



Australian Government

**Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008**

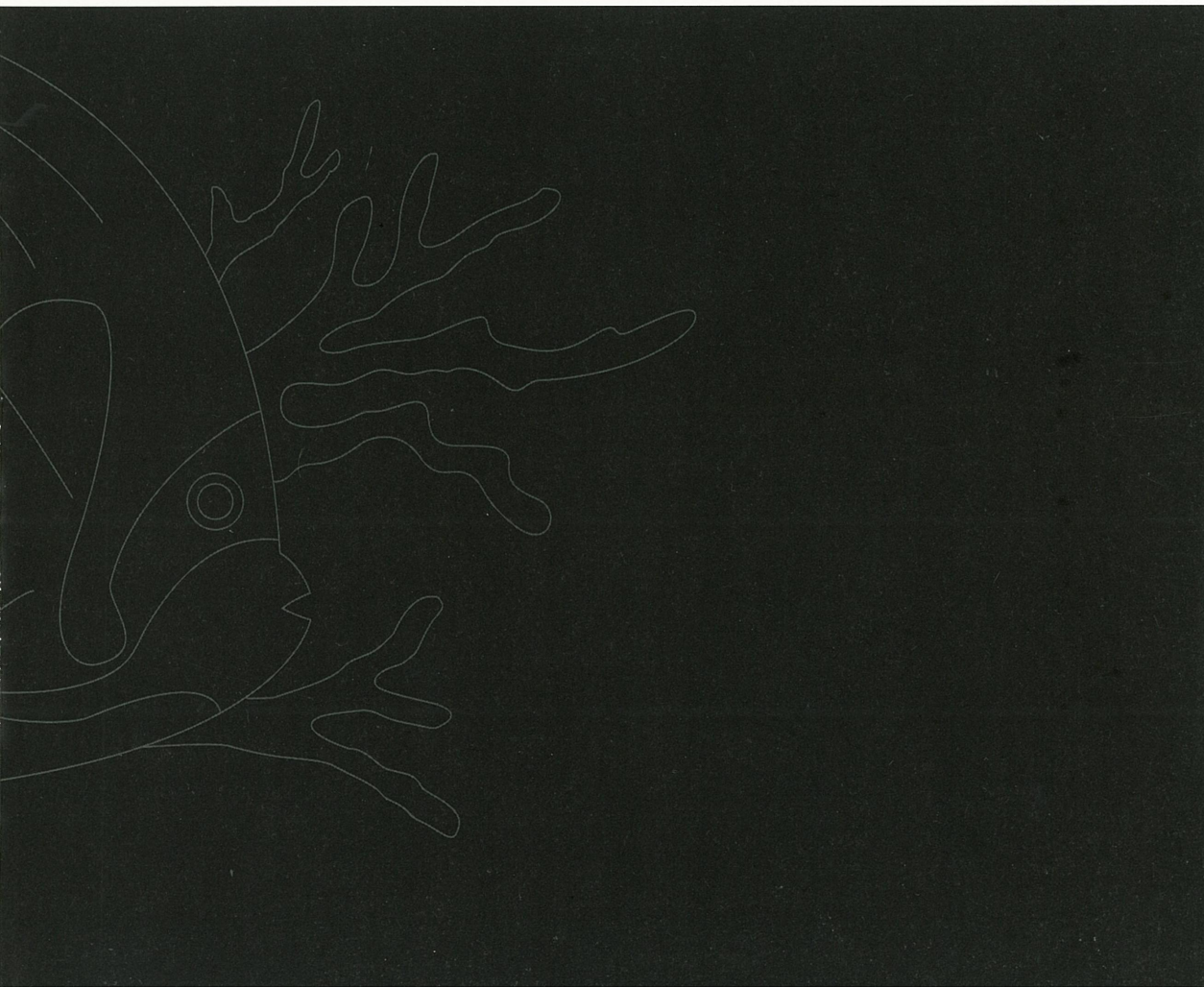




Australian Government

**Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008**



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Australian Government

**Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority**

**The Director
Communication and Education Group
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**

PO Box 1379
Townsville QLD Australia 4810
Telephone: (07) 4750 0700
Facsimile: (07) 4772 6093
Web: www.gbrmpa.gov.au
E-mail: info@gbrmpa.gov.au

Further information

The 2007-2008 Annual Report is accessible on the Authority's website at http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/annual_reports/. The site also includes supplementary information including a list of staff papers and Authority publications produced during the year. A detailed list of membership of relevant external committees can also be found at www.gbrmpa.gov.au.

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

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

31 October 2008

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

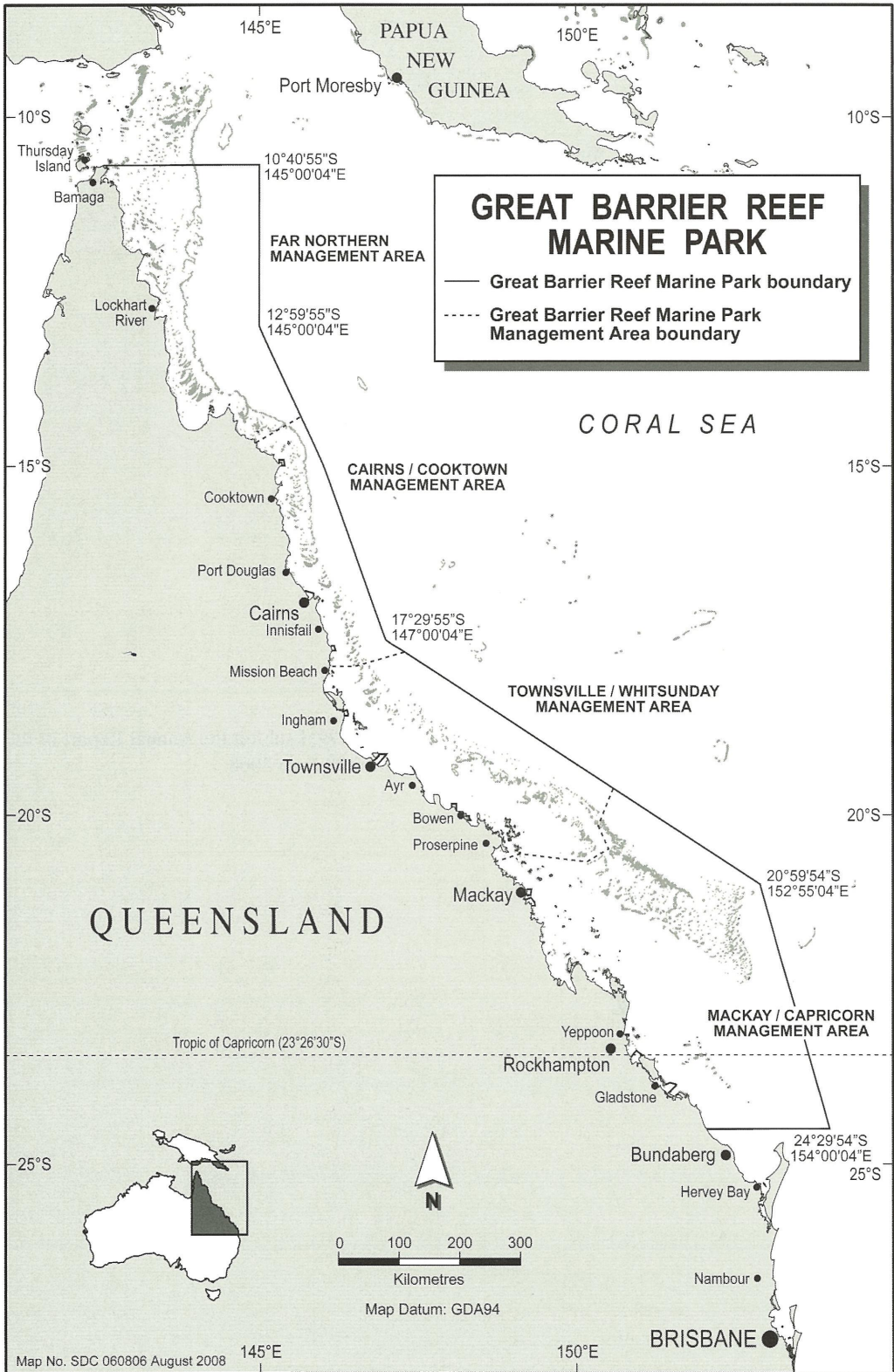
Dear Minister

In accordance with section 70 (1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*, I submit the Annual Report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2008.

Yours sincerely

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

Russell Reichelt
Chairman



CONTENTS

Letter of Transmittal	iii
SECTION A INTRODUCTORY	1
Introduction	2
Summary of financial performance	4
SECTION B CORPORATE OVERVIEW	7
Role	8
Legislation	8
Organisation	9
Corporate governance	10
Public accountability	11
Outcomes and outputs structure: guide to the reports	16
Key Performance Indicators reported against the Portfolio Budget Statements	17
SECTION C REPORT ON OPERATIONS	35
Executive	36
Outlook Report	36
Legal Services	37
Ministerial and Parliamentary Liaison	38
Departmental outputs	39
Output 1.1 Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships	39
Output 1.2 Water Quality and Coastal Development	45
Output 1.3 Fisheries	49
Output 1.4 Tourism and Recreation	52
Output 1.5 Park Management	57
Output 1.6 Science and Information for Park Management	74
Output 1.7 Reef Education and Communication	80
Community Partnerships	91
Climate Change	92
Corporate Services	93
SECTION D FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	99
Audited Financial Statements	100
SECTION E APPENDIXES	147
1. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority – Members	148
2. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority – Committees	149
3. Freedom of Information Statement	155
4. Consultancy Services/Advertising Expenses	156

5. Staffing Overview	158
6. Occupational Health and Safety	159
7. Staff Papers from the GBRMPA during 2007-08	160
8. Ecologically Sustainable Development and Environmental Performance	168
9. Australian Government Disability Strategy	174
10. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Funded Research and Investigations for 2007-08	180
11. Day-to-Day Management Financial Statements	180

SECTION F GLOSSARY AND INDEXES 197

Glossary	198
Compliance Index	200
Alphabetical Index	202

LIST OF PLATES, FIGURES AND TABLES vi

Plates

Plate 1: Members of the Authority 2007-08	10
Plate 2: A large storm in February 2008 resulted in significant damage to commercial and recreational vessels at Airlie Beach	73

Figures

Figure 1: Income by source 2007-08	4
Figure 2: Expenses by category 2007-08	5
Figure 3: Organisational chart of the GBRMPA	9
Figure 4: Explanation of summary plots for hard coral cover	18
Figure 5: Visual summary of trends in hard coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef by sector	19
Figure 6: Chlorophyll a sampling locations sampled in 2007-08	23
Figure 7: Representation of the predicated concentration of pesticides from passive samplers	23
Figure 8: WTO conditions and recommendations as per EPBC Act fishery assessments as at 2007	25
Figure 9: Number of bioregions with at least 20 per cent protection in the Marine Park	26
Figure 10: Technical and scientific publications produced by the GBRMPA, the CRC Reef Research Centre and MTSRF	28
Figure 11: The number of tourist visits in the Marine Park since 1998	31
Figure 12: Level of satisfaction with visit to the Great Barrier Reef - Queensland coastal communities and southern capital cities	32
Figure 13: Top four threats to the Great Barrier Reef by proportion of survey respondents	33
Figure 14: Proportion of survey respondents who agree that activities are a threat to the Great Barrier Reef	34
Figure 15: The type and number of offences detected during patrols by each agency	62

Figure 16:	The number of reported offences in 2007-08, in comparison to previous years	62
Figure 17:	The number of offences reported in 2007-08 incident reports by offence type	63
Figure 18:	The source of incident reports received from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008	63
Figure 19:	The number and type of compliance actions (excluding court actions) undertaken in 2007-08	64
Figure 20:	The total court actions taken in 2007-08	65
Figure 21:	Number of intelligence reports received annually	65
Figure 22:	The number of 2007-08 information reports received by offence type	66
Figure 23:	The source of the 351 information reports received from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008	66
Figure 24:	Details of the 2007-08 DDM training program	70
Figure 25:	Types of permissions granted and number granted	72
Figure 26:	Number of GBRMPA web pages (external website) viewed by month	84
Figure 27:	Student participation in ReefHQ Aquarium education programs	90

Tables

Table 1:	Financial and staffing resources summary	6
Table 2:	Visitors to the GBRMPA 2007-08	16
Table 3:	The GBRMPA's goals, outcomes and outputs and KPIs	17
Table 4:	Status of completed assessment of fisheries occurring in the Marine Park as at 30 June 2008	25
Table 5:	Incident type and number of incidents 2007-08	68
Table 6:	Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2007-08	149
Table 7:	Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Audit Committee 2007-08	150
Table 8:	Creative agencies used 2007-08	157
Table 9:	Market research and polling organisations used 2007-08	157
Table 10:	Direct mail organisations used 2007-08	157
Table 11:	Media advertising organisations used 2007-08	157
Table 12:	Employees of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 2008	158
Table 13:	Representation of EEO groups within salary levels as at 30 June 2008	159
Table 14:	How the GBRMPA's outcomes contribute to ecologically sustainable development	171

SECTION A

Introduction



Introduction

The Great Barrier Reef is a large marine managed area where some areas are highly protected and the rest is managed for sustainable use. Balancing the conservation needs of this iconic World Heritage Area with the legitimate needs of communities and visitors is the key challenge of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). In presenting this Annual Report I acknowledge my fellow members of the Authority and am grateful for the skill and enthusiasm of the staff of the GBRMPA and for the cooperation of the many government departments, industry and community groups - all of whom play a significant role in protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

The GBRMPA has carried its commitment to protecting the Reef by focusing on risks to the health of the Reef ecosystem such as, the effects of climate change, declines in water quality, and compliance with zoning and plans of management. The GBRMPA receives strong support in this effort from major Reef users such as the tourism industry and the broader community.

The reporting period 2007-2008 has also seen the continued implementation of legislative amendments from the 2006 review by the Australian Government of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The report recommendation to change the Authority from reporting under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* to report as a prescribed agency under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* was implemented as at 1 July 2007. Further legislative amendments were introduced into Parliament on 18 June 2008 and it is expected that those changes will take effect in the 2008-2009 financial year.

The preparation of the first Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report has continued to be a major focus for the GBRMPA in the past year. As stipulated in the review of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the Outlook Report will include assessments of biodiversity; ecosystem health; ecosystem resilience; commercial and non-commercial use; factors influencing environmental, economic and social values; management effectiveness and risks to the ecosystem; plus an overall assessment of the longer-term outlook for the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem. The Organisation has been working closely with the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) and the Queensland Government to ensure delivery of this report to the Minister by 30 June 2009.

There has been a renewed emphasis on the importance of community engagement across all of the GBRMPA's units this year. In particular, the GBRMPA has sought to capture the extensive levels of community knowledge during the preparation of the Outlook Report, a process that will continue during the next year. The Regional Offices continue to work closely with coastal and catchment communities and key stakeholders to increase the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef and promote compliance with the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*. Financial and in-kind support was provided for numerous community led initiatives such as the CapReef Recreational Fishing Monitoring Program and the Cairns City Earth Hour.

The GBRMPA is taking significant actions to improve the outlook for the Reef in the face of climate change with a new group focused specifically on providing a foundation of targeted science; improving the resilience of the Reef; maximising the capacity for industry and community adaptation and reducing climate footprints. The main function of the group is to implement the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007 - 2012, an initiative supported with

\$8.9 million in funding under the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

The Zoning Plan introduced in 2004 which sets aside one-third of the Reef as 'no take' areas or Green Zones continues to be monitored in relation to its success in protecting the biodiversity of the Reef. An analysis of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) long-term surveys of the Great Barrier Reef has found that reefs where fishing is not allowed are much less prone to infestation by the devastating crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS). North Queensland based scientists have also found that coral trout numbers have rebounded by 31-75 per cent on a majority of reefs which had been closed for fishing for as little as one and a half to two years. Compliance with zoning regulations continue to be driven in part by an effective zoning compliance education campaign together with strengthened observation and presence of enforcement in the Marine Park.

Coral reefs thrive in tropical waters that are low in nutrients. Good water quality is important to maintaining a healthy and diverse coral reef ecosystem. In the past year the GBRMPA has continued to monitor pollutant loads entering the marine environment through the Marine Monitoring Program. In the 2007-08 year our on-going marine monitoring program has delivered further advances in understanding the links between catchment land use, water quality and the ecosystem health of the Great Barrier Reef. There remain concerns about the amount of sediment and nutrients in run-off water, and concerns about measurable levels of agricultural chemicals reaching the Marine Park. The monitoring results add impetus to the efforts by the community, especially land managers, to assist with developing adaptive strategies to improve the quality of water that flows into the Great Barrier Reef. This monitoring program is also supported by a public education campaign, which encourages landholders and householders to help look after the quality of water entering the Marine Park by implementing best practice on their properties and in their homes.

Traditional Owners work in partnership with the GBRMPA to achieve the sustainable use of marine resources while maintaining strong cultural and spiritual connections to the Reef. In formalising this partnership two Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs) were accredited by the Authority this year with the Mamu and Wuthathi people, increasing the total number to four and covering an area nearly the size of Kakadu. These agreements form the basis for collaboration between the GBRMPA, Queensland Government and Traditional Owner groups on sea country use. Both the Mamu and Wuthathi agreements will be in place for the next five years.

The Reef Guardian Schools program continues to be recognised as an example of best practice environmental sustainability education both nationally and internationally in countries such as Japan and the United States of America. The reach of the program has grown exponentially over the last six years with now more than 61 000 Queensland students actively participating.

I look forward to guiding the GBRMPA's strategic direction and working with our partners to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.



Russell Reichelt
Chairman

Summary of Financial Performance

Details of the GBRMPA's financial operations are provided in the Financial Statements at Section D. An overview of the GBRMPA's financial operations follows and a summary of financial and staffing resources is at Table 1.

Total revenue for 2007-08 was \$46.3 million. Appropriation for 2007-08 of \$29.4 million was \$6 million more than the 2006-07 appropriation. This was primarily due to new measures to provide for enhanced field management for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Climate Change Adaptation Program

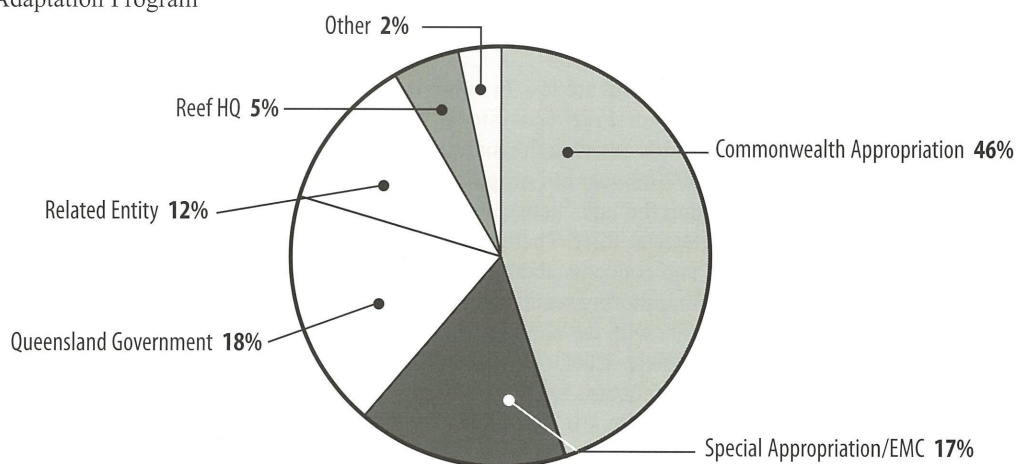


Figure 1: Income by source 2007-08

Income from other sources for 2007-08 of \$16.9 million was \$1.1 million more than in 2006-07. This variation was due to the increased funding from the Queensland Government for enhanced field management and additional resources for monitoring of water quality under the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*. Following the transition to a prescribed agency under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority no longer earns bank interest and does not retain revenue from the leasing of Commonwealth Islands. Revenue from leases is received on behalf of the Commonwealth Government and paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Revenue from the Reef HQ Aquarium admission sales, memberships and retail operations was 5 per cent down on 2006-07. Income includes a \$0.3 million Natural Heritage Trust grant to assist with measures to control COTS. Natural Heritage Trust funding was also received for community education about the Zoning Plan for the Marine Park and for water quality monitoring.

The Australian and Queensland Governments provided matching funding for Field Management of the Marine Park, which is implemented in partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPW) and other agencies. As indicated above, the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments both contributed increased funding to enhance the field management program.

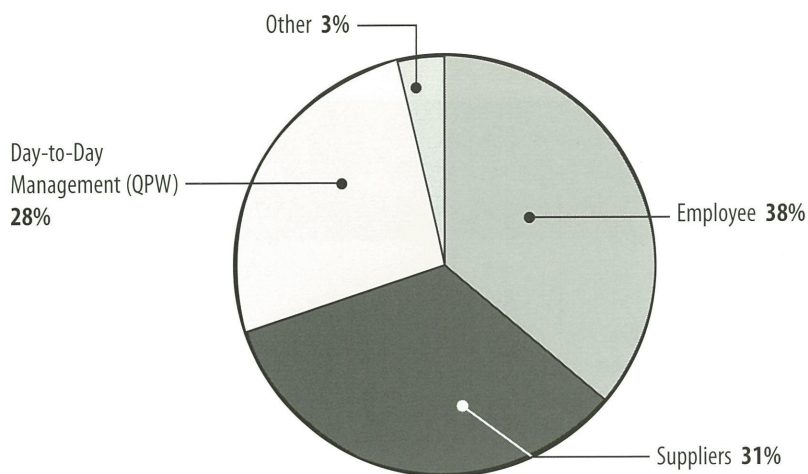


Figure 2: Expenses by category 2007-08

The operating expense of managing the Marine Park in 2007-08 was \$46.3 million. Employee expenses increased due to the second stage of the 2006-2009 Agency Certified Agreement and extra staff for enhanced field management, adaptation to climate change programs and community partnerships. Expenses for suppliers were higher than the previous year with a number of contractual commitments in place for water quality monitoring. Resources were also allocated to capital projects including the development of the Permits Compliance and Management System (PCaMS).

The GBRMPA had an operating surplus of \$9 359 in 2007-08. This reflects the allocation of additional resources for field management, internal investment in asset management and actual revenue from the Special Appropriation derived from the Environmental Management Charge (EMC).

Explanation of resource table variations

Table 1 provides details of budget and actual resource usage for each of the Outputs identified in the 2007-08 Portfolio Budget Statements. The variations from Budget to Actual relate to positions not being filled during the year, allocation of resources within field management for capital items, the actual allocation of resources in relation to the water quality monitoring programme previously budgeted within Output 1.2 but recorded against Output 1.6, Science and Information for Park Management, as well as reallocation of resources into developing a framework for the Outlook Report.

Resources for Executive and Corporate Services are allocated across all groups. The expenses for the Community Partnerships Group are also allocated across all outputs reflecting the need to engage with the community in all areas of the GBRMPA's operations. A new organisational structure and outputs will be in place from 1 July 2008.

RESOURCES FOR THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY OUTCOME

OUTCOME	<i>Long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef</i>	Budget 2007-08 \$'000	Actual 2007-08 \$'000	Variation to budget \$'000
Price of Departmental Outputs				
Output Group 1.1 - Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships		1,867	1,880	13
Output Group 1.2 - Water Quality and Coastal Development		5,552	1,751	(3,801)
Output Group 1.3 - Fisheries		1,031	1,172	141
Output Group 1.4 - Tourism and Recreation		1,873	2,096	223
Output Group 1.5 - Park Management				
1.5.1 Field Management		20,189	19,656	(533)
1.5.2 Planning and Impact Management		3,637	3,710	73
		23,826	23,366	(460)
Output Group 1.6 - Science and Information for Park Management		6,320	7,748	1,428
Output Group 1.7 - Reef Education and Communication (includes Reef HQ)		6,480	8,288	1,808
Total Price of Departmental Outputs and Resourcing		46,949	46,303	(646)
Staff Level [FTEs at 30 June 2008]		204	222	18

Table 1: Financial and staffing resources summary

SECTION B

Corporate Overview



Role

To provide for the long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef through the care, control and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Legislation

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

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

Regulations in force under the Act are the:

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

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

Amendments to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* during 2007-08

In 2006, the Australian Government Review Panel delivered its report reviewing the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The recommendations are being implemented through legislative and administrative changes. More information on the review is online at: http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_us/review.

In response to the Review Report, the first tranche of legislative amendments made under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Bill 2007* received Royal Assent on 28 June 2007. The changes came into effect on 1 July 2007.

The Act:

- Made amendments required as a consequence of applying the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (the “FMA Act”) to the operations of the GBRMPA, in place of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.
- Established a requirement for a periodic Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report. This Report will provide a regular and reliable means of assessing performance in the long-term protection of the Great Barrier Reef. In so doing, it will inform management and policy and promote transparency and accountability.
- Established statutory provisions directed at ensuring that the development of zoning plans for the Marine Park is done in a transparent and accountable manner, is based on robust scientific

and socio-economic information and appropriately involves communities, users of the Marine Park and other interested persons and organisations.

The second tranche of legislative amendments, consequent on the 2006 Review Report, were introduced into Federal Parliament on 18 June 2008 under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008*.

The Minister

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull was Minister for the Environment and Water Resources from July 2007 until November 2007. The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP was appointed as Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts in December 2007.

Directions to the GBRMPA from the Minister

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

No Ministerial directions were given under Subsection 7(2) of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* during the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

Organisation

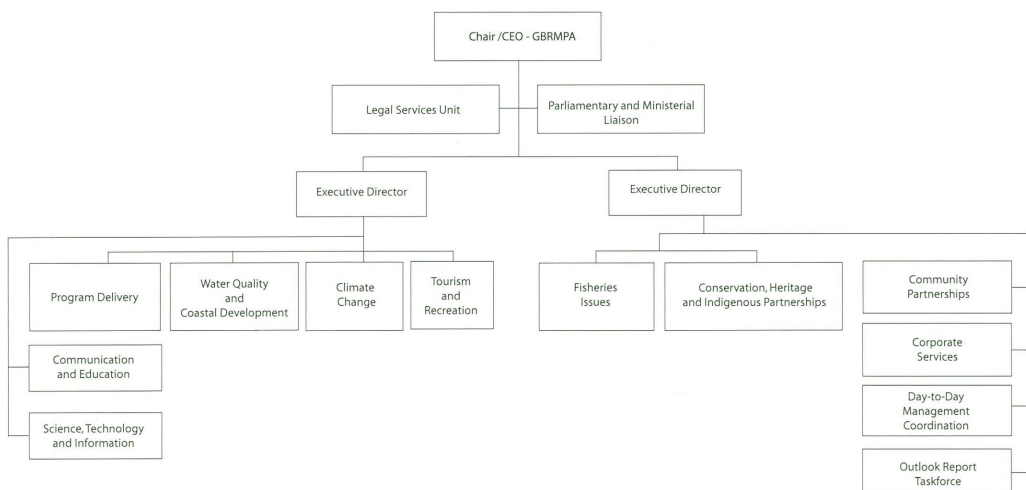


Figure 3: Organisation chart of the GBRMPA at 30 June 2008

Corporate governance

Membership of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

During 2007-08, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) consisted of a full-time Chairman and three part-time members. The Queensland Government nominates one of the part-time members. Prior to 1 July 2007, section 10(1)(b) of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* required that one part-time member of the Marine Park Authority be appointed to represent the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities adjacent to the Marine Park. On 1 July 2007, that requirement was removed by the repeal of section 10(1)(b) of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. On 18 June 2008 legislation was introduced into Federal Parliament to provide that at least one member must be an Indigenous person with knowledge of, or experience concerning, Indigenous issues relating to the Marine Park. At the time of going to print, that proposal was still before the Parliament.



Hon Virginia
Chadwick AO

Dr Evelyn Scott

Mr Ross Rolfe

Cr Fay Barker

Mr Russell Reichelt

Mr Ken Smith

Plate 1: Members of the Authority 2007-08

The members of the Authority during 2007-08 were:

- Hon Virginia Chadwick, AO (full-time Chairman and Chief Executive) - term completed 18 July 2007
- Dr Evelyn Scott, AO (part-time member) - resigned 17 July 2007
- Mr Ross Rolfe (acting part-time member) - resigned 17 July 2007
- Ms Fay Barker, OAM (part-time member)
- Dr Russell Reichelt (full-time Chairman and Chief Executive) - appointed 1 November 2007
- Mr Ken Smith (part-time member) - appointed 31 January 2008.

Mr John Tanzer, served as acting Chairman from 19 July to 12 August 2007, and 22 September to 31 October 2007. Mr Andrew Skeat served as acting Chairman from 13 August to 21 September 2007, and 1 November to 13 November 2007.

Audit Committee

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

The objective of the Audit Committee is to ensure that the GBRMPA adheres to a high standard of corporate governance, manages public funds in an efficient and effective manner, and achieves its outcomes in accordance with its business strategy and strategic plans whilst carrying out its responsibilities under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

A list of Audit Committee members, attendance at meetings and issues considered is outlined in Appendix 2.

The GBRMPA's advisory committees

The GBRMPA established a number of permanent committees that provide support and strategic advice. These include four critical issue-focused Reef Advisory Committees, the Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee and 11 Local Marine Advisory Committees. The GBRMPA appoints members to these committees. A number of other committees are also created from time-to-time to deal with specific issues. All committees have terms of reference and procedures established by the GBRMPA. Committee composition and membership is reviewed as required. Information on the GBRMPA's committees is contained in Appendix 2.

Public Accountability

Internal and external scrutiny

The Audit Committee Charter and other documents have been revised to reflect the transition to FMA Act coverage.

Internal Audit is outsourced to Pacific Bridge Pty Ltd. The firm continued to provide efficient and professional compliance and performance audit and evaluation services during 2007-08.

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

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Risk Management Plan* was updated during the year. The Risk Treatment Schedule outlines actions to manage risks identified in the Plan.

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

Australian National Audit Office reports

HLB Mann Judd, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office, undertook the external audit of the GBRMPA's 2007-08 Financial Statements (See Section D, Financial Statements).

The GBRMPA was included in the following Auditor General's Reports tabled in Parliament during 2007-08:

- No. 18 - Audits of Financial Statements of Australian Government Entities for the Period Ended 30 June 2007.

The following Auditor General Reports of 2007-08 contain recommendations of relevance to the GBRMPA:

- No. 7 - *The Senate Order for the Departmental and Agency Contracts (Calendar Year 2006 Compliance)*
- No. 14 - *Performance Audit of the Regional Partnerships Program*
- No. 21 - *Regional Delivery Model for the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality*
- No. 23 - *The Management of Cost Recovery by Selected Regulators*
- No. 31 - *Management of Recruitment in the Australian Public Service*
- No. 37 - *Management of Credit Cards*
- No. 41 - *Management of Personnel Security-Follow-up Audit*
- No 42 - *Management of Customer Debt-Follow up Audit*
- No 44 - *Interim Phase of the Audit of Financial Statements of General Government Sector Agencies for the Year Ending 30 June 2008.*

Internal audit reports

The GBRMPA's Audit Committee met four times during the year and considered external and internal audit reports, a revised Risk Management Plan and undertook a self-assessment review of its performance in accordance with the ANAO Better Practice Guide. During 2007-08 internal audits were undertaken in the following areas of operation:

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

Parliamentary committees and government inquiries

There was one submission provided to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts who are undertaking the *Inquiry into Climate Change and Environmental Impacts on Coastal Environmental Impacts on Coast Communities* to highlight coastal development issues adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. In 2006 the Government agreed to the recommendations of the Review of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The recommendations are being implemented through legislative and administrative changes. The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Bill 2008*, which will amend the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, was initially considered by the Parliament in June 2008. Further debate on the Bill will occur during 2008.

Legal actions

There was one legal action against the GBRMPA during 2007-08. That action was an application to the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for a review of a decision relating to a tourism operation offshore from Magnetic Island: (*Connolly and Ors v GBRMPA and Far North Queensland Airwork Pty Ltd* - the "Red Baron" case).

The action was concluded in December 2007. The AAT upheld the primary decision made by the GBRMPA, with some amendments being made to the permit conditions.

Ombudsman

The Ombudsman made no comments relating to any of the GBRMPA's permit decisions in 2007-08. There were no actions relating to the appealable selection processes and no comments were made by the Commonwealth Ombudsman with respect to human resource management activities. The GBRMPA received no notices of complaint from the Commonwealth Ombudsman in 2007-08.

Freedom of information

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

Indemnities and insurance premiums

Indemnity is provided to directors and officers of the GBRMPA under the coverage of the GBRMPA's insurer, Comcover, which is an Australian Government self-managed fund for insurable risk. Premiums are levied as part of the overall insurance coverage and are based on the agreed insurance value and previous-claims history.

Social justice and equity

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

The Local Marine Advisory Committees continued to operate effectively along the coastline adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef, providing valuable advice and input to the GBRMPA's decision-making processes. Local Marine Advisory Committees provide local people with an opportunity to

identify regional issues of importance as well as broader issues of concern throughout the Marine Park and help develop policy responses to those problems. The GBRMPA makes ongoing efforts to encourage representation from a wide range of individuals and interest groups in the interests of access and equity. Information on Local Marine Advisory Committees is contained in Appendix 2.

