* and the *Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014*.

All executive level staff members are required to provide formal signed acknowledgment that they have read the Australian Public Service Values, Code of Conduct and the Australian Public Service Commission publication *Respect*, and that they will practise and promote ethical standards within their area of responsibility. Accountability in terms of application of ethical standards is reflected in annual performance appraisals.

Information is provided to staff on ethical standards through the agency's intranet, induction procedures, Chairman's Update and staff seminars.

Senior executive remuneration

Information on senior executive remuneration is included in the financial statements on page 155.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Audit Committee Charter and other documents reflect the requirements for audit committees under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

Benchmark International Group Pty Ltd was contracted to provide internal audit services from September 2012 to August 2015. Internal audit work was in accordance with an agreed strategic internal audit plan.

In line with the Australian Government's focus on accountability and corporate governance, audit activity 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*.

There were no judicial decisions that significantly impacted on the agency's operations during the 2012–13 period.

Australian National Audit Office reports

Moore Stephens, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office, undertook the external audit of the agency's 2012–13 financial statements *(See Finances chapter, page 114)*.

The agency was included in the following Auditor General's reports tabled in Parliament during 2012–13:

- No. 16 — Audits of the financial statements of Australian Government entities for the period ended 30 June 2012

The following Auditor General's reports of 2012–13 contain recommendations of relevance to the agency:

- No. 4 — Confidentiality in government contracts: Senate order for departmental and agency contracts (calendar year 2011 compliance)
- No. 35 — Control of credit card use
- No. 49 — Interim phase of the audit of financial statements of major general government sector agencies for the year ending 30 June 2013
- No. 54 — Administration of government advertising arrangements: August 2011 to March 2013.

Internal audit reports

The agency's Audit Committee met four times during the year and considered external and internal audit reports. During 2012–13 internal audits and follow-up audits were undertaken in the following areas of operation:

- payroll
- grant management
- asset maintenance
- project management
- contract management
- financial controls
- risk management and corporate governance
- fraud control
- legislative compliance
- tourism and recreation
- Cabcharge use
- knowledge management.

Commonwealth Ombudsman

No complaints were made to the Ombudsman in the 2012–13 financial year.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Overview

A staffing overview table is provided in Appendix B, page 181.

People management

The people management section provides a range of payroll, recruitment, work health and safety, and dive services to employees. Higher level advice is also provided to managers and supervisors regarding workforce planning, performance management and workplace relations matters. Complex case management is also undertaken on workplace investigation matters.

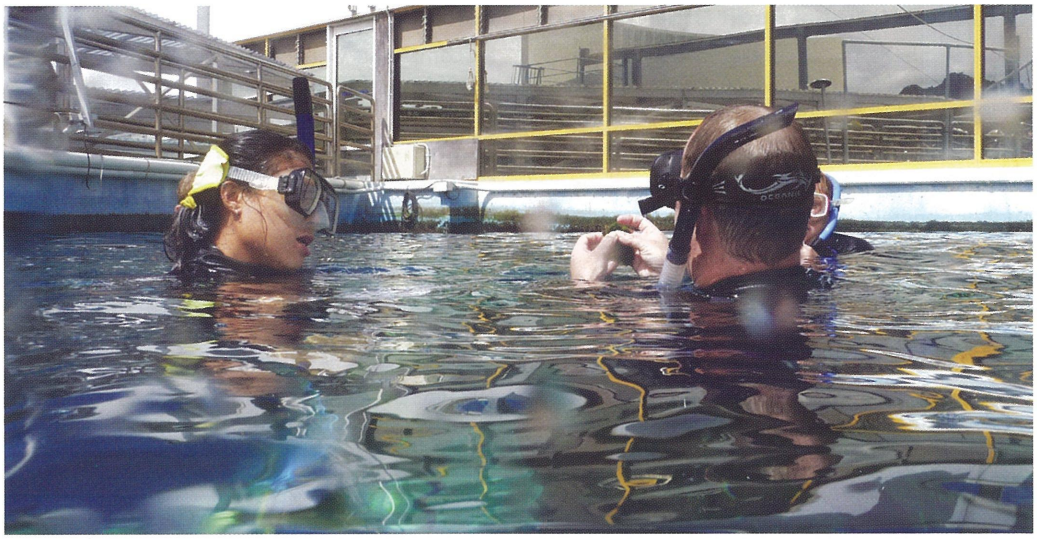
People management proactively supports line areas to meet business objectives as outlined in annual operating plans.

People management's achievements during 2012–13 include:

- maintaining high service delivery standards for core functions in a resource limited environment
- providing employees with access to timely and comprehensive information on employment related activities through the use of the agency's intranet
- commencing quarterly workplace inspections to identify hazards within 36 work units in the agency
- ensuring all employees completed the mandatory work health and safety online training module
- reviewing and amending the dive operations manual to incorporate legislative changes.

Employment agreements

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014* was introduced in November 2011. Negotiations for the next enterprise agreement will commence in the new financial year.



Staff from the agency's regional offices undertake Eye on the Reef — Reef Health and Impact Survey training at Reef HQ Aquarium

Consistent with government policy, all non-Senior Executive Service employees are covered by the enterprise agreement. The current agreement provides salaries to cover classifications ranging from an Australian Public Service 1 to Executive Level 2, including a specific Legal Officer classification.

At 30 June 2013 all Senior Executive Service employees were remunerated by way of section 24(1) determinations under the *Public Service Act 1999*. The agency does not operate a performance pay scheme.

Training and staff development

The agency spent $179,870 on learning and development and study assistance in 2012–13. This included the costs of specific training courses, conference attendance, formal qualifications, study fee reimbursements, professional memberships and all associated travel and accommodation costs.

External providers delivered in-house corporate training on project management and privacy awareness. Refresher training was provided for workplace harassment contact officers. Other specialised training included first aid, dive and resuscitation, emergency response and a variety of field skills based training. Individual employee learning and development opportunities continued to be identified through the staff capability portion of annual employee performance and development agreements.

The agency maintains its support of employees' professional development with time off for face-to-face study and reimbursement of professional fees upon successfully completing a semester of study.

Work health and safety

The agency working environment includes an office coupled with a high level of field work including boat patrols, diving surveys, underwater construction, engineering and water quality management.

Twenty incident reports were lodged by employees during 2012–13. Three claims for compensation were accepted by Comcare. The agency continues to provide an employee assistance program to enable support for work and family matters.

Two quarterly workplace inspections were conducted by each of the 36 work units in the agency and reports provided to the Work Health and Safety committee and Executive Management Group. Comcare inspectors conducted an inspection of our Cairns storage facility and quad bike operations.

During the reporting period, significant investment was put into revising and updating general work health and safety arrangements,

including providing sit/stand workstations across the agency.

A number of employees received emergency response officer, first aid and harassment contact officer training. Emergency procedures were reviewed and fire drills conducted.

Employees were provided with free influenza vaccinations and workstation assessments by occupational therapists, and provided specified ergonomic equipment and furniture.

Dive safety and operations

A revised edition of the diving operations manual was released in June 2013, following internal and external consultation. An in-house dive safety audit of all agency diving operations was also completed. Emphasis was placed on annual diver rescue refresher courses as well as mandatory attendance of on-site dive supervisors.

Ongoing training of dive supervisors, refreshing diver rescue skills, training and certification for specified plant use and remote area first aid training for field officers all contributed to low incident rates.

Workplace diversity

Workplace diversity data for the agency employees is provided in Appendix B, page 181.

The agency's workplace diversity program seeks to ensure:

- annual operating plans (section) and longer term strategic plans (corporate) acknowledge the diverse backgrounds of employees and their current and potential contribution to the agency
- the suite of terms and employment conditions enshrined in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Enterprise Agreement 2011–2014* assists employees in balancing their work, family, caring and lifestyle responsibilities and preferences
- merit and equity in employment is promoted and upheld. This includes non-Australian citizens who bring broader reference points
- the Australian Public Service values remain central to the agency's culture.

Providing access for people with disabilities

The agency provides fair and equitable employment opportunities for all members of the Australian and broader community and has developed a disability action plan in line with the Australian Government Disability Strategy.

The disability strategy recognises the Australian Government has an impact on the lives of people with disabilities. The agency's disability action plan outlines reporting requirements identified in the strategy. The agency performs the roles of policy adviser, provider, regulator and employer.

The agency provides employment opportunities for all members of the community in accordance with the merit principle. Recruitment and 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 are advertised in the *Australian Public Service Gazette*, various newspapers and are accessible through the agency website.

In terms of office access and accommodation, the principle of reasonable adjustment is applied. Ergonomic assessments are conducted and equipment is purchased and provided to suit the needs of the individual. The main building, field management office, conference room, meeting rooms, Reef HQ Aquarium, Rockhampton office and Canberra office are wheelchair accessible.

The 2012–13 workplace diversity data identified 1.8 per cent of employees as having some form of disability.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

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

- Reef HQ Aquarium
- Commonwealth islands
- office fit-out
- information communication technology.

During 2012–13 work on the installation of a solar power system for Reef HQ Aquarium was funded and completed under the

departmental capital budget. Work continued on the implementation of major information communication technology projects.

The agency has in place asset management plans for office fit-out, information communication technology and major equipment and purchases.

PURCHASING

Delegations

The *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and the Financial Management and Accountability Regulations 1997 confer powers and functions of the 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 agency's Chief Executive's instructions comply with requirements of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and ensure compliance with *Commonwealth Procurement Rules 2012.*

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

During 2012–13, 76 new consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of $4.202 million. In addition, 15 ongoing consultancy contracts were active during the 2012–13 year, involving total actual expenditure of $3.485 million.

Competitive tendering and contracting

In accordance with the *Commonwealth Procurement Rules 2012* and the agency's purchasing guidelines, and depending on the estimated values of the required services, the selection and engagement of consultants may involve open tender, pre-qualified tender limited tender or limited tender.

Consultants are engaged when specialist expertise is not available within the agency or where an independent assessment is considered desirable.

Exempt contracts

During 2012–13 no contract was exempted by the CEO from publication in AusTender.

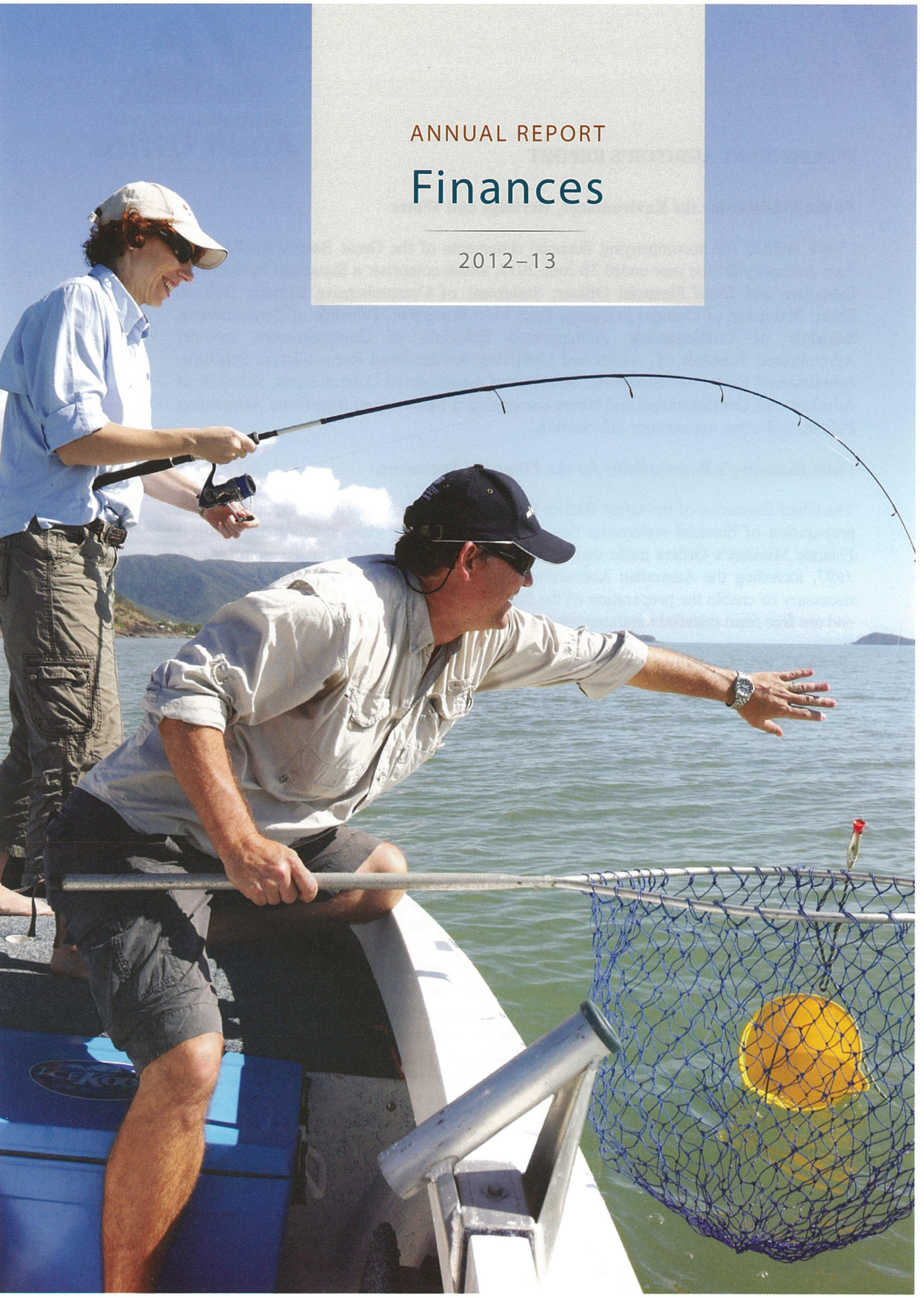
Access by Auditor-General

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

GRANT PROGRAMS

Information on grants awarded by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 is available at www.gbrmpa.gov.au. During 2012–13 the agency administered the following grants programs:

- International Coral Reef Initiative grants program
- Ripples of Change — Reef Guardian Schools award.



ANNUAL REPORT

Finances

2012–13

Australian National Audit Office

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Water

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2013, which comprise: a Statement by the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer; Statement of Comprehensive Income; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies; Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income; Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities; Administered Reconciliation Schedule; Administered Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Administered Commitments; Schedule of Administered Contingencies; and Notes comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Chief Executive's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Chief Executive of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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 about 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 of the financial statements that give a true and fair view 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 the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Chief Executive of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
19 National Circuit BARTON ACT 2600
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

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

Independence

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

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 2013 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Ron Wah
Audit Principal

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
2 September 2013

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

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013 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.