The GBRMPA's relationship with Indigenous people is important. During 2007-08, the major focus for consultation continued to be the development of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs) and management requirements relating to the conservation of dugongs and turtles. The Authority accredited two new TUMRAs in June 2008.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Service Charter

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

Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) requires Australian Government organisations to report on the Organisation's contribution to ecologically sustainable development as well as the environmental performance of the Organisation. Section 516A also promotes development of a framework that integrates environmental, economic and social considerations and helps improve the environmental and ecologically sustainable development performance of Australian Government agencies.

Appendix 8 provides a summary of the GBRMPA's activities in 2007-08 in accordance with section 516A of the *EPBC Act*.

Australian Government Disability Strategy

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

State of affairs of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

A range of activities continue to be a high priority for the GBRMPA and have actions that are ongoing:

- Preparation of the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report* - one of the key recommendations of the Review of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 - Review Panel Report* (see Executive - Outlook Report section)
- Improving the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef through a comprehensive climate change action plan (see Output 1.6 Science and Information for Park Management and Climate Change section)

- Emphasis on the importance of community engagement across all of the GBRMPA's core business (see Community Partnerships Group and Output 1.1 Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships section)
- The conservation of shark species (see Output 1.1 Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships and Output 1.3 Fisheries)
- Day-to-day management of the Marine Park, including monitoring the Marine Park for compliance with zoning (see Output 1.5.1 Field Management of the Marine Park)
- The Marine Monitoring Program, associated management activities and communication and education elements that are part of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* - a 10-year strategy to halt and reverse the declining quality of water entering the Marine Park (see Output 1.2 Water Quality and Coastal Development and Output 1.7 Reef Education and Communication).

International involvement

During 2007-08 staff of the GBRMPA hosted 12 visits comprising 234 people from eight countries. Of particular note were two separate Congressional groups from the United States, and a very successful visit by senior staff of South African National Parks as part of the establishment of a marine protection component of the Addo Elephant National Park in Kwazulu Natal. Table 3 depicts the number of visitors to the GBRMPA during 2007-08.

As in previous years, staff responded to formal requests for assistance through travel overseas. Included in the 21 overseas visits was ongoing involvement in the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange Group of Experts on Marine Information Management, attendance at the 2nd International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism, and attendance at conferences on sea turtle and tropical rock lobster conservation and biology.

The GBRMPA's staff continued to be involved in World Heritage matters with Jon Day attending the annual meeting of the World Heritage Committee as a member of the Australian delegation. The Chairman, Russell Reichelt attended the International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting in Washington DC in January coinciding with the launch of International Year of the Reef 2008.

Dr Kirstin Dobbs signed on behalf of the Australian Government an international memorandum of understanding under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the Bonn Convention) for the conservation and management of dugongs and their habitats.

An important component of the GBRMPA's international work for 2008-09 will be to host a seminar on coral reef science and management as a major part of Australia's contribution to the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI). During 2007-08 staff coordinated with the CTI secretariat and other Australian Government departments and agencies in preliminary work for this seminar.

All overseas travel by the GBRMPA's staff requires the specific approval of the Chairman and such visits must demonstrate value adding to the conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal systems including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In 2007-08, approximately 60 per cent of overseas travel by the GBRMPA's staff was funded from sources external to the GBRMPA's budget.

Visitors to the GBRMPA 2007 - 2008		
Project	Country	No. of Visitors
COREMAP Project	Indonesia	15
World Conservation Monitoring Center	UK	1
Natural Heritage Services (Govt agency)	Finland	2
US Congressional Party	USA	16
US House Committee on Science & Technology	USA	14
Smithsonian Institute Group	USA	80
NOAA (Govt agency)	USA	1
Maldives Environment Department	Maldives	3
Chonburi Provincial officials	Thailand	80
COREMAP Project (2nd visit)	Indonesia	15
South Africa National Parks	South Africa	5
UNESCO/IOC	France	2
	Total	234

Table 2: Visitors to the GBRMPA 2007-08

Outcomes and outputs structure: guide to the reports

In 2003 the GBRMPA identified seven Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and has continued to assess these to indicate how the GBRMPA is achieving its goals and outcomes.

These seven KPIs stem from three major components of the GBRMPA's goal, with this goal and the desired outcomes linked to the seven outputs in the Portfolio Budget Statements.

This relationship is outlined in Table 4. The following pages include a full description of each KPI along with an analysis of information collected for each indicator. An analysis of performance in achieving outputs, of which several may contribute to an outcome, is contained in the Report of Operations (Section C).

GBRMPA goal:		
<i>To provide for the long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef through the care, control and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.</i>		
Component of goal	Desired outcomes expressed as outputs	Key Performance Indicators
Protection	Output 1.1 Conservation of the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef	KPI 1 The level of hard coral cover at various sites along the Great Barrier Reef as assessed by the Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Program
	Output 1.2 Improved water quality	KPI 2 Trends in 'chlorophyll a' concentration in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon
Wise use	Output 1.3 Sustainable fisheries	KPI 3 The proportion of fisheries (total fisheries vs. well managed fisheries) with management plans and arrangements that comply with the Commonwealth's guidelines for ecologically sustainable fisheries
	Output 1.5 Effective park management	KPI 4 The number of bioregions with adequate 'no take' zones
	Output 1.6 Accurate and adequate information available for management	KPI 5 The number of technical and scientific publications published about the Great Barrier Reef by the the GBRMPA and the Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility
Understanding and enjoyment	Output 1.4 High quality tourism and recreation opportunities	KPI 6 Trends in the number of tourists to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and their satisfaction with their experience
	Output 1.7 Improved community understanding of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park	KPI 7 Public understanding of the main threats to the Great Barrier Reef

Table 3: The GBRMPA's goals, outcomes and outputs and KPIs

Key Performance Indicators reported against the Portfolio Budget Statements

KPI 1: The level of hard coral cover at various sites along the Great Barrier Reef as assessed by the Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Program

What is this indicator?

Hard or stony corals provide much of the structure of coral reefs. The simplest measure of coral reef health is the area, or per cent cover, of reef occupied by living corals. Figure 4 is the most

recent synopsis of coral health along the Great Barrier Reef, and shows per cent cover of hard corals at various sites along the Great Barrier Reef recorded by the AIMS Long-term Monitoring Program (LTMP). The individual boxes on the graph show the proportion of reefs in each sector on which hard coral cover (the amount of substrate covered with living hard coral) has increased, decreased or remained unchanged. These data are from 1993 to 2007 and are collected using video and photographic surveys. The graph shows a pair of plots for each section of the Great Barrier Reef, one showing average trend over the last fifteen years, and one showing the current trends. See Figure 4 for more explanation of these plots.

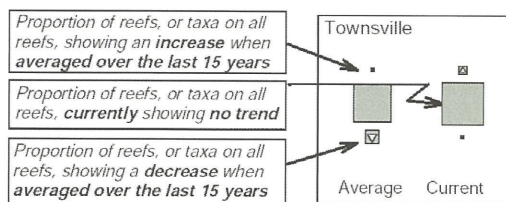


Figure 4: Explanation of summary plots for hard coral cover

The dimensions of the squares represent the proportion of reefs in each sector showing each trend (total = No. of reefs). This example reveals that in the Townsville sector, hard coral cover has generally remained stable over the last fifteen years with a small number of reefs showing an increase and some reefs showing a decrease. Currently, the reefs in this region do not show a significant trend in coral cover, but a small number of reefs have an increasing level of coral cover.

Why is this indicator important?

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

Changes and trends in hard coral cover

The most dramatic changes observed in coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef over the fifteen years to 2007 reflect the impact of COTS and cyclones, and to a lesser extent, the effects of coral bleaching, degrading water quality and disease. These impacts have driven cycles of disturbance and subsequent recovery on the coral reefs of the Great Barrier Reef.

Based on the 2006 and 2007 survey years, the third recorded wave of COTS outbreaks appears to be abating. There have been few cyclones and limited bleaching indicating a period of recovery and growth (see Figure 5). The exception is the increased incidence of coral disease, particularly in regions with high coral cover.

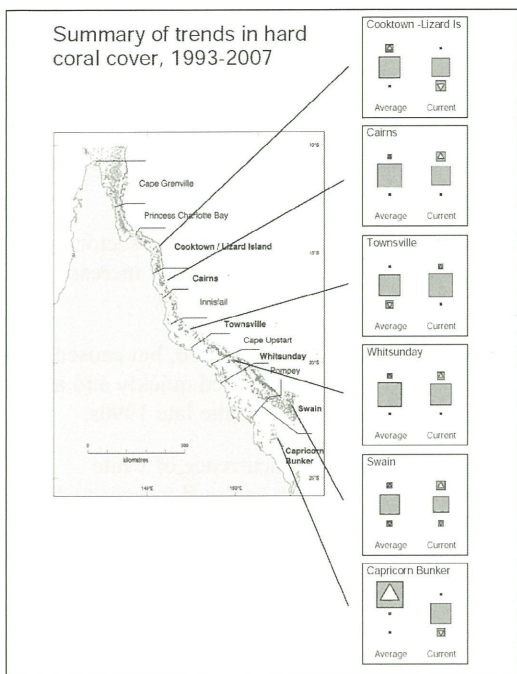


Figure 5: (Source: Australian Institute of Marine Science) In 2006, the AIMS LTMP was revised to a biannual sampling design to allow the AIMS team to survey sites that provided information on the effects of the Marine Park rezoning. The original long-term monitoring sites are then visited once every two years, with intervening years dedicated to monitoring new sites selected to assess the effects of the 2004 rezoning of the Marine Park. This report focuses on the 2006-07 surveys and includes new data from the 2007 field season. The information presented here is sourced from the AIMS LTMP Status Report 2008, which is available from the AIMS website: <http://www.aims.gov.au/docs/research/monitoring/reef/reef-monitoring.html>

Key results were:

- The reefs of the Capricorn-Bunker Group had the highest mean reef-wide live coral cover of all the reefs surveyed in 2006-2007 (43 per cent and 35 per cent live coral cover respectively).
- The reefs of the Innisfail sector had the lowest values for reef-wide live coral cover (7 per cent and 8 per cent) in 2006-2007, where large COTS populations were recorded in the recent past as well as mass bleaching in 1998 and severe tropical cyclones in 2006. Cover on inshore reefs in the Townsville sector was similarly low (8 per cent in each year).
- Surveys of permanent survey sites on north-east faces of 46 reefs in 2007 found that cover of hard coral was also highest in the Capricorn Bunker sector (55 per cent). These reefs have been recovering from storm damage over the 15 years of intensive surveys, and now have high coral cover which has been stable in recent years.
- The mid-shelf region of the Whitsunday sector also recorded high hard coral cover (46 per cent).
- Hard coral cover on permanent survey sites was lowest on the mid-shelf reefs of the Townsville sector (12 per cent) in 2007. Many of these reefs had been affected by COTS outbreaks in previous years, though the number of active outbreaks in the subregion has declined.

- Hard coral cover declined sharply on the permanent survey sites in the outer shelf region of the Cooktown - Lizard Island sector. Coral cover increased initially from a low level following damage by storms in the late 1980s, reaching very high values in 2000. After a period of stability, coral cover has halved in the past two years. Dislodged corals suggest that this was partially due to storm damage, but it is also the cumulative effect of relatively high levels of coral disease. Reefs in the subregion are dominated by tabulate *Acropora spp.* and have had a relatively high incidence of the coral disease white syndrome.
- Hard coral cover on the permanent survey sites in the inner regions of the Cairns sector declined in the late 1990s due to coral bleaching, storms and COTS. Coral cover increased up to 2007.
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Larry passed over the Innisfail sector in March 2006, but caused limited damage on mid-shelf and outer shelf reefs, in part because it moved quickly and also because coral cover was already low after extensive COTS outbreaks in the late 1990s.
- The trends in occurrence of coral diseases have been uneven. The occurrence of white syndrome declined in most subregions after a peak in 2003, but then returned to intermediate levels in 2006 and 2007. This occurred particularly in the Cooktown-Lizard Island sector and on outer shelf reefs in the Cairns, Townsville and Capricorn-Bunker sectors.

Crown-of-thorns starfish

A major threat to live hard coral is the level of predatory COTS populations. The AIMS LTMP surveys COTS populations using broad-scale surveys. These surveys use the rapid monitoring 'manta tow' technique that allows greater numbers of reefs to be surveyed. The AIMS has used broad scale surveys since the mid 1980s and has tracked three waves of COTS outbreaks in the Great Barrier Reef.

The latest surveys show that while the percentage of reefs on the Great Barrier Reef with COTS outbreaks has fluctuated, the number of reefs with COTS outbreaks has been declining as the third recorded wave of outbreaks fades. In 2006 there were Active or Incipient Outbreaks on 6 per cent of the 104 reefs surveyed, and in 2007, on 4 per cent of 98 reefs surveyed. In comparison, 17 per cent of reefs surveyed had Active or Incipient Outbreaks during COTS outbreaks in 1987, 1999 and 2000.

The overall density of COTS across the entire Great Barrier Reef shows a similar pattern. In 2006 and 2007, the overall number of COTS observed per manta tow were 0.13 and 0.04 respectively. This was lower than in 2005 when the overall mean was 0.14 COTS per tow. For comparison, the highest overall mean number of COTS per tow on the Great Barrier Reef during the last major wave of COTS outbreaks was 1.17 in 1988.

Recent distribution of COTS:

- The numbers of reefs with outbreaks and the densities of COTS decreased in the Townsville, Pompey and Swain sectors between 2005 and 2007 and no active or incipient outbreaks were recorded in these sectors in 2007. This is the first time that no outbreaks have been recorded in the Swain sector since surveys began in the mid 1980s.
- There were active or incipient outbreaks on several reefs in the Cape Upstart sector and one reef in the Whitsunday sector in 2007, probably representing the extent of the southward drift of the third wave of outbreaks that was first seen near Lizard Island in 1993.

- Average densities of COTS increased slightly on reefs in the Cape Grenville sector and there was one reef with an active outbreak in the Princess Charlotte Bay sector in 2006, but these sectors were not surveyed in 2007.
- There were no significant changes in COTS densities within the other six Great Barrier Reef sectors.

Related links:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority climate change and coral bleaching information: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/science/climate_change
- State of the Great Barrier Reef online (Environmental status - corals): www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/corals/index.html
- Bureau of Meteorology ENSO Wrap-up: www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/
- Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Program: www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/reef-monitoring-index.html
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority information on coral reefs: www.reefed.edu.au/explorer
- Australian Institute of Marine Science coral bleaching and COTS information: www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/reefissues.html
- CRC Reef Research Centre coral bleaching information: www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/brochures/bleaching_brochure.pdf
- CRC Reef Research Centre: information on coral reefs: www.reef.crc.org.au/discover/coralreefs/index.html
- Reef Temp: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/science/climate_change/management_responses/reeftemp

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

What is the indicator?

Excess inputs of sediments, nutrients and other chemicals (e.g. pesticides) have been identified as driving the decline in the Great Barrier Reef's water quality and posing a significant threat to the health of inshore ecosystems.

The key indicator of these pollutant loads has been measured in the past using chlorophyll *a* (a surrogate measure of nutrient loads), which has been monitored comprehensively within the Great Barrier Reef since 1992 (Figure 6). A further indicator of the pollutant loads entering the Great Barrier Reef are the loads of agricultural pesticides coming out of catchment rivers. This indicator has only recently been measurable as part of the GBRMPA's Marine Monitoring Program and as such Figure 7 will be used as a benchmark of present chemical loads from the major river systems.

Why is this important?

The Australian and Queensland Governments have recognised that the losses of sediments, nutrients and other chemicals from developed parts of the Great Barrier Reef catchments must be reduced to ensure the Great Barrier Reef's long term health. The Governments jointly developed the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* (the Reef Plan) in 2003 as the policy framework to achieve the goal of halting and reversing those excess inputs within 10 years. The GBRMPA's Marine Monitoring Program, which monitors these key indicators, provides a tool for assessing the effectiveness of the Reef Plan's strategies and actions.

What does this mean?

The Marine Monitoring Program allows the GBRMPA to measure if loads of pollutants entering the marine environment are halting or declining in the short term (pesticides) and in the longer term (chlorophyll). The outcomes of monitoring the discharges to the Great Barrier Reef allows this information to be compared with water quality guidelines that have been developed by the GBRMPA. This information is reported back to the community, especially land managers, responsible for undertaking actions to address the losses of sediments, nutrients and pesticides to catchment waterways. The GBRMPA works with key stakeholders, especially those whose actions may affect water quality, to identify best practices and implement ways of protecting the water quality of the Great Barrier Reef.

Related links:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Water Quality and Coastal Development Group: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Marine Monitoring Program: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/marine_monitoring_program
- Reef Guardian Councils: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/reef_guardian_councils
- Queensland Wetlands Program and wetland education products: www.environment.gov.au/water/environmental/wetlands/programs/qwp.html
www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/environmental/wetlands/explore/index.html
www.epa.qld.gov.au/wetlandinfo/site/index.html
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/wetlands
- Coastal Catchments Initiative and the development of water quality improvement plans: www.environment.gov.au/coasts/pollution/cci/index.html
- Mackay Whitsunday Water Quality Improvement Plan www.mwnrm.org.au/programs/water_quality_improvement_plan.html
- Douglas Water Quality Improvement Plan: http://www.dsc.qld.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=192
- Nutrient Management Zones: www.reefplan.qld.gov.au/about/nutrient_consultation.shtm
www.actfr.jcu.edu.au/Publications/ACTFRreports/06_07_NMZ%20technical%20final%20March%202007%20appendices.pdf
- Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2003: www.reefplan.qld.gov.au/

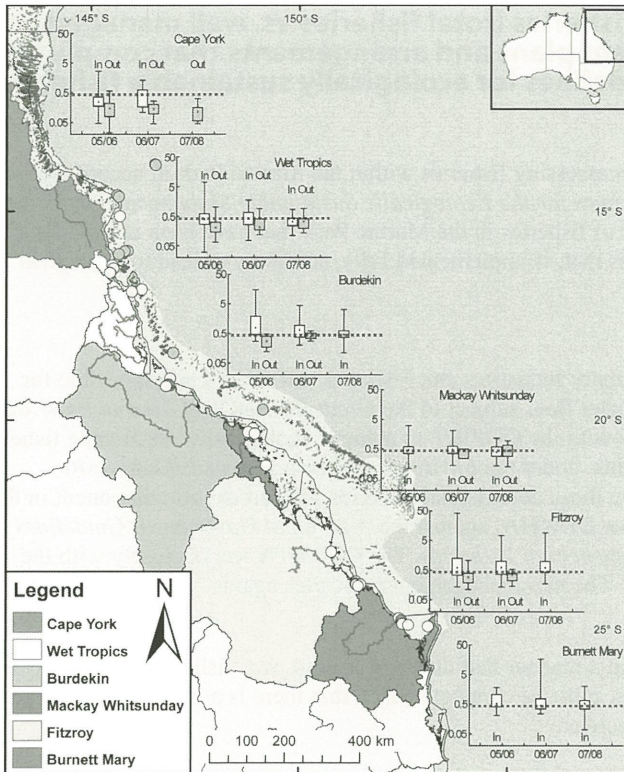


Figure 6: Chlorophyll *a* sampling locations sampled in 2007-08 (light green is inner reef and dark green outer reef) and a summary of the chlorophyll values adjacent to the natural resource management regions. 'Inner' station in water less than 20 m deep and 'outer' stations in waters more than 20 m deep. The horizontal dotted line represents the draft Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Guideline trigger value for inshore waters (note logarithmic scale)

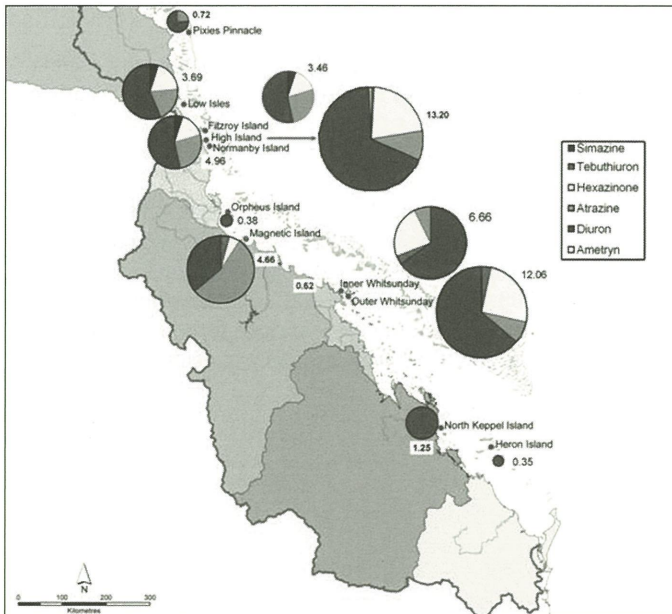


Figure 7: Representation of the predicted concentration of pesticides from passive samplers at 11 locations within the Great Barrier Reef. The figure represents data collected throughout the 2006-07 wet season (November 2006 - April 2007) which is when most pesticides are washed into the Great Barrier Reef. The types of pesticides are represented by different colours e.g. diuron. Summed concentrations of pesticides (ngL⁻¹) for each location are provided beside the pie charts. The pie chart uses a logged scale and size represents the relative quantity of the pesticides found at each location

KPI 3: The proportion of fisheries (total fisheries vs. well managed fisheries) with management plans and arrangements that comply with the Commonwealth's guidelines for ecologically sustainable fisheries

What is this indicator?

Table 5 shows the progress made in assessing fisheries within the Marine Park in accordance with the Australian Government's *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries*. This is an indication of the number of fisheries in the Marine Park that have been assessed and have management recommendations that, if implemented fully, are likely to lead to ecological sustainability (see Figure 8).

Why is this important?

The Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F) is responsible for managing fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef subject to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The GBRMPA works closely with the QDPI&F to achieve ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Marine Park. In addition to this, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), those commercial fisheries with an export component in the Marine Park must be assessed by the DEWHA, against the *Australian Government Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries*. The GBRMPA works closely with the DEWHA during these assessments. The two management principles against which fisheries are assessed are:

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

The GBRMPA's objective is to ensure that all uses, including fishing, are ecologically sustainable in the Marine Park. As a minimum requirement, assessment of fisheries for ecologically sustainable management under the *EPBC Act 1999* will help to meet the goals of the GBRMPA.

What does this mean?

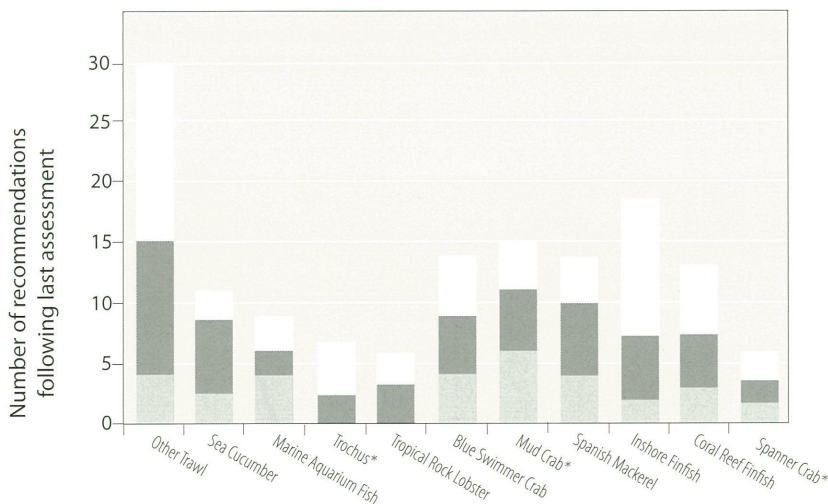
Assessment of each fishery must be completed for the continued export of product. All commercial fisheries occurring in the Marine Park have been assessed, with six fisheries, (blue swimmer and mud crab, east coast Spanish mackerel, east coast tropical lobster, east coast otter trawl and east coast beche-de-mer), being reassessed in April 2008 (Table 5). The East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery, Marine Aquarium Fishery and the Coral Reef Finfish Fishery are due for reassessment in 2008-09 as is the coral collection fishery which was granted an assessment extension to mid 2009.

Blue Swimmer Crab Pot Fishery	WTO
East Coast Beche-de-mer Fishery	WTO
East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery	WTO
East Coast Pearl Fishery	Exempt
East Coast Spanish Mackerel Fishery	WTO
East Coast Tropical Lobster Fishery	WTO
Marine Specimen Shell Fishery	Exempt
Mud Crab Fishery	Exempt
Spanner Crab Fishery	Exempt
Syngnathid Incidental Catch	WTO
Rocky Reef Finfish Fishery	WTO
Coral Reef Finfish Fishery	WTO
East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery	WTO
East Coast Trochus Fishery	Exempt
Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery	WTO
River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery	WTO
Coral Collection Fishery	WTO

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

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

Table 4: Status of completed assessments of fisheries occurring in the Marine Park as at 30 June 2008 (Source: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Sustainable Fisheries Section, July 2008)



Fisheries operating in the GBRMP
 (*EPBC Exemption status; remainders have a WTO)
 Source: QDPI&F 2007 Annual Status report

Figure 8: WTO conditions and recommendations as per EPBC Act fishery assessments as at 2007 (source: Queensland Fisheries Annual Status Reports, 2007)

Related links:

- Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Sustainable Fisheries Section: www.environment.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/index.html
- The GBRMPA's Sustainable Fishing Group: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/fisheries
- CRC Reef Research Centre - Status of Queensland's East Coast Fisheries: www.reef.crc.org.au/research/fishing_fisheries/statusfisheries/

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

What is this indicator?

The following graph (Figure 9) shows the number of the 70 separate bioregions identified by the GBRMPA's Representative Areas Program that have adequate protection.

Why is this important?

A key tool in the management of the Marine Park is a system of zoning. This zoning system includes 'no take' areas where extractive activities are not allowed without the GBRMPA's permission, ensuring that all plants and animals are fully protected to preserve the function and integrity of the ecosystem.

What does this mean?

The number of protected areas has increased since the establishment of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. In 2004, a minimum of 20 per cent protection for each bioregion was achieved. It is anticipated that the GBRMPA is likely, with further research, to refine its understanding of bioregions. This may alter this indicator in the future.

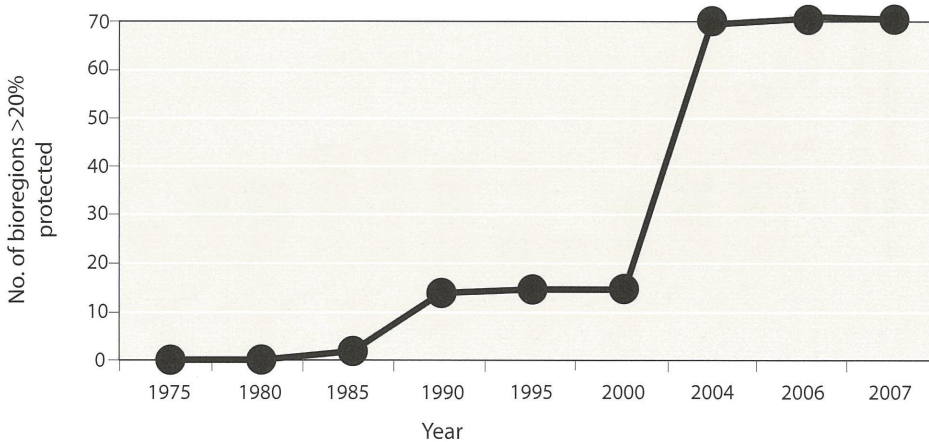


Figure 9: Number of bioregions with at least 20 per cent protected in the Marine Park

Related links:

- Website introducing the new zoning of the entire Marine Park:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/index.html
- Information package as delivered to Federal Parliament in December 2003:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/rap/rap/index.html
- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/benthos/index.html
- National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas:
www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/nrsmpa/index.html

KPI 5: The number of technical and scientific publications published about the Great Barrier Reef by the GBRMPA, the former CRC Reef Research Centre and the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility

What is this indicator?

The following graph (Figure 10) shows the number of research publications and technical reports published by the GBRMPA since 1977 and the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF) since 2007.

Why is this important?

One of the GBRMPA's corporate goals is to promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef and the issues affecting its health and management. The GBRMPA makes a significant contribution to scientific research in the Great Barrier Reef helping to better understand the ecosystem and the effects of human activities. Most of the GBRMPA's scientific information needs are met through outsourcing. Both the GBRMPA and its research partners aim to publish high-quality, freely accessible scientific reports that outline the research undertaken and promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef. The number of scientific publications released reflects the amount of information available to help the community understand the Great Barrier Reef and the issues affecting it.

What does this mean?

This year has seen a significant increase in publications, to about 30 per cent more than the previous highest year. The actual number of publications varies from year-to-year due to the varied nature of the research undertaken. Some research projects take more time to complete and reports vary in both size and complexity. The increase in publications this year probably reflects finalisation of several CRC (the Reef Cooperative Research Centre) projects, along with an increase in GBRMPA publications and the emergence of the first outputs from the MTSRF. Many of these scientific and technical reports were published online on the GBRMPA and Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) websites (the RRRC manages the MTSRF program for the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts). The entire range of published scientific reports is freely accessible from the Internet.

It should be noted that research outcomes are also published in scientific journals, and both the GBRMPA and the research providers regularly published information sheets, newsletters and media releases to raise awareness of particular issues or research activities, and to help promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef.

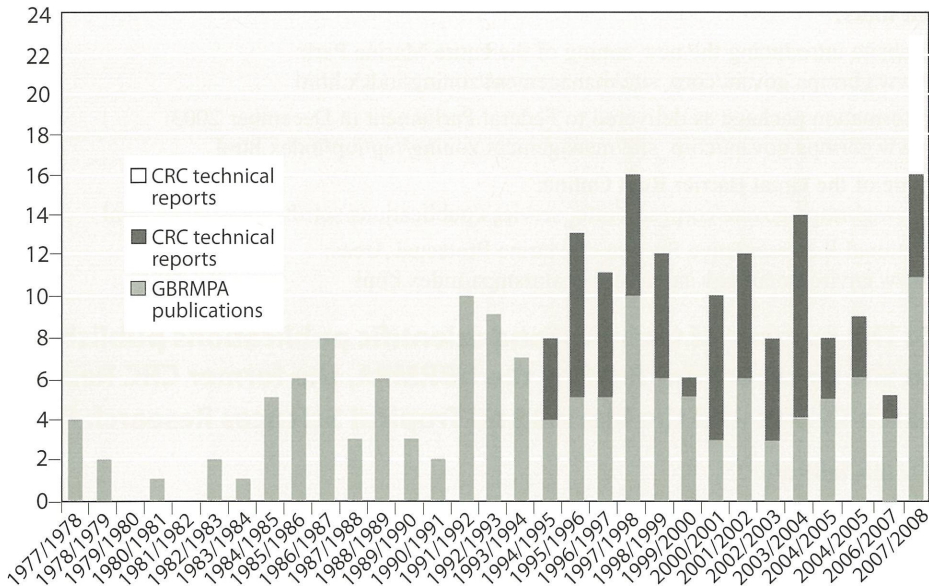


Figure 10: Technical and scientific publications produced by the GBRMPA, the CRC, and the MTSRF (Source: the GBRMPA Library)

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority technical and scientific publications for 2007-08

Access Economics Pty Ltd 2008, *Measuring the economic and financial value of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park 2005-2006*: report, Research Publication no. 88, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, viewed 7 August 2008.

http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/research_publications/rp088/access_economics_report_0607

CRC Reef Research Centre (In Transition) publications for 2007-2008

Arthur, B. 2007, *An assessment of the CRC Torres Strait: 2003-2007*, CRC Reef Research Centre, Cairns, viewed 7 August 2008. http://www.rrcc.org.au/publications/transition_reports.html

Birtles, A., Arnold, P., Curnock, M., Salmon, S., Mangott, A., Sobzick, S., Valentine, P., Caillaud, A. & Rumney, J. (In press) *Code of Practice for dwarf minke whale interactions in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area*, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville.

Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility publications for 2007-2008

Coghlan, A. and Prideaux, B. 2008, *Reef tourism first yearly report: November 2006 - October 2007*, MTSRF Research Report Series no. 8, Reef & Rainforest Research Centre for the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility, Cairns, viewed 8 August 2008.

http://www.rrcc.org.au/publications/research_reports.html

De'ath, Glenn & Fabricius, K. (In press) *Water quality of the Great Barrier Reef: distributions, effects on reef biota and trigger values for the protection of ecosystem health*, Research Publication no. 89, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville.

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Related links:

- The GBRMPA's technical and scientific publications online:
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- CRC Reef Research Centre technical publications:
www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/techreport/index.html
- CRC Reef Research Centre transition reports:
http://www.rrrc.org.au/publications/transition_reports.html
- Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility milestone reports:
<http://www.rrrc.org.au/mtsrif/index>
- Publications on the Representative Areas Program:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/zoning/zoning_publications

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

What is this indicator?

The visitation data shows the trend in the number of tourist visits occurring in the Marine Park over the last 10 years, based on data from the Environmental Management Charge database. The satisfaction data records the level of satisfaction expressed by visitors to the Marine Park during 2007-08.