Russell Reichelt
Chief Executive
2 September 2013

John Barrett
Chief Financial Officer
2 September 2013

Statement of Comprehensive Income for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
for the period ended 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $	2012 $
EXPENSES			
Employee Benefits	3A	**22,964,452**	21,177,363
Supplier	3B	**16,723,040**	13,473,858
Depreciation and amortisation	3D	**1,700,594**	1,508,166
Write-down and impairment of assets	3E	**17,579**	-
Cost of goods sold	4B	**149,567**	187,307
Grants	3C	**41,044**	558,639
Losses from asset sales	3F	**152,262**	309,611
Payments to Queensland Government for Field Management Program	5(c)	**12,207,736**	14,264,273
Total Expenses		**53,956,274**	51,479,217
LESS:			
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	**3,027,337**	2,760,116
Payments from Queensland Government for Field Management Program	5(b)	**8,372,000**	8,240,000
Other Revenue	4C	**14,780,543**	8,885,343
Total own-source revenue		**26,179,880**	19,885,458
Gains			
Other	4D	**49,000**	49,000
Reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments	4D	**-**	5,249
Total gains		**49,000**	54,249
Total own-source income		**26,228,880**	19,939,707
Net cost of services		**27,727,394**	31,539,510
Revenue from Government	4E	**27,938,955**	30,979,175
Total Revenue from Government		**27,938,955**	30,979,175
Surplus (Deficit) on Continuing Operations		**211,561**	(560,334)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		**555,001**	(110,000)
Total comprehensive income		**766,562**	(670,334)

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

Balance Sheet for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
as at 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $	2012 $
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6A	**480,154**	355,862
Trade and other receivables	6B	**12,167,793**	9,935,967
Total financial assets		**12,647,947**	10,291,828
Non-Financial Assets			
Buildings and leasehold improvements	7A	**19,208,571**	18,778,982
Property, plant and equipment	7B,C	**3,210,504**	3,243,731
Intangibles	7D,E	**2,340,918**	2,135,779
Inventories	7F	**81,175**	64,022
Other non-financial assets	7G	**192,779**	317,553
Total non-financial assets		**25,033,947**	24,540,066
Total assets		**37,681,894**	34,831,894
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	8A	**(2,083,553)**	(1,082,652)
Other payables	8B	**(1,523,595)**	(1,931,344)
Permit bonds	8C	**(240,370)**	-
Total payables		**(3,847,518)**	(3,013,996)
Provisions			
Employee provisions	9A	**(5,691,048)**	(5,319,633)
Other provisions	9B	**(382,500)**	(380,000)
Total provisions		**(6,073,548)**	(5,699,633)
Total liabilities		**(9,921,066)**	(8,713,628)
Net assets		**27,760,828**	26,118,266
EQUITY			
Parent Entity Interest			
Contributed equity		**20,712,047**	19,836,047
Reserves		**13,633,276**	13,078,275
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)		**(6,584,495)**	(6,796,056)
Total parent entity interest		**27,760,828**	26,118,266
Total equity		**27,760,828**	26,118,266

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

Statement of Changes in Equity for not-for-profit Reporting Entities

for the period ended 30 June 2013

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation surplus		Contributed equity/capital		Total equity	
	2013	2012	**2013**	2012	**2013**	2012	**2013**	2012
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	**(6,796,056)**	(6,235,722)	**13,078,275**	13,188,275	**19,836,047**	16,846,047	**26,118,266**	23,798,600
Adjusted opening balance	**(6,796,056)**	(6,235,722)	**13,078,275**	13,188,275	**19,836,047**	16,846,047	**26,118,266**	23,798,600
Comprehensive income								
Other comprehensive income			**555,001**	(110,000)			**555,001**	(110,000)
Surplus for the period	**211,561**	(560,334)					**211,561**	(560,334)
Total comprehensive income	**211,561**	(560,334)	**555,001**	(110,000)	**-**	-	**766,562**	(670,334)
Transactions with owners								
Contributions by owners								
Equity injection - Appropriations						1,900,000	**-**	1,900,000
Departmental capital budget					**876,000**	1,090,000	**876,000**	1,090,000
Restructuring							**-**	-
Sub-total transactions with owners	**-**	-	**-**	-	**876,000**	2,990,000	**876,000**	2,990,000
Closing balance as at 30 June	**(6,584,495)**	(6,796,056)	**13,633,276**	13,078,275	**20,712,047**	19,836,047	**27,760,828**	26,118,266

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

Cash Flow Statement for not-for-profit Reporting Entities

for the period ended 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $	2012 $
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations		**27,938,955**	30,979,175
Project grants from other agencies		**13,881,177**	8,034,497
Permit assessment fees		**540,392**	366,944
Reef HQ admission fees		**1,481,453**	1,485,123
GST received		**1,543,710**	1,478,108
Payments from Queensland Government for Field Management Program		**8,372,000**	8,240,000
Other receipts		**2,362,000**	1,591,605
Total cash received		**56,119,687**	52,175,453
Cash used			
Grants		**(41,044)**	(558,640)
Employees		**(22,537,818)**	(19,877,598)
Suppliers		**(18,065,156)**	(15,498,381)
GST payable		**(933,309)**	(699,378)
Payments to Queensland Government for Field Management Program		**(12,207,736)**	(14,264,273)
Funds returned to Official Public Account		**(1,171,896)**	(1,188,692)
Total cash used		**(54,956,959)**	(52,086,963)
Total cash from operating activities	10	**1,162,728**	88,490
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		**37,692**	17,631
Total cash received		**37,692**	17,631
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		**(1,952,128)**	(3,082,838)
Total cash used		**(1,952,128)**	(3,082,838)
Net cash used by investing activities		**(1,914,436)**	(3,065,207)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity		**876,000**	2,990,000
Total cash received		**876,000**	2,990,000
Cash used			
Other		**-**	-
Total cash used		**-**	-
Net Cash used by Financing activities		**876,000**	2,990,000
Net increase in cash held		**124,292**	13,283
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**355,862**	342,579
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	6A	**480,154**	355,862

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

Schedule of Commitments
as at 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $	2012 $
BY TYPE			
Commitments receivable			
Net GST recoverable on commitments		**196,335**	488,873
Total capital commitments		**196,335**	488,873
Commitments payable			
Capital commitments			
Property, plant and equipment		**(188,349)**	(704,796)
Total capital commitments		**(188,349)**	(704,796)
Other commitments			
Operating leases		**(854,906)**	(677,427)
Other commitments		**(1,296,458)**	(4,062,438)
Total other commitments		**(2,151,364)**	(4,739,865)
Total commitments payable		**(2,339,713)**	(5,444,661)
Net commitments by type		**(2,143,378)**	(4,955,788)
BY MATURITY			
Commitments receivable			
Operating lease income			
One year or less		**196,335**	488,873
Total operating lease income		**196,335**	488,873
Commitments payable			
Capital commitments			
One year or less		**(188,349)**	(704,796)
Total capital commitments		**(188,349)**	(704,796)
Operating lease commitments			
One year or less		**(407,526)**	(645,672)
From one year to five years		**(447,380)**	(31,755)
Total operating lease commitments		**(854,906)**	(677,427)
Other Commitments			
One year or less		**(987,002)**	(2,753,256)
From one year to five years		**(309,456)**	(1,309,182)
Total other commitments		**(1,296,458)**	(4,062,438)
Total commitments payable		**(2,339,713)**	(5,444,661)
Net commitments by maturity		**(2,143,378)**	(4,955,787)

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

Schedule of Contingencies
as at 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $	2012 $
Contingent assets			
Guarantees		-	-
Claims for damages or costs		-	-
Total contingent assets		-	-
Contingent liabilities			
Claims for damages or costs		-	-
Total contingent liabilities		-	-
Net contingent assets		-	-

Details for each class of contingent liabilities and contingent assets listed above are disclosed in Note 11, along with information on significant remote contingencies and contingencies that cannot be quantified.

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

Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
for the period ended 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $	2012 $
EXPENSES			
Supplier	16	**890,015**	1,168,000
Total Expenses administered on behalf of Government		**890,015**	1,168,000
LESS:			
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Non-taxation revenue			
Rent from island properties	17	**323,817**	306,128
Fines and infringement notices	17	**159,152**	33,433
Environmental management charge	17	**5,248,955**	7,851,175
Total non-taxation revenue		**5,731,924**	8,190,736
Total own-source revenue administered on behalf of Government		**5,731,924**	8,190,736
Total own-source income administered on behalf of Government		**5,731,924**	8,190,736
Net cost of services		**4,841,909**	7,022,736
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		**(200,000)**	(1,400,000)
Total other comprehensive income		**(200,000)**	(1,400,000)
Total comprehensive income		**4,641,909**	5,622,736

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

Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
as at 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $	2012 $
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	18	**54,319**	164,592
Receivables: Environmental management charge	18	**1,103,792**	707,803
Receivables: GST input tax credits	18	**18,406**	36,606
Receivables: CDPP Court ordered fines	18	**789,585**	792,710
Total financial assets		**1,966,102**	1,701,711
Non-Financial Assets			
Island properties	19	**9,150,000**	9,350,000
Total non-financial assets		**9,150,000**	9,350,000
Total assets administered on behalf of Government		**11,116,102**	11,051,711
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	20	**(57,361)**	(193,013)
Environmental management charge payable to Commonwealth	20	**(1,113,777)**	(707,803)
CDPP court ordered fines payable to Commonwealth	20	**(789,585)**	(792,710)
Other payables	20	**(5,379)**	(8,185)
Total payables		**(1,966,102)**	(1,701,711)
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government		**(1,966,102)**	(1,701,711)
Net assets		**9,150,000**	9,350,000

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

Administered Reconciliation Schedule for not-for-profit Reporting Entities

	2013 $	2012 $
Opening administered assets less administered liabilities as at 1 July	**9,350,000**	10,750,000
Surplus (deficit) items:		
Plus: Administered income	**5,731,924**	8,190,736
Less: Administered expenses	**(890,015)**	(1,168,000)
Administered transfers to/from Australian Government:		
Appropriation transfers from OPA:		
Annual appropriations for administered expenses	**900,000**	1,168,000
Transfers to OPA	**(5,741,910)**	(8,190,736)
Administered revaluations taken to reserves	**(200,000)**	(1,400,000)
Closing administered assets less administered liabilities as at 30 June	**9,150,000**	9,350,000

Administered Cash Flow Statement for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
for the period ended 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $	2012 $
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Rent from island properties		**323,817**	306,128
Infringement notices		**159,152**	33,433
Environmental management charge		**5,249,555**	7,842,989
Total cash received		**5,732,524**	8,182,550
Cash used			
Suppliers		**(1,010,273)**	(1,013,956)
Environmental management charge refunds		**(600)**	(9,766)
Total cash used		**(1,010,873)**	(1,023,722)
Net cash flows used by operating activities	21	**4,721,651**	7,158,828
Net increase in cash held		**4,721,651**	7,158,828
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**164,592**	198,504
Cash from the Official Public Account for:			
-Appropriations		**900,000**	1,168,000
		900,000	1,168,000
Cash to Official Public Account for:			
-Appropriations		**(5,248,955)**	(8,051,314)
-Other		**(482,969)**	(309,426)
		(5,731,924)	(8,360,740)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	18A	**54,319**	164,592

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

Schedule of Administered Commitments
as at 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $	2012 $
BY TYPE			
Commitments receivable			
Net GST recoverable on commitments			26,187
Total commitments receivable		-	26,187
Commitments payable			
Other		**(1,000,000)**	(288,060)
Total commitments payable		**(1,000,000)**	(288,060)
Net commitments by type		**(1,000,000)**	(261,873)
BY MATURITY			
Commitments receivable			
One year or less		-	26,187
Total commitments receivable		-	26,187
Commitments payable			
One year or less		**(250,000)**	(288,060)
From one year to five years		**(750,000)**	-
Total commitments payable		**(1,000,000)**	(288,060)
Net commitments by maturity		**(1,000,000)**	(261,873)

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

Schedule of Administered Contingencies
as at 30 June 2013

	Notes	2013 $	2012 $
Contingent assets			
Guarantees		-	-
Claims for damages or costs		-	-
Total contingent assets		-	-
Contingent liabilities			
Claims for damages or costs		-	-
Total contingent liabilities		-	-
Net contingent assets		-	-

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

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Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Objectives of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is an Australian Government controlled entity. It is a not-for-profit entity. The objective of the GBRMPA is to provide for the long-term protection, 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 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The GBRMPA is structured to meet the following outcome: The long-term protection, 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. This outcome is supported by three objectives:

a) Addressing the key risks affecting the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef;
b) Ensuring management delivers ecologically sustainable use of the Marine Park; and
c) Maintaining a high performing, effective and efficient organisation.

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

GBRMPA 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 GBRMPA in its own right. Administered activities involve the management or oversight by the GBRMPA, on behalf of the Government, of items controlled or incurred by the Government.

The GBRMPA conducts the following administered activities:

a) Collection of the Environmental Management Charge (EMC);
b) Implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2013; and
c) The campaign to raise awareness of and to highlight the key risks to the Great Barrier Reef as identified in the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report.

1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

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

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

a) Finance Minister's Orders (or FMOs) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2012; and
b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

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

The financial statements are 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 FMOs, 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 executor contracts 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 Statement of Comprehensive Income when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

The Australian Government continues to have regard to developments in case law, including the High Court's most recent decision on Commonwealth expenditure in Williams v Commonwealth (2012) 288 ALR 410, as they contribute to the larger body of law relevant to the development of Commonwealth programs. In accordance with its general practice, the Government will continue to monitor and assess risk and decide on any appropriate actions to respond to risks of expenditure not being consistent with constitutional or other legal requirements.

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

1.3 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the GBRMPA has made the following judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements: The fair value of buildings, plant and equipment has been taken to be the replacement cost as determined by an independent valuer.

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

1.4 New 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/Interpretations/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 financia impact on the entity:
AASB 5: Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations - September 2011 (Compilation)
AASB 7: Financial Instruments: Disclosures - September 2011 (Compilation)
AASB 101: Presentation of the Financial Statements - September 2011 (Compilation)
AASB 132: Financial Instruments: Presentation - September 2011 (Compilation)

Other new standards/revised standards/Interpretations/amending standards were issued prior to the signing of the statemen 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/Interpretations/amending standards were issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board prior to the signing of the statement by the chief executive and chief financial officer, which are expected to have a financial impact on the entity for future reporting periods:
AASB 5: Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations [not-for-profit entities] - December 2012 (Compilatic
AASB 7: Financial Instruments: Disclosures [not-for-profit entities] - December 2012
AASB 9: Financial Instruments - September 2012 (Compilation)
AASB 13: Fair Value Measurement - December 2012 (Principal)
AASB 119: Employee Benefits - September 2012 (Principal)
AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements [not-for-profit entities] - December 2012 (Compilation)
AASB 102: Inventories - December 2012 (Compilation)
AASB 107: Statement of Cash Flows [not-for-profit entities] - December 2012 (Compilation)
AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors - December 2012 (Compilation)
AASB 2011-8: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13 [AASB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 2009-11, 2010-7, 101, 102, 108, 110, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 1004, 1023 & 1038 and Interpretations 2, 4, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 131 & 132]
AASB 2011-10: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 119 (September 2011) [AASB 1, AASE AASB 101, AASB 124, AASB 134, AASB 1049 & AASB 2011-8 and Interpretation 14]
AASB 2012-5: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Annual Improvements 2009-2011 Cycle [AASE AASB 101, AASB 116, AASB 132 & AASB 134 and Interpretation 2]

Other new standards/revised standards/Interpretations/amending standards were issued prior to the signing of the statemen 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.

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

1.5 Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

a) the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
b) the agency retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
c) the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
d) 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:

a) the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured and
b) the probable economic benefits associated 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.

Receivables of goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amount due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed as at end of reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

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

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).

Revenue from Government
Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from Government 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 permit holders. 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 permit holders.

1.6 Gains

Resources Received Free of Charge
Resources received free of charge are recognised as gains 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.

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

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).

Sale of Assets
Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

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) and Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

Restructuring of Administrative Arrangements
Net assets received from or relinquished to another Government entity 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 it is in the nature of a dividend. In 2012-13 there was no transaction of this nature undertaken by the GBRMPA.

1.8 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits due within twelve months of the end of reporting period 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.

Other long term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligation are to be settled directly.

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 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 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.

Superannuation
The GBRMPA staff 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's as an administered schedules and notes.

The GBRMPA makes employer contributions to the employees' superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. 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.

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

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 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.

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 Borrowing Costs

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

1.11 Cash

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes:

a) cash on hand;
b) demand 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;
c) cash held by outsiders; and
d) cash in special accounts.

1.12 Financial Assets

The GBRMPA classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

a) 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.

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'. 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 the end of each reporting period.
Financial assets carried 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 Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

1.13 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. These 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).

1.14 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 disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

1.15 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 income 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's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.16 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.

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

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 Measurement*
Buildings excluding leasehold improvements	Market selling price
Leasehold Improvements	Depreciated replacement cost
Plant and equipment	Market selling price

Following initial recognition at cost, property plant and equipment were 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.

All valuations have been made by members at fair value with independent advice sought for some items in each class. The latest formal fair value valuations were performed at 30 June 2013 for leasehold improvements and for all other selected assets.

Revaluation adjustments were made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment was credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluations decrements for a class of assets were recognised directly in the surplus/deficit 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:

	2013	2012
Buildings on freehold land	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 2013. 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.

Derecognition
An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

1.17 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 (2011-12: 3 to 8 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2013.

1.18 Inventories

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

Inventories acquired at no cost or nominal consideration are initially measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

1.19 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:
a) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
b) for receivables and payables.

1.20 Comparative Figures

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

1.21 Insurance

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

1.22 Advances for Field 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 Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) for the Field Management Program are fully expensed in the year of payment (refer Note 5 for details).

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont)

Reporting of Administered Activities

Administered revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and cash flows are disclosed in the administered schedules 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 (OPA) 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 schedule of administered cash flows and in the administered reconciliation.

Revenue
All administered revenues are revenues relating to the course of ordinary activities performed by the GBRMPA on behalf of the Australian Government. As such, administered appropriations are not revenues of the individual entity that oversees distribution or expenditure of the funds as directed.

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 permit holders. Refer to note 4C.

Revenue is 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 better understand the possible impacts of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef, to develop ways to help adapt to these impacts in line with the National Adaption Framework endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments; and a campaign to raise awareness of and to highlight the key risks to the Great Barrier Reef as identified in the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report.

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 island properties valued at fair value.
Lighthouse properties are depreciated over the life of the lease term (2011-12: lease term).

Note 2: Events After the Reporting Period

Departmental

The Minister for Finance and Deregulation signed a determination titled 'Instrument to Reduce Appropriations (No. 1 of 2013· which took effect on 13 August 2013. The amount of the reduction for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is $118,0 and has been reflected in a reduction of appropriation revenue for 2012-13.

Administered

There was no subsequent event that had the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of the GBRMPA.