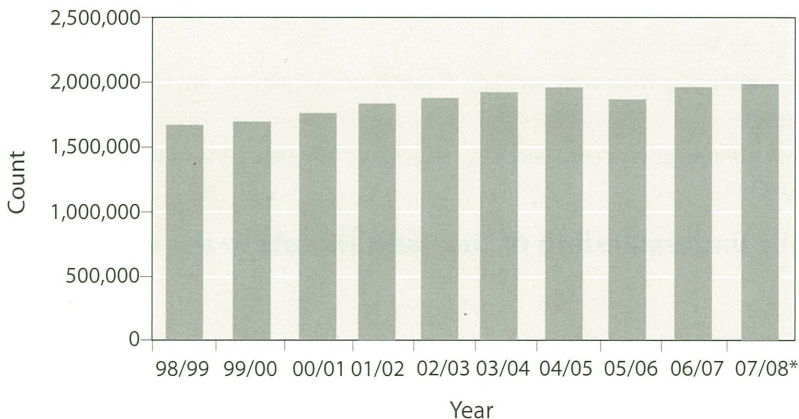
Why is this important?

The GBRMPA manages the activities of commercial tourism operations, and is dedicated to ensuring the Marine Park is available for people to visit and enjoy. For most visitors, the easiest way to visit and experience the Marine Park is through a commercial tourism operation. Trends in the number of visitors to the Marine Park and their level of satisfaction show the number of tourists who have taken the opportunity to experience and learn about the area and how they felt about their experiences.

What does this mean?

Visitation

Figure 11 shows the number of tourist visits in the Marine Park since 1998. The annual number of visitors to the Marine Park has been relatively stable over the last five or so years, with an increase in 2006-07. However, a decrease in visitor numbers is observed in the second semester of 2007-08. It is believed that bad weather, a strong Australian dollar, rising costs of fuel and reduced airline capacity to the Whitsundays and Cairns are factors influencing this visitation trend. Cairns, Port Douglas and Whitsundays areas remain the focus of tourism visitation, representing about 88 per cent of visits. Visitation to areas outside these tourism hubs grew by three per cent from 2006-07 to 2007-08.



* recording of glass bottom boat visitation commenced in July 2007, which has increased the overall total visitor days.

Figure 11: The number of tourist visits in the Marine Park since 1998

Satisfaction

A survey of people from Queensland coastal communities and Australian capital cities, found 85 per cent of Queensland coastal communities and 94 per cent of people in southern capital cities who had visited the Marine Park at least once in the last 12 months, were satisfied with their most recent trip (Young, J. and Temperton, J., 2007).

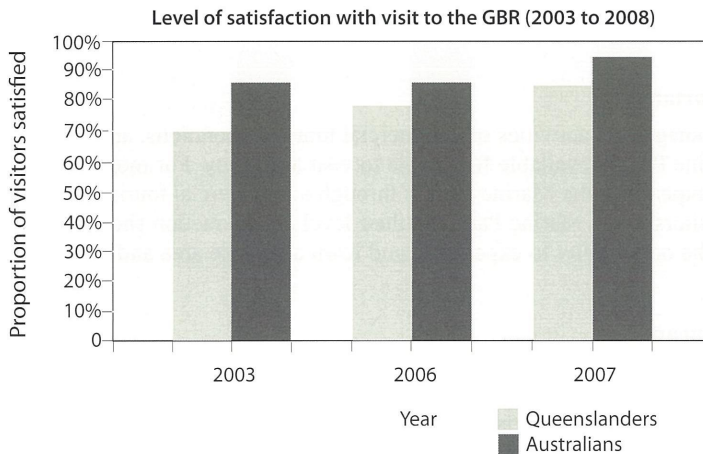


Figure 12: Level of satisfaction with visit to the Great Barrier Reef - Queensland coastal communities and southern capital cities (sources: Norris, A. Moscardo, G. and McCoy, A., 2003; Young, J. Lu, S. and Jessup, K., 2006; Young, J. and Temperton, J., 2007)

Related links:

- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online (Management status - tourism and recreation): www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr
- Tourism in the Marine Park: [http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/tourism/tourism_on_Great Barrier Reef](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/tourism/tourism_on_Great%20Barrier%20Reef)
- Visitor trends: [http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/tourism/management/Great Barrier Reef_visitation](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/tourism/management/Great%20Barrier%20Reef_visitation)

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

What is this indicator?

Data collected for this indicator is from surveys and focus groups undertaken this year by independent market research company Colmar Brunton Social Research. Survey participants were asked to list what they believe are the key threats to the Marine Park. These results vary across the regions and are shown in Figure 13. Additionally participants were asked to consider a list of threats and state whether they agreed or disagreed that these constituted a threat to the Great Barrier Reef. The results of this prompted questionnaire are shown in Figures 13 and 14. Focus

group information revealed further detail about community views of threats to the Great Barrier Reef.

Why is this important?

The GBRMPA aims to develop and execute strategic communication plans that promote and improve the community's understanding of the Marine Park. It wants to encourage a change in behaviour where such changes will result in conservation benefits. It is therefore necessary for the GBRMPA to keep abreast of the community's perception and level of understanding of the issues relating to the Reef's health and management. The GBRMPA continues to measure residents' and visitors' awareness and behaviour around the issues of declining water quality and climate change through its market research activity. The issues of declining water quality and climate change continue to be recognised as the major threats to the Great Barrier Reef. The collection of this data enables the GBRMPA to get a clearer picture of people's understanding of the main threats to the Great Barrier Reef in coming years.

What does this mean?

Almost fifty per cent of survey respondents who resided in the coastal region of Queensland believed that water pollution was a significant threat to the reef (Figure 13). Further, more than half of these survey respondents believed that climate change, a rise in ocean temperature and coastal development were a threat to the reef. Around 22 per cent of coastal Queenslanders were unsure if these four issues were a threat to the Great Barrier Reef.

Compared to coastal Queenslanders, residents of the major east coast cities, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, were, on average, around five per cent more concerned about these four threats. Coastal Queenslanders were more likely to disagree that a rise in ocean temperature (17 per cent) and coastal development (19 per cent) were a threat to the Great Barrier Reef than residents of the major east Australian cities (nine per cent and eight per cent respectively).

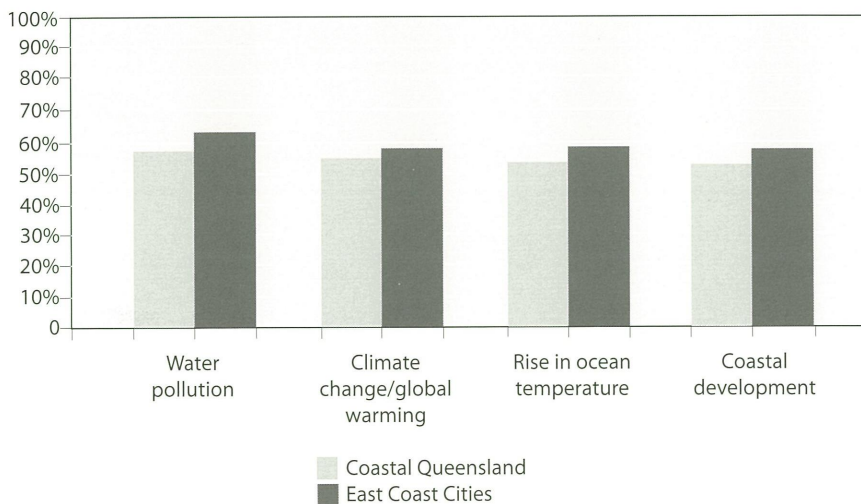


Figure 13: Top four threats to the Great Barrier Reef by proportion of survey respondents (source: Young, J. and Temperton, J., 2007)

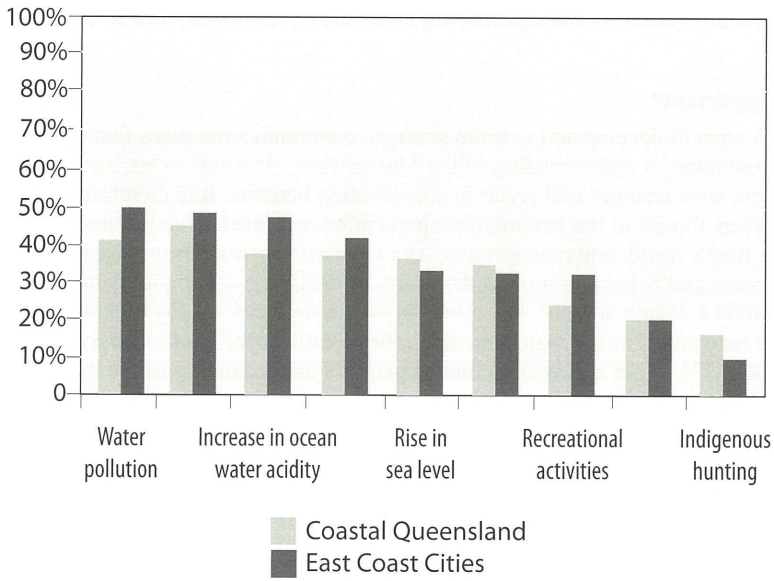


Figure 14: Proportion of survey respondents who agree that activities are a threat to the Great Barrier Reef (source: Young, J. and Temperton, J., 2007)

SECTION C

Report on Operations



Executive

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

Performance analysis

Dr Russell Reichelt was appointed Chairman of the GBRMPA in November 2007. In the period from 1 July 2007 up to the appointment of Dr Reichelt, Executive Directors Andrew Skeat and John Tanzer shared the role in an acting capacity.

The Executive has focussed on key issues for protection of the Marine Park, particularly climate change, water quality and fishing. A continuing focus was the implementation of the review of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. This included preparation of an Outlook Report (due for delivery to the Minister in June 2009), the transition to an FMA Authority and bedding down other changes to the *GBRMPA Act* that have the aim of modernising governance and other arrangements.

With a view to the future, the Chairman conducted a review of the senior management structure and at the end of 2007-08 a revised Executive arrangement was announced with four General Managers reporting to the Chairman. The four positions are as follows: Marine Park Development responsible for the key issues of Climate Change, Fisheries, Water Quality, Coastal Development, Species Conservation, Indigenous Partnerships and Heritage; Strategic Policy Communication and Government responsible for strategic engagement with government as well as knowledge management, communication and education and development of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report; Marine Park Management responsible for field management, park planning, impact assessment, community engagement and tourism and recreation; and Corporate Services.

The Chairman and four General Managers will form an Executive Management Group for the agency where strategic direction will be formulated, priorities for the Authority will be set, key issues will be considered and agency performance will be tracked and adjusted.

Outlook Report

It is a requirement of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* that the GBRMPA prepare and give to the Minister a 5-yearly Outlook Report for the Great Barrier Reef Region. The first report must be presented to the Minister by 30 June 2009.

As stipulated in the legislation, the Outlook Report must include assessments of biodiversity,

ecosystem health, ecosystem resilience, commercial and non-commercial use; factors influencing environmental; economic and social values, management effectiveness and risks to the ecosystem; plus an overall assessment of the longer-term outlook for the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem.

Development of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report has been a high priority task for the agency during the year. It is coordinated by an Outlook Report Taskforce within the GBRMPA, in accordance with a Framework approved by the Minister. Most groups within the agency contributed substantial time and information, and at various stages during the year additional staff resources were brought in to assist the Taskforce prepare the Report. An external Outlook Reference Group was established to provide advice and guidance on preparation of the Report. Members of the Reference Group met five times during the year.

Ongoing consultation with Queensland Government agencies about the Outlook Report occurred, with coordination through an Interdepartmental Committee chaired by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The GBRMPA continues to work closely with the DEWHA in developing the report, including a Portfolio Reference Group formed for the project.

Throughout the year, members of the GBRMPA's Local Marine Advisory Committees and Reef Advisory Committees contributed to the development of the Report. Along with the scientific community, the GBRMPA's Advisory Committees have played a significant role in scoping the pressures facing the Great Barrier Reef. In addition, the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef was a major focus of the annual Local Marine Advisory Committee Chairs meeting, 31 May to 1 June 2008.

Related links:

- Outlook Report
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_us/great_barrier_reef_outlook_report

Legal Services

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

Performance analysis

Significant achievements for 2007-08 include:

- Providing an effective legal support for branch operations and achievement of corporate objectives
- Attending and providing legal advice to various taskforces including taskforces on PCaMS and moorings
- Providing legal advice and support in relation to amendments to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Plans of Management
- Providing internal legal advice and support in relation to park management matters
- Providing legal advice and support in relation to Leases, Contracts, Deeds, Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding
- Providing legal advice in relation to privacy and intellectual property issues
- Supporting the provision of in-house training in relation to contracts and compliance
- Processing five Freedom of Information requests
- Compliance with the 2007-08 Regulatory Performance Indicators Report
- Development of a case management system to effectively and efficiently support the Legal Services Unit.

The Legal Services Unit concluded one piece of litigation - the “Red Baron” case (see “Legal Actions” above) - during the course of the year.

Ministerial Services and Parliamentary Liaison

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

Performance analysis

The Ministerial and Parliamentary Liaison Unit comprises three permanent staff located within the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts offices in Canberra. The Unit provides liaison between the GBRMPA and the office of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts; the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and other Australian Government agencies based in Canberra.

The Unit coordinates ministerial briefings, answers to parliamentary questions and ministerial representations and prepares briefing documents for the GBRMPA's appearances before Parliamentary Committees.

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

Departmental outputs

Output 1.1 Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships

The Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Group develops initiatives and implements programs to conserve biodiversity, protect all heritage values and facilitate effective sea country management. The Group includes two units with specific functions; however they work together to contribute to the maintenance of all values (including World Heritage) within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the World Heritage Area:

- The **Species Conservation Unit** monitors species conservation issues, with a focus on dugongs, marine turtles, dwarf minke and humpback whales and Australian snubfin and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, and provides expert advice to reduce risks from human impacts on protected species in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- The **Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit (IPLU)** coordinates the GBRMPA's relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups. Current programs address issues such as sustainable Traditional use of marine resources, Indigenous tourism, sea country research and education, and culture and heritage.

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.1.1 Natural and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are protected and World Heritage obligations are met	Quality	Key species and habitats identified and protected whilst minimising any social-economic-cultural impacts.	Achieved
		World Heritage values/obligations understood and appreciated.	Achieved
		Participation by Indigenous people in the development of key management strategies.	Achieved
	Quantity	Improved management for key threatened species.	Achieved
		Key components of a Heritage Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park implemented.	Achieved
		Representative areas program implemented through the 2003 Zoning Plan with continued involvement of stakeholders and high level of community engagement.	Achieved
		Arrangements on Traditional use of marine resources developed for Traditional Owner groups.	Third and fourth legal agreement in Australia for Traditional use of marine resources accredited; several others underway
	Price	\$1.867m	

Performance analysis

Species Conservation

Protected species

The GBRMPA is one of many Government agencies involved in identifying threats, and coordinating and facilitating conservation programs for protected species. In recent years, the conservation of dugongs, marine turtles, dwarf minke and humpback whales and Australian snubfin and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins has been given priority in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

There continues to be a strong collaborative interagency approach to managing these species, together with continuous assessment of their status and management. The GBRMPA maintained an effective internal (Government staff) and external (public) email reporting network for marine mammal and turtle strandings and carcasses, and participated in a review of the StrandNet database to facilitate more efficient and effective data capture and analysis.

Key activities in 2007-08 included:

- Providing significant input to the development of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report
- Highlighting concern about the conservation of some protected species and sharks under the proposal by the QDPI&F to change management arrangements under the East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery

- Initiating a review of the management arrangement for scientific research
- Publishing the Second Edition of the 'Procedures for the Salvage and Necropsy of the Dugong (*Dugong dugon*)'
- Continuing to implement recommendations from the National Turtle Recovery Plan, as part of the National Turtle Recovery Group, and considering human-related impacts specific to the Marine Park and participating in the National Turtle Recovery Group
- Managing a contract with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that monitors marine turtles at key foraging and nesting areas throughout eastern Queensland.
- Managing a contract with James Cook University for a six year monitoring program with the nine permitted tourist operators to assess the sustainability of the swimming-with-dwarf-minke-whales industry
 - Pre-season and post-season workshops were held for industry representatives to assist with improving the level of interpretation they provide to passengers and the quality of data collected
 - The industry-developed Code of Practice for conducting swimming-with-whale activities was reviewed with input from the tourism industry, researchers and managers.
- Providing advice and comment on a wide range of research and development proposals, as well as projects and permit applications. Examples include activities referred by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts under the *EPBC Act 1999* and the development of community-based hunting management plans for the Torres Strait
- Maintaining close liaison with other Government agencies regarding management actions including surveillance and enforcement, public awareness, bird conservation issues, and the Queensland Shark Control Program
- Substantial engagement with researchers involved in the MTSRF
- Providing media releases and interviews on various conservation topics including dugongs, marine turtles, whales and response procedures for stranded wildlife
- Contributing to a national approach to managing Indigenous hunting of dugongs and turtles.
- Providing advice as part of the accreditation of the Wuthathi and Mamu TUMRA's on the sustainable level of dugong and green turtle harvest for the north-eastern Cape York and Innisfail areas

Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit

The Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit (IPLU) coordinates the GBRMPA's relationships with some 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups. Current programs address issues such as sustainable traditional use of marine resources, Indigenous tourism, sea country research and education, and cultural heritage management.

The primary methods of Indigenous service delivery currently utilised in the GBRMPA are:

- Direct interaction with Traditional Owner groups
- Facilitating Indigenous program delivery across the GBRMPA and Day-to-Day Management Groups
- Cross agency coordination of Indigenous issues through the Indigenous Issues Senior Management forum

- Indigenous Stakeholder Forum to guide planning for the Indigenous components of the Reef Rescue Plan
- Direct interaction with Native Title Representative Bodies
- Collaborative service delivery and reporting arrangements with State and Australian Government agencies

A summary of the range of Indigenous engagement activities in 2007-08 is listed below.

- Direct interaction with Traditional Owner groups on a range of topics including:
 - Native Title issues as they relate to management of the Marine Park
 - Developing partnerships for improved Sea Country management
 - Traditional Owner involvement in research and monitoring activities
 - Turtle and dugong management within the Marine Park
 - Compliance matters within the Marine Park, including intelligence gathering, investigations and providing advice on compliance to Traditional Owners
 - Sea Country Planning/Management
 - Welcome to country activities
 - Reef Guardian School support
 - Attending community meetings/forums
 - Providing advice on Marine Park management issues
- Direct interaction with Traditional Owner groups on TUMRAs:
 - Discussions/Presentations
 - Development of a TUMRA for a particular area
 - Accreditation of TUMRAs for the Mamu and Wuthathi Traditional Owner Groups
 - Implementation of existing TUMRAs
 - Operation of two Steering Committees for the Giringun and Woppaburra TUMRAs
- Assisting with cultural mapping:
 - Indigenous Place Names and further development of the Indigenous Reef Naming Strategy
 - Traditional Use Areas
- Assisting with Cultural Heritage Assessments
- Participation in NAIDOC celebrations and activities including:
 - GBRMPA Information Stalls
 - The Townsville NAIDOC March and other NAIDOC community events
 - Morning Tea event in collaboration with the Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre
- Indigenous Representation on:
 - Cape York Local Marine Advisory Committee
 - Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Reef Advisory Committee
 - Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee

In 2007-08, the GBRMPA enhanced its sustainable traditional use of marine resources initiatives:

- In December 2007, the GBRMPA, Woppaburra Traditional Owners, State and Australian Government representatives and official guests celebrated the official launch of the Woppaburra TUMRA implementation on Great Keppel Island. The event was a huge success and has raised a number of enquiries from other Queensland Traditional Owner groups and from around Australia about the TUMRA process.
- The GBRMPA, at its meeting on 25 June 2008, accredited the Mamu TUMRA and the Wuthathi TUMRA. The Queensland Environmental Protection Agency also accredited the two TUMRAs at that meeting.

Accreditation of the Mamu TUMRA:

- Identifies who the Traditional Owners are for the Mamu TUMRA area
- The Mamu Traditional Owners have agreed to a limited harvest of green turtles and a 'no take' policy for dugongs and have prohibited hunting by other Indigenous peoples within the Mamu TUMRA Region
- The accredited TUMRA provides the ability for Mamu Traditional Owners, through the Mamu Steering Committee, and Government to work cooperatively to manage traditional use of marine resources in that region over the next five years.

Accreditation of the Wuthathi TUMRA:

- Identifies who the Traditional Owners are for the Wuthathi TUMRA area
- The Wuthathi Traditional Owners have agreed to a limited green turtle and dugong harvest, and have prohibited hunting by other Indigenous peoples within the Wuthathi TUMRA Region.
- The accredited TUMRA provides the ability for Wuthathi Traditional Owners, through the Wuthathi Steering Committee, and Government to work cooperatively to manage the Traditional use of marine resources in that region over the next five years.

In 2007-08, the GBRMPA enhanced its cultural heritage management initiatives by:

- Participating in the 2nd National Indigenous Land and Sea Management Conference. The GBRMPA was a major sponsor for the conference, hosted by the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation in Cardwell in October 2007. The conference presented an excellent opportunity to showcase the achievements that have been managed through a strong partnership arrangement with Girringun. The GBRMPA and Girringun jointly presented information at a plenary session on partnership arrangements for sea country management. The GBRMPA also provided considerable in-kind support, which included the services of up to 10 staff during the conference and cultural festival.

In 2007-08, the GBRMPA enhanced its sea country research and education initiatives by:

- Launching *Story Place* - Australia's first online database solely on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connections to the Great Barrier Reef. The aim is to share information and knowledge about Traditional Owners and their relationships with land and sea country in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. *Story Place* contains around 1000 annotated references on books, reports and electronic resources that have been produced on topics relevant to Traditional

Owner groups over the last 100 years. The nationally significant online resource was developed by the GBRMPA as a comprehensive reference and is the first time all available information about traditional connections to the Great Barrier Reef has been housed in one location.

- The GBRMPA has developed and populated a Traditional Owner Profile Database that provides research profiles of Traditional Owner Groups to aid management of the Marine Park.

Related links:

- Indigenous Partnerships:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/conservation/indigenous_partnerships
- ReefED online Indigenous educational resources:
www.reefed.edu.au/explorer/traditional_Owners
- Traditional Owners and tourism management:
www.tourismoperators.reefhq.com.au/tourism/highstandard/local_communities/first_steps.htm

Heritage

Heritage Strategy

A heritage strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was adopted by the GBRMPA in December 2005. The heritage strategy is required under the *EPBC Act 1999*. It outlines actions for the identification, assessment and monitoring of the Marine Park's heritage values, the development of a heritage register, and preparation of heritage management plans.

As part of the Heritage 2007-08 Strategic Work Plan, a Heritage Management Plan for Lady Elliot Island Lightstation was prepared and approved by the GBRMPA in March 2008. In June 2008, the Plan was submitted to the Australian Heritage Council for consideration and endorsement.

Related links:

- Heritage:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/conservation/heritage

World Heritage

The Great Barrier Reef was declared a World Heritage Area in 1981, internationally recognised by the World Heritage Committee for its outstanding universal value. The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) is 348 000 km² (an area bigger than Victoria and Tasmania combined). It remains one of only a small number of World Heritage properties worldwide that have been inscribed for all four natural criteria.

Today the GBRWHA remains the largest World Heritage property and many aspects of its management are internationally recognised as 'best practice'. Whilst coral reef, mangrove and seagrass habitats occur elsewhere on the planet, no other World Heritage Area contains such biological diversity.

The Marine Park comprises 98 per cent of the GBRWHA and shares many common boundaries. However, the following areas seaward of low water are within the GBRWHA but are not part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:

- Most islands within the outer boundaries are under Queensland jurisdiction (~50 per cent are Queensland National Parks); some 70 island properties are under Commonwealth control
- Internal waters of Queensland (e.g. some deep bays, narrow inlets or channels between islands, many of which are State Marine Parks)
- A number of small exclusion areas (State waters) around major ports or urban centres.

Maintenance of the World Heritage values and attributes is a major responsibility for both the Australian Government and the Queensland Government and is an important consideration in the GBRMPA's decision-making and management practices.

During 2007-08, the following activities specifically related to World Heritage:

- Continued involvement in a small group of international experts working with UNESCO to develop a new 'Periodic Reporting' process for World Heritage; this involved two meetings during the year and the preparation of various draft documents
- Jon Day was one of three members appointed as the Australian delegation to the World Heritage Committee for a four-year term (2008-11); this involved considerable preparation for Committee meetings in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

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

The impacts from both land and marine sourced water pollution, and coastal development must be managed to minimise the risk of degradation to the Great Barrier Reef. To achieve this, the GBRMPA is working collaboratively with other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, local government, regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Bodies, peak industry groups, key non-government organisations and the wider community.

Successful water quality outcomes led by the GBRMPA during 2007-08 included:

- Implementation of key actions in the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* (the Reef Plan) and securing ongoing funding for the delivery of the Marine Monitoring Program through to 2011
- Use of the draft Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Guidelines in guiding the identification of appropriate and effective water quality targets as part of the development of Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIPs) in high priority catchments adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef
- Work with the Reef Water Quality Partnership to identify priorities for an integrated monitoring program for Reef Plan
- Developing and releasing 'Reef Watch' television segments, in cooperation with regional NRM Bodies and industry, to highlight implementation of best practices, on the ground, that will protect the water quality of the Great Barrier Reef
- Developing a school curriculum unit for Queensland Education on the values of wetlands to the Great Barrier Reef, including Reef Beat series of wetland posters and school scrapbook competition

- Worked with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency to develop the WetlandInfo web portal that provides access to the Queensland Wetland Program information, mapping and reports
- Provided advice on coastal planning and development issues in and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.2.1 Protection of the Great Barrier Reef from adverse effects of water pollution and coastal development.	Quality	Sound scientific methods used to manage impacts of pollutants and develop management standards.	Achieved
		Quality technical input into environmental assessment and cooperative arrangements in the management of water quality and coastal development, especially in accordance with the <i>Reef Water Quality Protection Plan</i> , Reef Water Quality Partnership, Queensland Wetlands Program and Reef Guardian Council Program. High quality monitoring and reporting program for measuring trends in Great Barrier Reef water quality.	Achieved
	Quantity	Review GBRMPA's requirements for the management of sewage outfalls in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and implement these new provisions with licensed facilities. Provide input into review of the State Coastal Management Plan, Regional Investment Strategies for 5 Regional NRM Plans and statutory Regional Infrastructure and Development plans (ie. FNQ2025).	Ongoing
		Review fifty development projects or plans, which may potentially affect the Great Barrier Reef and provide advice to relevant authorities and developers. Coordinate and implement GBRMPA's responsibilities under nine actions in the <i>Reef Water Quality Protection Plan</i> . Four key components of the <i>Reef Water Quality Protection Plan</i> Marine Monitoring program undertaken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River mouth assessment of key catchments • Marine water quality at key sites • Marine biological monitoring • Socio-economic monitoring of key indicators. Continued involvement of stakeholders and high level of community engagement.	Achieved
Value	\$1.560m		

Performance analysis

The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan) addresses declining water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef from diffuse pollution sources, such as agriculture. The Reef Plan is a collaborative effort between the Australian and Queensland Governments. In 2007-08 the GBRMPA worked extensively with other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, local governments, industry groups and the broader community to implement the Plan. This included an initial review and rewrite of Reef Plan to incorporate a recommendation of a review undertaken by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council and the implementation of their recommendation as approved by the Prime Minister and Premier of Queensland.

In 2007-08 the GBRMPA contributed to the ongoing development of a Reef Water Quality Partnership, which developed a proposed plan for the integration of water quality monitoring, target setting and reporting for the Great Barrier Reef catchment. The partnership involves Australian and Queensland Government agencies, as well as regional NRM Bodies from within the Great Barrier Reef catchment. The GBRMPA's draft Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Guidelines and the results of its Marine Monitoring Program provide a basis for assessing and guiding changes in land management practices and priorities that are necessary to halt and reverse the decline in the Great Barrier Reef's water quality. The Mackay Whitsunday WQIP is the first catchment based plan to be released that incorporates the use of the GBRMPA's draft Guidelines in identifying its marine environmental values and water quality objectives and targets to achieve these.

The GBRMPA's Reef Guardian Council Program continues to be implemented with the development of two key projects, the benchmarking of our Reef Guardian Council Action Plans and the initial desk top study of waste oil streams in their local government areas. The latter is a prelude to developing further waste oil management processes. Work began with a number of key regulatory and management agencies on the concept of a coastal development manual for Queensland, to be available through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) web site. The aim is to bring together, in one place, best practice for coastal development activities. This will assist local government, developers and other assessment agencies in improving management of coastal development activities.

The GBRMPA continued to play a key role in the delivery of communication and education products that promote the importance of wetlands in slowing and halting the movement of diffuse pollution before it reaches the Great Barrier Reef. This included working with the EPA to develop 'WetlandInfo,' an interactive web portal. This site provides access to all the products developed through the Queensland Wetlands Program, which includes:

- Great Barrier Reef Catchment Wetlands Mapping at 1:50,000 scale and Wetlands Inventory Database developed
- 15 Wetlands Management Profiles describing wetland types
- Wetlands Science Gap Analysis Report and a Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy
- Decision Support System for prioritising works and on ground works funding for priorities in Great Barrier Reef Catchments
- Grazing Land Management Module for wetland management
- Educational materials including 11 Booths throughout the Great Barrier Reef catchment, Exploring Wetlands CD's and a ReefHQ Exhibit

- School Ed Program including Reef Beat posters, Scrapbooks, WebQuest and a Wetland school curriculum unit
- Extensive Stakeholder consultation and training.

The GBRMPA also hosted at Reef HQ the announcement of the Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park, which was developed as an initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetland Program. The declaration of a new 4 700 ha National Park to protect important coastal wetland systems south of Ingham demonstrated the effectiveness of the education program supported by the GBRMPA over the last couple of years on the importance of coastal wetlands.

In 2007-08, the GBRMPA worked with other Reef Plan stakeholders on key actions under the Reef Plan to:

- Develop and implement local water quality improvement plans in high-risk, high-priority catchments
- Develop and implement community awareness raising campaigns, to advertise what is being done with best practices in Great Barrier Reef regions.

The Mackay Whitsunday WQIP is finished and drafting is well underway for the Tully Murray WQIP, Townsville Thuringowa WQIP and Burdekin WQIP. Further WQIPs are also in preparation for the Fitzroy region, the Burnett Mary region and for a number of high priority catchments in the Wet Tropics region.

The GBRMPA continued to report on the finding of its Marine Monitoring Program. The Marine Monitoring Program was also reviewed by the Science Advisory Panel, a group of independent experts established by the GBRMPA to ensure the program was providing the best information through the most cost effective processes. The outcomes for the first three years of the program were used to modify some of the data collection processes and to improve the overall program. The GBRMPA sought Expressions of Interest to engage monitoring providers interested in undertaking the fieldwork component of the Marine Monitoring Program for the coming years. The Reef and Rainforest Research Centre was engaged to manage the contractual arrangements of the successful monitoring providers and to integrate the outputs from the different components of the Marine Monitoring Program. Volunteers from the tourism industry and local communities are vital in assisting with collection of samples.

The GBRMPA undertook a range of assessments on both documents and individual sites for activities adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. This included providing a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts who are undertaking an *Inquiry into Climate Change and Environmental Impacts on Coastal Communities* to highlight coastal development issues adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. The GBRMPA also engaged with Queensland agencies in commenting on the review of the State Coastal Management Plan, the development of the Far North Queensland 2025 Regional Infrastructure and Development Plan and Regional Investment Strategies for several of the regional NRM Bodies in the Great Barrier Reef catchment. The GBRMPA also provided comments on more than 70 coastal developments adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef either referred under the *EPBC Act 1999* or by Queensland agencies or local government under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*. Presentations were made at farm shed, local, regional and national forums. These forums focussed on the GBRMPA's management of water quality issues in the Marine Park and its collaborative partnerships with government agencies, industry and the broader community.

Related links:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Water Quality and Coastal Development Group: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Marine Monitoring Program: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/marine_monitoring_program
- Reef Guardian Councils: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/reef_guardian_councils
- Queensland Wetlands Program and wetland education products:
www.environment.gov.au/water/environmental/wetlands/programs/qwp.html
www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/environmental/wetlands/explore/index.html
www.epa.qld.gov.au/wetlandinfo/site/index.html
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/wetlands
- Coastal Catchments Initiative and the development of water quality improvement plans: www.environment.gov.au/coasts/pollution/cci/index.html
- Mackay Whitsunday Water Quality Improvement Plan www.mwnrm.org.au/programs/water_quality_improvement_plan.html
- Douglas Water Quality Improvement Plan: http://www.dsc.qld.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=192
- Reef Plan: www.reefplan.qld.gov.au/

Output 1.3 Fisheries

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.3.1 Progress towards ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area.	Quality	Management arrangements for fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are based on the best available scientific information and meet, as a minimum, the principles and objectives set down in the Commonwealth Government's "Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries" and allow performance to be assessed.	Achieved/ongoing
	Quantity	Working with fisheries managers and stakeholders to review and improve management arrangements for the reef fin fish, trawl, crab and inshore net (particularly shark) and the dive-based fisheries for tropical rock lobster, sea cucumber and coral.	Achieved
		Provide key input to the Department of Environment and Heritage Resources assessments of fisheries, which occur in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, as required under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .	Achieved
		Continued involvement of stakeholders and high level of community engagement.	Achieved
Price	\$1.031m		

The GBRMPA worked to achieve continual improvement towards ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Marine Park in collaboration with Queensland management agencies, DEWHA and stakeholders. The GBRMPA sought to improve current fisheries management arrangements by seeking the adoption of a whole of ecosystem approach to address the sustainability of target species, non-target species and the ecosystems on which they depend.