Note 3: Expenses

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 3A: Employee Benefits		
Wages and salaries	**17,323,373**	15,921,257
Superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	**1,537,435**	1,306,483
Defined benefit plans	**1,500,428**	1,225,648
Leave and other entitlements	**2,409,363**	2,519,491
Separation and redundancies	**114,283**	131,604
Other Employee benefits	**61,448**	63,360
Fringe Benefit Tax	**18,122**	9,519
Total employee benefits	**22,964,452**	21,177,363
Note 3B: Suppliers		
Goods and services		
Consultants	**6,692,295**	3,481,732
Contractors	**39,228**	80,098
Travel	**2,271,458**	1,945,382
IT Services	**525,910**	611,399
Utilities	**642,875**	689,220
Employment agency temporary staff	**199,394**	570,116
Aircraft and vessel charter costs	**1,204,765**	810,762
Telephone and communications	**435,685**	451,137
Other	**3,202,572**	3,427,760
Total good and services	**15,214,183**	12,067,604
Goods and services are made up of:		
Provision of goods - external parties	**1,165,797**	1,346,420
Rendering of services - related entities	**2,047,364**	2,305,194
Rendering of services - external parties	**12,001,021**	8,415,990
Total goods and services	**15,214,183**	12,067,604
Other Supplier Expenses		
Operating lease rentals - external parties		
Minimum lease payments	**1,227,195**	1,235,996
Workers compensation premiums	**281,662**	170,258
Total other supplier expenses	**1,508,857**	1,406,254
Total supplier expenses	**16,723,040**	13,473,858

Note 3: Expenses (cont)

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 3C: Grants		
Public Sector:		
Grants: Other	**41,044**	558,639
Total Grants	**41,044**	558,639
Note 3D: Depreciation and Amortisation		
Depreciation:		
Property, plant and equipment	**414,337**	371,397
Buildings	**945,351**	776,059
Total depreciation	**1,359,688**	1,147,456
Amortisation:		
Intangibles	**340,906**	360,709
Total amortisation	**340,906**	360,709
Total depreciation and amortisation	**1,700,594**	1,508,165
Note 3E: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets		
Asset write-downs and impairment from:		
Impairment of non-financial assets	**17,579**	-
Total write-down and impairment of assets	**17,579**	-
Note 3F: Losses from Asset Sales		
Property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	**(37,692)**	(17,631)
Carrying value of assets sold	**189,954**	327,242
Total losses from asset sales	**152,262**	309,611

Note 4: Income

		2013 $	2012 $
OWN-SOURCE REVENUE			
Note 4A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services			
Provision of goods		**360,242**	382,749
Rendering of services		**2,667,095**	2,377,366
Total sale of goods and rendering of services		**3,027,337**	2,760,116
Note 4B: Cost of Goods Sold			
Shop Sales		**360,242**	382,749
Less: Cost of Goods Sold			
Opening Stock		**64,022**	103,928
Plus Purchases		**166,720**	147,401
Less: Closing Stock		**(81,175)**	(64,022)
Cost of Good Sold		**149,567**	187,307
Gross profit from trading		**210,675**	195,442
Note 4C: Other Revenue			
Permit Assessment Fees		**540,392**	366,944
Cost Recovery		**350,167**	457,528
Other - external parties		**8,807**	26,374
Other - related entities		**13,881,177**	8,034,497
Total other revenue		**14,780,543**	8,885,343
GAINS			
Note 4D: Other Gains			
Resources received free of charge - services	13	**49,000**	49,000
Reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments		**-**	5,249
Total other gains		**49,000**	54,249
Note 4E: Revenue from Government			
Appropriations:			
Departmental appropriation		**14,318,000**	14,888,000
Departmental special appropriation		**5,248,955**	7,851,175
Field management program		**8,372,000**	8,240,000
Total appropriations		**27,938,955**	30,979,175
Total revenue from Government		**27,938,955**	30,979,175

Note 5: Field Management Program of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Note 5A: The guiding principles agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009* are:

i) A collaborative and cooperative approach is fundamental to the effective long-term protection, conservation and management of the Great Barrier Reef as this is beyond the power and remit of either jurisdiction

ii) The precautionary principle will be applied to protecting the environmental, World Heritage and National Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef

iii) The marine and land environments within and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area will be managed in an integrated manner consistent with ecosystem-based management and the principles of ecologically sustainable use

iv) Economic growth and the long-term health of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem are interconnected, and actions or changes in one area can impact on the other and must be taken into account, in particular

- population growth and economic development increases the demand for resource and recreational use of the Great Barrier Reef

- land-use activities in the catchment, and urban development can have adverse impacts on the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef, and

- regulation of activities that exploit marine resources, measures for protection of marine parks, or initiatives to reduce external pressures on the ecosystem can have regional and local social and economic effects, and improve the long term viability of the region

v) Trends in the health, use of and risks to the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem will be regularly monitored and reported to ensure decisions are soundly based

vi) Co-ordinated long-term monitoring and research and the collection and sharing of marine-based biological, physical, social and economic data is fundamental

vii) Regular, periodic review of the resources necessary for the long-term management of the marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area will be undertaken

viii) Initiatives should be delivered through a concerted response across all levels of government with shared funding arrangements of joint Commonwealth-State initiatives agreed on a case-by-case basis

ix) Expenditure on the Field Management to be in accordance with the Annual Business Plan, and

x) The GBRMPA to administer funds provided by the Commonwealth and Queensland for these purposes.

Note 5B: Revenue received from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and from other sources

	2013 $	2012 $
Queensland Government contribution - refer note 5 (c) below	**8,372,000**	8,240,000
Commonwealth Government appropriation Field Management Program	**8,372,000**	8,240,000
Revenue from permit assessment fees.	**63,970**	53,047
Other revenue	**2,223**	58,756
	16,810,193	16,591,803

Note 5C: Payments to the Queensland Government for Field Management Program for 2012-13 totalled $12,207,736 (2011-12 $14,264,273).

Note 5D: The balance of funds available is used by the GBRMPA for the operations of the Field Management Co-ordination Unit, and for compliance and enforcement operations.

Note 6: Financial Assets

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 6A: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Field Management Account	**643**	421
Cash on Hand or on deposit	**13,500**	30,940
GBRMPA operations account	**466,011**	324,500
Total cash and cash equivalents	**480,154**	355,862
Note 6B: Trade and Other Receivables		
Goods and Services		
Goods and services - related entities	**217,274**	873,082
Goods and services - external parties	**1,266,008**	115,473
Total receivables for goods and services	**1,483,282**	988,555
Appropriation receivable		
For existing programs	**10,357,955**	8,941,898
Total appropriation receivable	**10,357,955**	8,941,898
Other Receivables		
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	**290,600**	-
Other	**38,627**	8,185
Total other receivables	**329,227**	8,185
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	**12,170,464**	9,938,638
Less impairment allowance account		
Goods and services	**(2,671)**	(2,671)
Total impairment allowance account	**(2,671)**	(2,671)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	**12,167,793**	9,935,967
Receivables are expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	**12,167,793**	9,935,967
Total trade and other receivables (net)	**12,167,793**	9,935,967
Receivables are aged as follows:		
Not Overdue	**11,892,693**	9,896,045
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	**258,001**	-
31 to 60 days	**7,112**	11,425
61 to 90 days	**1,027**	3,587
More than 90 days	**11,631**	27,581
Total receivables (gross)	**12,170,464**	9,938,638

Note 6: Financial Assets (cont)

	2013 $	2012 $
The impairment allowance account is aged as follows:		
Overdue by:		
31 to 60 days		
61 to 90 days		
More than 90 days	**(2,671)**	(2,671)
Total receivables (gross)	**(2,671)**	(2,671)

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance Account

Movements in relation to 2013

	Goods and Services $	Total $
Opening Balance	**(2,671)**	**(2,671)**
Amounts recovered and reversed	-	-
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	-	-
Closing Balance	**(2,671)**	**(2,671)**

Movements in relation to 2012

	Goods and Services $	Total $
Opening Balance	(7,920)	(7,920)
Amounts recovered and reversed	5,249	5,249
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	-	-
Closing Balance	(2,671)	(2,671)

Note 7: Non-Financial Assets

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 7A: Buildings and Leasehold Improvements		
Buildings on Freehold Land:		
Fair Value	**18,366,374**	19,387,432
Accumulated depreciation	**(28,679)**	(1,273,844)
Total buildings on freehold land	**18,337,695**	18,113,588
Leasehold Improvements:		
Fair Value	**870,886**	1,070,708
Accumulated depreciation	**(10)**	(405,314)
Total leasehold improvements	**870,876**	665,394
Total buildings and leasehold improvements	**19,208,571**	18,778,982

No indication of impairment were found for buildings and leasehold improvements.
No buildings were expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Note 7B: Property, Plant and Equipment		
Other property, plant and equipment:		
Fair Value	**3,382,927**	4,030,667
Accumulated depreciation	**(172,423)**	(786,936)
Total other property, plant and equipment	**3,210,504**	3,243,731
Total property, plant and equipment	**3,210,504**	3,243,731

Impairments recognised of $10,004 (2012: Nil) for leasehold improvements and $7,575 (2012: Nil) for property, plant and equipment.
No property, plant and equipment is expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Revaluations of non-financial assets
All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1. On 30 June 2013, an independent valuer conducted the revaluations.

Revaluation increments include $217,511 for Buildings on freehold land (2012: Nil) and $351,351 for leasehold improvements (2012: decrement of $110,000). Revaluation decrements include $13,581 for plant and equipment (2012: Nil).

All increments and decrements were transferred to the asset revaluation surplus by asset class and included in the equity section of the balance sheet. No increment/decrement were expensed (2012: Nil).

Note 7: Non-Financial Assets (cont)

Note 7C: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment 2013

	Buildings $	Leasehold Improvements $	Total Buildings and Leasehold Improvements $	Plant & Equipment $	Total $
As at 1 July 2012					
Gross book value	19,387,432	1,070,708	20,458,140	4,030,667	24,488,807
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(1,273,844)	(405,314)	(1,679,158)	(786,936)	(2,466,094)
Net book value 1 July 2012	18,113,588	665,394	18,778,982	3,243,731	22,022,712
Additions:					
By purchase	779,995	33,587	813,582	592,500	1,406,082
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	217,511	351,351	568,862	(13,861)	555,001
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	(10,004)	(10,004)	(7,575)	(17,579)
Depreciation expense	(773,399)	(171,952)	(945,351)	(414,337)	(1,359,688)
Other movements[1]	-	2,500	2,500	-	2,500
Disposals:					
Other	-	-	-	(189,954)	(189,954)
Net book value 30 June 2013	18,337,695	870,876	19,208,571	3,210,504	22,419,075
Net book value as of 30 June 2013 represented by:					
Gross book value	18,366,374	870,886	19,237,260	3,382,927	22,620,187
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(28,679)	(10)	(28,689)	(172,423)	(201,112)
Net book value 30 June 2013	18,337,695	870,876	19,208,571	3,210,504	22,419,075

1. Increase in Make Good provision [see Note 9B] which is amortised over the Lease Term.

Note 7: Non-Financial Assets (cont)

Note 7C (Cont'd): Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment 2012

	Buildings $	Leasehold Improvements $	Total Buildings and Leasehold Improvements $	Plant & Equipment $	Total $
As at 1 July 2011					
Gross book value	17,708,191	856,438	18,564,629	3,241,785	21,806,414
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(655,786)	(287,353)	(943,139)	(426,135)	(1,369,274)
Net book value 1 July 2011	17,052,405	569,085	17,621,490	2,815,650	20,437,140
Additions:					
By purchase	1,995,572	34,270	2,029,842	850,430	2,880,272
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	(110,000)	(110,000)	-	(110,000)
Depreciation expense	(658,098)	(117,961)	(776,059)	(371,397)	(1,147,456)
Other movements[1]	-	290,000	290,000	-	290,000
Disposals:					
Other	(276,290)	-	(276,290)	(50,952)	(327,242)
Net book value 30 June 2012	18,113,589	665,394	18,778,983	3,243,731	22,022,714
Net book value as of 30 June 2012 represented by:					
Gross book value	19,387,432	1,070,708	20,458,140	4,030,667	24,488,807
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(1,273,844)	(405,314)	(1,679,158)	(786,936)	(2,466,094)
Net book value 30 June 2012	18,113,588	665,394	18,778,982	3,243,731	22,022,712

1. Increase in Make Good provision [see Note 9B] which is amortised over the Lease Term.

Note 7: Non-Financial Assets (cont)

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 7D: Intangibles		
Computer software:		
Purchased	**4,331,026**	3,784,981
Accumulated depreciation	**(1,990,108)**	(1,649,202)
Total computer software	**2,340,918**	2,135,779
Total intangibles	**2,340,918**	2,135,779

No indicators of impairment were found for intangible assets
No intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months

Note 7E: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles 2013

	Computer software purchased $	Total $
As at 1 July 2012		
Gross book value	**3,784,981**	**3,784,981**
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	**(1,649,202)**	**(1,649,202)**
Net book value 1 July 2012	**2,135,779**	**2,135,779**
Additions:		
By purchase	**546,045**	**546,045**
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	**-**	**-**
Depreciation expense	**(340,906)**	**(340,906)**
Disposals:		
Other	**-**	**-**
Net book value 30 June 2013	**2,340,918**	**2,340,918**
Net book value as of 30 June 2013 represented by:		
Gross book value	**4,331,026**	**4,331,026**
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	**(1,990,108)**	**(1,990,108)**
Net book value 30 June 2013	**2,340,918**	**2,340,918**

Note 7: Non-Financial Assets (cont)

Note 7E (Cont'd): Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles 2012

	Computer software purchased $	Total $
As at 1 July 2011		
Gross book value	3,582,416	3,582,416
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(1,288,494)	(1,288,494)
Net book value 1 July 2011	2,293,922	2,293,922
Additions:		
By purchase	202,566	202,566
Depreciation expense	(360,709)	(360,709)
Disposals:		
Other	-	-
Net book value 30 June 2012	2,135,779	2,135,779
Net book value as of 30 June 2012 represented by:		
Gross book value	3,784,981	3,784,981
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(1,649,202)	(1,649,202)
Net book value 30 June 2012	2,135,779	2,135,779

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 7F: Inventories		
Inventories held for sale		
Inventories held for distribution	**81,175**	64,022
Total inventories held for sale	**81,175**	64,022
Total inventories	**81,175**	64,022

No items of inventory were recognised at fair value less cost to sell.

All inventories are expected to be sold or distributed in the next 12 months.

Note 7G: Other Non-Financial Assets		
Prepayments	**192,779**	317,553
Total other non-financial assets	**192,779**	317,553
Total other non-financial assets - expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	**192,779**	317,553
Total other non-financial assets	**192,779**	317,553

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

Note 8: Payables

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 8A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	**(2,083,553)**	(1,082,652)
Total supplier payables	**(2,083,553)**	(1,082,652)
Supplier payables expected to be settled within 12 months:		
Related entities	**(17,200)**	-
External parties	**(2,066,353)**	(1,082,652)
Total	**(2,083,553)**	(1,082,652)
Total supplier payables	**(2,083,553)**	(1,082,652)
Settlement was usually made within 30 days		
Note 8B: Other payables		
Wages and salaries	**(498,777)**	(456,469)
Superannuation	**(83,467)**	(70,555)
Separations and redundancies	**-**	-
Revenue received in advance	**(935,360)**	(1,215,906)
Amounts owed to Commonwealth	**(5,991)**	(39,432)
GST payable to the Australian Taxation Office	**-**	(148,886)
Other	**-**	(95)
Total other payables	**(1,523,595)**	(1,931,344)
Total other payables are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	**(1,523,595)**	(1,931,344)
Total other payables	**(1,523,595)**	(1,931,344)
Note 8C: Permit bonds		
Cash Bonds held on behalf of Permitees	**(240,370)**	-
Total permit bonds	**(240,370)**	-

Note 9: Provisions

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 9A: Employee Provisions		
Leave	**(5,668,742)**	(5,301,025)
Other	**(22,306)**	(18,607)
Total employee provisions	**(5,691,048)**	(5,319,633)
Employee provision are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	**(4,764,861)**	(4,458,806)
More than 12 months	**(926,187)**	(860,827)
Total employee provisions	**(5,691,048)**	(5,319,633)
Note 9B: Other Provisions		
Provision for restoration obligations	**(382,500)**	(380,000)
Total other provisions	**(382,500)**	(380,000)
Other provisions are expected to be settled in:		
More than 12 months	**(382,500)**	(380,000)
Total other provisions	**(382,500)**	(380,000)

	Provision for restoration $	Total $
Carrying amount 1 July 2012	**(380,000)**	**(380,000)**
Additional provisions made	**(2,500)**	**(2,500)**
Amounts used	**-**	**-**
Amounts reversed	**-**	**-**
Unwinding of discount or change in discount rate	**-**	**-**
Closing balance 30 June 2013	**(382,500)**	**(382,500)**

The GBRMPA currently has 2 (2012: 2) agreements for the leasing of premises which have provisions requiring the entity to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. The GBRMPA has made a provision to reflect the present value of this obligation.