Performance analysis

The GBRMPA provided input into the QDPI&F processes for the development of enhanced fisheries management arrangements under the *Queensland Fisheries Act 1994*. Where necessary, the GBRMPA raised issues with the QDPI&F and provided advice on preferred management options for fishing in the Marine Park. The GBRMPA actively encouraged research to support this process, including funding:

- Two research projects relating to reef sharks. The first project expanded the spatial coverage of reef shark abundance surveys around the Townsville region. The second project compiled information on the interaction of reef sharks with the reef line fishery in the Marine Park. These projects contributed to better understanding the risks to reef sharks from reef line and recreational fisheries, and provided information to assist with future assessment of the effectiveness of management in protecting reef shark populations
- A survey of clownfish and anemone species on reefs at the Keppel Islands to identify their population status, following bleaching of these reefs in 2006. In concert with other measures, this information assisted decision-making and stewardship initiatives to ensure ecological sustainability of at risk species in this region
- Research organisations and community monitoring groups to enhance the understanding of recreational fishery resources and fisher behaviour.

The GBRMPA undertook extensive engagement with the community to better understand commercial, recreational and Indigenous fishing interests and to involve them in developing, recognising and supporting options for the improved ecological sustainability performance of fisheries in the Marine Park. This included a continuing focus on fostering effective industry-led marine stewardship initiatives to achieve improved conservation and compliance outcomes. The fishing community was engaged through:

- Consultation and liaison with fishery stakeholders and the wider community on a range of fishing issues relating to the Marine Park, including the effectiveness of zoning arrangements. The GBRMPA worked to improve stakeholder relations through direct on-the-ground communications, aimed at minimising conflicts between fishery stakeholders and other users of the Marine Park.
- Outreach activities at major fishing tournaments and boating and fishing expos, which are an important part of recreational fishing in the Marine Park. The GBRMPA encouraged organisers to adopt best practice such as 'catch and release' fishing. The GBRMPA also worked with tournament participants to promote strategies for enhancing the survival of by-catch and collaborated with the game boat fishing sector to minimise the impact on target and by-catch species through initiatives such as tag and release programs.
- Input to the QDPI&F's Fisheries Management Advisory Committee process including various issue specific working groups and attendance at about 30 port meetings with the commercial and recreational fishing industry.

The GBRMPA provided high-level technical advice through:

- Inputs to the DEWHA assessments of fisheries in and adjacent to the Marine Park.
- Close liaison with the QDPI&F, DEWHA and stakeholders to improve the ecological sustainability performance of the Queensland Inshore Finfish Fishery and reduce its impact on threatened species and species of conservation concern. Management arrangements for this fishery are undergoing review by the QDPI&F. The GBRMPA contributed to the development of management arrangements through the Management Advisory Committee process, including participation in six working groups dealing with fishing effort, size and bag limits, technical netting specifications, protected species, sharks, and performance management.
- Inputs into review of the management arrangements for the Queensland:

Coral Reef Finfish Fishery:

- Reviewed size limits for two grouper species
 - Review management and science of fish spawning aggregations to ensure appropriate management of breeding fish based on robust science
 - Assessed alternate management scenarios using a simulation model
 - Monitored catches against the total allowable catch
 - Conducted active compliance against fishing breaches of the zoning plan.
- Inputs into the management of the dive-based fisheries:
 - Reviewed the QDPI&F Policy to manage the coral collection fishery, based on fine spatial scale consideration of 18 months worth of catch, effort and catch composition data
 - Prepared a report on the development of the coral collection fishery management arrangements to present as a case study at an Expert workshop on CITES Non Detriment Findings, in Mexico in late 2008
 - Partnered with industry to facilitate the development of a comprehensive 'Code of Conduct' for the Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery (MAFF) and coral collection fisheries
 - Facilitated and supported the industry development of a voluntary moratorium on collection of some potentially vulnerable species from bleaching stressed reefs in the Keppels and the establishment of a small-scale recovery monitoring program
 - Assisted QDPI&F to develop new management arrangements for the East Coast Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery to address key issues related to implementing quota and removing latent effort.
 - Inputs into the management of the three crab fisheries (mud crab, blue swimmer crab and spanner crab) operating in or adjacent to the Marine Park:
 - Reviewed a draft Queensland policy for removal of latent effort.

The GBRMPA also undertook a number of additional activities in pursuit of ecologically sustainable fishing in the Marine Park:

- Contributed to development of a National Climate Change and Fisheries Action Plan:
 - Explored partnership and stewardship approaches to expand the range of tools for dealing with fishing activities in the face of climate change impacts.

- Collaborated with QDPI&F to develop a decision support tool for the marine aquarium fish and coral collection fisheries, to manage fishing access to reefs where corals have been affected by bleaching or flooding.
- Collected and assessed fishing information pertaining to the Great Barrier Reef region to assist in the development of the inaugural Outlook Report in 2009.
- Drafted amendments to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983* relating to fishing in response to the introduction by Queensland of the *Fisheries Regulation 2008* and repeal of the *Fisheries Regulation 1995*.
- Conducted a workshop on management and science of fish spawning aggregations in the Great Barrier Reef. Workshop participants included national and international fisheries science and management experts and stakeholders.
- Participated in a national forum on ecosystem based fisheries management, climate change and recreational fishing.
- Convened the Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee to provide advice to the GBRMPA on matters relating to the use of fisheries resources and ecosystem management in the Marine Park. Key topics included implications for the Marine Park of Queensland's proposed fishery management arrangements for the Inshore Finfish Fishery, strategic work to define what constitutes sustainable fishing in the Marine Park, and gaps in economic information in Marine Park management.
- Facilitated participation of Indigenous fishers in decision-making about fisheries and marine resource management, particularly associated with the Inshore Finfish Fishery Review.
- Detected and deterred illegal fishing in the Marine Park. Fishing related offences accounted for most of the compliance effort during the year, with 415 fisheries related offences detected. Of these offences, 303 were attributed to recreational fishing and 112 to commercial fishing. There were 143 compliance actions taken in response to these offences.
- Participated in an interagency taskforce lead by Biosecurity Queensland to investigate the unusual mortality of Queensland grouper occurring in the Cairns - Port Douglas area.
- Conducted a staff exchange with a fishery scientist from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation seconded to the GBRMPA for a period of two months.

Related links:

- The GBRMPA's Sustainable Fishing Group:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/fisheries
- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr

Output 1.4 Tourism and Recreation

Tourism and recreation are the major uses of the Marine Park. There are about 770 individual permittees who operate marine tourism businesses and who enabled approximately 1.98 million visitor days to be spent in the Marine Park in 2007-08. This number does not include passengers in transit.

Tourism experiences include diving and snorkelling, scenic flights, visits to pontoons, semi-sub and other underwater craft, chartered or self-skippered sailing, cruise shipping, swimming with whales

and beach hire operations. Two of the most popular activities are snorkelling and scuba diving, with over 3 million snorkel and dive experiences undertaken on the Reef in 2006-07 (Tourism Australia, 2007). Based on information provided by tourism operators in their Environmental Management Charge (EMC) returns, the majority of these commercial experiences are concentrated in the offshore Cairns, Port Douglas and Whitsundays areas.

According to the most recent study of recreational use of the Marine Park, a further 4.9 million people visited the Great Barrier Reef privately (Norris et al. unpublished 2003) without using a commercial tourism operation. Queensland Transport figures show the number of registered recreational vessels adjacent to the Marine Park increased from 73 109 vessels to 77 036 vessels in 2006/07 - an increase of 17.5 per cent for the period July 2003 to June 2008. Private (recreational) users enjoy swimming, snorkelling, diving, fishing, kayaking, sailing, and motorised water sports such as jet skiing. These activities generally occur close to the coast near developed urban areas.

Tourism on the Great Barrier Reef contributes financially to the management of the Marine Park. Industry collects an Environmental Management Charge for each visitor, from which a special appropriation is derived that contributes approximately 17 per cent of the GBRMPA's total funding. There is currently no equivalent charge on recreational users or other commercial users. Tourism is primarily non-extractive and plays an important role in conservation of the Marine Park and presentation of its values.

Australia-wide, the direct and indirect value-added contribution of tourism in the Marine Park is estimated at \$5.1 billion, plus an estimated 50 300 jobs (GBRMPA, 2008, Economic Contribution of the GBRMP 2006-07 A report by Access Economics to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority).

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.4.1 Ecologically sustainable tourism and recreation use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park provided for in partnership with the community and industry.	Quality	Management initiatives for tourism and recreation developed and implemented in partnership with the tourism industry, recreational users and other key stakeholders, with partnership arrangements recognised as very high standard.	Achieved
		Planning and regulatory systems provide transparency and certainty.	Achieved
		Tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park provided in an efficient and equitable manner as rated by industry satisfaction measures.	Achieved
		Numbers of tourists visiting the Marine Park and their levels of satisfaction maintained or increased.	Achieved
		All expiring permits for limited opportunities reviewed for latency.	Achieved
		System in place to recognise and reward high standard operators.	Achieved
		Information and training for industry and other stakeholders provided.	Achieved
	Continued involvement of stakeholders and high level of community engagement.	Achieved	
Price		\$1.873 m	

Performance analysis

The Tourism and Recreation Group aims to ensure tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park remain high quality and ecologically sustainable. Main achievements in 2007-08:

- Recognised at the United Nations World Tourism Organisation conference in Davos, Switzerland for the GBRMPA's partnership with the Great Barrier Reef marine tourism industry to work together for conservation (September 2007).
- Provided the keynote address at the Asia Pacific Ecotourism Conference (APECO) in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia, to showcase the GBRMPA working in partnership with the marine tourism industry for best practice outcomes (October 2007).
- Mentored delegations of senior Indonesian Government officials in marine and fishery management with particular focus on tourism and how to use sustainable management of tourism for positive marine park outcomes (August 2007 and March 2008).
- Received the Public Sector Management Award at the Tourism and Transport Forum's (TTF) 2007 Corporate Leadership Awards (December 2007).

Key programs which provide the substance of these achievements include:

Eye on the Reef Monitoring Program

- Partnered with the tourism industry and reef researchers in the Eye on the Reef Monitoring Program to enable tourism operators to provide reef managers and researchers with up-to-date information on reef health indicators.
- Received information from 35 operators who monitored their reef sites on a weekly basis in the offshore Cairns, Port Douglas and the Whitsundays areas.
- Conducted four workshops for the Eye on the Reef Monitoring Program which engaged 60 crew in Marine Park training.
- Developed a new database to support the GBRMPA and researchers in accessing and analysing the information collected as part of the Eye on the Reef Monitoring Program.

Growth of the Sightings Network

- Received over 750 sighting network forms detailing over 2500 individual animals sighted and a number of biophysical events.
- Increased the interest of researchers in the wealth of information now being gathered by tourism operators, and strengthened the Eye on the Reef Monitoring Program data.
- Encouraged tourism crews to disseminate the information collected through the Sightings Network by the production of quarterly reports.

Growth of the High Standard Tourism Program

- Improved the protection and presentation of the Marine Park by providing rewards and incentives to those tourism operators who are independently certified with Ecotourism Australia's ECO Certification Program (Ecotourism and Advanced Ecotourism level) as maintaining high standards throughout their operations.
 - Increased the number of certified Marine Park operators to 42, with 76 individual certified tourism products. This has resulted in nearly 45 per cent of tourism visits being undertaken with a certified operation.

- Granted a total of 55 fifteen-year permits to certified high standard operations since the introduction of the program. Operations are also listed on the GBRMPA's website and showcased at trade events such as the Australian Tourism Exchange.

Introduction of climate change initiatives

- Sponsored the development of the Climate Action Certification Program delivered through Ecotourism Australia. This program will allow Great Barrier Reef tourism operators the opportunity to analyse and address climate change issues faced by their operations.
- Developed the Great Barrier Reef Tourism Emissions Calculator. This program allows operators to calculate their annual emissions for operations, along with providing tips on how to reduce their emissions.
- Commenced the development of case studies following the progression of Marine Park operators to climate change best practice.

Completion of the Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control Program

- Managed the partnership with the tourism industry and finalised government funding of \$300 000 for the COTS Control Program. This program protected 49 different sites and collected more than 4 300 COTS from August to December 2007.

Growth of partnerships

- Convened the Tourism and Recreation and Reef Advisory Committee. The Committee provided invaluable advice at meetings in October 2007 and April 2008.
- Organised and facilitated moorings forums with other management agencies from Queensland and other states, to share experience and best practice on facilities management.
- Worked with Ecotourism Australia to internationally promote the benefits to protected areas when protected area agencies and accreditation schemes work together.
- Provided information on the GBRMPA's website for Traditional Owners on the process for the equitable allocation of Indigenous Special Tourism Permissions.
- Facilitated sustainable cruise ship access in the Marine Park by maintaining a close working partnership with the cruise ship industry.
- Maintained an ongoing and active partnership with the tourism industry, recreational users and other stakeholders.
- Engaged individual tourism operators along the Reef, including meetings with operators in regional centres on management arrangements, permitting matters and partnership programs.

Guidance, input and partnerships in tourism research

- Worked in partnership with James Cook University researchers to progress the six-year Dwarf Minke Whale Tourism Monitoring Program.
- Provided comments and guidance on Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTRSF) programs relevant to tourism: key trends in visitor patterns, and economic value of iconic species to tourism.
- Oversighted research on the economic contribution of diving in the Great Barrier Reef.
- Provided input into a number of projects aimed at setting baseline information for recreational use of the Marine Park.

- Provided input and data for the Whitsunday National Park Visitor Surveys.
- Worked in partnership with Tourism Queensland, Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators (AMPTO), and the Natural Heritage Trust on a Queensland scuba diving and snorkelling report.

Improvements in management arrangements

- Assisted with the development of the Outlook Report in relation to the assessments of tourism and recreation use of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
- Assisted with the design and building of a database, the PCaMS, to improve recording and processing of permits and the Environmental Management Charge data. This included consultation with a range of operators.
- Ensured tourism can sustain growth by administering a policy to reduce the number of latent tourism permissions held by operators. In total, thirty-two permissions have not met the reasonable use requirements of the policy and twelve permissions have been revoked for not commencing operations within the first two years of a grant of a permission.
- Developed principles for allocating Special Tourism Permissions and held an allocation process for five Cooktown/Bloomfield Special Tourism Permissions.
- Progressed an initiative to provide for additional public moorings in the Whitsunday Planning Area through a public-private partnership. A public consultation phase was completed and a report summarising the submissions was released.
- Implemented the Moorings Policy ensuring regular moorings compliance at target areas.
- Progressed amendments to regulations on cruise ship anchorages and allocation of limited mooring opportunities.
- Developed guidelines for making bookings to Planning Areas and Sensitive Locations. These are available on the GBRMPA's website.
- Provided cruise ship and large vessel booking services to access cruise ship anchorages.
- Assisted with the review of Lady Elliot Island and Reef management strategy and commenced development of arrangements for Michaelmas Cay Locality.
- Implemented Environmental Management Charge (EMC) structural transition arrangements and developed Standard Operating Procedures for EMC compliance.
- Improved procedures for managing tourism operators who fail to meet their EMC obligations in relation to payment of the charge and submission of the locational returns information.

Education of tourism operators and stakeholder engagement

- Revitalised the Great Barrier Reef Tourism Staff Training Course to increase tourism staff awareness of current Marine Park management and best practice messages. Training materials have been developed.
- Improved presentation of the Marine Park by assisting operators to improve the quality of information they present about the Marine Park by distributing a series of '*Reef Facts*'. Developed an issue specifically on climate change.

- Maintained a comprehensive, easy-to-read website '*Onboard, The Tourism Operator's Handbook for the Great Barrier Reef*'.
- Communicated regularly with tourism operators and their crew through the quarterly newsletter *From the Deck*.
- Proactively consulted and briefed the tourism industry and recreational users of the Great Barrier Reef on various management initiatives, including amendments to the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management, bookings guidelines, moorings management and correct representation of the Environmental Management Charge.

Policy interpretation and advice to external clients

- Provided feedback and comments on the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) *Marine Bioregional Planning - East Marine Region*.
- Provided comment to the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (DRET) to inform a whole of government response to the Tourism and Transport Forum's (TTF) *Natural Tourism Partnerships Action Plan*.
- Provided comment on a range of Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) management plans for coastal and marine National and Conservation Parks.
- Monitored the progress of the Queensland Tourism Network Review.
- Provided input to Tourism Queensland on the future of the Queensland Ecotourism Plan and the Queensland Tourism Strategy.
- Provided direction and guidance to Queensland Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry of during the development of *Queensland Superyacht Strategy, 2008-2013*.
- Provided feedback on Maritime Safety Queensland's (MSQ) *Boat-Share Policy Information Paper* (policy).
- Developed web pages detailing the management arrangements for recreational and commercial use of super-yachts in the Marine Park.
- Developed and published on the GBRMPA's website a Responsible Reef Practice for outboard engines which encourages the use of low-emissions outboard motors.

Output 1.5.1 Field management of the Marine Park

By agreement between the Australian and Queensland Governments, the park management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the Queensland Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park and island national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA), is undertaken through collaborative agency arrangements that are referred to collectively as the Day-to-Day Management (DDM) Program.

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.1 Field management of the Marine Park.	Quality	A risk based compliance program prevents serious environmental harm.	Achieved
		Field program contributes to the protection of key vulnerable species ecosystems, their habitats and key ecological sites.	Achieved
		Visitor facilities maintained to relevant standards for health and safety and to ensure protection of the environment.	Achieved
		Indigenous communities engaged in park management and Indigenous staff employed.	Achieved
	Quantity	Compliance deterrent impact indicated by a change in risk profiles.	Achieved
		Key vulnerable species field works completed.	Achieved
		Continued involvement of stakeholders and high level of community engagement.	Achieved
		Key sites of ecological significance managed in accordance with the Day-to-Day Management Annual Business Plan.	Achieved
	Price	\$20.189m	

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

- Australian Government funding to help combat foreign fishing vessel incursions
- The GBRMPA's additional discretionary and in kind contributions towards the Day-to-Day Management Program
- Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) / Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPW) funding for a range of island and wildlife management projects
- Queensland Recreation Area Management Board funding for Green Island.

As well as supplementary funding, in-kind contributions were made by agencies including:

- Australian Customs Marine Unit
- Customs Coastwatch
- Border Protection Command
- Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority

- Maritime Safety Queensland
- Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
- Queensland Police Service.

Day-to-Day Management Program priorities

Priority 1 - Compliance

Compliance is achieved through the delivery of the following key objectives:

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

In 2007-08 the Compliance Management Unit coordinated a range of activities across our partner agency and service providers.

Compliance Management Issues

- An independent review of compliance management in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was completed July 2007. In summary, the review investigated and reported on:
 - 1 An evaluation of compliance needs and threats both current and emerging based on ecological threat
 - 2 An assessment of the current compliance program in addressing contemporary priorities and its capacity to meet emerging needs
 - 3 An assessment of the effectiveness of co-ordination and co-operation across agencies
 - 4 The cost effectiveness of current and future programs including:
 - Contracting out to government agencies
 - The cost effectiveness of various types of vessels
 - Providing advice on the value of independently contracted aerial surveillance
 - The effectiveness of current programs
 - The relative effectiveness of various platforms and technologies
 - The effectiveness of asset and resource deployment
- Agreements between the DDM Compliance Management Unit and Border Protection Command and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol were reviewed and new agreements developed
- Development and dissemination of quarterly reports continued, providing statistics and supporting information to decision makers. During this financial year there were significant modifications and improvements made to the Quarterly Report to shift to an outcomes focus and to include a more detailed statistical summary. These modifications came about after consultation with QPW district staff and District Managers and input from the internal auditor.

Foreign Fishing Vessel (FFV) Program

- Commonwealth funding has been made available over three years (2006-2009) to assist in managing the threat of foreign fishing vessels in the northern waters of the Marine Park. 2007-2008 was the second year of this funding.
- Part of this Funding was used to purchase a vessel to respond to any foreign fishing vessel incursions. The Ministerial launch of the vessel was held on 30 July 2007 prior to the vessel being relocated to Thursday Island. Torres Strait is the gateway for FFVs entering the Marine Park.
- Since the relocation of the vessel, numerous FFV nets have been recovered in the Far North with one patrol removing a net in excess of two tonnes.
- The FFV initiative has also seen a significant enhancement of interactions and multi agency patrolling between the GBRMPA's staff, Customs and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) staff stationed on Thursday Island.

Projects

- The DDM Compliance Unit purchased a new Case Management and Intelligence System (CMIS) to replace the previous databases used to manage information and incident reports within the Compliance Operations Room. This will streamline processes, whilst enhancing the reporting and analysis capability of compliance data. The new system will assist in the management of increased workloads associated with incident and information reports.
- The Compliance Unit finalised the Shipping Incident Investigation Guidelines with assistance from a multi agency working group. These guidelines have been developed to aid officers investigating major shipping incidents in the multi-jurisdictional waters of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The National Plan State Committee meeting held in Brisbane in May 2008 approved the final version of the guidelines and recommended a training package be developed to implement the guidelines.

Indigenous Engagement

- The DDM Compliance Management Unit staff conducted land-based patrolling between Cairns and Cape York to enhance consultation with Cape York Indigenous communities and to respond to reports of illegal hunting
- Community leaders are supportive of these patrols and have subsequently provided information and reports of illegal hunting in their area
- A greater multi-agency approach has been adopted in far north land-based operations with staff from several agencies participating in patrols including:
 - Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPW)
 - GBRMPA's Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit (IPLU)
 - GBRMPA's Community Partnerships Group (CPG)
 - Queensland Water Police (QWP)
 - Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP)
 - DDM Compliance Unit.

- Field Operations Team (FOT) Leaders attended the Land and Sea Conference in Cardwell with the compliance patrol vessel *Bimbi Eungie*, and continued to attend Indigenous engagement forums in the far north
- DDM Compliance Management Unit representatives attended the Lockhart River Land and Sea Management Workshop
- In conjunction with the GBRMPA's IPLU, compliance initiatives have been developed for forthcoming years to enhance and manage Indigenous liaison on compliance issues.

Surveillance

Border Protection Command Coastwatch were the principal providers of aerial surveillance. The GBRMPA contracted private charter aircraft services on occasions where the Coastwatch resources were not available or when additional surveillance was required.

- Vessel surveillance was undertaken by the following agencies:
 - Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPW)
 - DDM Compliance Unit Field Operations Team (FOT)
 - Queensland Boating and Fishing Patrol (QBFP)
 - Border Protection Command National Marine Unit
 - Border Protection Command Coastwatch
 - Charter vessels and aircraft.

QPW patrol resources were primarily targeted to high use areas where recreational and tourism activities are most frequent. These include island National Parks. Dedicated compliance staff undertook patrols with FOT. QPW undertook a total of 533 patrol days with 1 958 interceptions in 2007-08. During these patrols 113 offences were detected.

FOT patrol resources were redirected in 2007-08 to primarily target high impact offences, recidivous offenders, direct special operations, and intercept and investigate offences already identified by Coastwatch and VMS analysis. FOT undertook a total of 184 targeted patrol days making 383 interceptions in 2007-2008. During these patrols 41 offences were detected.

FOT undertook 79 land-based patrol days in addition to vessel patrol days identified above.

The QBFP Annual Patrol Plan directs its resources to primarily focus on fishing activities. QBFP reported 5 614 interceptions during 756 patrol days undertaken in 2007-08. During these patrols 65 GBRMPA offences were detected.

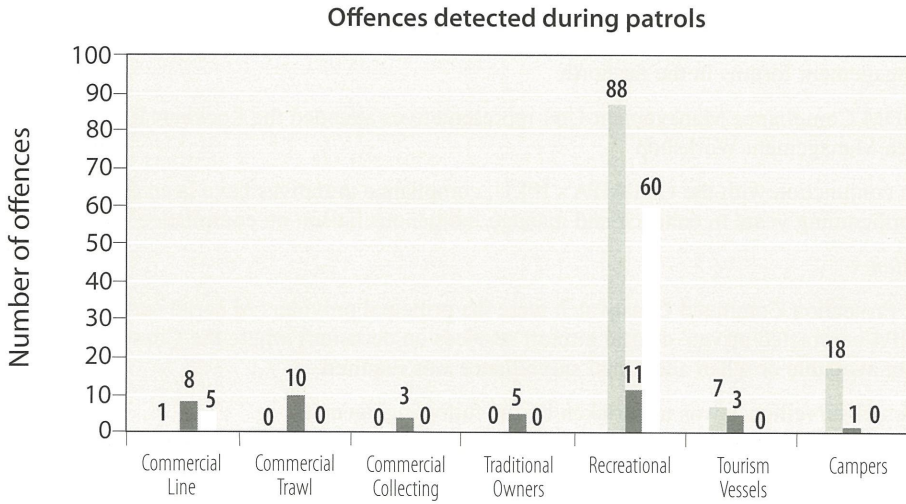


Figure 15: The type and number of offences detected during patrols by each Agency.

Incidents/Offences

An increase in reported offences this financial year is displayed in the figure below. The level of offence and information/intelligence reports continues to increase. The reasons for this increase include:

- continued evolution and implementation of information collection techniques
- the Compliance Program maturing within GBRMPA & DDM Program
- the introduction of the Zoning Plan and additional compliance resources in 2004
- the increasing capacity to detect offences by the use of technology.

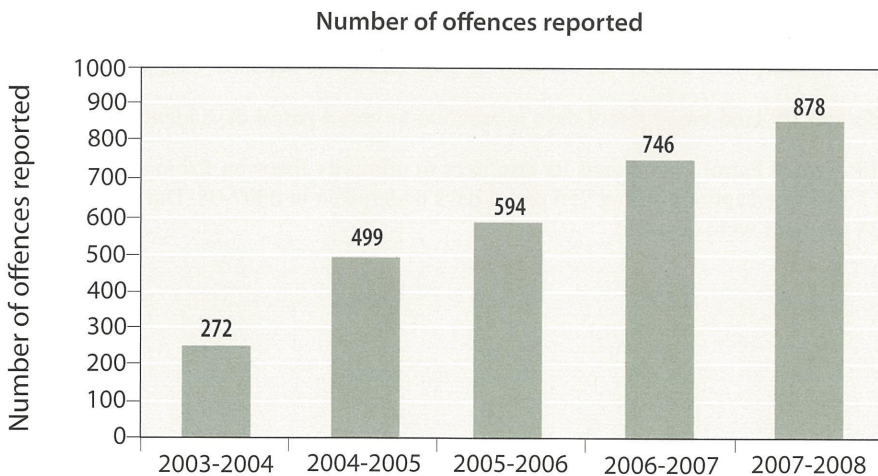


Figure 16: The number of reported offences in 2007-08, in comparison to previous years

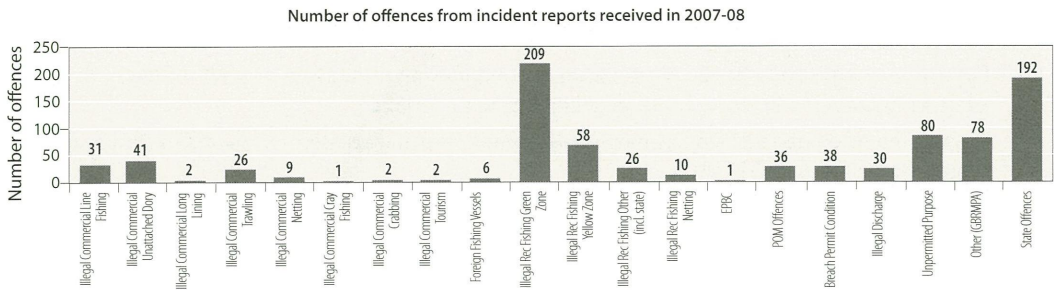


Figure 17: The number of offences reported in 2007-08 incident reports by offence type

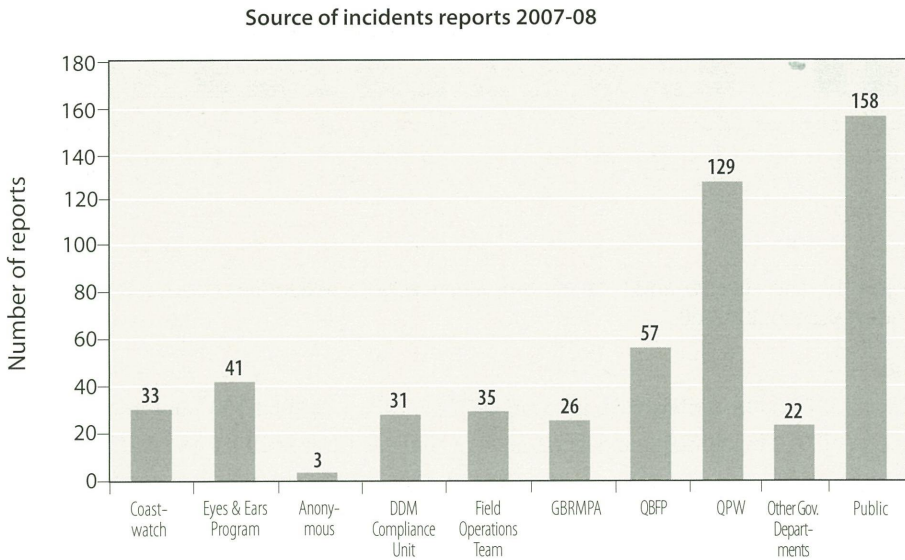


Figure 18: The source of incident reports received from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

- The 2007-08 summary of compliance actions:
 - 878 possible offences were recorded from 535 incident reports during the year (detailed in Figure 16)
 - 83 Commonwealth and 53 State infringement notices were issued. Other compliance actions included 192 DDM and 24 QPW advisory letters (detailed in Figure 19)
 - A total of 12 commercial line vessels were seized and action undertaken.

Education and Administrative Action

- Media releases encouraging users to familiarise themselves with zoning are issued in the lead up to the high use periods

- Prosecution outcomes and vessel seizures in the commercial fishing industry were promoted through the media releases as a deterrent to others
- Education continued to be the most common compliance tool utilised. A total of 266 advisory/warning letters or education actions were undertaken
- Suspension of commercial tourism operator permits was undertaken for operators failing to submit returns to the GBRMPA
- 11 vessel removal orders were issued. Five have been completed with the remaining six orders still active.



Figure 19: The number and type of compliance actions (excluding court actions) undertaken in 2007-08

Prosecutions

- A total of 25 court actions were taken in 2007-08 with over \$104 750 fines imposed
- A total of 16 commercial line fishermen were convicted and fined a total of \$57 950
- A commercial trawl operator was convicted of three offences and fined a total of \$40 000
- Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, two people were convicted and fined a total of \$1300. There were 53 infringement notices issued under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Marine Parks Act 2004*)
- Three (3) recreational fishers were convicted and fined a total of \$4000. (Note: 83 Commonwealth infringement notices were issued under GBRMPA legislation)
- One person was convicted under the *Historic Shipwrecks Act* and fined a total of \$1500
- Note: Several detections and court actions commenced in 2007-08 will be heard before the courts in 2008-09.



Figure 20: The total court actions taken in 2007-08.

Intelligence Reporting and Analysis

- The intelligence capacity of the DDM Compliance Unit has been upgraded with the engagement of a new Intelligence Analyst
- Intelligence focus was enhanced in identified problem areas. This enhancement has led to the significant increase in information reports received in comparison to other years
- The intelligence capacity for selected areas has been enhanced and this has led to significant increases in information reports received by the DDM Compliance Management Unit in comparison to other years
- 351 information reports were received by the DDM Compliance Management Unit (detailed in Figure 22 and 23).