Note 10: Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2013 $	2012 $
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash flow statement	**480,154**	355,862
Balance sheet	**480,154**	355,862
Difference	**-**	-
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:		
Net cost of services	**(27,727,394)**	(31,539,510)
Add revenue from Government	**27,938,955**	30,979,175
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation / amortisation	**1,700,594**	1,508,165
Net write down of non-financial assets	**169,841**	309,611
Changes in assets / liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	**(2,231,826)**	(2,065,019)
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	**(17,153)**	39,906
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments	**124,774**	(183,426)
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	**1,000,901**	(419,226)
Increase / (decrease) in other payable	**(167,379)**	782,604
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	**371,415**	676,208
Net cash from operating activities	**1,162,728**	88,489

Note 11: Contingent Assets and Liabilities

Contingent assets
The GBRMPA has no Contingent assets for the 2012-13 financial year (2011-12: Nil)

Contingent Liabilities
The GBRMPA has no Contingent liabilities for the 2012-13 financial year (2011-12: Nil)

Quantifiable Contingencies
The GBRMPA has no Quantifiable Contingent for the 2012-13 financial year (2011-12: Nil)

Unquantifiable Contingent Assets
On 3 April 2011, the Shen Neng 1, a Chinese owned bulk coal carrier, grounded on Douglas Shoal east of Yeppoon. The 225m vessel incurred a substantial damage on its port side which punctured a fuel tank discharging between 3 - 4 tonne of bunker oil oil and causing a 3km oil slick. As well as damage cause by oil discharge, the vessel grounding also resulted in significant damage to the surrounding coral and shoal habitat.

Under Part VIII of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 (the GBRMPA Act), the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts may make enforceable directions or seek various orders in the Federal Court for recovery of respect of costs associated with conduct which may be in breach of the GBRMPA Act, including reimbursement for costs incurred by the GBRMPA associated with that conduct.

Legal Services expenditure during the 2009-10, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 Financial years may be recoverable under part VIII of the GBRMPA Act, and is disclosed as an unquantifiable contingent asset for the purposes of these financial statements.

Significant Remote Contingencies
The GBRMPA has no Significant Remote Contingencies for the 2012-13 financial year (2011-12: Nil)

Note 12: Senior Executive Remuneration

Note 12A: Senior Executive Expenses for the Reporting Period

	2013 $	2012 $
Short-term employee benefits:		
Salary	**(978,746)**	(946,354)
Annual leave accrued	**(68,549)**	(67,627)
Performance bonuses	**-**	-
Allowances	**(61,455)**	(64,493)
Total short-term employee benefits	**(1,108,750)**	(1,078,474)
Post-employment benefits:		
Superannuation	**(151,982)**	(141,155)
Total post-employment benefits	**(151,982)**	(141,155)
Other long-term benefits:		
Long service leave	**(28,889)**	(28,501)
Total other long-term benefits	**(28,889)**	(28,501)
Termination benefits	**-**	-
Total employment benefits	**(1,289,621)**	(1,248,130)

Notes:

1. Note 12A is prepared on an accrual basis (therefore the performance bonus expenses disclosed above may differ from the cash 'Bonus paid' in Note 12B).
2. Note 12A excludes acting arrangements and part-year service where total remuneration expensed for a senior executive was less than $180,000.

Note 12: Senior Executive Remuneration (cont)

Note 12B: Average Reportable Remuneration Paid to Substantive Senior Executives During the Reporting Period

Average annual reportable remuneration[1]	2013 Senior Executives No.	Reportable salary[2] $	Contributed superannuation[3] $	Reportable allowances[4] $	Bonus paid[5] $	Total $
Total remuneration (including part-time arrangements):						
$180,000 to $209,999	1	138,669	23,265	18,639	-	180,573
$210,000 to $239,999	2	184,495	27,930	20,461	-	232,886
$240,000 to $269,999	1	202,348	38,721	1,894	-	242,963
$270,000 to $299,999	-	-	-	-	-	-
$300,000 to $329,999	1	268,738	34,136	-	-	302,874
Total	5					

Average annual reportable remuneration[1]	2012 Senior Executives No.	Reportable salary[2] $	Contributed superannuation[3] $	Reportable allowances[4] $	Bonus paid[5] $	Total $
Total remuneration (including part-time arrangements):						
$180,000 to $209,999	3	162,631	22,775	20,866	-	206,273
$210,000 to $239,999	1	197,521	39,651	1,894	-	239,066
$240,000 to $269,999	-	-	-	-	-	-
$270,000 to $299,999	1	260,940	33,179	-	-	294,118
Total	5					

Notes:

1. This table reports substantive senior executives who received remuneration during the reporting period. Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.

2. 'Reportable salary' includes the following:
   a) gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
   b) reportable fringe benefits (at the net income prior to 'grossing up' to account for tax benefits);
   c) exempt foreign employment income; and
   d) salary sacrificed benefits.

3. The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average cost to the GBRMPA for the provision of superannuation benefits to substantive senior executives in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period.

4. 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid as per the 'total allowances' line on individuals' payment summaries.

5. 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may very between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the GBRMPA during the financial year.

Note 12: Senior Executive Remuneration (cont)

Note 12C: Other Highly Paid Staff

During the reporting period, there were no other employees whose salary plus performance bonus were $180,000 or more.

Note 13: Remuneration of Auditors

	2013 $	2012 $
Financial statement audit services were provided free of charge to the GBRMPA by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).		
Fair value of the services provided		
Financial statement audit services	**49,000**	49,000
Total	**49,000**	49,000

The ANAO provided performance engagements free of charge to the GBRMPA.

Note 14: Financial Instruments

	2013	2012
	$	$
Note 14A: Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial Assets		
Loans and receivables:		
Cash and cash equivalents	**480,154**	355,862
Receivables for goods and services	**1,480,611**	985,884
Other receivables	**38,627**	8,185
Total	**1,999,392**	1,349,931
Carrying amount of financial assets	**1,999,392**	1,349,931
Financial Liabilities		
At amortised cost:		
Trade Creditors	**(2,083,553)**	(1,082,652)
Other	**(1,523,595)**	(1,782,458)
Total	**(3,607,148)**	(2,865,110)
Carrying amount of financial liabilities	**(3,607,148)**	(2,865,110)

Note 14B: Fair Value of Financial Instruments

	Carrying amount 2013 $	Fair value 2013 $	Carrying amount 2012 $	Fair value 2012 $
Financial Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	**480,154**	**480,154**	355,862	355,862
Receivables for goods and services	**1,480,611**	**1,480,611**	985,884	985,884
Other receivables	**38,627**	**38,627**	8,185	8,185
Total	**1,999,392**	**1,999,392**	1,349,931	1,349,931
Financial Liabilities				
Trade Creditors	**(2,083,553)**	**(2,083,553)**	(1,082,652)	(1,082,652)
Other Payables	**(1,523,595)**	**(1,523,595)**	(1,782,458)	(1,782,458)
Total	**(3,607,148)**	**(3,607,148)**	(2,865,110)	(2,865,110)

Fair values for each class of financial assets and financial liabilities is assessed as the carrying amount.

Note 14: Financial Instruments (cont)

Note 14C: Credit Risk

The GBRMPA is exposed to minimal credit risk as loans and receivables were cash and trade receivables. The maximum exposure to credit risk was the risk that arises from potential default of a debtor. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade receivables (2013: $1,483,282 and 2012: $988,555).

The GBRMPA has assessed the risk of the default on payment and has allocated $2,671 in 2013 (2012: $2,671) to an impairment allowance account.

The GBRMPA held no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

The following table illustrates the GBRMPA's gross exposure to credit risk, excluding any collateral or credit enhancements.

	2013	2012
	$	$
Financial Assets		
Receivables for goods and services	**1,483,282**	988,555
Total	**1,483,282**	988,555
Financial Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	**(2,083,553)**	(1,082,652)
Other payables	**(1,523,595)**	(1,782,458)
Total	**(3,607,148)**	(2,865,110)

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

	Not past due nor impaired 2013	Not past due nor impaired 2012	**Past due or impaired 2013**	Past due or impaired 2012
	$	$	**$**	$
Cash and cash equivalents	**480,154**	355,862	**-**	-
Receivables for goods and services	**1,205,511**	945,962	**277,771**	42,593
Total	**1,685,665**	1,301,823	**277,771**	42,593

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2013

	0 to 30 days	**31 to 60 days**	**61 to 90 days**	**90+ days**	**Total**
	$	**$**	**$**	**$**	**$**
Receivables for goods and services	**258,001**	**7,112**	**1,027**	**8,960**	**275,100**
Total	**258,001**	**7,112**	**1,027**	**8,960**	**275,100**

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2012

	0 to 30 days	31 to 60 days	61 to 90 days	90+ days	Total
	$	$	$	$	$
Receivables for goods and services	-	11,425	3,587	24,910	39,922
Total	-	11,425	3,587	24,910	39,922

Note 14: Financial Instruments (cont)

Note 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 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 non-derivate financial liabilities 2013

	Within 1 year $	Total $
Trade Creditors	**(2,083,553)**	**(2,083,553)**
Other payables	**(1,523,595)**	**(1,523,595)**
Total	**(3,607,148)**	**(3,607,148)**

Maturities for non-derivate financial liabilities 2012

	Within 1 year $	Total $
Trade Creditors	(1,082,652)	(1,082,652)
Other payables	(1,782,458)	(1,782,458)
Total	(2,865,110)	(2,865,110)

The GBRMPA had no derivative financial liabilities in either 2013 or 2012

Note 14E: Market Risk

The GBRMPA held basic financial instruments that did not expose the entity to certain market risks, such as 'Currency risk' and 'Other price risk'.

Note 15: Financial Assets Reconciliation

	2013 $	2012 $
Financial assets		
Total financial assets as per balance sheet	**12,647,947**	10,291,828
Less: non-financial instrument components:		
Appropriation receivable	**10,357,955**	8,941,898
Other receivables	**290,600**	-
Total non-financial instrument components:	**10,648,555**	8,941,898
Total financial assets as per financial instruments note	**1,999,392**	1,349,931

Note 16: Administered - Expenses

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 16A: Suppliers		
Goods and services		
Suppliers	**(890,015)**	(1,168,000)
Total good and services	**(890,015)**	(1,168,000)
Goods and services are made up of:		
Provision of goods - external parties	**(890,015)**	(1,168,000)
Total goods and services	**(890,015)**	(1,168,000)
Total supplier expenses	**(890,015)**	(1,168,000)

Note 17: Administered - Income

	2013 $	2012 $
OWN-SOURCE REVENUE		
Non-Taxation Revenue		
Note 17A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services		
Rent from island properties	**323,817**	306,128
Infringement notices - external parties	**159,152**	33,433
Environmental management charge - external parties	**5,248,955**	7,851,175
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	**5,731,924**	8,190,736

Note 18: Administered - Financial Assets

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 18A: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	**54,319**	164,592
Total cash and cash equivalents	**54,319**	164,592
Note 18B: Trade and Other Receivables		
Goods and services:		
Environmental management charge - external parties	**1,103,792**	707,803
Total receivables for goods and services	**1,103,792**	707,803
Other receivables:		
GST receivables from the Australian Taxation Office	**18,406**	36,606
CDPP Court ordered fines	**789,585**	792,710
Total other receivables	**807,991**	829,316
Total trade and other receivables (net)	**1,911,782**	1,537,119
Receivables are expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	**1,122,197**	744,409
More than 12 months	**789,585**	792,710
Total trade and other receivables (net)	**1,911,782**	1,537,119
Receivables are aged as follows:		
Not Overdue	**1,122,197**	744,409
Overdue by more than 90 days	**789,585**	792,710
Total receivables (gross)	**1,911,782**	1,537,119

Goods and services receivable was with entities external to the Australian Government. Credit terms are net 30 days (2012: 30days).

Note 19: Administered - Non-Financial Assets

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 19A: Non-Financial Assets Administered on behalf of Australian Government		
Island properties at fair value	**9,150,000**	9,350,000
Total non-financial assets administered on behalf of Australian Government	**9,150,000**	9,350,000

No indications of impairment were found for the Island properties.
The Island is not expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Revaluations of non-financial assets
All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1.

Note 19B: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Assets Administered on behalf of Australian Government 2013

	Buildings $	Total $
As at 1 July 2012		
Gross book value	**9,350,000**	**9,350,000**
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	**-**	**-**
Net book value 1 July 2012	**9,350,000**	**9,350,000**
Additions:		
By purchase	**-**	**-**
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	**(200,000)**	**(200,000)**
Depreciation expense	**-**	**-**
Net book value 30 June 2013	**9,150,000**	**9,150,000**
Net book value as of 30 June 2013 represented by:		
Gross book value	**9,150,000**	**9,150,000**
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	**-**	**-**
Net book value 30 June 2013	**9,150,000**	**9,150,000**

Note 19B: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Assets Administered on behalf of Australian Government 2012

	Buildings $	Total $
As at 1 July 2011		
Gross book value	10,750,000	10,750,000
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-
Net book value 1 July 2011	10,750,000	10,750,000
Additions:		
By purchase	-	-
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	(1,400,000)	(1,400,000)
Depreciation expense		-
Net book value 30 June 2012	9,350,000	9,350,000
Net book value as of 30 June 2012 represented by:		
Gross book value	9,350,000	9,350,000
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-
Net book value 30 June 2012	9,350,000	9,350,000

Note 20: Administered - Payables

	2013 $	2012 $
Note 20A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	**(57,361)**	(193,013)
Environmental management charge payable to Commonwealth	**(1,113,777)**	(707,803)
CDPP court ordered fines payable to Commonwealth	**(789,585)**	(792,710)
Other payables	**(5,379)**	(8,185)
Total suppliers	**(1,966,102)**	(1,701,711)
Supplier payables expected to be settled within 12 months:		
Related entities	**(1,908,741)**	(1,508,698)
External parties	**(57,361)**	(193,013)
Total	**(1,966,102)**	(1,701,711)
Total supplier payables	**(1,966,102)**	(1,701,711)

Settlement was usually made within 30 days

Note 21: Administered - Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2013 $	2012 $
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Schedule of administered cash flows	**54,319**	164,592
Schedule of administered asset and liabilities	**54,319**	164,592
Difference	**-**	-
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:		
Net cost of services	**4,841,909**	7,022,736
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Appropriation unspent payable to Commonwealth	**(9,985)**	-
Changes in assets / liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	**(374,664)**	107,784
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	**(135,652)**	42,148
Increase / (decrease) in environmental management charge payable to Commonwealth	**405,974**	(806,550)
Increase / (decrease) in CDPP Court order fines payable to Commonwealth	**(3,125)**	792,710
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	**(2,806)**	-
	4,721,651	7,158,828

Note 22: Administered - Contingent Assets and Liabilities

Contingent Assets and Liabilities

The GBRMPA has no Contingent assets and Liabilities for the 2012-13 financial year (2011-12: Nil)

Note 23: Administered - Financial Instruments

	2013	2012
	$	$
Note 23A: Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial Assets		
Loans and receivables:		
Cash and cash equivalents	**54,319**	164,592
Trade and other receivables	**1,103,792**	707,803
CDPP Court ordered fines	**789,585**	792,710
Total	**1,947,696**	1,665,105
Carrying amount of financial assets	**1,947,696**	1,665,105
Financial Liabilities		
At amortised cost:		
Trade Creditors	**(57,361)**	(193,013)
Total	**(57,361)**	(193,013)
Carrying amount of financial liabilities	**(57,361)**	(193,013)

Note 23B: Fair Value of Financial Instruments

	Carrying amount 2013	Fair value 2013	Carrying amount 2012	Fair value 2012
	$	$	$	$
Financial Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	**54,319**	**54,319**	164,592	164,592
Trade and other receivables	**1,103,792**	**1,103,792**	707,803	707,803
CDPP Court ordered fines	**789,585**	**789,585**	792,710	792,710
Total	**1,947,696**	**1,947,696**	1,665,105	1,665,105
Financial Liabilities				
Trade Creditors	**(57,361)**	**(57,361)**	(193,013)	(193,013)
Total	**(57,361)**	**(57,361)**	(193,013)	(193,013)

Fair values for each class of financial assets and financial liabilities is assessed as the carrying amount.

Note 23: Administered - Financial Instruments (cont)

Note 23C: Credit Risk

The administered activities of the GBRMPA were not exposed to a high level of credit risk as the majority of financial assets were cash and trade receivables. The GBRMPA manages its credit risk by undertaking background and credit checks prior to allowing a debtor relationship. In addition, the GBRMPA has policies and procedures that guide employees debt recovery techniques that are applied.

The GBRMPA held no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

The following table illustrates the GBRMPA's gross exposure to credit risk, excluding any collateral or credit enhancements.