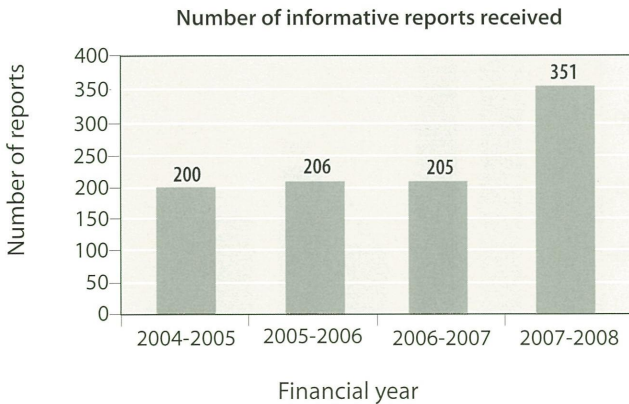


Figure 21: Number of information reports received annually since the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the introduction of the Queensland Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park in 2004

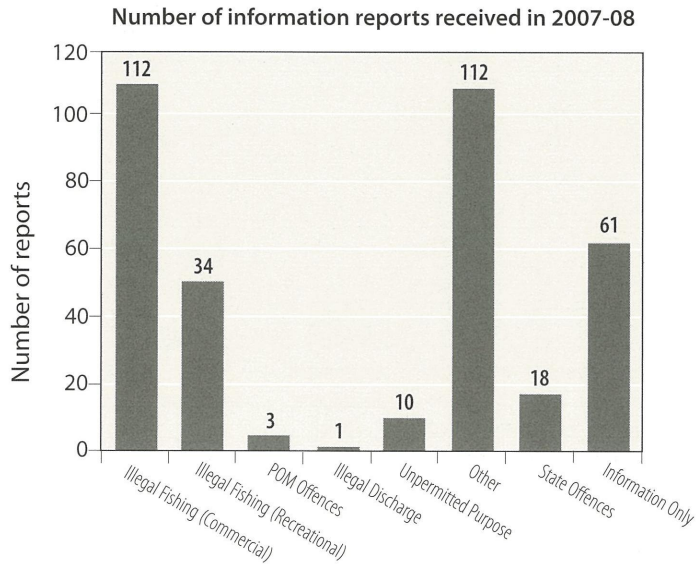


Figure 22: The number of 2007-08 information reports received by offence type

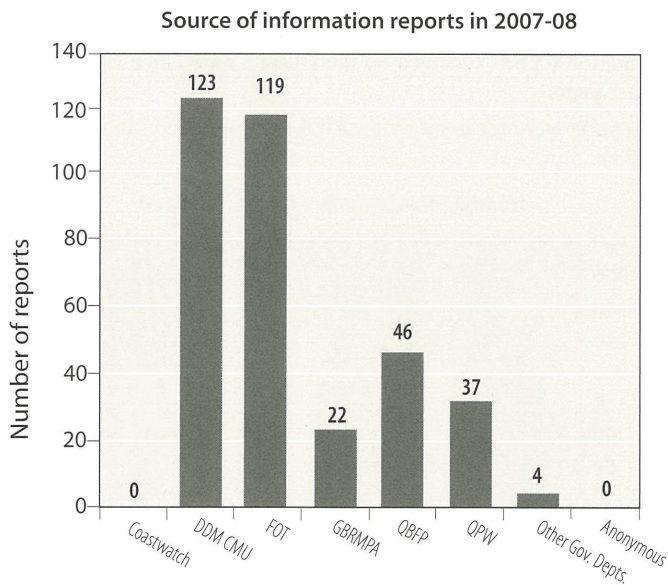


Figure 23: The source of the 351 information reports received from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

Priority 2 - Vulnerable species

The Program also has an important role in performing management functions that protect vulnerable species. Highlights of works undertaken included:

- A DDM Program Climate Action Plan was prepared and is being implemented. It includes rapid assessment monitoring of corals, support for responses to coral bleaching events and plans for resilience assessments. The Program co-authored the assessment of the vulnerability of the islands of the Great Barrier Reef to Climate Change, particularly their flora and fauna. Major impacts are expected
- The DDM Program undertook and supported several incidents that threatened vulnerable species including live marine wildlife strandings, entangled whales and removal of ghost and illegal nets
- Pest control work was conducted on many islands with some pest arrest projects particularly targeting the protection of vulnerable species on Curtis Island, the Capricornia Cays and St Bees Island
- The stranded marine wildlife program continued with responses to priority species and localities providing information for management agencies on cause-of-death to assist policy, planning and actions to minimise further mortalities. A major re-development of the Strandnet Database was initiated by the DDM Program in conjunction with EPA to further improve the quality of information collated and interpreted
- Coastal bird monitoring continued to follow the Coastal Bird Monitoring Strategy. The importance of the program was highlighted by recent analysis of data showing declines in seabirds at all key locations examined. Analysis of the data collected by the DDM Program at Michalmas Cay by James Cook University shows a strong link between breeding success and sea surface temperature and the ENSO index
- QPW (Gladstone) provided vessel & logistical support into monitoring of threatened turtle species to the following islands:
 - Cap Bunkers: Wreck, Northwest, Lady Musgrave, Hoskyn and Fairfax Islands
 - Peak, Facing and Curtis Islands
 - Raine Island.
- QPW (Cairns) engaged Cape York Traditional Owners to develop strategies to enhance turtle and dugong protection
- The DDM Program has supported a Raine Island project investigating turtle nest flooding and possible sand loss with vessel, field and management assistance. This is a serious threat to the most important turtle and seabird breeding island on the Great Barrier Reef.

Priority 3 - Facilities management, natural and cultural resource protection

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

- Presentation and site protection at high use marine locations (bays and reefs) was completed:
 - 128 public moorings in place and maintained to standards specified in Moorings Maintenance Procedural Guide

- 111 Reef Protection Markers maintained. Any lost moorings or markers replaced
- Three seabird breeding buoyage markers maintained in the Cairns district
- Moorings and Reef Protection Markers maintenance contracts in place in Cairns, Townsville, and Whitsunday districts.
- New on-site interpretive signs for Lizard Island and Stanley Island were completed and installed.
- Key island facilities have been maintained including 155 km of walking track, 111 camping and day use areas, 18 boardwalks and lookouts and 15 km of public roads and extensive signage
- QPW (Whitsundays) undertook project, concept and site planning of the Whitsundays Great Walk on Whitsunday Island
- Work commenced and was completed in order to replace the Lady Musgrave Island sewage treatment plant and to replace pit toilet at the Haven, Hinchinbrook Island
- Work is continuing for capital works facilities upgrade projects at southern Whitehaven Beach (DDM funds), Hill Inlet lookout (DDM funds) and Nara Inlet Aboriginal rock art site (Queensland funds) with input from Traditional Owners
- Coastal development projects continue to feature as a significant workload for permit assessments. Approximately 2000 permits, licences, agreements leases, development applications and major projects were administered
- In accordance with the 2007-08 QPW Planned Burn Program, a number of prescribed burns were conducted on several islands
- Pest control work was conducted on many priority sites and included black rat eradication and monitoring at Sisters and Stephens Islands, Russell Island and High Island. Post Cyclone Larry weed control was conducted at South Barnard and weed control at Forbes Island, Three Isles and Lizard Island. Feral pig and goat control was undertaken at Magnetic Island, Orpheus Island, Dunk Island and Hinchinbrook Island. Black rat eradication occurred on North Keppel Island
- Support was provided including secondment of DDM staff to address the latest outbreak of Asian green mussels in Trinity Inlet, Cairns
- The DDM Program responded to 141 reports of oil spills, pollution, vessel sinking and vessel groundings in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. On one day approximately 50 vessels were grounded or sank due to wild weather in the Whitsundays and a Coal Bulk Carrier broke its mooring and was holed in a collision with a wharf near Mackay.

Incident type	Number
Confirmed spill - vessel	20
Unconfirmed spill origin and type	3
Ballast or sewage spills	1
Groundings †	73
Sinkings (including collisions & capsizings)	36
Land sourced spills	4
Other*	4
Total	141

* Includes abandoned drift net, marine pest outbreak x 2 and confirmed algal bloom reported as an oil spill

Table 5: Incident type and number of incidents 2007-08

- Oiled wildlife response plans were maintained and a major field deployment exercise conducted at Airlie Beach
- Flora and fauna (weed and pest) assessments of islands identified in the seabird monitoring strategy were progressively implemented on a number of islands
- Island National Park information was incorporated into the On Board one stop shop for tourist operators in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Activities and events were held at a number of sites to celebrate the Centenary of Parks in Queensland
- Community engagement programs and posters supported a number of management initiatives including the Island Hitchhikers project, Pisonia tree management and Pest Arrest programs.

Priority 4 - Indigenous engagement

The DDM Program continued to provide support and assistance on cultural and heritage matters through liaison and consultation with Indigenous communities. Key achievements for 2007-08 included:

- Registration of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) signed by the State of Queensland and both the Erubam Le and Wuthathi People and implementation began. This significant agreement was the first ILUA in Australia between both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This Agreement includes the complete prohibition of take of all flora and fauna (other than fish), involvement in management and support for change of tenure of the three islands to National Park (Scientific) interests
- The DDM Program continued to support the development and implementation of TUMRAs (Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements), ILUAs, and MOUs, such as the MOU signed between QPW and Gungandji, the Traditional Owner group based in the Yarrabah community. The MOU deals with matters that have historically been the subject of controversy such as traditional hunting and designated areas for ceremonial practices
- Liaison continued with several Indigenous communities including on Cape York and in the Whitsundays
- An Indigenous compliance officer continues working with communities regarding illegal hunting and fishing.

Training

- The 2007-08 DDM Training Program was successfully implemented with 580 participants taking part in 71 training courses, workshops, presentations and briefings
- The personnel who participated were from:
 - GBRMPA
 - EPA / QPW
 - Customs Coastwatch
 - Queensland Police Service
 - Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries / Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol
 - Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions
 - Wildlife carer groups/volunteers and members of the public.

- Training courses were convened throughout the Great Barrier Reef region and targeted DDM Program priorities. Refer Figure 24 for breakdown of course and participant numbers by DDM Program priority. Priority 4 (Indigenous Engagement) focused training is being delivered to DDM Program staff as part of agency internal training programs

DDM Program training delivered: 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

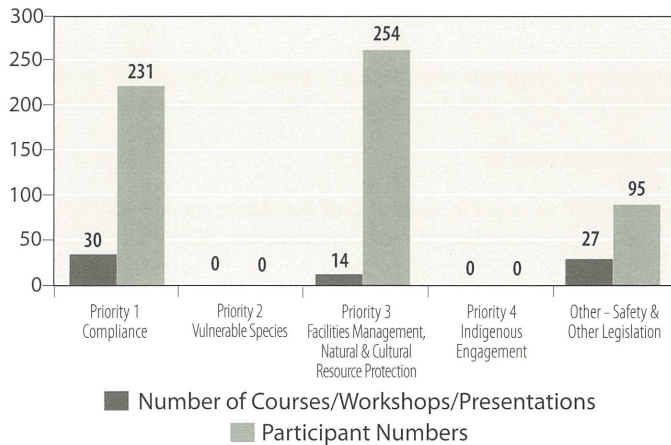


Figure 24: 2007-08 DDM Training Program courses/presentations held and participant numbers by DDM Program priority

Output 1.5.2 Planning and impact management of the Marine Park

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.2 Planning and impact management of the Marine Park.	Quality	All plans effectively maintain or enhance natural and cultural values while providing for wise use.	Achieved
		All significant proposals for use of the Marine Park undergo impact assessment.	Achieved
		Quality input into management of shipping in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.	Achieved
	Quantity	Local area site plans in place for high use areas.	Achieved
		Approximately 590 assessments conducted and decisions made, including 47 major projects.	Achieved
		A new permit and compliance information system implemented.	Estimated completion 2008/2009 FY
		Continued involvement of stakeholders and high level of community engagement.	
Price	\$3.146m		

Performance analysis

Planning

Zoning

All public zoning inquiries received prompt and accurate information.

2008 Amendments to the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management

Following public consultation in 2007, the amendments to the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management were approved by the Marine Park Authority Board in March 2008.

The associated Regulations are currently being finalised and will be subject to Ministerial and Parliamentary approval before coming into effect.

Development of site management arrangements

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

- Keppels - offshore from Yeppoon/Emu Park in the southern Great Barrier Reef
- Michaelmas Cay Locality in the Cairns Planning Area
- Updates to Upolu Cay Reef in the Cairns Planning Area using the new web-based format
- Updates to the Raine Island, Moulter Cay and MacLennan Cay in the Far Northern Management Area to reflect changes in the island tenure and development of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement by the Environmental Protection Agency
- Updates to the Lady Elliot Island Reef, in the southern Great Barrier Reef, following the decision on where to locate Reef Protection Markers following an initial trial.

Moorings Management

Important steps have been made in identifying and addressing unpermitted moorings within the Marine Park. This includes the development of mooring tags to place on non-compliant moorings, a standardised inspection form and standard operating procedures.

Environmental Impact Management

The work of the Environmental Impact Management unit again focused on the impact assessment of activities requiring permission from the GBRMPA.

Approximately 1041 permissions were granted during the year. Seven permissions were refused. A further 85 permits were transferred. The GBRMPA continues to operate a joint Marine Park permit process with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife, which provides major efficiencies for both agencies, as well as permit applicants.

Approximately 5 per cent of the applications processed were for complex projects involving structures or works such as desalination plants, weather stations, dredging, navigation aids, shore protection works, sewage and water supply pipelines, as well as tourism facilities such as tourist and heli-pontoons. There were several unusual applications including for a hovercraft, fish aggregation device and commercial filming.

Increased emphasis has been placed this year on compliance management in relation to permitted activities. Compliance guidelines have been finalised and implemented providing a more consistent approach to compliance actions relating to permits. In addition, compliance management associated with Environmental Management Charge obligations by holders of chargeable permissions has increased with an anticipated outcome of significant improvements to holders meeting those obligations on time.

Liaison with Defence, Shipping and Port Authorities

The GBRMPA maintained liaison with the Department of Defence and Port Authorities about their activities in and adjacent to the Marine Park. The GBRMPA holds annual workshops with both the Department of Defence and Port Authorities to ensure upcoming issues are discussed and the most appropriate management regimes are put in place. A Management Agreement was signed between the Department of Defence and the GBRMPA to facilitate communication and strategically improve environmental management.

The responsibility for management of environmental issues associated with Shipping and Ports was transferred to Program Delivery in 2007-08. Shipping is a high risk activity in the Marine Park because of the potential for introduced marine pests, sewage, accidents and oil spills. There were two introduced marine pests detected in the GBRWHA, the Asian green mussel and Asian bag mussel. Response to the detection involved multiple agencies and included inspection, research and quarantine.

Over 50 vessels were reported accidentally sunk in the Marine Park in 2007-08, many associated with the storms in February. Many of these vessels were found, recovered and removed to ensure safety for other uses and minimum impacts on the environment. There has been continued pressure for expansion of ports that has required environmental assessment of reclamation, deepening and widening of navigation channels, dumping of sediment and new infrastructure. The absence of strategic planning for managing new port development in the GBRWHA is identified as a risk to balancing use and protection of the park.

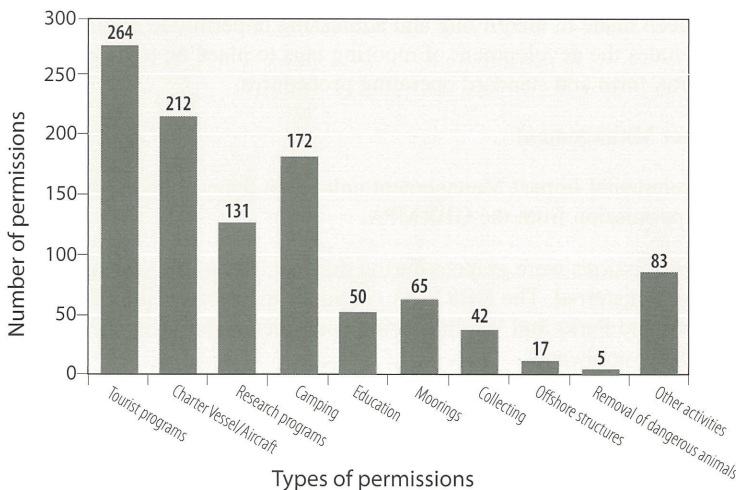


Figure 25: Types of permissions granted and number granted

Permits, Compliance and Management System (PCaMS)

The GBRMPA is undertaking a review of database systems to provide an integrated, easy-access information system for managing permissions and the Environmental Management Charge (EMC) within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The PCaMS database will be pre-emptive, increase compliance and improve the GBRMPA's ability to understand and manage the use of the Marine Park in partnership with industry, government and the community. The aim is to automate a range of (currently) manual compliance checks on permits, bookings and permit returns, such as checks against bookings to ensure operations do not exceed their permitted access to sites and checks against log book returns.

The system being developed will also allow the GBRMPA to gain a better understanding of where existing permitted operators and visitors are going within the Marine Park, and hence identify trends that may require review of management arrangements for particular sites. A very important aim of improving data entry processes and making information more readily available is to ensure the community has access to up-to-date, validated data and to encourage self-regulation.

Applications and permit decisions will continue to be made available on the GBRMPA's website to ensure transparent, consistent environmental decisions and management.

The Environmental Impact Management website was updated to include quick links for applications, permits, policies, Strategic Environmental Assessment systems, risk assessment case studies for a range of major projects and staff papers.

Related links:

- Environmental Impact Management:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/eim/index.html
- Plans of Management
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/pom
- Site Management Arrangements
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/site_management



Plate 2: A large storm in February 2008 resulted in significant damage to commercial and recreational vessels at Airlie Beach

Commonwealth Islands

The Commonwealth owns 70 islands that form the only terrestrial part of the Marine Park. These islands comprise important natural and heritage values, including highly valued turtle and seabird nesting sites, and Commonwealth Heritage listed Lightstations.

Twenty-one of the islands support navigational aids in addition to providing unique opportunities for important research, education and tourist programs and recreational activities. The other forty-nine are used primarily for Defence purposes.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority maintains the navigational aids, and has a lease over the relevant areas. Other leases on Lady Elliot Island and Dent Island are for tourism purposes and on Low Isles for a research station.

The following outcomes have been achieved:

Low Isles

- Re-activation, of an inoperable solar system with replacement of a battery bank and solar regulator decreasing reliance on diesel-fuelled electricity achieving a 60 per cent reduction in CO₂ - e and noise emissions.
- Infrastructure maintenance and efficiency improvements undertaken, including the relocation of a boat shed at risk of inundation due to erosion, including the replacement and safe removal of asbestos that formed part of the original building.
- Energy, infrastructure and asbestos audits were undertaken, and will be used to inform works to increase solar energy capacity, and safety on the island in the future.

Pine Islet

- An asbestos audit and baseline assessment has been conducted on Pine Islet to inform management strategy.

Lady Elliot Island

- A Heritage Management Plan for Lady Elliot Island was prepared and approved by the Authority. The plan will set direction for lease management.

Baseline assessments were undertaken on six of the southern islands to ascertain natural and heritage values and invasive species threats.

Output Group 1.6 Science and information for park management

The GBRMPA's policies and decisions are based on the best available scientific and technical information. The GBRMPA has significant partnerships with the major research providers in tropical marine science in Australia, including the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTRSF), the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Coral Reef Studies, the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Outcome		Outputs	Performance	
1.6.1 Coordination and delivery of scientific and technical information for management.	Quality	High quality delivery of scientific information for park management.	Achieved	
		High quality monitoring and reporting program for Great Barrier Reef health.	Achieved	
		High quality delivery of information technology systems and services for park management.	Achieved	
		High quality delivery of library and image based information services for park management.	Achieved	
		High quality delivery of storage, analysis and presentation of spatial information for park management.	Achieved	
		Development of a high quality response program to Climate Change in the Great Barrier Reef.	Achieved	
			A network availability of over 99 per cent with over 0.5 million unique external web visits per year.	Achieved
			Same working day response for all image requests, inter-library loan requests and all reference inquiries with 24 hour access to all online services.	Achieved
			250 requests for spatial data analysis and mapping products met.	Achieved
			Number of research programs that address GBRMPA research priorities.	Achieved
			Community involvement in monitoring of water quality and associated Great Barrier Reef health achieved.	Achieved
Price		\$7.908m		

Performance analysis

The Science Technology and Information Group's role is to coordinate the delivery of information needs throughout the GBRMPA, ensuring management decisions are based on the best available information and science.

The Group is responsible for knowledge management and the development of information systems, including the Knowledge Management Committee and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. The Knowledge Management Committee helps coordinate knowledge management and sharing initiatives.

The Group is comprised of four units: Research and Monitoring Coordination; Information Technology; Library and Image Services and Spatial Data Centre. Each has a distinct service delivery function that contributes information for park management.

Information Technology

The Information Technology team continued to design, develop and implement strategies and contingencies to meet the ongoing and changing information system and technology needs of the GBRMPA while maintaining the expected high standard of service and usability. The major focuses this year were the continuing development of the Permits, Compliance and Management System, the initiation of an IT Capabilities Upgrade which will include a new groupware suite and the development of key support applications and databases.

Assessing and prioritising user needs

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

Effective user support to improve productivity

Software and user procedures are constantly being refined to improve responsiveness to support needs and ensure that requests for support are met in a timely manner.

Effective information systems to meet GBRMPA needs

A number of web-based and other databases have been developed to support internal administrative functions including the needs of ReefHQ. Support to the development of the Permits, Compliance and Management System has featured largely in this years work program.

Effective accessible network and technical services

Network and server availability continues to be maintained at a very high level (99.97 per cent) with storage, backup and security procedures in place.

Library and Image Services

Library and Image Services continued to adjust products and services in order to meet the GBRMPA's changing information needs. There was strong recognition of the importance for a knowledge-based approach to management of the Great Barrier Reef. To enhance agency-wide understanding and development of relevant cultural changes and processes, the role of the Knowledge Management Committee was reviewed. The expectation is to develop a cross-agency working group, which will actively support the GBRMPA's drive towards a learning organisation. This new committee is expected to begin working in 2008-09.

The Library Manager continued in her role as the Chair of the Group of Experts on Marine Information Management (GE-MIM). The group's most significant achievement of the year was the establishment of a formal cooperative network of marine libraries for the southern Pacific region. This network aims to build infrastructure, capacity, and knowledge of information management throughout this important and environmentally vulnerable region.

Library Collection and Current Awareness Services

Library and Image Services were tasked with the major logistical challenge of moving the physical location of Library & Image Services during the year. Staff worked hard to ensure disruptions to normal services over the period were as minimal as possible.

Emphasis was placed on expanding appropriate electronic services to clients. Library and image services continued to capture the GBRMPA's corporate history by working on the retrospective digitization and cataloguing of important historical corporate publications. Electronic version of documents, such as all past zoning plans and plans of management are now available via the Library Information Portal.

The trend of increasing demand for services and information products continued throughout the year. Clients placed heavy demands on all current awareness services provided. Library staff increased their participation in wider knowledge & information management projects throughout the agency, such as redevelopment of the corporate publications web site, and the redesign and explanation of the web site dedicated to providing the background and history of the Representative Areas Program (RAP).

Image Services

Demand for image-based services was very high again throughout the year. In order to meet increasing demands and client expectations, significant work began improving access to the image collection via its web-based catalogue. The system is currently undergoing a major upgrade that will provide a more user-friendly web interface, and efficient management processes.

Subject Specific Databases

Demand for subject specific databases was strong. Negotiations with RMIT Publishing were completed to amend REEF database records to incorporate full text document access. Work has now begun on the redesign of the database structure, and will be completed by the end of 2008-09. Preliminary discussions on the feasibility of linking REEF database with the new collaborative Reef Atlas project were commenced.

Library & Image Services continued to maintain and update Story Place Bibliography (previously Traditional Owner Resources Bibliography). The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies provided generous assistance with this project, especially by allowing the inclusion of their Language Bibliographies. As part of NAIDOC Week activities in 2007, Story Place was released to the public via the GBRMPA's public web site. Usage of the database has grown significantly since then.

To access Story Place, go to
http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/library/resources/story_place

Spatial Data Centre

The Spatial Data Centre continues to provide a high level of mapping, analysis and spatial request services to support effective management of the Marine Park. The process for external clients to access the GBRMPA's spatial information has been streamlined and reduced to a two day turnaround process and data licence agreements are now available from the GBRMPA's website. In the past year 492 requests for spatial services were received and processed.

The support for Marine Park compliance continued this year with the Spatial Data Centre providing the production of maps for external agencies such as the Australian Federal Police, Coastwatch and

the Australian Fisheries Management Authority as well as providing expert representation at legal proceedings when required.

Thirty-five additional unique zoning compliance signs have been developed for boat ramps stretching along the entire coastline of the Marine Park. This project was a joint undertaking with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency following the introduction of the Marine Parks (Great Barrier Reef Coast) Zoning Plan 2004, where complementary state zoning was introduced for most of the coastline along the Marine Park. Maps and brochures have been developed for the Local Marine Advisory Committees.

A new project for providing base spatial datasets for the Permits, Compliance and Management System was implemented along with the revision of the Plans of Management for the Whitsundays and Cairns requiring updates and maintenance of the boundary descriptions and web based mapping products. A new web-based system project was developed with Stage 1 completed, opening access to the GBRMPA's spatial information via the Google Earth platform.

Research and Monitoring Coordination

The Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit continues to ensure the GBRMPA has the best available scientific information to inform management decisions for the Marine Park. The members of the Unit maintain the scientific expertise within the GBRMPA necessary for acquiring, understanding and interpreting this information. The Unit also maintains close links with scientific organisations and research agencies to ensure that the research community is aware of the GBRMPA's information needs. The Unit has both natural science as well as social and economic information teams.

Throughout 2007-08, the Research and Monitoring Co-ordination Unit provided scientific advice on a wide variety of issues. Of particular importance was the continued implementation of the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility, and the development of scientific underpinning for the Outlook Report. The social and economic information group also undertook a number of projects to implement the framework requirements for social and economic data for management needs.

Monitoring for adaptive management

Programs to monitor the effectiveness of current major management initiatives continued in 2007-08. The information from these monitoring programs helps refine and improve management of the Marine Park into the future through adaptive management.

The Unit continues to partner in the monitoring programs to track the environmental changes resulting from the rezoning of the Marine Park and the first results on the benefits to coral reef fish communities as a result of the Zoning Plan have now been published in the peer-reviewed literature. This can be accessed online at www.current-biology.com.au, and search for Volume 18, Issue 12: R514-R515.

Important new results have also emerged, showing that outbreaks of COTS are significantly reduced in the no-take zones (Green Zones). This is an important demonstration of the benefits of the zoning to both biodiversity and reef industries such as tourism. The peer-reviewed article can be viewed online at www.current-biology.com.au, and search for Volume 18, Issue 14: R598-R599

New techniques for monitoring the spill over of fish larvae from Green (no-take) Zones were implemented, with field work completed and analysis currently underway. Monitoring of zoning effects in shoal areas is also underway.

A number of projects aimed at understanding the social and economic implications of the rezoning are currently being undertaken.

The Marine Monitoring Program for the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan continued during the 2007-08 financial year. This program is now being coordinated by the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC), providing stronger synergies with the related research being undertaken within the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTRSF). The GBRMPA has also engaged coastal communities and regional Natural Resource Management Bodies in the implementation of the monitoring program.

A social and economic framework for water quality improvement was developed in partnership with other agencies and regional bodies. This project reviewed existing information and capacity and identified social and economic information requirements for improving water quality.

The GBRMPA engaged Access Economics for a third year to report on the contribution of Great Barrier Reef industries (tourism, recreation and fishing) to the region, state and national economies. Results indicate that the value of each of these industries has increased. Additionally, social research was commissioned to understand community attitudes and beliefs toward the Marine Park and its management. The social survey process included both Great Barrier Reef catchment communities and samples from southern capital cities. Results are used elsewhere in this report to report on visitor satisfaction and perceived threats to the reef.

Working with the community

The Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit continued to increase its partnerships with the community, and the tourism industry in particular, through the Eye on the Reef, Bleach Watch, Reef Check and Marine Monitoring Programs, and through briefings to community groups and Local Marine Advisory Committees. These programs draw on tourist operators, and other community members to monitor reef health and provide advance warning of major environmental changes such as coral bleaching. These programs have been recognised, by independent experts, as highly successful in delivering monitoring information and for building partnerships and fostering stewardship.

Coordinating research and monitoring and partnerships with scientists

The GBRMPA's scientific information needs are met through partnerships with independent research agencies. In 2007-08 Research and Monitoring Coordination staff worked closely with the MTRSF and its management company, the RRRC, to ensure that the research program continues to closely address the GBRMPA's research needs.

The Unit also manages several research partnerships funded by the Australian Research Council. Most significantly, the Unit is a partner in a major Australian Research Council funded Centre of Excellence titled Innovative Science for Sustainable Management of Coral Reef Biodiversity. This centre brings together world leading coral reef scientists from Australia and overseas, and is already providing valuable, highly innovative and world-class research of relevance to management. In particular, the Centre includes a program aimed at integrating social, economic,

and biophysical science approaches to understand the resilience of coral reef social and ecological systems.

Providing a strategic response to Climate Change

Building on the success of the Climate Change Response Program (initiated under the Science, Technology and Information Group), a new critical issue group on Climate Change was established from July 2007. The main function of the new group is to implement the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan, an initiative supported with funding of \$8.9 million over 5 years under the COAG National Climate Change Adaptation Framework. The Action Plan is being implemented in close partnership with the Department of Climate Change, DEWHA, the Queensland Government and stakeholder groups (for more information refer to the section on Climate Change).

Scientific support

The Unit also continues to provide substantial scientific support and advice to other groups within the GBRMPA and the DEWHA on major development assessments and permits, and topical issues such as coral bleaching and COTS. The economic contribution that Great Barrier Reef industries make to regional and national economies, and community perceptions and views of the Great Barrier Reef and its management, are also provided to internal and external clients and stakeholder groups. The social and economic information group have worked closely with issue groups and Reef Advisory Committees (Tourism and Recreation, Fishing) to frame specific social and economic research projects to address their needs. The Unit maintains web-based systems to deliver current social and economic profiles of Great Barrier Reef communities and other key social and economic information to support Marine Park management. The Unit also continued to contribute to efforts to address emerging concerns about sustainability of shark populations within the Marine Park through the MTSRF and direct contracts.

Communicating research

As well as the Marine Monitoring Program reports and the Economic Contribution report, staff in the Unit also contributed to numerous scientific publications and conference presentations. Throughout 2007-08, the GBRMPA hosted 27 seminar presentations attended by over 700 people, both in person and via videoconference facilities, as part of the GBRMPA's seminar series. This series communicates new research proposals and the latest research findings to managers and researchers in Townsville, Rockhampton, Mackay, Canberra and Cairns.

Output 1.7 Reef Education and Communication

The Communication and Education Group provide communication advice and assistance to internal and external stakeholders, as part of a strategic approach to the communication and education needs of the GBRMPA and the Reef HQ Aquarium.

Communication and Education staff worked with a range of internal and external stakeholders to develop and implement strategies that raised awareness in the community about marine-related

issues and encouraged the community to be more environmentally-conscious at home, work, school and on the land.

This saw the Unit provide internal stakeholders with communication advice on media relations, advertising, publications and products, educational material and the coordination of events, internal and external website and other projects that have a communication component. The overall aim was to address communication issues in the most appropriate, timely and efficient manner.

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.7.1 - Effective communications, education and marketing programs.	Quality	Public understanding of the values of and main threats to the Great Barrier Reef is increasing.	Achieved
	Quantity	100 per cent of all new GBRMPA initiatives supported by an appropriate communications strategy.	Achieved
		Over 100 active Reef Guardian Schools.	Achieved
		Two new reef related education modules developed.	Achieved
		Increased usage of the GBRMPA and Reef Ed web sites.	In progress
		Continued involvement of stakeholders and high level of community engagement.	Ongoing
		\$3.325m	
1.7.2 - Provide a readily accessible onshore reef environment and interpretive programs (Reef HQ Aquarium).	Quality	85 per cent of visitors surveyed rate their visit as a satisfactory experience.	Achieved
		85 per cent of visitors surveyed rate an improved understanding of reef related issues.	Achieved
		110 000 visitors to Reef HQ.	Achieved
		Increased community penetration of memberships.	Achieved
		\$3.155m	
	Total	\$6.480m	

Internal stakeholders included the various service delivery and critical issue groups such as the Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnership Group, Tourism and Recreation Group, Water Quality and Coastal Development Group, Fisheries Group, Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit, Climate Change, the Outlook Report Taskforce and the Program Delivery Group.

Relationship building with a range of other external stakeholders also continued to be a major focus for the Unit. The Unit continued to supply free Zoning Maps and other information products to more than 550 Community Access Points along the coast, and keep other reef retailers abreast of Marine Park activities and issues through regular updates.

The Unit supported Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs), schools, community groups and regional Natural Resource Management Bodies through assistance with media relations, articles in the GBRMPA's newsletter SeaRead, the development of localised boating and fishing guides with LMAC involvement and interactive wetlands educational kiosks.

Educational components underpinned, and worked in conjunction with, a range of communication activities. During 2007-08 the focus was on educational elements linked to priority areas such as zoning compliance, climate change, the shifting baselines concept and water quality, with these featuring in school curriculum units, Reef Guardian School projects and the educational side of the Reef HQ Aquarium.

Communication

Communication strategies

Communication strategies underpin all significant projects, events and activities undertaken by the agency. The strategies outline communication goals, outcomes, key messages and target audiences to ensure a planned, meaningful and targeted approach to achieve organisational and operational outcomes. In 2007-08, 10 major strategies were developed or updated. This includes a strategy for the Reef Guardian Councils Program and Reef Education.

Identification and development of new products

The Communication Group develop a range of publications and products on behalf of the agency - these are communication collateral to support targeted campaigns and communication strategies. In 2007-08 260 key products were developed or revised including a new corporate display, interactive children's game, updated billboards, brochures, posters and bandannas.

News releases and media interviews

News releases enable the GBRMPA to use the media to promote activities, projects, programs and key messages to a wider audience. News releases are timed around specific activities and events (such as releases in the lead up to holiday periods to encourage people to get a Zoning Map and take it with them), community consultation and other newsworthy matters. In 2007-08, 108 news releases were distributed. The agency was also approached to provide expert marine and scientific information for a range of media, including the Discovery Channel, BBC, Japan's NHK, and a range of other print, radio and television media (local, national and international levels).