	2013 $	2012 $
Financial Assets		
Receivables for goods and services	**1,103,792**	707,803
CDPP Court ordered fines	**789,585**	792,710
Total	**1,893,377**	1,500,513
Financial Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	**(57,361)**	(193,013)
Total	**(57,361)**	(193,013)

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

	Not past due nor impaired 2013 $	Not past due nor impaired 2012 $
Cash and cash equivalents	**54,319**	164,592
Receivables for goods and services	**1,103,792**	707,803
Total	**1,158,111**	872,395

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2013

	0 to 30 days $	31 or more days $
Receivables for goods and services	-	-
CDPP Court ordered fines	-	**789,585**
Total	-	**789,585**

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2012

	0 to 30 days $	31 or more days $
Receivables for goods and services	-	792,710
Total	-	792,710

Note 23: Administered - Financial Instruments (cont)

Note 23D: 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 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 non-derivate financial liabilities 2013

	Within 1 year $	**Total $**
Trade Creditors	**(57,361)**	**(57,361)**
Total	**(57,361)**	**(57,361)**

Maturities for non-derivate financial liabilities 2012

	Within 1 year $	Total $
Trade Creditors	(193,013)	(193,013)
Total	(193,013)	(193,013)

The GBRMPA had no derivative financial liabilities in in both the current and prior financial year.

Note 23E: Market Risk

The GBRMPA held basic financial instruments that did not expose the entity to certain market risks, such as 'Currency risk' and 'Other price risk'.

Note 24: Administered - Financial Assets Reconciliation

	2013 $	2012 $
Financial assets		
Total financial assets as per balance sheet	**1,966,102**	1,701,711
Less: non-financial instrument components:		
Appropriation receivable	**-**	-
Other receivables	**18,406**	36,606
Total non-financial instrument components:	**18,406**	36,606
Total financial assets as per financial instruments note	**1,947,696**	1,665,106

Note 25: Appropriations

Table A: Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	2013 Appropriations								
	Appropriation Act			*FMA Act*					
	Annual Appropriation $'000	Appropriations reduced[1] $'000	AFM[2] $'000	Section 30 $'000	Section 31 $'000	Section 32 $'000	Total appropriation $'000	Appropriation applied in 2013 (current and prior years) $'000	Variance $'000
DEPARTMENTAL									
Ordinary annual services	22,808	-	-	1,669	26,180	-	50,657	(49,612)	1,045
Other services									
Equity	-	-	-	-		-	-		-
Total departmental	22,808	-	-	1,669	26,180	-	50,657	(49,612)	1,045
ADMINISTERED									
Ordinary annual services									
Administered items	900	(10)	-	88		-	978	(978)	-
Total administered	900	(10)	-	88		-	978	(978)	-

Notes:

1. Appropriations reduced under Appropriation Acts (Nos. 1,3&5) 2012-13: sections 10, 11, 12 and 15 and under Appropriation Acts (Nos.2,4&6) 2012-13: sections 12, 13 and 14. Departmental appropriations do not lapse at financial year-end. However, the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of departmental 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 disallowed by Parliament. In 2013, there was no reduction in departmental and non-operating departmental appropriations.

As with departmental appropriations, the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of an administered appropriation is not required and request that the Finance Minister reduce that appropriation. For administered appropriations reduced under section 11 of Appropriation Acts (Nos. 1,3&5) 2012-13 and section 12 of Appropriation Acts (Nos. 2,4&6) 2012-13, the appropriation is taken to be reduced to the required amount specified in Table E of this note once the annual report is tabled in Parliament. All administered appropriations may be adjusted by a Finance Minister's determination, which is disallowable by Parliament. The amount of reduction under Appropriation Acts (Nos. 1,3&5) 2012-13: section 11 and Appropriation Acts (Nos 2,4&6) 2012-13: section 12 was $9,984.90.

2. Advance to the Finance Minister (AFM) - Appropriation Acts (Nos 1,3&5) 2012-13: section 13 and Appropriation Acts (Nos 2,4&6) 2012-13: section 15.

3. In 2012-13, there was no adjustment that met the recognition criteria of a formal addition or reduction in revenue (in accordance with FMO Div 101) but at law the appropriations had not been amended before the end of the reporting period.

	2012 Appropriations								
	Appropriation Act			*FMA Act*					
	Annual Appropriation $'000	Appropriations reduced[1] $'000	AFM[2] $'000	Section 30 $'000	Section 31 $'000	Section 32 $'000	Total appropriation $'000	Appropriation applied in 2012 (current and prior years) $'000	Variance $'000
DEPARTMENTAL									
Ordinary annual services	24,218	-	-	1,546	19,885	-	45,649	(44,250)	1,399
Other services									
Equity	1,900	-	-	-		-	1,900	(1,995)	(95)
Total departmental	26,118	-	-	1,546	19,885	-	47,549	(46,245)	1,304
ADMINISTERED									
Ordinary annual services									
Administered items	1,168	-	-	148		-	1,316	(1,316)	-
Total administered	1,168	-	-	148		-	1,316	(1,316)	-

Notes:

1. Appropriations reduced under Appropriation Acts (Nos. 1,3&5) 2011-12: sections 10, 11, 12 and 15 and under Appropriation Acts (Nos.2,4&6) 2011-12: sections 12, 13, 14 and 17. Departmental appropriations do not lapse at financial year-end. However, the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of departmental 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 disallowed by Parliament. In 2012, there was no reduction in departmental and non-operating departmental appropriations.

As with departmental appropriations, the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of an administered appropriation is not required and request that the Finance Minister reduce that appropriation. For administered appropriations reduced under section 11 of Appropriation Acts (Nos. 1,3&5) 2011-12 and section 12 of Appropriation Acts (Nos. 2,4&6) 2011-12, the appropriation is taken to be reduced to the required amount specified in Table E of this note once the annual report is tabled in Parliament. All administered appropriations may be adjusted by a Finance Minister's determination, which is disallowable by Parliament. In 2012, there was no reduction in administered and non-operating administered appropriations.

2. Advance to the Finance Minister (AFM) - Appropriation Acts (Nos 1,3&5) 2011-12: section 13 and Appropriation Acts (Nos 2,4&6) 2011-12: section 15.

3. In 2011-12, there was no adjustment that met the recognition criteria of a formal addition or reduction in revenue (in accordance with FMO Div 101) but at law the appropriations had not been amended before the end of the reporting period.

Note 25: Appropriations (cont)

Table B: Departmental and Administered Capital Budgets ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	2013 Capital Budget Appropriations				Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2013 (current and prior years)			
	Appropriation Act		*FMA Act*					
	Annual Capital Budget $'000	Appropriations reduced[2] $'000	Section 32 $'000	Total Capital Budget Appropriations $'000	Payments for non-financial assets[3] $'000	Payments for other purposes $'000	Total payments $'000	Variance $'000
DEPARTMENTAL								
Ordinary annual services - Departmental Capital Budget[1]	876	-	-	876		(876)	(876)	-

Notes:
1. Departmental and Administered Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No.1,3&5). They form part of ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts. For more information on ordinary annual services appropriations, please see Table A: Annual appropriations.
2. Appropriations reduced under Appropriations Acts (No.1,3&5) 2012-13: sections 10, 11, 12 and 15 or via a determination by the Finance Minister.
3. Payments made on non-financial assets include purchase of assets, expenditure on assets which has been capitalised, costs incurred to make good an asset to its original condition and the capital repayment component of finance leases.

	2012 Capital Budget Appropriations				Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2012 (current and prior years)			
	Appropriation Act		*FMA Act*					
	Annual Capital Budget $'000	Appropriations reduced[2] $'000	Section 32 $'000	Total Capital Budget Appropriations $'000	Payments for non-financial assets[3] $'000	Payments for other purposes $'000	Total payments $'000	Variance $'000
DEPARTMENTAL								
Ordinary annual services - Departmental Capital Budget[1]	1,090	-	-	1,090	(1,088)	-	(1,088)	2

Notes:
1. Departmental and Administered Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No.1,3&5). They form part of ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts. For more information on ordinary annual services appropriations, please see Table A: Annual appropriations.
2. Appropriations reduced under Appropriations Acts (No.1,3&5) 2011-12: sections 10, 11, 12 and 15 or via a determination by the Finance Minister.
3. Payments made on non-financial assets include purchase of assets, expenditure on assets which has been capitalised, costs incurred to make good an asset to its original condition and the capital repayment component of finance leases.

Note 25: Appropriations (cont)

Table C: Unspent Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

Authority	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
DEPARTMENTAL		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2006-07[1]	-	5,400
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2009-10	-	760
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2010-11	341	391
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2011-12	500	2,380
Special Appropriation Act (s65A GBRMP Act) 2011-12	-	11
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2012-13	9,136	-
Special Appropriation Act (s65A GBRMP Act) 2012-13	499	-
Total	10,476	8,942
ADMINISTERED		
Appropriation Act (No. 1)	10	-
Total	10	-

Note 1. The GBRMPA commenced as a 'prescribed agency' from 1 July 2007 under the *Financial Management Accountability Act 1997*. Previous to 1 July 2007, the GBRMPA was subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

Table D: Special Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

			Appropriation applied	
Authority	**Type**	**Purpose**	**2013 $'000**	2012 $'000
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act s.65A, Departmental	Unlimited Amount	Operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	**5,249**	7,851
Total			**5,249**	7,851

Note 25: Appropriations (cont)

Table E: Reduction in Administered Items ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

2013	Amount required[3] - by Appropriation Act			Total amount required[3]	Total amount appropriated[4]	Total reduction[5]
Ordinary Annual Services	**Act (No.1)**	**Act (No.2 or 3)**	**Act (No.5)**			
Outcome 1	**900,000.00**			**900,000.00**	**890,015.10**	**9,984.90**

Notes:

1. Numbers in this section of the table must be disclosed to the cent.
2. Administered items for 2013 were reduced to these amounts when these financial statements were tabled in Parliament as part of the entity's 2013 annual report. This reduction was effective in 2014, but the amounts were reflected in Table A in the 2013 financial statements in the column 'Appropriations reduced' as they were adjustments to 2013 appropriations.
3. Amount required as per Appropriation Act (Act 1 s. 11; Act 2 s. 12).
4. Total amount appropriated in 2013.
5. Total reduction effective in 2014.

2012	Amount required[3] - by Appropriation Act			Total amount required[3]	Total amount appropriated[4]	Total reduction[5]
Ordinary Annual Services	**Act (No.1)**	**Act (No.2 or 3)**	**Act (No.5)**			
Outcome 1	1,168,000.00			1,168,000.00	1,168,000.00	0.00

Notes:

1. Numbers in this section of the table must be disclosed to the cent.
2. Administered items for 2012 were reduced to these amounts when these financial statements were tabled in Parliament as part of the entity's 2012 annual report. This reduction was effect in 2013, but the amounts were reflected in Table A in the 2012 financial statements in the column 'Appropriations reduced' as they were adjustments to 2012 appropriations.
3. Amount required as per Appropriation Act (Act 1 s. 11; Act 2 s. 12).
4. Total amount appropriated in 2012.
5. Total reduction effective in 2013.

Note 26: Special Accounts

Note 26A: Special Accounts ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	Great Barrier Reef Field Management Account[1]	
	2013	2012
Balance brought forward from previous period	**421**	139
Increases:		
Payments from Queensland Government	**8,372,000**	8,240,000
Appropriation	**9,012,067**	10,421,562
Receipts from external parties	**103,885**	111,803
Total increases	**17,487,952**	18,773,365
Available for payments	**17,488,373**	18,773,504
Decreases		
Payments made to Queensland Government	**(12,207,736)**	(14,264,273)
Payments made to external parties and employees	**(5,081,216)**	(4,364,511)
Amount held by GBRMPA for transfer to Special Account	**(103,885)**	(111,803)
Bank Fees	**(42)**	(63)
Capital expenditure	**(94,851)**	(32,433)
Total decreases	**(17,487,730)**	(18,773,083)
Total balance carried to the next period	**643**	421

1. Appropriation: Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 section 21.
Establishing Instrument: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975; section 49
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.

The GBRMPA has a Great Barrier Reef Field Management Account. This account was established under Section 21 of the Financial Management Accountability Act 1997 (FMA Act). The purpose of the account is for the facilitation of payments for and on behalf of the GBRMPA and the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM). See Note 5 for further details.

Note 27: Compensation and Debt Relief

	2013	2012
	$	$
Compensation and Debt Relief - Departmental		
No 'Act of Grace payments' were expensed during the reporting period. (2012: nil)	-	-
No waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government were made pursuant to subsection 34(1) of the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 (2012: nil)	-	-
No payments were provided under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration (CDDA) Scheme during the reporting period (2012: nil)	-	-
No ex-gratia payments were provided for during the reporting period (2012: nil)	-	-
No payments were provided in special circumstances relating to APS employment pursuant to section 73 of the Public Service Act 1999 (PS Act) during the reporting period (2012: nil)	-	-

	2013	2012
	$	$
Compensation and Debt Relief - Administered		
No 'Act of Grace payments' were expensed during the reporting period. (2012: nil)	-	-
No waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government were made pursuant to subsection 34(1) of the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 (2012: nil)	-	-
No payments were provided under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration (CDDA) Scheme during the reporting period (2012: nil)	-	-
No ex-gratia payments were provided for during the reporting period (2012: nil)	-	-
No payments were provided in special circumstances relating to APS employment pursuant to section 73 of the Public Service Act 1999 (PS Act) during the reporting period (2012: nil)	-	-

Note 28: Assets Held in Trust

Monetary assets
As a condition of some permits, a bond is required to be lodged with the Authority. Some permit holders have provided a cash bond in lieu of a bank guarantee. These monies are not available for other purposes of the GBRMPA. They are now separately disclosed in Note 8C of the financial statements from the 2012/13 financial year.

Non-monetary assets
The GBRMPA had no non-monetary assets held in trust in both the current and prior reporting period.

	2013 $	2012 $
Permits Bond - Monetary Assets		
Total amount held at the beginning of the reporting period	**240,370**	676,062
Receipts	**-**	16,718
Payments	**-**	(452,410)
Total	**240,370**	240,370

Note 29: Reporting of Outcomes

The GBRMPA is included in Outcome 1 of the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Portfolio.

The specific outcome for the GBRMPA is the long-term protection, 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.

The objectives associated with the outcome are:
a) Addressing the key risks affecting the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef;
b) Ensuring management delivers ecologically sustainable use of the Marine Park; and
c) Maintaining a high performing, effective and efficient organisation.

Note 29A: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1 2013 $'000	 2012 $'000
Departmental		
Expenses	**(53,956)**	(51,479)
Own-Source income	**26,229**	19,940
Administered		
Expenses	**(890)**	(1,168)
Own-Source income	**5,732**	8,191
Net cost of outcome delivery	**(22,885)**	(24,517)

Note 29: Reporting of Outcomes (cont)

Note 29B: Major Classes of Departmental Expenses, Income, Assets and Liabilities by Outcome

	Outcome 1[1]	
	2013	2012
	$'000	$'000
Expenses		
Employee Benefits	**(22,964)**	(21,177)
Supplier	**(16,723)**	(13,474)
Depreciation and amortisation	**(1,700)**	(1,508)
Write-down and impairment of assets	**(18)**	-
Cost of goods sold	**(150)**	(187)
Grants	**(41)**	(559)
Losses from asset sales	**(152)**	(310)
Payments to Queensland Government for Field Management Program	**(12,208)**	(14,264)
Total	**(53,956)**	(51,479)
Income		
Sale of goods and rendering of services	**3,027**	2,760
Income from Government	**27,939**	30,979
Payments from Queensland Government for Field Management Program	**8,372**	8,240
Other Revenue	**14,781**	8,885
Total	**54,119**	50,865
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	**480**	356
Trade and other receivables	**12,168**	9,936
Buildings and leasehold improvements	**19,208**	18,779
Property, plant and equipment	**3,211**	3,244
Intangibles	**2,341**	2,136
Inventories	**81**	64
Other non-financial assets	**193**	318
Total	**37,682**	34,832
Liabilities		
Suppliers	**(2,083)**	(1,083)
Other payables	**(1,524)**	(1,931)
Permit bonds	**(240)**	-
Employee provisions	**(5,691)**	(5,320)
Other provisions	**(383)**	(380)
Total	**(9,921)**	(8,714)

1. Outcome 1 is described in Note 1.1.

Note 29: Reporting of Outcomes (cont)

Note 29C: Major Classes of Administered Expenses, Income, Assets and Liabilities by Outcome

	Outcome 1[1]	
	2013	2012
	$'000	$'000
Expenses		
Supplier	**(890)**	(1,168)
Total	**(890)**	(1,168)
Income		
Rent from island properties	**324**	306
Fines and infringement notices	**159**	33
Environmental management charge	**5,249**	7,851
Income from Government	**900**	1,168
Total	**6,632**	9,359
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	**54**	165
Receivables: Environmental management charge	**1,104**	708
Receivables: GST input tax credits	**18**	37
Receivables: CDPP Court ordered fines	**790**	793
Island properties	**9,150**	9,350
Total	**11,116**	11,052
Liabilities		
Suppliers	**(57)**	(193)
Environmental management charge payable to Commonwealth	**(1,114)**	(708)
CDPP court ordered fines payable to Commonwealth	**(790)**	(793)
Other payables	**(5)**	(8)
Total	**(1,966)**	(1,702)

1. Outcome 1 is described in Note 1.1.

Note 30: Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

	2013 $	2012 $
Total comprehensive income less depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriation	**2,467,156**	837,831
Plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriation	**(1,700,594)**	(1,508,166)
Total comprehensive income - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	**766,562**	(670,334)

1. From 2011-12, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements, where revenue appropriation for depreciation/amortisation expenses ceased. Entities now receive a separate capital budget provided through equity appropriations. Capital budgets are to be appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.

Note 31: Compliance with Statutory Conditions for Payments from the Consolidated Revenue Fund

Section 83 of the Constitution provides that no amount may be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund except under an appropriation made by law. The Department of Finance and Deregulation provided information to all agencies in 2011 regarding the need for risk assessment in relation to compliance with statutory conditions on payments from special appropriations, including special accounts.

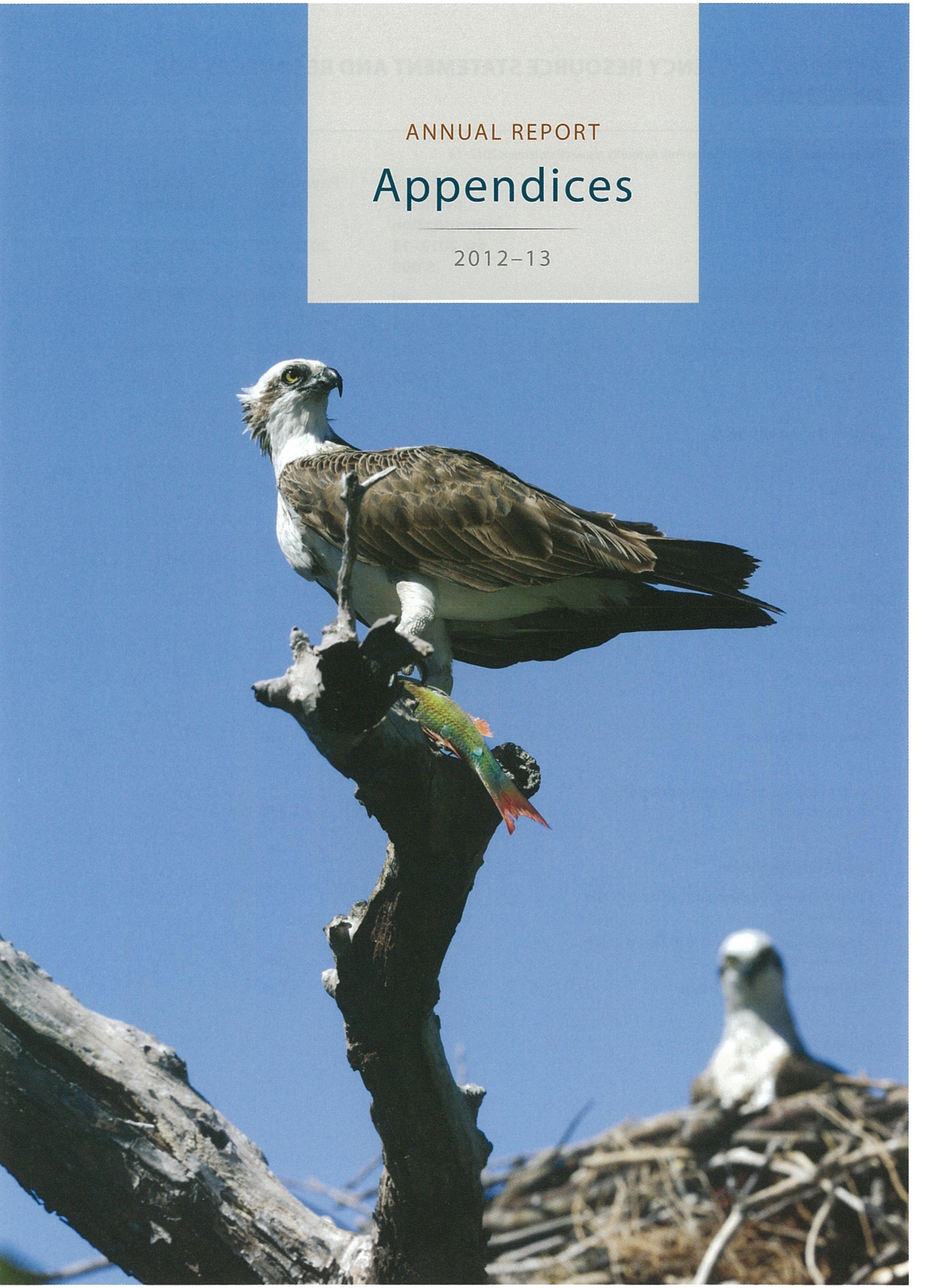
During 2011-12, the authority reviewed the exposure to risks of not complying with statutory conditions on payments from appropriations. The work conducted identified no issues of compliance with section 83.

During 2012-13 additional legal advice was received that indicated there could be breaches of Section 83 under certain circumstances with payments for long service leave, goods and services tax and payments under determinations of the Remuneration Tribunal. The authority etc has reviewed its processes and controls over payments for these items to minimise the possibility for future breaches as a result of these payments. The authority has determined that there is a low risk of the certain circumstances mentioned in the legal advice applying to the authority. The authority is not aware of any specific breaches of Section 83 in respect of these items.

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Appendices

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APPENDIX A: AGENCY RESOURCE STATEMENT AND RESOURCES FOR OUTCOMES

Table 15: *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority resource statement 2012–13*

		Actual available appropriation for 2012–13 $'000	Payments made 2012–13 $'000	Balance remaining 2012–13 $'000
		(a)	(b)	(a) – (b)
Ordinary annual services[1]		**1**	**1**	**4**
Departmental appropriation[2]		50,912	40,178	10,734
Total		**50,912**	**40,178**	**10,734**
Administered expenses				
Outcome 1[3]		890	890	
Total		**890**	**890**	
Total ordinary annual services	**A**	**51,802**	**41,068**	
Other services[4]				
Departmental non-operating				
Equity injections		0	0	0
Total		**0**	**0**	**0**
Total other services	**B**	**0**	**0**	
Total available annual appropriations and payments		**51,802**	**41,068**	
Special appropriations				
Special appropriations limited by criteria/ entitlement				
Special Appropriation Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act		5,249	5,249	
Total special appropriations	**C**	**5,249**	**5,249**	
Special accounts[5]				
Opening balance		0		
Appropriation receipts[6]		9,116		
Non-appropriation receipts to special accounts		8,372		

		Actual available appropriation for 2012–13 $'000	Payments made 2012–13 $'000	Balance remaining 2012–13 $'000
Payments made			17,384	
Total special account	**D**	**17,488**	**17,384**	**104**
Total resourcing and payments				
A+B+C+D		74,539	63,701	
Less appropriations drawn from annual or special appropriations above and credited to special accounts		9,116	9,116	
Total net resourcing and payments for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		**65,423**	**54,585**	

[1] Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2012–13. This may also include prior year departmental appropriation and S.31 relevant agency receipts

[2] Includes an amount of $0.876m in 2012–13 for the departmental capital budget. For accounting purposes this amount has been designated as 'contributions by owners'

[3] Includes an amount of $0m in 2012–13 for the administered capital budget. For accounting purposes this amount has been designated as 'contributions by owners'

[4] Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2012–13

[5] Does not include 'special public money' held in accounts like other trust monies accounts (OTMs). Services for other government and non-agency bodies accounts (SOGs),or services for other entities and trust moneys special accounts (SOETMs)

[6] Appropriation receipts from Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority annual and special appropriations for 2012–13 included above

Table 16: *Expenses and resources for outcome 1*

Expenses and resources for outcome 1			
Outcome 1: (The long term protection, 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)	Budget*	Actual Expenses	Variation
	2012–13 $'000	**2012–13 $'000**	**2012–13 $'000**
	(a)	**(b)**	**(a) – (b)**
Program 1.1: (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	900	890	10
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation[1]	28,240	29,470	(1,230)
Special appropriations	4,750	5,249	(499)
Special accounts	16,814	17,488	(674)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	1,635	1,750	(115)
Total for program 1.1	52,339	54,847	(2,508)
Total expenses for outcome 1	**52,339**	**54,847**	**(2,508)**

	2012–13	2012–13	
Average staffing level (number)	209	222	

* Full year budget, including any subsequent adjustment made to the 2012–13 budget

[1] Departmental appropriation combines 'Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No.1)' and 'Revenue from independent sources (s31)'

APPENDIX B: STAFFING OVERVIEW

Table 17: *Employee overview as at 30 June 2013*

Classification	ONGOING EMPLOYEES					NON-ONGOING EMPLOYEES				
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total
	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time		Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time	
APS1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
APS2	12	4	4	0	20	2	1	1	0	4
APS3	12	1	3	0	16	3	0	0	0	3
APS4	12	4	7	0	23	4	0	1	0	5
APS5	16	1	6	2	25	2	1	0	0	3
APS6	10	4	17	0	31	13	2	7	0	22
EXEC1	20	2	20	0	42	3	1	1	0	5
EXEC2	5	0	11	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
SES1	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
CEO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	**89**	**16**	**71**	**2**	**178**	**27**	**5**	**12**	**0**	**44**

As at 30 June 2013 the total number of employees = **222**

Table 18: *Workplace diversity figures as at 30 June 2013*

Classification	Total	Women	ATSI	NESB	NESB1	NESB2	PWD
CEO	1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
APS1	3	1 (33.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
APS2	24	19 (79%)	(0%)	3 (12.5%)	2 (8.3%)	2 (8.3%)	0 (0%)
APS3	19	16 (84.2%)	2 (10.5%)	1 (5.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
APS4	28	20 (71.4%)	1 (3.6%)	3 (10.7%)	4 (14.3%)	4 (14.3%)	0 (0%)
APS5	28	20 (71.4%)	0 (0%)	3 (10.7%)	3 (10.7%)	3 (10.7%)	1 (3.8%)
APS6	53	29 (54.7%)	5 (9.4%)	2 (3.8%)	2 (3.8%)	5 (9.4%)	1 (1.9%)
EL1	47	26 (55.3%)	1 (2.1%)	4 (8.5%)	5 (10.6%)	3 (6.4%)	2 (4.3%)
EL2	16	5 (31.2%)	1 (6.2%)	2 (12.5%)	2 (12.5%)	1 (6.2%)	0 (0%)
SES1	3	1 (33.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	**222**	**137(61.7%)**	**10 (4.5%)**	**18 (8.1%)**	**18 (8.1%)**	**18 (8.1%)**	**4 (1.8%)**

ATSI Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
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 C: ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

During 2012–13 the agency conducted advertising campaigns. Details of costs are included in Table 19.

Reef Guardian television and billboard advertising: The agency carried out non-campaign television and billboard advertising to raise community awareness of the work Reef Guardian program participants are doing to protect the Reef, and to let Reef Guardians know their efforts are valued. It involved re-running six 30-second television commercials featuring Reef Guardian schools, councils, cane farmers, banana farmers, graziers, reef line fishers, and aquarium fish and coral collectors over a four-week period on WIN and Seven. The ads were placed through Universal McCann. The supporting billboard advertising featured the same Reef Guardian programs as the television advertisements. This non-campaign advertising saw ads placed at eight different billboard locations across the catchment over a 12-week period. *(The advertising program is also reported on under Objective 3, page 90.)*

Zoning education: Non-campaign advertising was carried out to raise awareness about the zoning rules in place in the Marine Park. Mainstream television, press and radio advertisements ran during 2012–13. Advertising was placed through Universal McCann.

Promotion of Reef HQ Aquarium: A range of promotional advertising was undertaken to promote Reef HQ Aquarium including mainstream and social media, direct mail-outs and Yellow Pages.

Table 19: *Media advertising organisations used in 2012–13*

Advertising program	Amount
Reef Guardian television advertising, Universal McCann	$70,250
Reef Guardian billboard advertising, Bishopp Outdoor	$26,455
Zoning education, Universal McCann	$27,024
Zoning education, Queensland Seafood Industry Association	$6105
Reef HQ marketing, Universal McCann	$35,958
Reef HQ marketing and advertising, various	$24,951

APPENDIX D: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) provides the community with the right of access to documents held by Australian Government agencies.

This right of access is limited only by certain exceptions and exemptions which are contained in the FOI Act. Under the FOI Act, to request access to information an application must:

1. be made in writing
2. state that the request is an application for the purposes of the FOI Act
3. provide enough information about the document(s) for a responsible officer of the agency to identify it (them)
4. provide an address in Australia at which notices under the FOI Act may be sent to the applicant.

FOI requests should be sent to:

The FOI contact officer
c/- Legal Services
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
2–68 Flinders Street
PO Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
Australia

Or lodged via email to FOI@gbrmpa.gov.au

Freedom of Information requests can also be delivered to the agency's Townsville office at 2–68 Flinders Street, Townsville QLD 4810.

If the applicant decides to proceed with a request, charges may also be payable for the time spent searching for and retrieving relevant documents, decision-making time, photocopying and postage, etc. In the event that the agency decides that an applicant is liable to pay a charge for processing a request, the applicant 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 agency will contact the applicant with a view to resolving the difficulty. In consultation with the applicant, documents will be made available by mail to the address specified by the applicant or at the official freedom of information access point.

The authorised decision-makers in respect of a request made under the FOI Act for the agency are the Chairman, the general managers, the director legal services and the senior legal officers.

Documents released under the FOI Act are listed on the agency's disclosure log, located at www.gbrmpa.gov.au/home/freedom-of-information-requests/foi.

Freedom of information operations

During the 2012–13 financial year, the agency received 19 requests for access to documents under the FOI Act. Of those, seven applications were granted, four were withdrawn, two were denied and one was transferred in part. The remaining five were still being processed at the end of the financial year.

There were no internal reviews of any decision made under the FOI Act during 2012–13.

No applications were made to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner for review of decisions made under the FOI during 2012–13.

No applications were made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of decisions made under the FOI Act during 2012–13.

There were no applications to amend records under the FOI Act during 2012–13.

A total of $2191.66 was received in respect of charges under the FOI Act during 2012–13.

Part II of the FOI Act — Information Publication Scheme

Amendments to the FOI Act which took effect on 1 May 2011 require that certain information about the agency is to be published through an Information Publication Scheme under Part II of the FOI Act. Since 1 May 2011, that information has been available on the agency's website www.gbrmpa.gov.au/home/ips.

Information required to be published under this scheme includes an agency's corporate details such as the agency's structure, functions, official appointments, annual reports, consultation arrangements for specific policy proposals, information routinely provided in response to requests and orders from the Parliament, and operational information.

The agency strives to embrace a pro-disclosure culture and has therefore published additional information to that required under the scheme. The agency's Information Publication Scheme register is located at www.gbrmpa.gov.au/home/ips/ips-document-register.

The Chairman, general managers and directors have power to publish information in accordance with the Information Publication Scheme under Part II of the FOI Act.

APPENDIX E: ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (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 agency in 2012–13 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 agency activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development:

- Administering and enforcing the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Act 1975*, which explicitly recognises these principles.
- Working with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 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 for all Australians and the international community through the control, care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
  - providing policy advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities to ensure that the agency's environment policies are mutually supportive.

The Australian and Queensland governments are working together to undertake a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the adjacent coastal zone. The strategic assessment collectively looks at the Great Barrier Reef Region, development proposals in the area and decision-making processes. It is determining whether management is effective and recommending improvements to how the Region is managed.

The strategic assessment will help us identify, plan for and manage risks to the World Heritage Area to protect it for the future. This will be achieved by:

- assessing the multiple impacts arising from current and future planned development in the region on Great Barrier Reef values
- assessing the effectiveness of existing management to protect reef values from multiple impacts.

The agency is leading the marine component of the strategic assessment, which will look at the arrangements in place to manage and protect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area. It looks at current policy and planning arrangements for a range of uses and their impacts, including:

- the full range of activities in the Marine Park including tourism, fishing, ports and shipping, defence, research, recreation and use by Traditional Owners
- impacts of development within the coastal zone, including urban, industrial, port, marina and aquaculture activities
- water quality policies and controls
- island national parks and protected areas.

The range of activities presented in the *Performance* chapter of this annual report include activities that accord with the principle of integrating environmental, social and economic considerations. In addition, the day-to-day business of the agency in ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef is achieved by managing the zoning plan introduced on 1 July 2004, in consultation with stakeholders, communities and agencies.

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*
- releasing publications on climate change and the Great Barrier Reef
- making information readily available on the agency's external website
- working with the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and other agencies to undertake a strategic assessment.