SeaRead

SeaRead is the official newsletter of the GBRMPA and contains news-style stories on the activities and projects undertaken by the agency to help protect the Great Barrier Reef. It also showcases members of the community undertaking best practice, Traditional Owner groups, Reef Guardian School activities and profiles many of the people the agency works in partnership with. The full colour, 12-page publication is published free every two months and is distributed to more than 3000 stakeholders (hard copy) and is also available online.

Public Information Unit

The Public Information Unit is the first point of contact for all internal and external stakeholders wishing to obtain information on the Marine Park and a key mechanism for improving and raising awareness in the community. The Unit stocks all reports, newsletters, fact sheets, updates and other products. In 2007-08, the unit received 1067 zoning-related inquiries and 1023 other requests (includes both email and phone).

Regional shows

Regional and boating shows continue to play a key role in the GBRMPA's approach to community engagement, with staff from the Unit and others in the agency attending these events in various locations in Queensland. New show products - including a new corporate banner, key messages, a children's game and an educational giveaway - were developed to support these events. The aim was to strengthen key messages and present a consistent image of the organisation. Focusing primarily on climate change issues, the new products and show theme aimed to encourage people to do their bit at home, work, school and on the land to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

Zoning compliance: Check your free zoning map or risk a fine

This was the new tagline to the revised advertising campaign and supporting products aimed at encouraging compliance with Marine Park zoning. The campaign centred on encouraging people to take their free Zoning Map when boating and fishing in the Marine Park. The education campaign aired during school holidays and other times of the year when Marine Park visitation was at its peak. The campaign was supported with billboards for the road traveller, targeted news releases and interviews, SeaRead articles, maps distributed through Community Access Points, updated signage, integrated through external website content and other targeted communication. The development of the new look and feel campaign was underpinned by market research testing.

Water quality communication support

The GBRMPA has played a key role in the delivery of communication and education products that promote ways people at home, work, school or on the land can help improve the quality of water flowing to the Great Barrier Reef. The GBRMPA worked with the Mackay Whitsunday NRM and Terrain NRM to produce 15 television infomercials promoting best management practices and the work NRM, community groups, schools and individual landowners are doing to improve water quality. The GBRMPA also worked with the four Reef Guardian Councils to produce four local television infomercials promoting the work being done by their community and council to improve natural resource management and water quality.

Climate change communication support

The GBRMPA has worked with stakeholders to raise awareness of the impacts climate change will have on the Great Barrier Reef and to promote ways in which individuals can reduce their climate footprints. The GBRMPA's staff played a key role in linking climate change to the Reef and positioning both climate change and its impacts on the Reef as key issues in communities within the Great Barrier Reef catchment. Using a thematic interpretation approach, the GBRMPA developed an interactive display on the impacts climate change will have on the people, plants, and animals that depend on the Reef (using the theme: Climate Change Affects Us All). Staff from the GBRMPA presented the display at five regional shows throughout the catchment area, helping to raise the profile of climate change as an issue for the Reef and position the GBRMPA as an integral part of the community.

The Shifting Baselines Concept

The GBRMPA worked with stakeholders and the general community to explain the concept of Shifting Baselines and collect community stories demonstrating the concept of Shifting Baselines for inclusion in the Outlook Report. As part of this a communication strategy was developed and implemented with the aim of informing and engaging interested community members about the concept of Shifting Baselines. As part of this strategy eleven community events called 'Reef Recollections' were organised and executed at different locations across the catchment. The events

were targeted at specific community organisations, historical societies, retirees groups and the general public. At the event participants were encouraged to tell their historic stories about the Great Barrier Reef and give their perspective of the shifting baselines they had noticed during their lifetime. The events were successful in monitoring the community's perspective of change in the Great Barrier Reef catchment. Some of the stories told at these events will be utilised as qualitative data in the Outlook Report.

Website

In the 2007-08 financial year the corporate website underwent a number of major content updates including a new look front page. The aim behind the content updates and the provision of a new front page was to increase accessibility for end-users who look for navigation ease.

The major updates to content have occurred in the websites research information, zoning, Representative Areas Program overview, World Heritage, science and management, privacy and Environmental Impact Management sections. The refresh to the homepage and publications sections were completed separately.

The GBRMPA's website continues to rank at the top of major search engine results with respect to the Great Barrier Reef and associated subjects. The most popular areas within the GBRMPA's site relate to coral bleaching, zoning, flora and fauna, tourism and employment.

Statistics for the 2007-08 financial year shows the majority of traffic to the website is by direct address / bookmarks followed by referrals by search engines. In the first half of 2008 over 50 per cent of visitors chose to add a GBRMPA web page to their favourites list indicating they found the content useful and wanted to return. In total the GBRMPA served over 3.2 million web pages to over half a million visitors.

Education

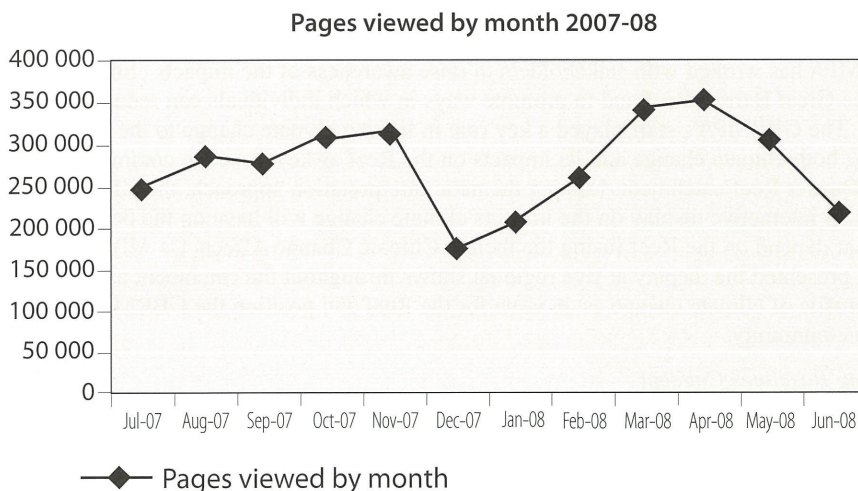


Figure 26: Number of GBRMPA web pages (external website) viewed by month

Reef Guardian Schools program

The Reef Guardian Schools program continues to be recognised as an example of best practice environmental sustainability education. The program provides a conduit through which schools can promote sustainable environmental practices within local communities, whilst projecting a positive image of the school itself. Through their commitment to:

- Including reef and environmental education in school curriculum
- Management of their school resources
- Being actively involved in on-ground projects
- Educating their community.

The action-based school projects, activities and participation programs related to current issues affecting the Great Barrier Reef provide opportunities for students, teachers, parents, guardians and friends to participate in a range of educationally beneficial initiatives. Positive outcomes have included schools working towards improving the sustainability of their catchments and coasts.

Projects are being implemented in schools adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park with water, waste, energy and biodiversity conservation projects predominating. Some examples are water quality monitoring programs in the sugarcane production region of the Burdekin, tilapia fishing competitions in the Cairns region, and public education campaigns surrounding cigarette butts in the high tourism areas of Airlie Beach and Whitsunday Islands.

The dynamic nature of the program allows schools to tailor Reef Guardian activities to fit their regionally-based issues and resources. Surveys contained in annual reports have indicated that 98 per cent of teachers involved in the program agree 'The Reef Guardian Schools program has empowered their students to become active citizens that encourage others to adopt appropriate behaviours that benefit the environment'.

In the 2008 school year there are 147 'registered' Reef Guardian Schools, including Environmental Education Centres, Police Citizens Youth Clubs and the first Early Childhood Education Centre. The Reef Guardian Schools program has been adapted to work with and within the complexity of the schools system and aims to strengthen relationships in the process of encouraging behavioural change within participants and their broader communities.

The development, implementation and maintenance of partnerships with whole of government, community groups and industry are strategic objectives of the Reef Guardian Schools program. This objective has been achieved with collaborative partnerships being established with local Councils, NRMs, local community groups and regional industry all of which have provided monetary and in-kind support to Reef Guardian School projects and activities. These partnerships are considered to be very important to the longevity of the Reef Guardian Schools program. The establishment of such partnerships has been the catalyst for more Reef Guardian Schools achieving and being recognised for achieving environmental, economical, social/cultural and educational outcomes.

Achieving the following strategic objectives has ensured the continuing success of the Reef Guardian Schools program:

- Implementation of an effective and efficient cyclic structure for Reef Guardian School Coordinator support. Reef Guardian Teacher Networking Meetings have been facilitated at nine locations along the Great Barrier Reef coastline bringing together local councils, Natural Resource Management agencies, local community groups and regional industry.
- Integration learning technologies such as web cam, videoconferencing and online forums such as wikis have made resources and expert support more easily accessible.
- Development and provision of educationally beneficial opportunities that encourage students to reduce their ecological footprint via behavioural change and strengthen cooperative community links. Future Leaders Eco Challenges focusing on the topic of climate change and its impact on the Great Barrier Reef were facilitated at seven locations along the Great Barrier Reef coastline, they involved 49 schools, 302 student delegates and 32 event sponsors and supporting organisations.

Reef ED website

The Reef ED website www.reefED.edu.au continues to provide students, teachers and learners of all ages nationally and internationally with a comprehensive portal to reef education programs and supporting information to enhance teaching and learning. An accurate indication of visits to the Reef ED website is now possible due to a newly implemented server and content management software with a well-structured log file analysis system. During 2007- 08 the Reef ED website received 159 716 unique visits nationally and internationally.

Reef education products

As an integral partner within the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative the GBRMPA developed and implemented targeted reef education products. These products included:

- Reef Beat - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow set of 10 full colour posters with supporting teachers activity book was created in celebration of the International Year of the Reef. It celebrated the beauty and wonder of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The key messages were that the Great Barrier Reef has been evolving for millions of years and it is up to us all to ensure that the eyes that look upon this species rich and visually stunning part of planet in the future see what we see today, if not better
- Reef Beat - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow was an innovative and curriculum-centred teaching resource that included activities and challenges that stimulated inquiring minds to discover all they could about the Reef and the need for its protection. Reef Beat - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow was targeted at Upper Primary and Middle School students. The activities covered a range of Key Learning Areas with an aim to engage students via multiple intelligences, targeting essential learning's whilst, working towards achievement standards.

The activities within the teacher's activity book supported them to:

- Plan learning activities that focus student learning and thinking on the biological diversity that inhabits the Reef, the connected ecosystems that support it and the activities and behaviours we can all adopt to ensure its sustainable future
- Provide students with opportunities to gain an appreciation for the Shifting Baselines concept and how it applies to their environment including the Great Barrier Reef

- Contribute to the responsible development of active and informed citizens with a better knowledge of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem and its inhabitants
- Engage students and empower them to educate their peers and other members of the broader school community.

Hard copies of the Reef Beat series were made available to every school in Queensland and electronic versions were made available on the Reef ED website for students and teachers nationally and internationally. *Reef Beat - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* was distributed to 277 schools across Queensland with 1068 poster sets being distributed to teachers and a further 589 teacher activity books being sent out to provide additional professional support.

Reef HQ Aquarium

Reef HQ Aquarium is a leading tourism attraction and national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef. As the world's largest living coral reef aquarium, Reef HQ plays a key role in educating and raising public awareness about the Marine Park. It includes inspiring interpretive displays and interactive exhibits that aim to present an accurate and fascinating snapshot of the unique marine environment. During 2007-08 the Aquarium received advanced eco-certification status from Ecotourism Australia, which means the centre is committed to best practice ecological sustainability, natural area management and the provision of quality ecotourism experiences.

New innovations and developments

During 2007-08 Reef HQ welcomed a number of new innovations, business lines, displays and exhibits. The main highlights include:

- New species identification labels, interpretive panels, Tour Hymnal and Climate Change Interactive exhibit
- Took part in an Energy Audit - obtained 3.5 star rating, as at June 30 achieved 4 star rating with goal to be a 5 star facility in future
- Invested in new water quality system
- Maintained 99 per cent animal survival rate including successful animal husbandry and breeding program including birth of baby leopard and epaulette sharks, olive sea snakes, seahorses and success in farming jellyfish polyps
- Discovered new jellyfish species in Central Reef Exhibit
- Developed roving dive show
- Theatre refurbishment, inclusive of audio-visual technology upgrades and thematic display case and education on-sell DVD
- New souvenir guide books
- Introduced new branded turtle soft toys
- Reinvigorated menu lines at Waterview Café - traded 14 per cent above target

- New ATM, children's ride and photo booth
- Implemented Functions Review and refocus - achieved six per cent above target
- Raised awareness of Reef HQ through innovative marketing and public relations activities - achieved \$182 607 domestic media value off a low base (excludes international media coverage)
- Marketing of two key events including the Turtle Mania Fun Day Bonanza and Lucky T Turtle 10th Birthday resulted in 800+ visitors, the highest grossing visitation days for Reef HQ since the re-opening
- Provided video links to 41 schools, meeting at conference venues, reaching 2720 people nationally and internationally on the back of 84 per cent increase in 2006-07
- Employed full-time Membership Coordinator and implemented a year round promotional calendar including Lucky T Turtle Mascot appearances - achieved a one per cent increase in revenue and achieved a 7.4 per cent increase in membership sales
- Employed a mural artist to transform the concourse into an inspiring and colourful pre-reef experience
- Attracted premier events including the Davis Cup Tennis Australia launch
- Home base for two weeks of filming for Galette Films, Oceans Movie - the world's largest ever oceans and Great Barrier Reef movie.

Revenue trends and visitor numbers

Reef HQ welcomed 124 685 visitors during the 2007-08 year, representing 0.7 per cent less visitors than the previous period. Revenue was \$2 515 651 compared to \$2 570 498 or a 2.1 per cent decrease in income. Reef HQ's revenue position was trending two per cent upwards for the first two quarters, in correlation with positive visitation. However, in January 2008 coinciding with a volatile domestic economic market, the drop in consumer spending, rising interest rates and fuel prices, Reef HQ experienced a drop in visitation. In response to business effects of the slowing economy, Reef HQ Business Operations reviewed and realigned our marketing strategies for the remaining six-month period. The quick response and sharpened marketing focus, delivered a favourable financial outcome for Reef HQ in face of the slowing economy and downturn in the Australian tourism industry.

It is worth noting 2006-07 was an excellent year for the Aquarium, as was the case for the wider Townsville Tourism industry, resulting in 125 769 visitors representing a 14.9 per cent increase from 109 500 visitors during 2005-06.

Feedback

A visitor survey was conducted in April 2008, revealing visitors had a high level of satisfaction with their experience. This confirms Reef HQ combined a valued and engaging experience with education and communication. Of the 187 surveyed, 100 per cent of respondents said they were satisfied with their Reef HQ experience.

Volunteers

Reef HQ's 140 active volunteers gave over 12 900 hours of service this financial year, helping to support a range of Reef HQ's programs. In 2008, as part of the annual intake, 42 new volunteers were recruited and trained. Volunteer training included Reef HQ's operations, customer service and basic marine biology, with a main emphasis on the organisms in Reef HQ's exhibits. A new Volunteer Passbook Program was introduced as part of the training, aimed at assisting new volunteers to become familiar with Reef HQ's interpretive and education programs. Ongoing volunteer commitment to Reef HQ Aquarium is evidenced by a 70 per cent retention rate for the 2007-08 year.

A volunteer exhibit was installed within Reef HQ to recognise volunteer achievements and included individual volunteer hours of service plaques. In September last year, volunteers celebrated their 20th Anniversary, and launched a commemorative edition of their volunteer newsletter 'Waves'. The volunteers were also the recipients of the National Australia Bank Volunteer Award -State Runner Up for the small to medium volunteer organisations.

Membership

Membership numbers continue to strengthen, with an increase from last year. There are 11 611 individuals members on 3539 actual membership for the financial period 2007-08.

Reef HQ Aquarium Education

Reef HQ's education programs are age-specific, innovative and curriculum-centred. They include interactive activities and investigation challenges, stimulating inquiring minds to discover all they can about the Reef. Teachers are provided with curriculum-linked activities to enhance and extend student learning.

Reef HQ education programs provide students with opportunities to:

- Observe thousands of live reef creatures
- Experience the habitats, ecosystems and behaviour of reef creatures
- Analyse the interactions that exist between reef creatures
- Appreciate the requirements for a healthy reef ecosystem
- Discover the latest in reef research; and
- Understand why protecting the future of the Great Barrier Reef is important.

Comparative student participation in ReefED programs illustrates the viability of Reef HQ Aquarium's education programs. During the 2007-08 year, student participation numbers were down in comparison to 2006-07. This can be attributed to a reduction in visitation from the international education markets and the cyclic nature of planning and content delivery within the formal education sector. Visitation from the domestic and local market during the 2007-08 year has remained strong. However, in January-February 2008, the accumulating affects of summer school holidays, uncertainty in the domestic economic market, the drop in client discretionary spending, and unparalleled rises in fuel prices making transportation costs prohibitive, Reef HQ Aquarium education programs experienced a noticeable drop in student participation.

Student participation in Reef HQ Aquarium education programs

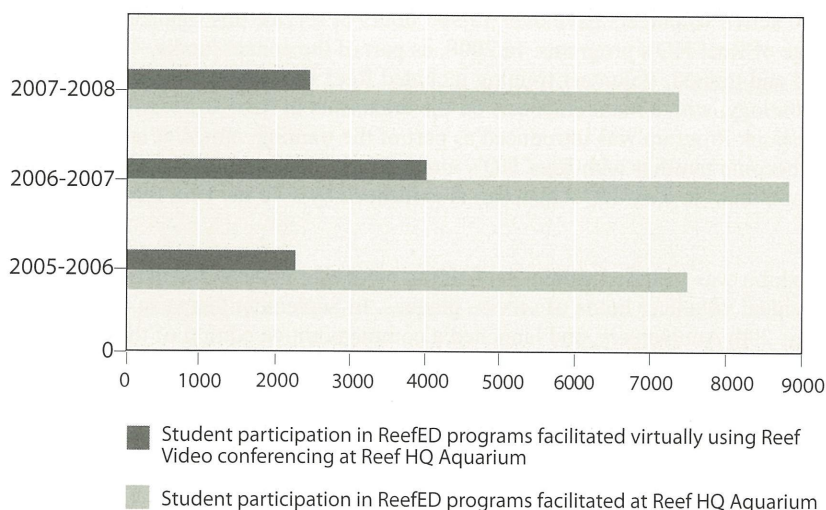


Figure 27: Student participation in Reef HQ Aquarium education programs

The 2006-07 financial year was quite unique and demonstrates the variability in and cyclic nature of the local, regional, national and international market segments that Reef HQ Aquarium education programs target. This is clearly demonstrated when comparisons are drawn with the 2005-06 financial year where it can be seen that 2007-08 student numbers are maintained and increased overall.

Reef Videoconferencing

Students of all ages from around Australia and the world have been able to experience the Reef with Reef Videoconferencing. During their underwater fact-finding mission, classrooms have been transported to the Coral Reef and Predator exhibits at Reef HQ Aquarium. State-of-the-art videoconferencing technology unlocks unique teaching and learning experiences, including information delivered live by a scuba diver. Reef Videoconferences, are supported by comprehensive teaching materials, and educate students about a range of marine issues.

Reef Videoconferences have proven to be an exciting, stimulating and easy way to involve students in learning about the Great Barrier Reef. Reef Video conferences are very different from other multimedia resources, such as video recordings or television presentations, because they are live interactive educational experiences.

The facilitation of Reef Videoconferences continues to grow as more and more schools nationally and internationally start using videoconferencing technology in their classrooms. The Reef Videoconferencing program is consistently rated as a highly beneficial environmental education experience. This is evidenced by high rates of revisitation and uptake by schools wanting to receive reef education via this medium. During 2007-08 Reef Videoconferencing was used to facilitate reef education to 2720 students nationally and internationally.

Reef HQ Aquarium's Reef Videoconferencing program won international recognition in the Teacher's Choice Awards conducted in the United States of America to select the Best Videoconferencing Content Providers for the 2007-08 school year. Teachers from across the United States and Canada were surveyed. Votes came in from 29 different states. Reef Videoconferencing was voted as one of the top three international content providers.

Community Partnerships Group

The objective of the Community Partnerships Group is to enhance management decisions, compliance and stewardship through embedding a culture of effective, best-practice community engagement across the GBRMPA. In 2007-08, the GBRMPA completed recruitment of new Regional Liaison Officers and Senior Regional Liaison Officers based in the five regions (see below), bringing the Community Partnerships Group to a total of 16 staff spread across offices in Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.

The regional offices, among other things, work closely with Queensland Parks and Wildlife (one of our day-to-day management partners), develop relationships with recreational fishers and boaters, increase the GBRMPA's local knowledge and assist with the delivery of water quality monitoring programs. Townsville based staff make good use of the regional offices during official duties outside head office.

Outcome	Outputs	Performance
Improved community input to, awareness of, and support for management decisions in Cape York, Far Northern, Northern, Central and Southern regions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.	1. Ensure a physical presence of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.	Ongoing
	2. Ensure effective information flows between regional offices and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.	Ongoing
	3. Ensure effective functioning of Local Marine Advisory Committees.	Ongoing
	4. Ensure adequate skills and support for staff involvement in effective and coordinated community engagement.	Ongoing
	5. Effective and coordinated issues identification and elevation both internally and externally.	Ongoing

The regions are defined geographically, and have staff allocated, as listed below:

Cape York Region: from the Daintree River north through to the northern tip of Cape York and based in the Cairns office.

Far Northern Region: from the Daintree River south to Mission Beach and based in the Cairns office.

Northern Region: from Tully to the Burdekin and based in the Townsville head office.

Central Region: from Bowen to St Lawrence and based in the Mackay office.

Southern Region: from Marlborough to Bundaberg and based in the Rockhampton office.

Performance analysis

The focus during 2007-08 was 1) to further consolidate community support for, and compliance with, the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*, which came into effect in July 2004; and 2) to promote voluntary community participation in initiatives aimed at increasing the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

Key achievements during 2007-08 were:

- Extensive liaison with stakeholders, other government departments and co-management agencies for increased input to, awareness and support of management decisions
- Improving dissemination and understanding of the GBRMPA's issues in the community and improving consideration of community issues in the GBRMPA's decision-making
- Improving issue management through early identification of locally relevant issues and appropriate elevation and addressing of issues before they escalate
- Active participation in a wide range of community-based organisations
- Coordination of 11 Local Marine Advisory Committees and their activities. Routine attendance at bi-monthly forums
- Community engagement via participation at regional and recreational shows, festivals and Reef Guardian School events
- Community Access Points visitation increased, relationships were strengthened and new members were inducted
- Support for CapReef (Capricorn community-based recreational fishing program) increased and discussions commenced with other coastal communities for replica programs.

Continued involvement in regional NRM activities.

Climate Change

Building on the success of the Climate Change Response Program (initiated under the Science, Technology and Information Group), a new critical issue group on Climate Change was established in July 2007. The main function of the new Group is to implement the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2012, an initiative supported with funding of \$8.9 million over 5 years under the COAG National Climate Change Adaptation Framework. The Action Plan is being implemented in close partnership with the Department of Climate Change, DEWHA, the Queensland Government and stakeholder groups.

The GBRMPA's strategic response to climate change is built on three pillars: building ecosystem resilience, assisting adaptation of industries and communities that depend on a healthy ecosystem,

and reducing climate footprints. These areas of endeavour are supported by initiatives to support targeted science, ensure good communications and foster strong partnerships.

Underpinning the strategic efforts of the GBRMPA is a vulnerability assessment of the Great Barrier Reef to climate change. This 800-page report (Climate Change and the Great Barrier Reef: A Vulnerability Assessment) was published by the GBRMPA in October 2007. It involved contributions from 85 experts and is recognised as the most comprehensive assessment of climate change vulnerability for marine ecosystems ever undertaken. Priority areas for research and management action identified in the assessment provided the basis for the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan.

The first year of operation of the Climate Change Group saw some major advances in tools to monitor the risk of coral bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef as a result of strong collaborations with CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology. ReefTemp provides real-time measure of sea surface temperature anomalies using satellite data (now with national coverage as a result of partnership with DEWHA), while the Predictive Ocean Atmosphere Model for Australia indicates the likelihood of bleaching-inducing conditions up to six months in advance.

Other key achievements include establishment of a partnership with Wuthathi Traditional Owners to build climate change adaptation strategies into the implementation plan of the Traditional Use Marine Resource Agreement (TUMRA), a climate change risk assessment for sea turtle nesting and other values of Raine Island, and support of a new interpretative centre for climate change in Reef HQ.

The Group's range of expertise in science, policy and communication has enabled good progress in building collaborative initiatives with stakeholder groups to understand key vulnerabilities to climate change and develop adaptation strategies. In conjunction with the Tourism and Recreation Group, the Climate Change Group has supported the Great Barrier Reef Tourism Industry Climate Change Action Group, and the inclusion of tourism adaptation and mitigation needs under the Climate Change Action Strategy.

The Group also implemented the Coral Bleaching Response Plan this last summer. The BleachWatch community-monitoring program forms an important part of the early warning component of this plan. No significant bleaching was reported, although extensive flooding in the Keppel Bay region added stress to reefs that were still recovering from severe bleaching during the previous summer. This plan continues to ensure that the Australian Government and local communities have authoritative information on the extent and severity of coral bleaching each summer.

Corporate Services

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

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

Performance analysis

During 2007-08, Corporate Services' major achievements included:

- Implemented the transition from being an agency under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* to an prescribed agency under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*
- Provided monthly budgeting and reporting to Department of Finance and Deregulation and to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
- Ensured staff have an understanding of the GBRMPA, corporate policy, systems and procedures by conducting staff inductions that include human resources, finance and office services
- Increased staff capabilities through the provision of levels of training in leadership, performance management, workplace diversity, occupational health and safety and other key APS subject areas
- Implemented a graduate recruitment program

- Upgraded the Aurion Human Resources Information System and implemented new modules to manage award interpretation and timesheets and enhanced the capabilities of the Employee Self Service System
- Continued to enhance the Environment Management Charge compliance framework
- Provided high quality Secretariat services to the GBRMPA and its committee structures
- Developed a new records framework in preparation for approval of a new records disposal authority by National Archives Australia
- Developed an Energy Management Plan for the GBRMPA with a five-year capital investment strategy to produce energy efficiencies and reduce operational costs
- Completed a NABERS and ABGR rating for GBRMPA accommodation and development of long-term accommodation strategy.

Environmental Management Charge

The GBRMPA collected a total Environmental Management Charge (EMC) of \$8 million in 2007-08. Revenue from the EMC provides funding for research, reef user education and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

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

A Permits Compliance and Management System (PCaMS) is being developed to enhance the GBRMPA's capacity to manage the EMC and permissions. The electronic lodgement of EMC returns and logbook pages is a major objective included in the Permits and Compliance Management System currently under development.

Accommodation

The majority of the GBRMPA's staff are accommodated in the main office building within the Reef HQ complex and a nearby building, Kelleher Place. Small regional offices are also located in Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton. The Cairns office was moved during the year to accommodate staff for field management and compliance activities. Staff of the Parliamentary and Ministerial Liaison Unit are located within the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts offices in Canberra.

The GBRMPA's Townsville accommodation is increasingly under pressure in terms of space and facilities. Refurbishment of offices was completed during the year to accommodate the Climate Change Program and co-locate Groups. A strategy to provide future office accommodation that will meet the Government's environmentally sustainable building policy has been developed.

Human Resources Management

The Human Resources Management (HRM) Unit aims to assist the GBRMPA to achieve its outcomes through the provision of capable and motivated employees. HRM assists managers to plan, recruit and manage high performing employees. Capability development and performance

management programs assist in developing and maintaining employee focus and flexibility, which is essential to build and maintain an outcome achievement orientation. Quality Occupational Health and Safety interventions ensure a safe and secure working environment is provided for all staff.

Employee numbers

Employee levels in the GBRMPA increased by 12.5% in 2007-008 financial year (see Appendix 5 for employee numbers at 30 June 2008) the increase in total numbers from 196 in 2006-07 to 222 in 2007-08. The majority of positions in the GBRMPA continued to be managed on an ongoing basis totalling 79 per cent and non-ongoing 21 per cent.

The most notable change in employee numbers was an increase in the number of female employees increasing to total number of 130 and representing 58.03 per cent of the overall employee numbers, which is an increase in total numbers of 20 from 2006-07 to 2007-08.

The major organisational change for the year was the 'refresh' of the organisation structure. The two Executive Director positions (Senior Executive Service Band 2) are to be replaced by four General Manager positions (SES Band 1). The existing group structure will be re-distributed into a Divisional structure. The new Executive Management Group will consist of the Chairman and four General Managers - Corporate Services; Strategic Policy, Communication and Government; Marine Park Development; and Marine Park Management. The Divisional structure will come into effect from 1 July 2008 with further changes to follow once all General Managers are appointed.

Capability development

A total of \$302 242 was expended on capability development in 2007-08. A core training program was developed and included training programs in the areas of APS Values and Code of Conduct, financial management, project management, management essentials, communication skills and performance management communication and feedback skills. Opportunities continued to be offered in the areas of leadership/management development, conference attendance, study assistance, information technology, occupational health and safety training, technical/professional skills development and 'on the job' training and coaching.

Work continued on a capability framework aimed at developing a more targeted approach to capability development with closer links to the Performance Management and Development System and the Workforce Management Plan.

Induction and orientation programs continued to provide new employees with an introduction to the GBRMPA and the Australian Public Service in particular the APS Code of Conduct and Values.

Workplace relations

Staff operate under the GBRMPA Workplace Agreement 2006-09. Work continued in consultation with the Agency Consultative Committee, staff and management to review and create guidelines to support the new Agreement.

At 30 June 2008 one Senior Executive Service employee and one Executive level employee were on Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs). In 2008 both employees were eligible to receive performance payments through their AWA.

Equal employment opportunity and workplace diversity

Equal employment opportunity data for the GBRMPA's employees is provided in Appendix 5. The long-term objectives of the GBRMPA's Workplace Diversity Program are to ensure:

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

During 2007-08 the GBRMPA has continued to offer employment conditions, through the implementation of the GBRMPA's Certified Workplace Agreement 2006-2009, that recognises, values and utilises the background, skills and abilities of all employees including but not limited to:

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

In addition the GBRMPA has continued to:

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

Occupational Health and Safety

The provision of a safe and secure working environment continued to be a high priority for the GBRMPA. Working in consultation with management and employees through the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Committee, the GBRMPA increased hazard reporting and awareness leading to a reduction in incidents and compensation claims.

Through the occupational health and safety program, the GBRMPA extended the commitment to Safety training, including Safety induction for all staff, Senior First Aid, CPR and Advanced Resuscitation training, certification in Specified Plant Use, Food Safety and Safety induction for supervisors. Specifically for Field Officers, other training included 4WD, All Terrain Vehicle, Helicopter Underwater Escape Training, Confined Spaces, Dangerous Animals and Remote Area First Aid. Emergency Response training was provided for Emergency Response Officers and a review of Emergency Procedures and positions undertaken. Further training was specifically provided for managers and supervisors in Occupational Health and Safety as part of the GBRMPA's commitment to early intervention strategies. Information sessions were also provided to managers in Supporting Staff Through Change.

Prompted by previous review of health screening procedures, Influenza vaccinations were offered to all staff. An intensive program of Health Screening for Field Officers was also developed specifically designed to be accessible to staff in all regional areas.

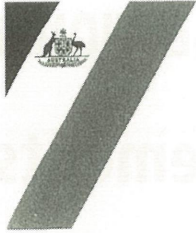
Training was undertaken in Occupational Health and Safety at Sea to conform with the *Transport Operations (Maritime Safety) Regulation 2004*. Continued review of diving operations resulted in further training in risk assessment, record keeping, compliance and notification. Diver training was provided to increase skills and experience and the purchase of a new dive compressor resulted in improved safety and streamlining of processes.

In 2007-08, employees of the GBRMPA lodged 21 incident reports - most were of a minor nature; one claim for compensation was lodged and accepted by our insurer.

SECTION D

Financial Statements





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts

Scope

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2008, which comprise: a Statement by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer; Income Statement; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies; Schedule of Administered Items and Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements, including a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

The Responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer for the Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's

preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Chief Executive Officer, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

Independence

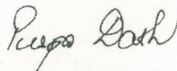
In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

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

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's financial position as at 30 June 2008 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspa Dash
Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
24 October 2008

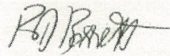
**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER)**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, as amended.



Russel Reichelt
Chief Executive Officer

24 October 2008



John Barrett
Chief Financial Officer

24 October 2008

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
INCOME STATEMENT**

for the period ended 30 June 2008

	Notes	2008 \$	2007 \$
INCOME			
Revenue			
Revenue from Government	3A	29,444,177	23,404,381
Sale of goods and rendering of services	3B	2,463,599	2,582,425
Interest	3D	-	653,409
Project revenues	3E	5,449,687	6,883,717
Other	3F	611,578	821,703
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	6(b)	8,292,000	4,844,000
Total revenue		46,261,041	39,189,635
Gains			
Sale of assets	3G	4,313	-
Other	3H	48,000	-
Total gains		52,313	-
Total Income		46,313,354	39,189,635
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	4A	17,467,499	14,932,373
Suppliers	4B	14,066,437	12,268,537
Depreciation and amortisation	4C	1,513,877	1,249,749
Write-down and impairment of assets	4D	8,045	75,249
Cost of goods sold	3C	200,720	222,464
Grants	5	16,041	73,182
Losses from asset sales	3G	-	3,358
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	6(c)	13,031,376	8,430,600
Total Expenses		46,303,995	37,255,512
Surplus		9,359	1,934,123

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
BALANCE SHEET
as at 30 June 2008

	Notes	2008 \$	2007 \$
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7A	950,206	11,660
Trade and other receivables	7B	<u>9,912,223</u>	<u>11,591,230</u>
Total financial assets		<u>10,862,429</u>	<u>11,602,890</u>
Non-Financial Assets			
Land, buildings and leasehold improvements	8A, D	14,742,944	16,191,867
Plant and equipment	8B, D	3,142,580	2,683,029
Intangibles	8C, D	1,131,904	702,198
Inventories	8E	154,588	83,908
Other non-financial assets	8F	<u>166,792</u>	<u>166,178</u>
Total non-financial assets		<u>19,338,808</u>	<u>19,827,180</u>
Total Assets		<u>30,201,237</u>	<u>31,430,070</u>
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	9A	985,566	751,435
Other payables	9B	<u>2,647,358</u>	<u>3,899,827</u>
Total payables		<u>3,632,924</u>	<u>4,651,262</u>
Interest Bearing Liabilities			
Overdrafts	10	-	<u>123,759</u>
Total interest bearing liabilities		<u>-</u>	<u>123,759</u>
Provisions			
Employee provisions	11A	4,123,371	3,804,936
Other provisions	11B	<u>90,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>
Total provisions		<u>4,213,371</u>	<u>3,894,936</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>7,846,295</u>	<u>8,669,957</u>
Net Assets		<u>22,354,942</u>	<u>22,760,113</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		14,284,047	13,139,047
Reserves		9,948,814	11,508,344
Retained surplus (accumulated deficit)		<u>(1,877,919)</u>	<u>(1,887,278)</u>
Total Equity		<u>22,354,942</u>	<u>22,760,113</u>
Current Assets		11,183,809	11,852,976
Non-current Assets		19,017,428	19,577,094
Current Liabilities		7,130,015	8,155,967
Non-current Liabilities		716,280	513,990

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the period ended 30 June 2008

	Retained Earnings		Asset Revaluation Reserve		Contributed Equity/Capital		Total Equity	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening Balance	(1,887,278)	(3,821,401)	11,508,344	7,322,570	13,139,047	12,780,047	22,760,113	16,281,216
Balance carried forward from previous period								
Income and Expense								
Revaluation adjustment	-	-	(134,502)	4,185,774	-	-	(134,502)	4,185,774
Subtotal income and expenses recognised Directly in Equity	-	-	(134,502)	4,185,774	-	-	(134,502)	4,185,774
Surplus for the period	9,359	1,934,123	-	-	-	-	9,359	1,934,123
Total income and expenses	9,359	1,934,123	(134,502)	4,185,774	-	-	(125,143)	6,119,897
Transactions with Owners								
Contributions by Owners								
Appropriation (equity injection)	-	-	-	-	1,145,000	359,000	1,145,000	359,000
Refer Note 1.7								
Sub-total Transactions with Owners	-	-	-	-	1,145,000	359,000	1,145,000	359,000
Transfer of lighthouse properties to Administered Assets	-	-	(1,425,028)	-	-	-	(1,425,028)	-
Closing balance at 30 June	(1,877,919)	(1,887,278)	9,948,814	11,508,344	14,284,047	13,139,047	22,354,942	22,760,113

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

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

for the period ended 30 June 2008

	Notes	2008 \$	2007 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations		30,974,177	24,310,398
Permit assessment fees		351,186	324,391
Interest		-	691,416
Reef HQ admission fees		1,360,981	1,461,502
Net GST received		962,137	503,936
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management		8,292,000	4,844,000
Environmental management charge		-	7,248,963
Other receipts		5,539,974	7,130,499
Total cash received		47,480,455	46,515,105
Cash used			
Grants		16,041	73,182
Employees		17,611,507	14,815,505
Suppliers		14,510,242	12,284,304
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management		13,031,376	8,430,600
Refunds of Environmental management charge		-	2,582
Funds returned to Official Public Account		-	9,215,533
Environmental management charge payments to Commonwealth		-	8,152,398
Total cash used		45,169,166	52,974,104
Net cash from or (used by) operating activities	12	2,311,289	(6,458,999)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		35,699	18,657
Investments		-	16,700
Total cash received		35,699	35,357
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		2,429,683	1,579,565
Net cash from or (used by) investing activities		(2,393,984)	(1,544,208)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriation - Contributed Equity		1,145,000	359,000
Net cash from or (used by) financing activities		1,145,000	359,000
Net increase or (decrease) in cash held		1,062,305	(7,644,207)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		(112,099)	7,532,108
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	7A,10	950,206	(112,099)

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
 as at 30 June 2008

BY TYPE	2008 \$	2007 \$
Capital Commitments		
Plant and equipment ¹	95,449	381,795
<i>Total capital commitments</i>	<u>95,449</u>	<u>381,795</u>
Other commitments		
Operating leases ²	1,118,458	1,341,063
Other commitments ³	2,026,957	2,143,197
<i>Total other commitments</i>	<u>3,145,415</u>	<u>3,484,260</u>
Commitments receivable		
GST Recoverable on Commitments	(294,624)	(351,460)
Net commitments by Type	<u><u>2,946,240</u></u>	<u><u>3,514,595</u></u>
BY MATURITY		
Commitments payable		
Capital commitments		
One year or less	95,449	381,795
<i>Total capital commitments</i>	<u>95,449</u>	<u>381,795</u>
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	591,401	931,333
From one to five years	527,057	409,730
<i>Total operating lease commitments</i>	<u>1,118,458</u>	<u>1,341,063</u>
Other commitments		
One year or less	2,026,957	2,130,999
From one to five years	-	12,198
<i>Total other commitments</i>	<u>2,026,957</u>	<u>2,143,197</u>
Commitments receivable		
One year or less	(294,624)	(351,460)
<i>Total commitments receivable</i>	<u>(294,624)</u>	<u>(351,460)</u>
Net commitments by Maturity	<u><u>2,946,240</u></u>	<u><u>3,514,595</u></u>

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS

as at 30 June 2008

1. Plant & equipment include purchase orders for office equipment, computer equipment & vessels.
2. Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable and comprise:

Nature of Lease	General description of leasing arrangement
Leases for office accommodation	Lease payments were subject to current open market rent review in 2007-08 The term of the first option for renewal of 3 years has been exercised. The term of the second option for renewal is 3 years.
Leases for office equipment	Lease payments are paid monthly
Lease for motor vehicles	Leases are for a period of 24 months or 30,000 kilometres; 24 months or 40,000 kilometres; 24 months or 50,000 kilometres; 36 months or 75,000 kilometres; 36 months or 90,000 kilometres; No contingent rentals exist

3. As at 30 June 2008, other commitments comprise amounts to be paid under contracts for consultancy services and purchase orders for other services and supplies.

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

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES
as at 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Contingent liabilities		
Claims for damages/costs	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED ITEMS**

	Notes	2008 \$	2007 \$
Income administered on behalf of Government <i>for the period ended 30 June 2008</i>	19A		
Revenue			
Rent from lighthouse properties		283,050	-
Environmental management charge		9,527,177	-
Total revenues administered on behalf of Government		<u>9,810,227</u>	<u>-</u>
Total income administered on behalf of Government		<u>9,810,227</u>	<u>-</u>
Expenses administered on behalf of Government <i>for the period ended 30 June 2008</i>	19B		
Suppliers		699,500	-
Total expenses administered on behalf of Government		<u>699,500</u>	<u>-</u>

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

Assets and liabilities administered on behalf of Government
as at 30 June 2008

Financial assets	19C		
Cash and cash equivalents		173,690	-
Receivables: Environmental management charge		1,500,000	-
Non-Financial assets			
Lighthouse properties		3,504,322	-
Total assets administered on behalf of Government		<u>5,178,012</u>	<u>-</u>

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

Administered cash flows
for the period ended 30 June 2008

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Cash received			
Rent from lighthouse properties		283,050	-
Environmental management charge		8,030,432	-
Total cash received		<u>8,313,482</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash used			
Suppliers		699,500	-
Environmental management charge refunds		3,255	-
Total cash used		<u>702,755</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash flows used by operating activities		<u>7,610,727</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held		<u>7,610,727</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash from Official Public Account for:			
- Appropriations		702,755	-
		<u>702,755</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash to Official Public Account for:			
- Appropriations		7,856,742	-
- Other		283,050	-
		<u>8,139,792</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	19	<u>173,690</u>	<u>-</u>

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

Administered commitments and contingencies

There were no administered commitments or contingencies as at 30 June 2008, (2007: Nil).

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

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

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

The GBRMPA is structured to meet the outcome:

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

GBRMPA activities contributing toward this outcome are classified as either departmental or administered. Departmental activities involve the use of assets, liabilities, revenues 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 continued existence of the GBRMPA in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the GBRMPA's administration and programs.

1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements and notes are required by section 49 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* and are a General Purpose Financial Report.

The financial statements and notes have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (FMOs) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2007; and
- 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 are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

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

Comparative information for the 2006-07 financial year has been presented in a manner consistent with the status of the GBRMPA as a statutory authority in 2006-07 under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. As a consequence, all comparative information is disclosed in the departmental statements.

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 agreements equally proportionately unperformed are not recognised unless required by an Accounting Standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrealised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments and the Schedule of Contingencies.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an Accounting Standard, revenues and expenses are recognised in the Income Statement when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

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

1.3 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

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

Administered property, plant and equipment include lighthouse properties valued at fair value, which has been assessed as the present value of the future lease payments payable under existing and anticipated future leases.

1.4 Statement of Compliance

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 are applicable to the current accounting period:

Financial instrument disclosure

AASB 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures* is effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2007 (the 2007-08 financial year) and amends the disclosure requirements for financial instruments. In general AASB 7 requires greater disclosure than that previously required. Associated with the introduction of AASB 7 a number of accounting standards were amended to reference the new standard or remove the present disclosure requirements through 2005-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]. These changes have no financial impact but will effect the disclosure presented in future Financial Statements.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

The following new standards, amendments to standards or interpretations for the current financial year have no material financial impact on the GBRMPA.

2007-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from ED 151 and Other Amendments and Erratum: Proportionate Consolidation
2007-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards

UIG Interpretation 11 AASB 2 – Group and Treasury Share Transactions and 2007-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 11

Future Australian Accounting Standard requirements

The following new standards, amendments to standards or interpretations have been issued by the AASB but are effective for future reporting periods. It is estimated that the impact of adopting these pronouncements when effective will have no material financial impact on future reporting periods.

AASB Interpretation 12 Service Concession Arrangements and 2007-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 12

AASB 8 Operating Segments and 2007-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 8

2007-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123

AASB Interpretation 13 Customer Loyalty Programmes

AASB Interpretation 14 AASB 119 – The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction

Other

The following standards and interpretations have been issued but are not applicable to the operations of the GBRMPA.

AASB 1049 Financial Reporting of General Government Sectors by Governments

AASB 1049 specifies the reporting requirements for the General Government Sector, and therefore, has no effect on GBRMPA's financial statements.

1.5 Revenue

Revenue from Government

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

Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

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

Other Types of Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

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

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

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

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

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

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.

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

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

1.7 Transactions by the Government as Owner

Equity injections

Amounts appropriated which are designed as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) are recognised directly in Contributed Equity in that year. In 2007-08 the GBRMPA received equity injections of \$1,145,000 from Government for field management.

Restructuring of Administrative Arrangements

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

Other distributions to owners

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

1.8 Employee Benefits

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

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119) and termination benefits due within twelve months are measured at their nominal amounts.

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

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

Leave

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

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

The liability for long service leave takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation and is measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2008.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.9 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

The GBRMPA has no finance leases.

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

1.10 Cash

Cash and cash equivalents means notes and coins held and any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

1.11 Financial Assets

The GBRMPA classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- 'loans and receivables'.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

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 'at fair value through profit or loss'.

Loans and receivables

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

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at each balance date.

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

1.12 Financial Liabilities

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

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

Other financial liabilities

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

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

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

Supplier and other payables

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

1.13 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but are reported in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset, or represent a liability or asset in respect of which settlement is not probable or 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.

1.14 Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

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

1.15 Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

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

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

Reef HQ

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ended 30 June 2008

Revaluations

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

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

Following initial recognition at cost, property plant and equipment are carried at fair value less 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.

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

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

Depreciation

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

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

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

	2008	2007
Buildings	50 years	50 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and equipment	1 to 20 years	1 to 20 years

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2008. 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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

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 assets, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

1.16 Intangibles

The GBRMPA's intangibles comprise purchased software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost, 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 (2006-07: 3 to 8 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2008.

1.17 Inventories

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

1.18 Taxation

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

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST:

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

1.19 Advances for day-to-day management

Except for expenditure on fixtures upon land owned by or under the direct control of the Commonwealth or the GBRMPA, payments to the Queensland Department of the Environmental Protection Agency for day-to-day management are fully expensed in the year of payment (refer to note 6 for details of the day-to-day management items).

1.20 Reporting of Administered Items

Administered revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and cash flows are disclosed in the Schedule of Administered Items and related Notes.

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

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 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 Statement of Cash Flows in the Schedule of Administered Items and in the Administered Reconciliation Table in Note 19. The Schedule of Administered Items largely reflects the Government's transactions, through the GBRMPA, with parties outside the Government.

Revenue

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

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

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

Expenses

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

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

Loans and receivables

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

Property, plant and equipment

Administered property, plant and equipment include lighthouse properties valued at fair value, which has been assessed as the present value of the future lease payments payable under existing and anticipated future leases. Lighthouse properties are depreciated over the life of the lease term (2006-07: lease term).

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

2 Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Principles which were agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Emerald Agreement of 1979 and the Basis of Agreement of 1980 relating to the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are to be reviewed in the 2008-09 financial year. There is no impact upon the 2007-08 financial statements.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

3	Income		
		2008	2007
	<i>Revenue</i>	\$	\$
3A	Revenues from Government		
	Appropriation:		
	Departmental Outputs	12,164,000	11,314,000
	Departmental Special Appropriation	8,027,177	7,246,381
	Commonwealth contribution to day-to-day management: refer Note 6 (b)	9,253,000	4,844,000
	<i>Total revenue from Government</i>	<u>29,444,177</u>	<u>23,404,381</u>
3B	Sale of goods and rendering of services		
	Reef HQ revenue		
	Admission fees - external entities	1,360,981	1,461,502
	Donations and sponsorship - external entities	5,256	22,598
	Membership program - external entities	1,364	-
	Shop sales - external entities	432,516	429,943
	Other revenue - external entities	663,482	668,382
	<i>Total Reef HQ revenue</i>	<u>2,463,599</u>	<u>2,582,425</u>
3C	Reef HQ shop trading results		
	Shop sales	432,516	429,943
	Less: Cost of goods sold		
	Opening stock	80,101	77,978
	Plus: Purchases	266,405	224,587
	Less: Closing stock	<u>(145,786)</u>	<u>(80,101)</u>
	Cost of goods sold	<u>200,720</u>	<u>222,464</u>
	Gross profit from trading	<u>231,796</u>	<u>207,479</u>
3D	Interest		
	Deposits	-	653,409
	<i>Total interest</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>653,409</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ended 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
3E Project revenue	\$	\$
Project revenue from related entities	5,366,875	6,813,886
Project revenue from external entities	82,812	69,831
<i>Total project revenue</i>	<u>5,449,687</u>	<u>6,883,717</u>
3F Other revenue		
Other revenue - from external entities		
- Sale of the GBRMPA's education and information material	7,316	3,128
- Permit assessment fees	351,186	324,391
- Cost recovery	125,237	106,045
- Other	127,839	388,139
<i>Total other revenue</i>	<u>611,578</u>	<u>821,703</u>
<i>Gains</i>		
3G Sale of assets		
Plant and equipment:		
Proceeds from disposal	35,699	18,657
Net book value of assets disposed	31,386	22,015
<i>Net gain / (loss) from sale of assets</i>	<u>4,313</u>	<u>(3,358)</u>
3H Other gains		
Resources received free of charge	48,000	-
<i>Total other gains</i>	<u>48,000</u>	<u>-</u>
4 Expenses		
4A Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	13,337,213	11,667,735
Superannuation	2,125,052	1,829,290
Leave and other entitlements	1,701,236	1,296,471
Separation and redundancy	197,849	52,880
Other employee benefits	106,149	85,997
<i>Total employee benefits</i>	<u>17,467,499</u>	<u>14,932,373</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ended 30 June 2008

4B Suppliers	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Provision of goods - external entities	1,713,860	1,809,867
Rendering of services - related entities	1,765,833	1,689,179
Rendering of services - external entities	9,660,044	7,920,887
Operating lease rentals:		
Minimum lease payments	863,354	757,150
Workers compensation premiums	63,346	91,454
Total supplier expenses	14,066,437	12,268,537
4C Depreciation and amortisation		
Depreciation:		
Buildings and leasehold improvements	916,652	719,730
Plant and equipment	504,075	440,529
Total depreciation	1,420,727	1,160,259
Amortisation:		
Intangibles:		
Computer software	93,150	89,490
Total amortisation	93,150	89,490
Total depreciation and amortisation	1,513,877	1,249,749
4D Write-down and impairment of assets		
Impairment of non-financial assets	8,045	75,249
Total write-down and impairment of assets	8,045	75,249
5 Grants		
Augmentative research grants	9,091	-
Other grants	6,950	73,182
Total grants	16,041	73,182

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ended 30 June 2008

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

- (a) Principles agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Emerald Agreement of 1979 and the Basis of Agreement of 1980 relating to the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park provide for:
- The Queensland Department of Environment, now known as the Environmental Agency (EPA) to carry out the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, subject to the instructions from the GBRMPA in accordance with intergovernmental agreements;
 - The Commonwealth to fund 100% of an initial capital works program required to management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park on a sound basis; other capital costs (the post-initial program) of day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to be shared equally between the two Governments;
 - The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments to meet in equal shares the recurrent costs for the day-to-day management in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (which may include Queensland national parks or Queensland marine parks, the use or management of which would or might affect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park);
 - Moveable property funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used and administered by Queensland; proceeds from the sale of any such moveable property are paid into the day-to-day management account to offset Commonwealth/Queensland contributions on a 50:50 basis;
 - Fixed assets funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used by Queensland and administered by the Government (or the Authority) which owns or controls the land on which the fixture is located;
 - Expenditure on day-to-day management to be in accordance with an annually agreed programme; and
 - The GBRMPA to administer funds provided by the Commonwealth and Queensland for these purposes.
- (b) Revenue received from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and from other sources:

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Queensland Government contribution Refer Note 6(c) below	8,292,000	4,844,000
Commonwealth Government appropriation Recurrent and post-initial capital programs Refer: Note 3 (a)	9,253,000	4,844,000
Other revenue from permit assessment fees.	92,488	76,757
	<u>17,637,488</u>	<u>9,764,757</u>

- (c) Payments to the Queensland Government for day-to-day management for 2007-08 totalled \$13,031,376 (2006-07 \$8,430,600).
- (d) The balance of the funds available are used by the GBRMPA for the operations of the Day-to-day Management Coordination Unit, and for compliance and enforcement operations.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ending 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
7 Financial Assets		
7A Cash and cash equivalents		
Day-to-day management account	430	-
Cash on hand	29,978	11,660
GBRMPA operations accounts	919,798	-
<i>Total cash and cash equivalents</i>	<u>950,206</u>	<u>11,660</u>
7B Trade and other receivables		
Goods and services - external entities	84,769	158,887
Goods and services - related entities	1,827,722	396,489
Appropriations Receivable for Existing Outputs	7,830,224	9,215,533
EMC Receivables	-	1,500,000
Other receivables	35,026	52,428
	<u>9,777,741</u>	<u>11,323,337</u>
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	135,382	268,793
<i>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</i>	<u>9,913,123</u>	<u>11,592,130</u>
Less Allowance for Impairment		
Goods and Services	(900)	(900)
<i>Total trade and other receivables (net)</i>	<u>9,912,223</u>	<u>11,591,230</u>
Receivables are aged as follows		
Not overdue	9,743,945	11,533,317
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	-	-
30 to 60 days	141,205	16,774
61 to 90 days	7,316	3,962
more than 90 days	20,657	38,077
<i>Total receivables (gross)</i>	<u>9,913,123</u>	<u>11,592,130</u>

All receivables are current assets.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ending 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
8 Non-Financial Assets		
8A Land, buildings and leasehold improvements		
Land and buildings		
- at fair value	23,245,220	22,754,981
- accumulated depreciation	<u>(8,946,641)</u>	<u>(8,491,383)</u>
Total land and buildings	<u>14,298,579</u>	<u>14,263,598</u>
Leasehold improvements		
- at fair value	2,388,685	1,931,894
- accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,944,320)</u>	<u>(1,563,155)</u>
Total leasehold improvements	<u>444,365</u>	<u>368,739</u>
Lighthouse properties		
- at fair value	-	1,559,530
Total land, buildings and leasehold improvements	<u>14,742,944</u>	<u>16,191,867</u>

All valuations have been made by members at fair value with independent advice sought for some items. All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1. In 2007-08, the lighthouse properties were transferred to administered items.

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

8B Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment		
- at fair value	6,449,939	5,589,911
- accumulated depreciation	<u>(3,307,359)</u>	<u>(2,906,882)</u>
Total plant and equipment	<u>3,142,580</u>	<u>2,683,029</u>

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

No indications of impairment were found for plant and equipment.

8C Intangibles

Software purchased	1,864,684	1,341,828
- accumulated amortisation	<u>(732,780)</u>	<u>(639,630)</u>
Total intangibles	<u>1,131,904</u>	<u>702,198</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

8D Analysis of Property, Plant, Equipment and Intangibles

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

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

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

TABLE A — Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2006-07)

	Land and Buildings \$	Leasehold Improvements \$	Lighthouse Properties \$	Total Land, Buildings and Leasehold Improvements \$	Plant and Equipment \$	Computer Software \$	Total \$
As at 1 July 2006							
Gross book value	15,763,385	1,919,696	1,749,071	19,432,152	4,828,620	851,474	25,112,246
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation and impairment	(5,460,942)	(1,261,966)	-	(6,722,908)	(2,680,159)	(550,142)	(9,953,209)
Net book value 1 July 2006	10,302,443	657,730	1,749,071	12,709,244	2,148,461	301,332	15,159,037
Additions:							
By purchase	121,484	12,198	-	133,682	955,529	490,354	1,579,565
Revaluations and impairment through equity	4,299,933	-	(189,541)	4,110,392	75,382	-	4,185,774
Depreciation/ amortisation expense	(418,543)	(301,189)	-	(719,732)	(440,529)	(89,488)	(1,249,749)
Impairments recognised in the operating result	(41,719)	-	-	(41,719)	(33,799)	-	(75,518)
Disposals:							
Other disposals	-	-	-	-	(22,015)	-	(22,015)
Net book value 30 June 2007	14,263,598	368,739	1,559,530	16,191,867	2,683,029	702,198	19,577,094
Net book value as of 30 June 2007 represented by:							
Gross book value	22,754,981	1,931,894	1,559,530	26,246,405	5,589,911	1,341,828	33,178,144
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation and impairment	(8,491,383)	(1,563,155)	-	(10,054,538)	(2,906,882)	(639,630)	(13,601,050)
	14,263,598	368,739	1,559,530	16,191,867	2,683,029	702,198	19,577,094

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ending 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
8E Inventories		
Inventories held for sale	154,588	83,908
<i>Total inventories (current)</i>	<u>154,588</u>	<u>83,908</u>

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

8F Other non-financial assets		
Prepayments	166,792	166,178
<i>Total other non-financial assets</i>	<u>166,792</u>	<u>166,178</u>

All other non-financial assets are current assets.

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

9 Payables

9A Suppliers		
Trade Creditors	985,566	751,435
<i>Total supplier payables</i>	<u>985,566</u>	<u>751,435</u>

All supplier payables are current liabilities.

Settlement is usually made net 28 days.

9B Other payables

Revenue received in advance	1,770,873	1,703,882
Amounts owed to Commonwealth	172,823	1,500,000
Other	703,662	695,945
<i>Total other payables</i>	<u>2,647,358</u>	<u>3,899,827</u>

All other payables are current liabilities.

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
10 Interest bearing liabilities		
Overdraft	-	123,759
<i>Total interest bearing liabilities</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>123,759</u>

All interest bearing liabilities are current liabilities.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ending 30 June 2008

11 Provisions	2008 \$	2007 \$
11A Employee provisions		
Salaries and wages	184,557	99,864
Superannuation	26,526	14,833
Long service leave	2,159,151	2,017,660
Annual leave	1,725,618	1,653,705
Other	27,519	18,874
Total employee provisions	<u><u>4,123,371</u></u>	<u><u>3,804,936</u></u>
Current	3,497,091	3,380,946
Non-Current	626,280	423,990
Total employee provisions	<u><u>4,123,371</u></u>	<u><u>3,804,936</u></u>

The classification of current includes amounts for which there is not an unconditional right to defer settlement by one year, hence in the case of employee provisions the above classification does not represent the amount expected to be settled within one year of reporting date. Employee provisions expected to be settled in one year: \$2,070,342 (2007: \$1,951,988), in excess of one year: \$2,053,029 (2007: \$1,852,948).

11B Other provisions

Provision for 'Make Good'	90,000	90,000
Total other provisions	<u><u>90,000</u></u>	<u><u>90,000</u></u>

All other provisions are non-current liabilities.

Carrying amount 1 July 2007	90,000
Additional provisions made	-
Amounts used	-
Amounts reversed	-
Closing balance 30 June 2008	<u><u>90,000</u></u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ended 30 June 2008

12 Cash Flow Reconciliation	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement		
Report cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash Flow Statement	950,206	(112,099)
Balance Sheet	<u>950,206</u>	<u>(112,099)</u>
Difference	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Reconciliation of operating result to net cash from operating activities:		
Operating result	9,359	1,934,123
Depreciation and amortisation	1,513,877	1,249,749
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of assets	(4,313)	3,358
Net Write down of non-financial assets	8,045	75,518
(Increase) / decrease in receivables	1,679,007	(8,508,337)
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	(70,680)	395
(Increase) / decrease in other assets	(614)	(13,717)
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	318,435	116,867
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	234,131	(448,586)
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	<u>(1,375,958)</u>	<u>(868,369)</u>
<i>Net cash from / (used by) operating activities</i>	<u>2,311,289</u>	<u>(6,458,999)</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

13 Executive Remuneration

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

	2008	2007
\$130,000 - \$144,999	2	1
\$145,000 - \$159,999	2	1
\$190,000 - \$204,999	-	1
\$220,000- \$234,999	1	1
\$240,000- \$254,999	-	1
\$415,000 - \$429,999	1	-
Total	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>

The aggregate amount of total remuneration of executives shown above:

\$	1,234,642	\$949,172
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The aggregate amount of separation and redundancy / termination benefit payments during the year to executives shown above:

\$	197,849	Nil
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14 Remuneration of Auditors

	2008	2007
	\$	\$

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

The fair value of the services was:

48,000	46,000
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No other services were provided by the Auditor-General.

15 Cash Bonds

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

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Cash at bank 1 July	-	611,194
RECEIPTS : Cash Bonds	-	210,000
Interest	-	26,044
	<u>-</u>	<u>847,238</u>
PAYMENTS : Return of Bonds	-	150,873
Bank fees	-	62
Transfer of balance to Official Public Account	-	696,303
Cash at bank 30 June	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ended 30 June 2008

16 Financial Instruments

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
16A Categories of financial instruments		
Loans and receivables		
Loans and receivables		
Cash and cash equivalents	950,206	11,660
Receivables for goods & services (gross)	1,912,491	555,376
Other receivables	35,026	52,428
Carrying amount of financial assets	<u>2,897,723</u>	<u>619,464</u>
Financial Liabilities		
Other Liabilities		
Trade creditors	985,566	751,435
Other payables	876,485	2,195,944
Overdraft	-	123,759
Carrying amount of financial liabilities	<u>1,862,051</u>	<u>3,071,138</u>
	2008	2007
	\$	\$
16B Net income and expense from financial assets		
Loans and receivables		
Interest revenue	-	653,409
Net gain loans and receivables	<u>-</u>	<u>653,409</u>
Net gain from financial assets	<u>-</u>	<u>653,409</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ended 30 June 2008

16 Financial Instruments continued

16C Net Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

		2008		2007	
		Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets	Note				
Cash and cash equivalents	7A	950,206	950,206	11,660	11,660
Receivables for goods & services (gross)	7B	1,912,491	1,912,491	555,376	555,376
Other receivables	7B	35,026	35,026	52,428	52,428
		2,897,723	2,897,723	619,464	619,464
Financial Liabilities					
Trade creditors	9A	985,566	985,566	751,435	751,435
Other payables	9B	876,485	876,485	2,195,944	2,195,944
Overdraft	10	-	-	123,759	123,759
		1,862,051	1,862,051	3,071,138	3,071,138

16D Credit risk

GBRMPA is exposed to minimal credit risk as loans and receivables are cash and trade receivables. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the risk that arises from potential default of a debtor. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade receivables (2008: \$1,947,517 and 2007: \$607,804). GBRMPA has assessed the risk of the default on payment and has allocated \$900 in 2008 (2007: \$900) to an allowance for doubtful debts account.

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

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

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

	Not Past Due Nor Impaired	Not Past Due Nor Impaired	Past due or impaired	Past due or impaired
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loans and receivables				
Cash and cash	950,206	11,660	-	-
Trade receivables	1,778,339	548,991	169,178	58,813
Total	2,728,544	560,651	169,178	58,813

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

16 Financial Instruments continued

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

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

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2007

	0 to 30 days	31 to 60 days	61 to 90 days	90+ days	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loans and receivables					
Trade receivables	-	16,774	3,962	38,077	58,813
Total	-	16,774	3,962	38,077	58,813

16E Market risk

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

16F 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 the GBRMPA will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This is highly unlikely due to appropriation funding and mechanisms available to the GBRMPA (e.g. Advance to the Finance Minister) and internal policies and procedures in place to ensure there are appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

The following tables illustrate the maturities for financial liabilities

	On demand	within 1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years	Total
	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Other liabilities					
Trade creditors	-	985,566	-	-	985,566
Other payables	-	876,485	-	-	876,485
Overdraft	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1,862,051	-	-	1,862,051

	On demand	within 1 year	1 to 5 years	> 5 years	Total
	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Other liabilities					
Trade creditors	-	751,435	-	-	751,435
Other payables	-	2,195,944	-	-	2,195,944
Overdraft	-	123,759	-	-	123,759
Total	-	3,071,138	-	-	3,071,138

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

for period ending 30 June 2008

17 Appropriations

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

**Table A: Acquittal of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for
Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations and borrowings**

Particulars	Departmental Outputs ¹		Administered Expenses		Total	
	2008 \$'000's	2007 \$'000's	2008 \$'000's	2007 \$'000's	2008 \$'000's	2007 \$'000's
Balance of the Appropriation Act carried forward from previous year	8,563	8,563	-	-	8,563	8,563
Cash transfer on establishment of FMA agency	-	16,158	-	-	-	16,158
Appropriation Act 1	21,417	-	700	-	22,117	-
Appropriations to take account of recoverable GST (FMA s30) ²	710	-	-	-	710	-
Annotations to 'net appropriations' (FMA s31) ²	145	-	-	-	145	-
Total appropriation available for payment	30,885	24,721	700	-	31,585	24,721
Cash payment made during the year (GST inclusive)	22,707	16,158	700	-	23,407	16,158
Balance of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue	8,128	8,563	-	-	8,128	8,563
Funds for Ordinary Annual Services Appropriations						
Represented by:						
Cash and cash equivalents	950	-	-	-	950	-
Departmental appropriations receivable	7,178	8,563	-	-	7,178	8,563
Total	8,128	8,563	-	-	8,128	8,563

1. Departmental Outputs refers to the 2007-08 year.

2. Appropriations relating to FMA s30A and FMA s31 relate only to 2007-08 when the GBRMPA was established as an FMA Agency.

Departmental and non-operating appropriations do not lapse at financial year end. However, the responsible Minister may decide that part or all of a departmental or non-operating appropriation is not required and request the Finance Minister to reduce that appropriation. The reduction in the appropriation is effected by the Finance Minister's determination and is disallowable by Parliament. There was no reduction in departmental outputs appropriation for GBRMPA in the year 2007-08.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ending 30 June 2008

17 Appropriations continued

**Table B: Acquital of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Fund
 - Special Appropriations**

Special Appropriation is appropriated in accordance with Section 391 of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act for the operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.	Departmental Outputs ¹		Total	
	2008 \$'000's	2007 \$'000's	2008 \$'000's	2007 \$'000's
Balance of Special Appropriation carried forward from previous year	652	906	652	906
Cash transfer on establishment of FMA agency	-	652	-	652
Special Appropriation	8,030	7,249	8,030	7,249
Total appropriation available for payment	8,682	8,807	8,682	8,807
Cash payment made during the year (GST inclusive)	8,027	8,152	8,027	8,152
Refunds paid out of CRF	3	3	3	3
Balance of Authority to Draw Cash from the Consolidated Revenue Funds for Special Appropriations	652	652	652	652
Represented by:				
Cash	-	-	-	-
Appropriation receivable	652	652	652	652
Total	652	652	652	652

1. Departmental Outputs refers to the 2007-08 year.

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

for the period ended 30 June 2008

18 Reporting of Outcomes

18A Outcomes of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

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

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

Output group 1.1 - Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships

Natural and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park protected and World Heritage obligations are met.