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:
  - the development of the *Great Barrier Reef Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* which specifically responds to the threats to biodiversity as outlined in the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009*
  - a focus on encouraging integrated coastal management and improving knowledge on the role that coastal ecosystems play in the health of the Great Barrier Reef
  - continuing to address the remaining impacts of fishing and illegal fishing and poaching
  - providing information on progress towards Reef Plan's water quality and management action targets
  - continued implementation of the marine monitoring program, a component of the Paddock to Reef program under Reef Plan
  - contributing to biodiversity conservation in marine ecosystems including the continued implementation of the zoning plan.
- 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
  - communication and education, including the active promotion of the World Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Working in partnership with stakeholder groups, including:
  - expanding the Reef Guardian program to include fishers and farmers
  - expanding the Reef Guardian Councils program to encourage councils to get involved in environmental projects
  - working with Traditional Owners to develop sustainable traditional use of marine resources practices
  - 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 2012–13 including:
  - having an accounting framework to measure the commercial values of the Great Barrier Reef
  - continuing the partnership with industry associations through community monitoring programs
  - doing consultation on offsets that provide a net environmental benefit.

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

The outcome for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is:

The long-term protection, 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.

This outcome is explicit in providing for ecologically sustainable use of the Marine Park and is achieved through the delivery of three objectives:

1. Address the key risks affecting the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef
2. Ensure management of the Marine Park supports ecologically sustainable use
3. Foster stewardship by engaging, educating and inspiring people through the care and management of the Marine Park.

A comprehensive assessment of how work was undertaken under these three objectives during 2012–13 is provided in the *Performance* chapter of this annual report.

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

The agency is responsible for managing one of the world's premier natural resources through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The agency manages the Marine Park as a multiple-use area, and permits such uses as are ecologically sustainable, and as are permitted by legislation.

In conjunction with its partners, the agency maintained compliance and enforcement activities during 2012–13, with funding provided by both Australian and Queensland governments for field management.

The agency worked with volunteer Local Marine Advisory Committees and Reef Guardian schools to undertake rubbish removal from sensitive sites, reduce dumping and encourage positive environmental behaviour.

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

The agency maintains a strong commitment to continuous improvement of its own environmental performance. The agency 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. The lack of recycling facilities for fluorescent tubes and polystyrene packing outside of capital cities is a point of frustration.

Reef HQ Aquarium continued implementing three stages of energy reduction, including installing energy efficient lighting, addressing peak demand reduction and investing in renewable energy. The aquarium commissioned a 161 kilowatt peak photovoltaic system in 2012–13. Phase two (44 kilowatts) has been completed and will be commissioned in early 2013–14. As a result of these measures, Reef HQ Aquarium reduced power consumption by 47 per cent during 2012–13 compared to the 2006 baseline year (see Figure 15 below). A 50 per cent reduction target should be achieved in 2013–14.

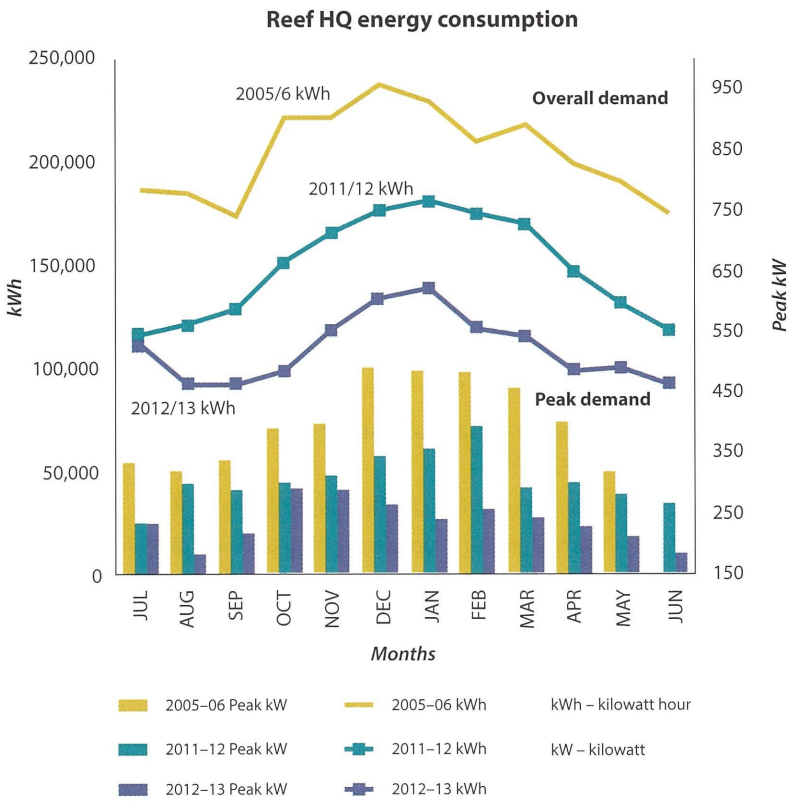


Figure 15: *Reef HQ Aquarium's energy consumption in 2005–06, 2011–12 and 2012–13*

Other measures in place in the last year include:

- continued use and implementation of the environmental management system
- continued use of waste handling systems to reduce the volume of recycling going to landfill
- maintenance of an automated office lighting system in the main Townsville building to reduce energy consumption
- Ecotourism Australia certified Reef HQ Aquarium under its Advanced Eco Tourism, Climate Action Business and Respecting our Culture certification
- building materials used in Reef HQ Aquarium exhibits were chosen from environmentally sustainable products
- operating a Green Office Committee to raise awareness of environmental management within the office
- use of hybrid energy vehicles for fleet use
- use of ethanol-inclusive fuels in vehicles (E10)
- pest control undertaken using methods designed to minimise environmental impacts
- use of energy efficient multi-function devices (photocopiers/printers/scanners)
- multi-function devices programmed to duplex (double-side) documents to reduce paper usage
- printer toner cartridges are remanufactured and photocopier toner cartridges sent for recycling

- staff are actively involved in recycling office paper, with paper and cardboard collected by a local recycling company
- packaging and envelopes are recycled
- corporate publications are printed on recycled paper if feasible
- wherever possible documents are provided electronically to reduce paper usage
- recycled paper is used in toilets (toilet paper and hand towels)
- toilets are dual flush as a water conservation measure
- collection of fluorescent tubes for recycling
- disused desktop and mobile phones are sent for recycling
- used batteries collected for recycling
- cardboard waste is collected for recycling
- used paper hand towel is put in with cardboard recycling
- vehicle leasing decisions take into account Australian Greenhouse Office specifications on fuel consumption targets.

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

In accordance with the government policy Energy Efficiency in Government Operations, the agency has previously reported its annual energy performance through the Online System for Comprehensive Activity Reporting. Public reporting provided a number of benefits to the agency including:

- increased awareness of energy and greenhouse issues
- a measure of relative performance
- provision of a benchmarking tool
- the ability to track changes over time
- identification of high-intensity areas
- encouragement of improvement through transparency.

Close analysis of the report helps the agency determine how it can most effectively adopt the minimum energy performance measures to meet its needs and the government's targets. In future this information will be provided directly to the portfolio minister.

In considering future office accommodation lease arrangements the agency is taking into account the need to include a green lease schedule to improve and be accountable for energy efficiency in the premises and building for any new leases over 2000 square metres or major refurbishment.

The environmental management system provides the foundation for managing the significant environmental aspects and compliance with legal and other requirements, and is a mechanism for continuous improvement in environmental performance. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy is based on the agency's acknowledgment that climate change is a major threat to the long-term resilience of the Reef and its commitment to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint.

The environmental management system and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy focused on the agency's business practices, including alterations to:

- waste disposal
- building operations
- business processes
- employee practices
- air-conditioning
- travel
- chemical use.

APPENDIX F: PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS BY AGENCY STAFF

The following staff papers were either published or presented by agency staff during 2012–13. Copies may be obtained at www.gbrmpa.gov.au.

Published papers

Beeden, R., Maynard, J.A., Marshall, P.A., Heron, S.F. and Willis, B. L. 2012, A framework for responding to coral disease outbreaks that facilitates adaptive management, *Environmental Management* 49(1): 1–13.

Bonanno, V. and Merida, F. 2013, Great Barrier Reef marine tourism operators take action for the future of their industry and the Reef, *Marine Adaptation Bulletin*, 5(1): 3.

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Gibson, J., Day, J., Dobbs, K. and Molloy, F. 2013, The Great Barrier Reef Region strategic assessment, in *Proceedings 3rd International Conference on Progress in Marine Conservation in Europe 2012*, eds H. von Nordheim, K. Maschner and K. Wollny-Goerke, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn, Germany, pp. 167–176.

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Presentations

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Day, J.C. 2012. 'The World Heritage Committee's recent decisions about the Great Barrier Reef … the 'flow-on' challenges and issues for other Australian WHAs … with a focus on OUV', presented to Australian Committee for IUCN Symposium on World Heritage, Cairns, 9 August 2012.

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Day, J.C. 2013, 'Ecosystem based management (EBM) – is the Great Barrier Reef really the 'gold standard' for marine EBM?', presented as the Copenhagen Sustainability Lecture at University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 13 March 2013.

Day, J.C. 2013, 'Moving marine spatial planning (MSP) forward in Finnish waters … lessons from the Great Barrier Reef about MSP and effective marine conservation', presented at Marine Spatial Planning Workshop, Solf, Hemmersgarden, Finland, 26 April 2013.

Day, J.C. 2013, 'Lessons learned managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area … including the 'flow-on' challenges from the World Heritage Committee's recent decisions', presented at Workshop for West Norwegian Fjords, Geirangerfjord, Norway, 8 May 2013.

Dobbs, K. 2012, 'Case study: assessing existing measures to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef Region', presented to International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting, Cairns, July 2012.

Dobbs, K. 2013, 'Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report', presented to the National State of the Environment Forum, Brisbane, May 2013.

Gilbert, R. 2012, 'The Great Barrier Reef – Particularly Sensitive Sea Area', presented to International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Workshop on the Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas and other IMO tools for area specific management, Townsville, August 2012.

Glover, K. 2012, 'High standard tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism Conference, Cairns, 15–17 October 2012.

Gooch, M. 2013, 'Why use social science to manage the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?', presented to James Cook University students studying Human Dimensions of Environment and Conservation, Townsville, June 2013.

Gooch, M., Bohensky, E., Dobbs, K., Marshall, N., Pert, P., Thomas, C., Tobin, R., Vohland, K., Wren, L. and Yorkston, H. 2012, 'Tangible benefits of marine park management for human well-being', presented at the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium Conference, Cairns, 9–13 July 2012.

Hicks, J. 2013, 'Adaptive management planning for turtles on Raine Island changed the way we think', presented to Climate Adaptation 2013 knowledge+partnerships, Sydney, 25–27 June 2013.

Laffoley, D. and Day, J.C. 2012, 'Launch of new guidelines on applying the IUCN management categories to MPAs', presented to World Conservation Congress, Jeju, Korea, 8 September 2012.

Lundgren, P. 2012, 'Conservation genetics and the management of coral reefs', presented to the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium, Cairns, 9–13 July 2012.

Lundgren, P. 2013, 'Genetics and environmental stress in corals', presented to the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, Monash University, Melbourne, May 2013.

Mann, M. 2013, 'Making sense', presented to World Indigenous Network Conference, Darwin, 27 May 2013.

Martin, K., Chinn, C., Schaffelke, B., Kennedy, K., Thompson, A., McKenzie, L., Waycott, M., Devlin, M., Brando, V., Brodie, J. and Yorkston, H. 2012, 'Assessing the effectiveness of water quality management of the Great Barrier Reef', presented at the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium Conference, Cairns, 9–13 July 2012.

McCook, L.J. 2012, 'Caring for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area', presented to media and invited dignitaries at the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium, Cairns, 9–13 July 2012.

McCook, L.J. 2012, 'Protecting a global coral reef treasure through adaptive management of the Great Barrier Reef', press briefing at 12th International Coral Reef Symposium, Cairns, 9–13 July 2012.

McCook, L.J. 2012, 'Caring for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area: adaptive management and assessing effectiveness', presented to 12th International Coral Reef Symposium, Cairns, 9–13 July 2012.

McCook, L.J. 2012, 'Evaluating management success: summary of mini-symposium at 12th International Coral Reef Symposium', presented to General Meeting of International Coral Reef Initiative, Cairns, 9–13 July 2012.

McCook, L.J. 2012, 'Adaptive, ecosystem-based management of the Great Barrier Reef marine reserve network', presented to James Cook University Marine Conservation Course, Townsville, September 2012.

McCook, L.J. 2012, 'Caring for the Great Barrier Reef in the face of climate change, pollution and development', presented to 32nd International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants Dioxins Conference, Cairns, August 2012.

McCook, L.J. 2012, 'Adaptive, ecosystem-based management of the Great Barrier Reef marine reserve network: a globally significant demonstration of the benefits of networks of marine reserves', video presented to Biscayne National Park Service, Florida, USA, August 2012.

McCook, L.J. 2012, 'Great Barrier Reef Region strategic assessment', presented to Board, Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, Townsville, October 2012.

McCook, L.J. 2012, 'Caring for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area: adaptive, ecosystem-based management', presented to South China Sea Institute of Oceanology and Guangdong National Park Service, Guangzhou, China, October 2012.

McCook, L.J. 2013, 'Caring for the Great Barrier Reef: adaptive management, monitoring, the outlook report and strategic assessment', presented to Minister for the Environment, Papua New Guinea, Townsville, January 2013.

McCook, L.J. 2013, 'The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area strategic assessment: adaptive management in practice', presented to Australian Institute of Marine Science, Townsville, February 2013.

McCook, L.J. 2013, 'The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area strategic assessment: adaptive management in practice', presented to James Cook University and ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, Townsville, February 2013.

McCook, L.J. 2013, 'The Great Barrier Reef: marine reserve networks and adaptive management of a World Heritage Area', presented to 4th Brazilian Congress of Marine Biology, Florianópolis, Brazil, May 2013.

McCook, L.J. 2013, 'The Great Barrier Reef: marine reserve networks and adaptive management of a World Heritage Area', presented to Office of Marine Parks, Santa Catarina State, Florianópolis, Brazil, May 2013.

McCook, L.J. 2013, 'The Great Barrier Reef: marine reserve networks and adaptive management of a World Heritage Area', presented to Las Cruces Biological Station, Chile, May 2013.

McCook, L.J. 2013, 'The Great Barrier Reef: marine reserve networks and adaptive management of a World Heritage Area', presented to Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile, May 2013.

McCook, L., Beeden, R., Chandler, J., Dryden, J., Gibson, J., Gooch, M., Gorsuch, H., Hoey, J., Houlden, B., Molloy, F., Pears, R., Schauble, C., Skeat, H. and Vohland, K. 2013, 'Climate change, World Heritage and adaptive management: incorporating climate change into the strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef', presented to National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility Conference, Sydney, June 2013.

Molloy, F. 2012, 'Integrating science with management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park/World Heritage property', presented to 13th International Wadden Sea Symposium, Leeuwarden, Netherlands, November 2012.

Molloy, F. 2013, 'Outstanding Universal Value, monitoring, evaluation and reporting in the GBR', presented to UNESCO working meeting, Tubbataha Reefs National Park, Philippines, May 2013.

Molloy, F., Wachenfeld, D., McGinnity, P., McCook, L., Dobbs, K., Chandler, J., Yorkston, H., Doherty, P., Johnson, D. and Andersen, C. 2012, 'Engaging with and coordinating across large multi-disciplinary and multi-agency research programs to optimise investment and outcomes for management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium Conference, Cairns, 9–13 July 2012.

Pears, R., Jebreen, E., Cliffe, N., Schauble, C. and Gooch, M. 2012, 'Climate change adaptation planning in practice with an Australian fishery', presented at the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium Conference, Cairns, 9–13 July 2012.

Schauble, C. 2013, 'Expecting adaptation: the who, when, where and what of managing the Great Barrier Reef in a climate stressed world', presented to Climate Adaptation 2013 knowledge+partnerships, Sydney, 25-27 June 2013.

Smith, A. 2013, 'Great Barrier Reef Region strategic assessment – process and desired outcomes', presented to the 2nd Australian Environmental Assessment and Approvals Summit, Sydney, 22 May 2013.

Smith, A. 2013, 'EPBC Act reform', Case study environmental assessment of major projects in the Great Barrier Reef region, presented to EIANZ annual conference, Sydney, 24–25 October 2012.

Smith, A., Gilbert, R. and Edison, K. 2012, 'Reviewing the environmental management of dredging in the Great Barrier Reef region', presented to Dredging and Reclamation Australia Conference, Brisbane, 26 September 2012.

Smith, A., Gilbert, R. and Vains, J. 2012, 'Environmental assessment of major projects in the Great Barrier Reef region', presented to the Major Projects Summit conference, Bowen, 20 September 2012.

Smith, A., Kettle, B. and Gilbert, R. 2013, 'Environmental remediation of vessel damage within the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Spillcon 2013, Cairns, 11 April 2013.

Wren, E. 2013, 'Empowering traditional (cultural) authority in sea country (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area)', presented to the National Native Title Conference, Alice Springs, 5 June 2013.

Wren, E. and Tapim, J. 2013, 'The evolution of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements on the Great Barrier Reef', presented to the World Indigenous Network Conference, Darwin, 27 May 2013.

Yorkston, H., Audas, D. and Groves, P. 2012, 'Understanding the service and value of catchment and coastal ecosystems for the long-term health of the Great Barrier Reef', presented to the Coast to Coast Conference, Brisbane, September 2012.

Zhao, J., Pandolfi, J., Clark, T., Done, T., Smithers, S., Lewis, S., McCulloch, M., Roff, G., McCook, L., Welsh, K., Feng, Y., Yu, K., Rodriguez, A., Markham, H., Leonard, N., Lepore, M., Prazeres, M., D'Olivo, J. and Roger, E. 2012, 'Characterising the cumulative impacts of global, regional and local stressors on the present and past biodiversity of the GBR', presented to National Environmental Research Program Implementation Group meeting, Townsville, August 2012.

APPENDIX G: QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT FINANCIALS

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE
for the year ended 30 June 2013

	Notes	**2013 $'000**	2012 $'000
Revenue for the year			
Appropriation from State Government		6,154	7,132
Grant funding from Commonwealth Government		6,154	7,132
Grants and other contributions - assets transferred in	2	294	14
Other receipts		27	18
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment		98	10
Total		**12,726**	14,307
Expenditure for the year			
Employee expenses		7,231	6,953
Supplies and services	3	4,245	4,561
Grants and other contributions - assets transferred out	2	23	106
Depreciation		1,007	674
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment		15	32
Total		**12,521**	12,326

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.



Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
as at 30 June 2013

	Notes	**2013 $'000**	2012 $'000
Current assets			
Cash	4	8,412	3,243
Receivables		1,496	421
Prepayments		20	21
Inventories		1	1
Total current assets		9,928	3,685
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	5,682	5,494
Total non-current assets		5,682	5,494
Total assets		**15,611**	9,179
Current liabilities			
Payables		6,453	361
Accrued employee benefits		270	186
Total current liabilities		6,723	546
Total liabilities		**6,723**	546
Net assets		**8,888**	8,633

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.

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NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

Objectives and Principal Activities

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

The program, which is staffed by both the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing personnel, administers and coordinates the cooperative arrangements between the Australian and Queensland Governments through the Marine Park Authority (MPA) Board.

The management activities of the program cover the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Commonwealth administered), Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park (State administered) and Island National Parks (State administered). Field operations are conducted through cooperative arrangements involving both the Australian and Queensland agencies.

The Field Management Strategy Group has adopted the following priorities for the program:

- Protect and strengthen the resilience of marine ecosystems;
- Protect and where feasible, recover species of conservation concern and vulnerable habitats;
- Protect and strengthen the resilience of island ecosystems; and
- Ensure ecologically sustainable use, with a focus on fishing, shipping, tourism and traditional use of marine resources.

The program is principally funded by State appropriation matched by Commonwealth contributions. These funds may also be supplemented by grants funding and other revenue.

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The statements are regarded as special purpose financial statements in accordance with the Treasurer's determination whereby compliance with certain provisions of the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009* issued under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* was exempted. This represents a change in accounting policy from previous years whereby a general purpose financial report was prepared. This change in accounting policy is a reflection of the need to provide more relevant information to users of this financial report in a more cost efficient manner.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis.

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(b) Non-Current Assets

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:

Asset class	Threshold
Buildings and Infrastructure	$10,000
Other (including Heritage and Cultural)	$5,000

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

Only those assets still in service at 30 June 2013 are reported.

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. Service delivery capacity relates to when construction is complete and the asset is first put to use or is installed ready for use in accordance with its intended application. These assets are then reclassified to the relevant classes with property, plant and equipment.

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:

Asset class	Rate
Buildings	1.25% to 14.3%
Heritage and cultural assets	1.0%
Infrastructure	1.0% to 7.0%
Plant and equipment:	
Motor vehicles	10.0% to 20.0%
Heavy vehicles	6.7% to 20.0%
Scientific and technical equipment	2.0% to 33.3%
Office equipment	6.7% to 20.0%
Boats and boating equipment	6.7% to 10.0%

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(c) Contingent assets/liabilities

There were no known contingent assets or liabilities of a significant nature as at 30 June 2013.

	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
2. Grants and other contributions		
Assets transferred in		
Grants and other contributions	294	14
Total	294	14
Assets transferred out		
Grants and other contributions	23	106
Total	23	106

Assets of $294K were transferred in from the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing and include a number of public toilet blocks. Assets of $23K were transferred out to the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing of minor infrastructure.

3. Supplies and services

Administration costs	1,570	1,394
Corporate support contribution	715	624
Asset maintenance	876	1,372
Operating leases	293	473
Travel - staff and clients	470	463
Fuel and oil	321	234
Total	4,245	4,561

External audit fees for 2012-13 are paid by the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing and not charged directly to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The authority pays an annual corporate support charge to the department to meet costs such as these.

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	2013 $'000	2012 $'000
4. Cash		
Cash funds held	8,412	3,243
Total	8,412	3,243
5. Property, plant and equipment		
Buildings:		
At valuation	4,491	3,940
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2,835)	(2,370)
	1,655	1,570
Infrastructure:		
At valuation	655	510
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(254)	(217)
	401	293
Heritage and cultural:		
At cost	15	15
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2)	(2)
	13	13
Plant and equipment:		
At cost	8,383	7,723
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(4,958)	(4,828)
	3,424	2,895
Capital work in progress		
At cost	188	722
Total	5,682	5,494

Building and infrastructure assets are comprehensively valued using a rolling revaluation program.

The valuation is at fair value and is undertaken independently by the State Valuation Service, Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Plant and equipment is valued at cost in accordance with Queensland Treasury's *Non-current Asset Policies for the Queensland Public Sector*

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CERTIFICATE OF

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

In relation to the Joint Field Management Program of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

These annual financial statements have been prepared pursuant to the relevant agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the decision of the Field Management Strategy Group dated 14 June 2013. In accordance with these agreements we certify that in our opinion:

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

(ii) the foregoing annual financial statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the transactions of the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing in relation to the day to day operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, and of the financial position as at 30 June 2013.

(iii) financial assistance received has been expended in accord with the purposes for which it was given in the financial year.

Stuart Cowper BBus (Accy); FCPA
Chief Financial Officer
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

20/08/2013.
Date

Neil Cambourn
A/Executive Director, Regional Operations East
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

20-08-13
Date

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Management Committee of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, which comprises the statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2013, a statement of revenue and expenditure for the financial year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and certificates given by the Chief Financial Officer and the Acting Executive Director, Regional Operations East of the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing.

The Management Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Management Committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is to meet the requirements of the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Management Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Management Committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit is planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 the risks of material misstatement of 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 used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Management Committee, 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 all authorised auditors. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Queensland public sector entities and can be removed only 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.

Opinion

In accordance with s.40 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009* –

(a) I have received all the information and explanations which I have required; and

(b) in my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 2013 and its financial performance for the financial year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 and the financial reporting requirements of the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, attention is drawn to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Management Committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Matters - Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Report

Those viewing an electronic presentation of these financial statements should note that audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the information presented electronically and does not provide an opinion on any information which may be hyperlinked to or from the financial statements. If users of the financial statements are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic presentation of information, they are advised to refer to the printed copy of the audited financial statements to confirm the accuracy of this electronically presented information.

O. C. Clare

QUEENSLAND
29 AUG 2013
AUDIT OFFICE

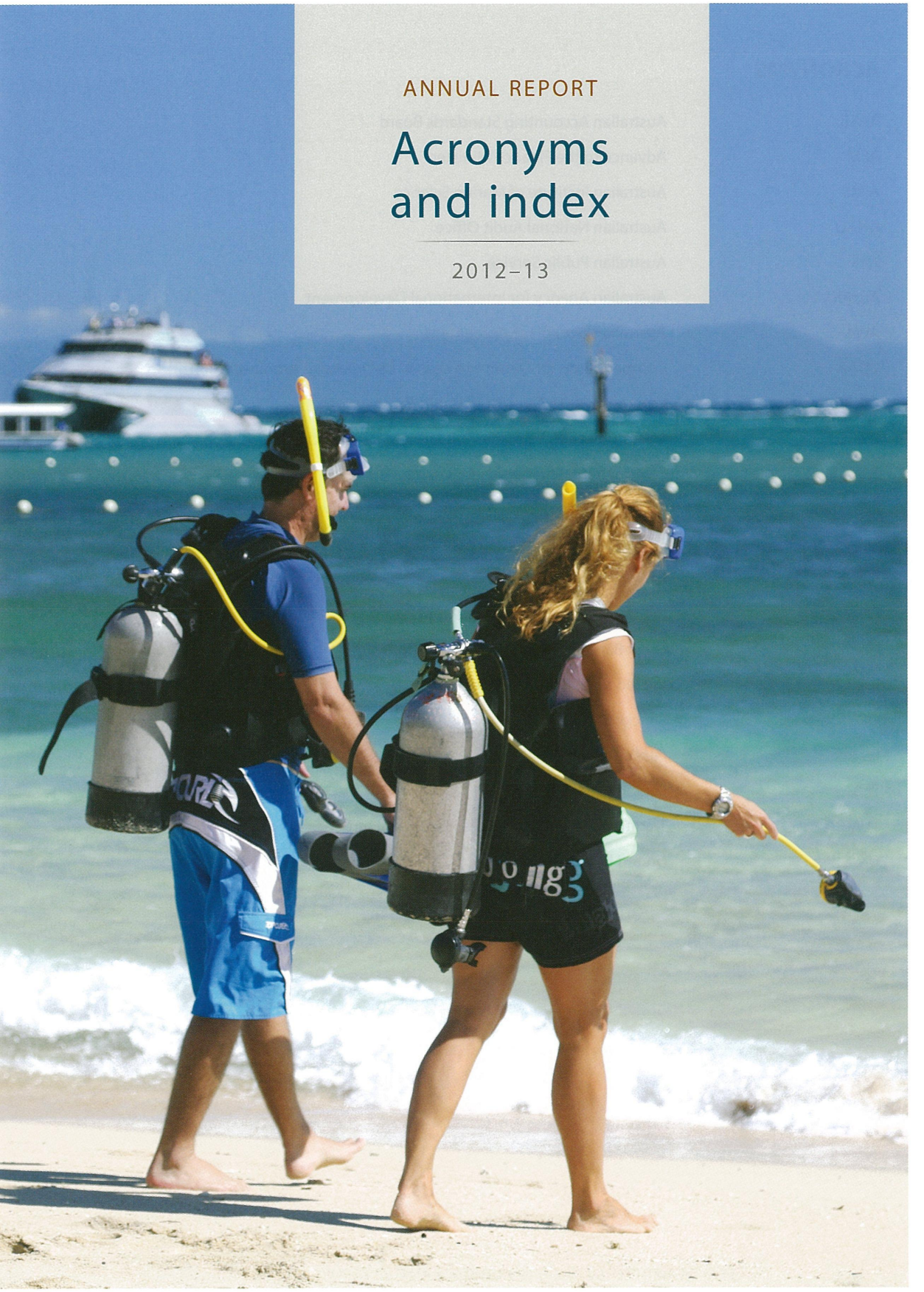
O C CLARE FCPA
As Delegate of the Auditor-General of Queensland

Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

ANNUAL REPORT

Acronyms and index

2012–13



ACRONYMS

AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
AFM	Advance to the Finance Minister
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
APS	Australian Public Service
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
AWA	Australian Workplace Agreement
CDAA	Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration
CDPP	Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EMC	Environmental management charge
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
FMA Act	*Financial Management Accountability Act 1997*
FMOs	*Finance Minister's Orders*
FOI Act	*Freedom of Information Act 1982*
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
IFA	Individual flexibility arrangement
OPA	Official Public Account
PS Act	*Public Service Act 1999*
SES	Senior Executive Service
TUMRA	Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement
UK	United Kingdom

GLOSSARY

Aggregation — a group of organisms of the same or different species living closely together but less integrated than a society

Appropriation — public funds appropriated for a specific purpose

Biodiversity — the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part

Bycatch — the unwanted fish, sea creatures, etc., caught in nets along with the targeted species

Ecosystem resilience — the capacity of an ecosystem to recover from disturbance or withstand ongoing pressures

Environmental management charge — a charge associated with some commercial activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, including tourism operations, non-tourist charter operations, and facilities. The activities are undertaken with permission granted by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Geomorphological features — physical features on the sea floor that are important for our understanding of how the marine environment functions

Kilowatt — one thousand watts

Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum — previously known as the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council, the forum oversees the implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement, a contemporary framework for cooperation between the Australian and Queensland governments

Matters of national environmental significance — defined under the E*nvironment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as listed threatened species and ecological communities, migratory species protected under international agreements, Ramsar wetlands of international importance, the Commonwealth marine environment, World Heritage properties, National Heritage places, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and nuclear actions. Any action that will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance requires approval from the Australian Environment Minister

Outstanding universal value — Under the World Heritage Convention a property is considered to have outstanding universal value if it is of 'cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity'

Photovoltaic — providing a potential source of electric current under the influence of light or similar radiation

Plan of management — a plan prepared for intensively used, or particularly vulnerable groups of islands and reefs, and for the protection of vulnerable species or ecological communities.

Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement — a statement to inform Senators, Members of Parliament and the public of changes since the budget to the proposed allocation of resources to government outcomes

Portfolio Budget Statement — a statement to inform Senators and Members of Parliament of the proposed allocation of resources to government outcomes by agencies within the portfolio

Symbiosis — the living together of two species of organism, a term sometimes restricted to cases in which the union of the two animals or plants is advantageous or necessary to both

COMPLIANCE INDEX

Part of report	Description	Requirement	Pages
	Letter of transmittal	Mandatory	iii
	Table of contents	Mandatory	v-vii
	Index	Mandatory	212-218
	Glossary	Mandatory	207
	Contact officer(s)	Mandatory	ii
	Internet home page address and internet address for report	Mandatory	ii
REVIEW BY SECRETARY			
	Review by departmental secretary	Mandatory	3-8
	Summary of significant issues and developments	Suggested	3-8
	Overview of department's performance and financial results	Suggested	10-14
	Outlook for following year	Suggested	4, 6-8, 31
	Significant issues and developments — portfolio	Portfolio departments — suggested	N.A.
DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW			
	Role and functions	Mandatory	10-12
	Organisational structure	Mandatory	12
	Outcome and program structure	Mandatory	16-18, 33-36, 76-77
	Where outcome and program structures differ from portfolio budget statements/portfolio additional estimates statements or other portfolio statements accompanying any other additional appropriation bills (other portfolio statements), 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 programs and contribution to outcomes	Mandatory	16-98
	Actual performance in relation to deliverables and key performance indicators set out in portfolio budget statements/portfolio additional estimates statements or other portfolio statements	Mandatory	96-97
	Where performance targets differ from the portfolio budget statement/portfolio additional estimates statement, details of both former and new targets, and reasons for the change	Mandatory	N.A.

Part of report	Description	Requirement	Pages
	Narrative discussion and analysis of performance	Mandatory	16-98
	Trend information	Mandatory	96-97
	Significant changes in nature of principal functions/services	Suggested	78-98
	Performance of purchaser/provider arrangements	If applicable, suggested	N.A.
	Factors, events or trends influencing departmental performance	Suggested	4, 8, 62, 65-66
	Contribution of risk management in achieving objectives	Suggested	N.A.
	Social inclusion outcomes	If applicable, mandatory	N.A.
	Performance against service charter customer service standards, complaints data, and the department's response to complaints	If applicable, mandatory	108-109
	Discussion and analysis of the department's financial performance	Mandatory	13-14, 114-176
	Discussion of any significant changes from the prior year, from budget or anticipated to have a significant impact on future operations	Mandatory	13-14
	Agency resource statement and summary resource tables by outcomes	Mandatory	178-180
MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY			
Corporate governance			
	Agency heads are required to certify that their agency comply with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines	Mandatory	108
	Statement of the main corporate governance practices in place	Mandatory	100-106
	Names of the senior executive and their responsibilities	Suggested	12
	Senior management committees and their roles	Suggested	100-106
	Corporate and operational planning and associated performance reporting and review	Suggested	10, 106-108
	Approach adopted to identifying areas of significant financial or operational risk	Suggested	102-104
	Policy and practices on the establishment and maintenance of appropriate ethical standards	Suggested	108
	How nature and amount of remuneration for senior executive service officers is determined	Suggested	108, 110, 155-157
External scrutiny			
	Significant developments in external scrutiny	Mandatory	108-109
	Judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals	Mandatory	108
	Reports by the Auditor-General, a Parliamentary Committee or the Commonwealth Ombudsman	Mandatory	109

Part of report	Description	Requirement	Pages
Management of human resources			
	Assessment of effectiveness in managing and developing human resources to achieve departmental objectives	Mandatory	109-111
	Workforce planning, staff turnover and retention	Suggested	14, 109-111, 181
	Impact and features of enterprise or collective agreements, individual flexibility arrangements (IFAs), determinations, common law contracts and Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs)	Suggested	109-110
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