Output group 1.2 - Water Quality and Coastal Development

Protection of the Great Barrier Reef from the adverse effects of water pollution and coastal development.

Output group 1.3 - Fisheries

Progress towards ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area

Output group 1.4 - Tourism and Recreation

Ecologically sustainable tourism and recreation use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park provided for in partnership with the community and industry.

Output group 1.5.1 - Park Management

Field management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Output group 1.5.2 - Park Management

Planning and Impact Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Output group 1.6 - Science and Information for Park Management

Coordination and delivery of scientific and technical information for management.

Output group 1.7.1 - Reef Education and Communications

Effective communications, education and marketing programmes.

Output group 1.7.2 - Reef Education and Communications

Provide a readily accessible onshore reef environment and interpretive programmes (Reef HQ Aquarium).

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

18B Net Costs of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1	
	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Expenses		
Administered	700	-
Departmental	46,304	37,256
Total expenses	47,004	37,256
Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non-government sector		
Administered	-	-
Departmental	2,807	3,150
Total costs recovered	2,807	3,150
Other external revenues		
Administered	9,810	-
Departmental		
Sale of goods and services - to related entities	5,367	6,814
Interest	-	653
Net gains from disposal of assets	4	-
Permit assessment fees	351	324
Other	8,292	4,844
Total Departmental	14,014	12,635
Total other external revenues	23,824	12,635
Net cost/(contribution) of outcome	20,373	21,471

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2008

18 Reporting of Outcomes

18C Major Classes of Departmental Revenues and Expenses by Output Groups and Outcomes

	Outcome 1														Total				
	Output Group 1.1		Output Group 1.2		Output Group 1.3		Output Group 1.4		Output Group 1.5		Output Group 1.6		Output Group 1.7			Non-attributable			
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007		2008	2007		
Departmental expenses																			
Heritage & Indigenous Partnerships	1,240	1,346	1,103	1,104	839	702	1,081	1,067	5,561	4,443	3,191	2,983	4,453	3,287	-	-	17,468	14,932	
Employees	567	585	582	457	291	288	953	853	4,484	3,818	4,366	3,406	2,976	3,084	-	-	14,219	12,691	
Grants	-	-	-	69	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	4	4	-	-	16	73	
Depreciation and amortisation	68	60	61	48	39	35	58	47	277	190	170	143	841	727	-	-	1,514	1,260	
Write-down of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	75	
Net loss from disposal of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4	
Contribution to Qld Govt - DDM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,031	8,431	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Total departmental expenses	1,875	1,991	1,746	1,678	1,169	1,025	2,092	1,967	23,353	16,886	7,736	6,532	8,282	7,177	3	-	46,256	37,256	
Revenues from Government	1,832	2,084	1,525	1,714	1,146	1,087	1,717	1,758	14,205	8,805	3,423	4,335	5,566	3,601	-	-	29,444	23,404	
Sales of goods and services	43	47	221	76	24	22	346	321	857	340	4,517	2,517	2,717	3,763	-	-	8,525	10,288	
Interest	-	-	-	58	-	43	-	57	-	135	-	-	173	-	96	-	-	-	654
Donations and bequests	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue from Sale of Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments from Qld Govt - DDM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	
Total departmental revenues	1,875	2,203	1,746	1,848	1,170	1,152	2,093	2,136	23,398	17,344	7,740	7,045	8,283	7,462	-	-	46,265	39,190	

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

18D Major Classes of Administered Revenues and Expenses by Outcome

	Outcome 1	
	2008	2007
Administered income	283	-
Rent from highhouse properties	-	-
Environmental management charge	9,527	-
Total administered income	9,810	-
Administered expenses	700	-
Suppliers	-	-
Total administered expenses	700	-

Outcome 1 is described in Note 1.1.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the period ended 30 June 2008

19 Notes to the Schedule of Administered Items	2008	2007
	\$	\$
19A Income administered on behalf of Government		
Revenue		
Rent from lighthouse properties	283,050	-
Environmental management charge	9,527,177	-
Total revenues administered on behalf of Government	9,810,227	-
	2008	2007
	\$	\$
19B Expenses administered on behalf of Government		
Expenses		
Suppliers		
Provision of goods - external parties	699,500	-
Total expenses administered on behalf of Government	699,500	-
	2008	2007
	\$	\$
19C Assets Administered on Behalf of Government		
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	173,690	-
Receivables: Environmental management charge	1,500,000	-
Non-Financial assets		
Lighthouse properties	3,504,322	-
Total assets administered on behalf of Government	5,178,012	-
19D Administered Reconciliation Table		
	2008	2007
	\$	\$
<i>Opening administered assets less administered liabilities as at 1 July</i>	-	-
Plus: Administered income	9,810,227	-
Less: Administered expenses	(699,500)	-
Administered transfers to/from Australian Government	1,425,028	-
Appropriation transfers from OPA		
Annual appropriations for administered expenses	702,755	-
Transfers to OPA	(8,139,792)	-
Administered revaluations taken to reserves	2,079,294	-
<i>Closing administered assets less administered liabilities as at 30 June</i>	5,178,012	-

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ending 30 June 2008

20 Special Accounts

Great Barrier Reef Field Management Special Account (Departmental)	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Legal Authority: <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975; s49</i>		
Purpose: (a) the management, protection or maintenance of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area;		
(b) purposes incidental to the management, protection or maintenance of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area;		
(c) meeting the expenses of administering the Account.		
Balance carried from previous period	-	-
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	8,292,000	-
Transfer of Appropriation	4,739,844	-
Total credits	13,031,844	-
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	(13,031,376)	-
Bank fees	(38)	-
Balance carried to next period and represented by:	430	-
Cash held by the GBRMPA	430	-
Total balance carried to the next period	430	-

SECTION E

Appendixes



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

Qualifications of Marine Park Authority members

The Hon Virginia Chadwick, AO was appointed as Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in July 1999 and reappointed in 2004 for a further three years. Prior to her appointment she served in the New South Wales Legislative Council, holding various Shadow Ministerial and Ministerial positions. She was the first woman elected as President of the Legislative Council. She has received an Honorary Doctorate from the Southern Cross University. Mrs Chadwick was a member of Queensland's Fishing Industry Development Council, a Board member of the Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area up until May 2007, a Board member of the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security Advisory Board, a Board member of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies and a Board member of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority up until April 2007. Mrs Chadwick was awarded an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2005 Honours List. Mrs Chadwick completed her term of appointment on 18 July 2007.

Dr Evelyn Scott, AO has been involved in Aboriginal Affairs over the past 30 years and has played an instrumental role in the establishment of Aboriginal legal services, housing societies and medical services in Queensland. Dr Scott was Chairman of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation until 31 December 2000. In 2003 she was awarded an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia. Dr Scott's awards include: Honorary Doctorate (*honoris causa*, 27 April 2000) from the Australian Catholic University for work in the areas of reconciliation, the advancement of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the advancement of women; John Miller Distinguished Achievement Award (21 November 2000); Honorary Doctor of Letters (22 March 2001) from James Cook University in recognition of outstanding service to the Queensland community, exceptional service to the University and exceptional contribution to human well-being; and Doctor of University (3 April 2003) from Griffith University. Dr Scott resigned on 17 July 2007.

Mr Ross Rolfe was appointed as the Director-General in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on 10 November 2005 as well as continuing his role as Coordinator-General for Queensland, which he began in July 2005. Mr Rolfe has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons), and a background in issues relating to land management, the energy industry and the environment. He has held a range of board positions and is currently a member of the University of Queensland Senate, Queensland Events Corporation and the Southbank Corporation. Mr Rolfe resigned on 17 July 2007.

Ms Fay Barker, OAM, has been a member of the Authority since 2001, and a member of the Audit Committee since 2003. Ms Barker is currently a director of the Royal Automobile Club Queensland Limited, Breakwater Island Community Benefit Fund and the Townsville Hospital Foundation. Ms Barker has held directorships with the Townsville Port Authority and served as a Council Member of James Cook University. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Ms Barker also serves on a number of community service organisations.

Dr Russell Reichelt was appointed as Chairman and Chief Executive of the Great Barrier Reef

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

Mr Ken Smith was appointed as Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in September 2007. Prior to this appointment, he served as Coordinator-General and Director-General of the Department of Infrastructure. As a senior public servant in Queensland for more than 15 years, Mr Smith has taken a lead role in many of the fundamental reforms that have shaped the State. His six-year stint as Director-General of Education and Employment and Training was highlighted by the landmark Education and Training Reforms for the Future which drove the implementation of the Queensland Government's fundamental changes to early, middle and senior phases of schooling. Mr Smith has been a Director-General in the Queensland Government since 1994. He is a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators and Adjunct Professor of Education at the University of Queensland, Griffith University and the University of Sydney.

During 2007-08, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority held three meetings:

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
MPA 203	30 November 2007	Brisbane	Dr Russell Reichelt, Ms Fay Barker OAM, Mr Ken Smith
MPA 204	27 March 2008	Townsville	Dr Russell Reichelt, Ms Fay Barker OAM
MPA 205	25 June 2008	Cairns	Dr Russell Reichelt, Ms Fay Barker OAM, Mr Ken Smith

Table 6: Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2007-08

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

Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council was established in 1979 to coordinate Australian and Queensland Government policy on Great Barrier Reef matters at Ministerial level. Ministerial Council arrangements were reviewed as a part of the 2006 review of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The review recommended changes that are currently being implemented - including the development of a new intergovernmental agreement and changed arrangements for

the Ministerial Council. These arrangements are expected to be in place in the coming year (2008-09). The Ministerial Council will continue to comprise four Ministers, two from each government, and will be chaired by the Federal Environment Minister.

Great Barrier Reef Audit Committee

The following people were members of the Audit Committee during 2007-08:

- Mr Barry Sheedy, Chairman, an accountant practising in Mackay
- Ms Fay Barker, OAM FAICD, member, part-time member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Mr Garry Videroni, member, Executive Director, Audit Evaluation and Risk Services, Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Mr Andrew Skeat, member and Executive Director on the Authority's staff
- Mr John Tanzer, member and Executive Director on the Authority's staff
- Mr Peter McGinnity, member as Acting Executive Director on the Authority's staff
- Mr Hugh Yorkston, member as Acting Executive Director on the Authority's staff.

During 2007-08, the Audit Committee held four meetings:

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
AC 36	7 September 2007	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker OAM, Mr John Tanzer, Mr Peter McGinnity
AC 37	6 December 2007	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker OAM, Mr Hugh Yorkston
AC 38	26 March 2008	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker OAM, Mr Andrew Skeat
AC 39	17 June 2008	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Ms Fay Barker OAM, Mr Andrew Skeat

Table 7: Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Audit Committee 2007-08

Business activities of the Audit Committee concerned:

- Annual financial statements and external audit reports
- Audit Committee Charter of Operations
- Environmental Management Charge
- Day-to-day management
- Reef HQ operations
- Risk management plan
- Fraud control plan
- Internal audit services
- Various internal audit reports.

Roles and responsibilities

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

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

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

The Committee's responsibilities include:

Risk management

- Review whether management has in place a current and comprehensive risk management framework, and associated procedures for effective identification and management of the GBRMPA's financial and business risks, including fraud
- Review whether a sound and effective approach has been followed in developing strategic risk management plans for major projects or undertakings
- Review the impact of the GBRMPA's risk management framework on its control environment and insurance arrangements
- Review whether a sound and effective approach has been followed in establishing the GBRMPA's business continuity planning arrangements, including whether disaster recovery plans have been tested periodically
- Review the GBRMPA's fraud control plan and satisfy itself that the GBRMPA has appropriate processes and systems in place to capture and effectively investigate fraud-related information.

Control framework

- Review whether management's approach to maintaining an effective internal control framework, including over external parties such as contractors and advisors, is sound and effective
- Review whether management has in place relevant policies and procedures, including Chief Executive Instructions or their equivalent, and that these are periodically reviewed and updated
- Determine whether the appropriate processes are in place to assess, at least once a year, whether policies and procedures are complied with
- Review whether appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the management and exercise of delegations
- Consider how management identifies any required changes to the design or implementation of internal controls
- Review whether management has taken steps to embed a culture which is committed to ethical and lawful behaviour.

External accountability

- Review the financial statements and provide advice to the Chief Executive (including whether appropriate action has been taken in response to audit recommendations and adjustments), and recommend their signing by the Chief Executive
- Satisfy itself that the financial statements are supported by appropriate management signoff on the statements and on the adequacy of the systems of internal controls
- Review the processes in place designed to ensure that financial information included in the GBRMPA's annual report is consistent with the signed financial statements
- Satisfy itself that the GBRMPA has appropriate mechanisms in place to review and implement, where appropriate, relevant Parliamentary Committee reports and recommendations
- Satisfy itself that the GBRMPA has a performance management framework that is linked to organisational objectives and outcomes.

Legislative compliance

- Determine whether management has appropriately considered legal and compliance risks as part of the GBRMPA's risk assessment and management arrangements
- Review the effectiveness of the system for monitoring the GBRMPA's compliance with relevant laws, regulations and associated government policies.

Internal audit

- Act as a forum for communication between the Board, the Chief Executive, senior management and internal and external audit
- Review the internal audit coverage and annual work plan, ensure the plan is based on the GBRMPA's risk management plan, and recommend approval of the plan by the Chief Executive
- Advise the Chief Executive on the adequacy of internal audit resources to carry out its responsibilities, including completion of the approved internal audit plan
- Oversee the coordination of audit programs conducted by internal and external audit and other review functions
- Review all audit reports and provide advice to the Chief Executive and the Board on significant issues identified in audit reports and action taken on issues raised, including identification and dissemination of good practice
- Monitor management's implementation of internal audit recommendations
- Review the internal audit charter to ensure appropriate organisational structures, authority, access and reporting arrangements are in place
- Periodically review the performance of internal audit
- Recommend to the Chief Executive the appointment of the internal auditor.

External audit

- Act as a forum for communication between the Board, the Chief Executive, senior management and internal and external auditors

- Provide input and feedback on the financial statement and performance audit coverage proposed by external audit and provide feedback on the audit services provided
- Review all external plans and reports in respect of planned or completed audits and monitor management's implementation of audit recommendations
- Provide advice to the Chief Executive and the Board on action taken on significant issues raised in relevant external audit reports and better practice guides.

Responsibilities of members

Members of the Committee are expected to understand and observe the legal requirements of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act). Members are also expected to:

- Contribute the time needed to study and understand the papers provided
- Apply good analytical skills, objectivity and good judgment
- Express opinions frankly, ask questions that go to the fundamental core of the issue and pursue independent lines of enquiry.

Reef Advisory Committees

Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Reef Advisory Committee

The Reef Advisory Committee for Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships met on 11 and 12 July 2007, 7-9 November 2007 and 16 and 17 April 2008. The Committee, comprising 14 members including an independent Chairman, provided valuable guidance on a variety of matters, in particular species conservation issues, Commonwealth Heritage, Indigenous Tourism and the traditional use of marine resources and the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report.

Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee

The Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee (FRAC) met on 28 and 29 November 2007 and on 6 and 7 March 2008. The Committee comprises 17 members including an independent Chairman.

FRAC provides advice to the GBRMPA on matters relating to the use of fisheries resources and ecosystem management in the Marine Park. Key topics included implications for the Marine Park of Queensland's proposed fishery management arrangements for the Inshore Finfish Fishery, strategic work to define what constitutes sustainable fishing in the Marine Park, and gaps in economic information in Marine Park management and the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report.

Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee

The Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee (TRRAC) met on 24 and 25 October 2007 and on 9 and 10 April 2008. The Committee comprises 23 members including an independent Chairman. The Committee provides an impressive and diverse range of expertise, from day operations, bareboats and aircraft operations to marketing, best practice, business acumen, and commercial and recreational fishing.

The Committee provided advice to the GBRMPA on the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, climate change initiatives for the tourism industry, tourism compliance priorities, coastal development, recreational use of the Reef, allocation of new and spare special tourism permissions, the Environmental Management Charge (EMC) obligations and moorings within the Marine Park.

Water Quality and Coastal Development Reef Advisory Committee

The Reef Advisory Committee for Water Quality and Coastal Development met on 26 and 27 July 2007, 22 and 23 November 2007 and on 18 and 19 March 2008. The Committee comprises 17 members including an independent Chairman. The WRAC provided advice to the GBRMPA on a range of issues and is a unique forum for the exchange of information between a number of key stakeholder and interest groups. In particular, advice over the last year was sought on how the GBRMPA should influence policy on coastal development, implement its climate change action plan, identify the research direction and implement priorities for addressing water quality issues in the Great Barrier Reef and its catchment. The WRAC provided guidance on the development of a strategic direction for the GBRMPA's Water Quality and Coastal Development Group for the next 5 years and reviewed its annual work program. Critical issues included matters around the updating of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and its implementation with the complementary Reef Rescue funding package. The WRAC also provided advice and guidance to the GBRMPA on the development of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, including comments on the initial framework, identification of pressures, effectiveness of management in addressing the pressures and their view of the short and longer term view of the ongoing health of the Great Barrier Reef. A number of presentations were given to the WRAC by outside agencies, including Queensland Departments, industry groups and local government and the WRAC took the opportunity of getting into the field, for part of their March 2008 meeting to look first hand at some coastal development issues in the Cairns/Port Douglas area.

Great Barrier Reef Local Marine Advisory Committees

There are 11 Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACS) in operation in regional centres adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef between Cooktown and Bundaberg:

- Cape York Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Douglas Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Cairns Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Cassowary Coast Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Hinchinbrook Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Townsville Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Whitsunday Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Mackay Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Capricorn Coast Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Gladstone Region Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Burnett Local Marine Advisory Committee.

Local Marine Advisory Committees provide a forum for the local community and representative stakeholder groups to discuss marine resource management issues and advise the GBRMPA accordingly. They provide an opportunity for resource management agencies to meet with the local community and address local concerns. The Committees also provide information to the public on issues affecting the local marine and coastal regions, thus facilitating communication between user groups and the local community. Members usually have an interest in marine resource issues and

may be independent, or represent a constituent group. The Committees meet every two months, with the main operating expenses covered by the GBRMPA.

The Chairs and Secretaries of the Committees meet annually to discuss reef-wide issues. This year the meeting focused on the preparation of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report.

Great Barrier Reef Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee

The Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee met twice during the 2007-08 financial year. On 20 December 2007 the Committee discussed one research application, and recommended the granting of the permit. This recommendation was accepted and implemented by the GBRMPA. On 12 June 2008 the Committee discussed two research applications, and recommended that one permit be granted, and the second rejected. These recommendations were accepted and implemented by the GBRMPA.

Indigenous representation on the GBRMPA committees

During 2007-08 there were 28 positions available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on various committees within the GBRMPA's management structure. This includes statutory and voluntary representation on the Authority Board, and each of the four Reef Advisory Committees, and all the Local Marine Advisory Committees. At the time of preparing this report, some Indigenous committee member positions were still vacant or new appointments were being processed.

Appendix 3: Freedom of Information Statement

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) requires that an application fee of \$30.00 accompany requests for access to information. If you decide to lodge a freedom of information request with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the GBRMPA), please send your written request and \$30.00 payment to:

The FOI Officer
c/- Legal Services Unit
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
2-68 Flinders Street PO Box 1379
Townsville Qld 4810 Townsville Qld 4810

Telephone: (07) 4750 0700
Facsimile: (07) 4772 6093

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

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

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

Until such time as the application fee is either paid or remitted, your request does not constitute a request for the purposes of the FOI Act and there is no obligation on the GBRMPA to process your request.

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

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

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

Chair

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

General Managers

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

Appendix 4: Consultancy Services

Twenty-four new consultancy services contracts over \$10 000 were let during 2007-08 including research consultancies, consultancies for improvements in management practices, information management and more effective community engagement. Total expenditure for new consultancy services contracts over \$10 000 was \$2 486 095. Eleven ongoing consultancy services contracts were active in the reporting year. Total expenditure for ongoing consultancy services contracts over \$10 000 was \$1 188 193 including \$487 484 on monitoring the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and \$524 000 for development of a permits and compliance system.

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

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

Boab Interactive Pty Ltd	\$6 600
Digital Dimensions	\$2 244
Digi Men	\$ 374
Extremely Graphic	\$8 290
Treasure Studios	\$ 6 868
See-Saw Illustration and Design	\$145
RTM Pty Ltd	\$43 912
Platypus graphics	\$11 130
Cardzilla Printing	\$518
Mignon Philpot	\$19 365
Verve Design	\$8 789

Table 8: Creative agencies used 2007-08

Colmar Brunton Social Research	\$59 235
Access Economics	\$57 075
Office of Economic and Social Research	\$30 744

Table 9: Market research and polling organisations used 2007-08

Nil used	
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Table 10: Direct mail organisations used 2007-08

HMA Blaze Pty Ltd	\$409 992
Island Impressions	\$1 844
North Australian Publishing Company	\$5 825
Reflections Media Pty Ltd	\$7 150
Seven Network	\$19 267
Southern Cross Broadcasting	\$4 501
Tourism Queensland	\$760
Hallmark Editions	\$200
Email Media Aldgate	\$165
WIN	\$15 075

Table 11: Media advertising organisations used 2007-08

Appendix 5: Staffing Overview

Classification	ONGOING EMPLOYEES					NON-ONGOING EMPLOYEES				
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total
	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T		F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T	
APS1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
APS2	12	4	5	0	21	6	1	4	0	11
APS3	9	1	9	0	19	7	2	0	0	9
APS4	18	1	5	0	24	4	2	3	0	9
APS5	18	0	5	0	23	3	0	4	0	7
APS6	16	0	20	0	36	2	0	5	0	7
EXEC1	15	1	19	0	35	2	0	1	0	3
EXEC2	5	0	11	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
SES1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
SES2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
CEO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	94	7	76	0	177	24	5	18	0	47

As at 30 June 2008 the total number of employees = 224

Table 12: Employees of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 2008

Classification	Total	Women	ATSI	NESB	NESB1	NESB2	PWD
CEO	1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
GAPS1	1	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
GAPS2	32	23 (71.80%)	2 (6.25%)	5 (15.63%)	4 (12.29%)	4 (12.50%)	0 (0%)
GAPS3	28	19 (67.80%)	1 (3.57%)	4 (14.29%)	1 (3.57%)	2 (7.14%)	1 (3.57%)
GAPS4	33	25 (75.70%)	0 (0%)	4 (12.12%)	4 (12.12%)	5 (15.15%)	2 (6.06%)
GAPS5	30	21 (70%)	1 (3.33%)	4 (13.33%)	4 (13.33%)	4 (13.33%)	2 (6.66%)
GAPS6	43	18 (41.80%)	4 (9.30%)	9 (20.93%)	8 (18.60%)	9 (20.93%)	3 (6.98%)

continued from previous page

Classification	Total	Women	ATSI	NESB	NESB1	NESB2	PWD
EL1	38	18 (47.30%)	1 (2.63%)	4 (10.53%)	3 (7.89%)	3 (7.89%)	1 (2.63%)
EL2	16	5 (31.25%)	0 (0%)	1 (6.25%)	1 (6.25%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
SES1	1	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
SES2	1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	224	130 (58.03%)	9 (4.02%)	31 (13.84%)	25 (11.16%)	27 (12.05%)	9 (4.02%)

Table 13: Representation of EEO groups within salary levels as at 30 June 2008

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 6: Occupational Health and Safety

Commitment

The GBRMPA is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all employees and visitors to the workplace. In 2007-08, the GBRMPA maintained its occupational health and safety framework with a full-time Occupational Health and Safety Officer incorporating responsibility for diving activities.

Activities

Activities undertaken to facilitate improvement in health and safety included:

- Provision of induction training for supervisors on occupational health and safety to enable them to effectively undertake their duties
- Increased members of the Health and Safety Committee
- Training in risk management processes for staff and supervisors
- Installation of Occupational Health and Safety noticeboards
- Review and upgrading of workplace inspection and reporting systems
- Workstation ergonomic assessments by qualified occupational therapists
- Investigation into the development of a Health and Wellbeing program for staff
- Provision of Influenza injections for all staff
- Training for staff undertaking development of a Health and Safety Management Arrangement to comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991*
- Notification to staff of changes to the *Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*
- Development of induction process and enhanced record keeping

- Remote Area First Aid training for Field Officers
- Development of in-house training in Senior First Aid and Advanced Resuscitation
- Training and certification in specified plant use
- Review of Health Screening procedures
- Review of reporting procedures for incident notification
- Promoting greater staff awareness through development of Intranet site to include Occupational Health and Safety news
- Development of Vessel Operations Manual
- Training undertaken in Occupational Health and Safety at Sea to conform with the *Transport Operations (Maritime Safety) Regulation 2004*
- Development of protocols for diving activities, records, equipment servicing and consultation
- Review of diving reporting and inductions
- Purchase of equipment to improve diving safety
- Training of divers to increase qualifications and experience
- Conduct of diver rescue skills reviews
- Conduct of Diver Safety Meetings and specific training for Dive Supervisors.

Statistics

In 2007-08, employees of the GBRMPA lodged 21 incident reports - most were of a minor nature; one claim for compensation was lodged and accepted by our insurer.

Appendix 7: Staff Papers from the GBRMPA during 2007-08

The following staff papers were either published or presented during 2007-08. Copies may be obtained from Library and Image Services.

Published Papers

Birrell, C.L., McCook, L.J., Willis, B. and Diaz-Pulido, G.A. 2008, 'Effects of benthic algae on the replenishment of corals and the implications for the resilience of coral reefs', *Oceanographic and Marine Biology: An Annual Review* 46: 25-63.

Birrell, C.L., McCook, L.J., Willis, B. and Harrington, L. 2008, 'Chemical effects of macroalgae on larval settlement of the broadcast spawning coral *Acropora millepora*', *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 362: 129-137.

Broderick, K. 2007, 'Getting a handle on socio-ecological systems in catchments: the nature and importance of environmental perception', *Australian Geographer* 38(3): 297-308.

Chin, A. and Kyne, P.M. 2007, 'Vulnerability of chondrichthyan fishes of the Great Barrier Reef to climate change', in *Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: a vulnerability assessment*, eds J.E. Johnson and P.A. Marshall, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 393-425.

Day, J. 2008, 'The need and practice of monitoring, evaluating and adapting marine planning and management - lessons from the Great Barrier Reef', *Marine Policy* 32(5): 823-831.

Day, J., Pillans, S. and Figgis, P. (eds) 2007, *IUCN/WCPA Marine: First meeting of specialist members of WCPA-Marine (Australia and New Zealand), Brisbane, 15 November 2007*. Report prepared following the IUCN/World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Marine Meeting as a record of the discussions of participants.

Diaz-Pulido, G. and McCook, L. 2008, 'Environmental status of the Great Barrier Reef: macroalgae (seaweeds)', in *State of the Great Barrier Reef Online*, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au> (accessed 18 August 2008).

Diaz-Pulido, G., Chin, A., Davidson, J. and McCook, L. 2007, 'Cyclone promotes rapid colonisation of benthic diatoms in the Great Barrier Reef', *Coral Reefs* 26: 787.

Diaz-Pulido, G., McCook, L., Larkim, A.W.D., Lotze, H.K., Raven, J.A., Schaffelke, B., Smith, J.E. and Steneck, R.S. 2007, 'Vulnerability of macroalgae of the Great Barrier Reef to climate change', in *Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: a vulnerability assessment*, eds J.E. Johnson and P.A. Marshall, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 153-192.

Dobbs, K., Fernandes, L., Slegers, S., Jago, B., Thompson, L., Hall, J., Day, J., Cameron, D., Tanzer, J., Macdonald, F., Marsh, H., and Coles, R. 2008, 'Incorporating dugong habitats into the marine protected area design for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Queensland, Australia', *Ocean and Coastal Management* 51: 368-375.

Dobbs, K., Fernandes, L., Slegers, S., Jago, B., Thompson, L., Hall, J., Day, J., Cameron, D., Tanzer, J., Macdonald, F., Limpus, C. 2007, 'Incorporating marine turtle habitats into the marine protected area design for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Queensland, Australia', *Pacific Conservation Biology* 13: 293-302.

Dobbs, K. A., Miller, J. D., Owens, D. W. and Landry, A. M. 2007, 'Serum testosterone and estradiol-17B levels during the peak period in a year-round Hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* L. nesting population', *Pacific Conservation Biology* 13(3): 151-157.

Fabricus, K.E., Hoegh-Guldberg, O., Johnson, J., McCook, L. and Lough, J. 2007, 'Vulnerability of coral reefs of the Great Barrier Reef to climate change', in *Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: a vulnerability assessment*, eds J.E. Johnson and P.A. Marshall, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 515-554.

Fenton, M., Kelly, G., Vella, K. and Innes, J. 2007, 'Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: industries and communities', in *Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: a vulnerability assessment*, eds J.E. Johnson and P.A. Marshall, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p.745-771.

Haynes, D., Brodie, J., Waterhouse, J., Bainbridge, Z., Bass, D., Hart, B. 2007, 'Assessment of the water quality and ecosystem health of the Great Barrier Reef (Australia): conceptual models', *Environmental Management* 40(6): 993-1003.

Hoegh-Guldberg, O., Anthony, K., Berkelmans, R., Dove, S., Fabricus, K., Lough, J., Marshall, P., van Oppen, M. J.H., Negri, A. and Willis, B. 2007, 'Vulnerability of reef-building corals on the Great Barrier Reef to climate change', in *Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: a vulnerability assessment*, eds J.E. Johnson and P.A. Marshall, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 271-307.

Marshall, N. A., Fenton, D. M. and Marshall, P. A. 2007, 'How resource dependency can influence social resilience within a primary resource industry', *Rural Sociology* 72: 359-390.

Marshall, P. and Johnson, J.E. 2007, 'The Great Barrier Reef and climate change: vulnerability and management implications', in *Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: a vulnerability assessment*, eds J.E. Johnson and P.A. Marshall, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 773-801.

Maynard, J.A. 2008, 'Severe anchor damage to *Lobophyllia* variegata colonies on the Fujikawa Maru, Truk Lagoon, Micronesia', *Coral Reefs* 27(2): 273.

Maynard, J.A., Anthony, K.R.N., Marshall, P. and Masiri, I. 2008, 'Major bleaching events can lead to increased thermal tolerance in corals', *Marine Biology* 155(2): 173-182.

Maynard, J.A., Turner, P.J., Anthony, K.R.N., Baird, A.H., Berkelmans, R., Eakin, C.M., Johnson, J., Marshall, P.A., Packer, G.R., Rea, A. and Willis, B.L. 2008, 'ReefTemp: an interactive monitoring system for coral bleaching using high-resolution SST and improved stress predictors', *Geophysical Research Letters* 35: L05603 (p. 1-5).

McCook, L., Folke, C., Hughes, T., Nystrom, M., Obura, D. and Salm, R. 2007, 'Ecological resilience, climate change and the Great Barrier Reef', in *Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: a vulnerability assessment*, eds J.E. Johnson and P.A. Marshall, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 75-96.

Negri, A. P., Marshall, P. A. and Heyward, A. J. 2007, 'Differing effects of thermal stress on coral fertilization and early embryogenesis in four Indo Pacific species', *Coral Reefs* 26: 759-763.

Peut, S. and McGinnity, P. 2007, 'Upgrading to a better model - a new style of planning in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', in *Proceedings of the 5th International Coastal and Marine Tourism Congress: Balancing Marine Tourism, Development and Sustainability, 11-15 September 2007, Auckland, New Zealand*, eds M. Luck, A. Graupl, J. Auyong, M. L. Miller and M. B. Orams, AUT University School of Hospitality and Tourism and the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute, Auckland, p. 342-345.

Salmon, S. and Dobbs, K. 2007, 'Adaptive management for a recovering humpback whale population in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', in *Proceedings of the 5th International Coastal and Marine Tourism Congress: Balancing Marine Tourism, Development and Sustainability, 11-15 September 2007, Auckland, New Zealand*, eds M. Luck, A. Graupl, J. Auyong, M. L. Miller and M. B. Orams, AUT University School of Hospitality and Tourism and the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute, Auckland, p. 132-145.

Schluter, L., Peut, S. and Mulqueeney, L. 2007, 'Keeping the Great Barrier Reef great? The development of an innovative sustainable tourism partnership', in *Proceedings of the 5th International Coastal and Marine Tourism Congress: Balancing Marine Tourism, Development and Sustainability, 11-15 September 2007, Auckland, New Zealand*, eds M. Luck, A. Graupl, J. Auyong, M. L. Miller and M. B. Orams, AUT University School of Hospitality and Tourism and the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute, Auckland, p. 346-348.

Turner, M. and Batianoff, G.N. 2007, 'Vulnerability of island flora and fauna in the Great Barrier Reef to climate change', in *Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: a vulnerability assessment*,

eds J.E. Johnson and P.A. Marshall, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 621-666.

Wachenfeld, D., Johnson, J., Skeat, A., Kenchington, R., Marshall, P. and Innes, J. 2007, 'Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef and climate change', in *Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: a vulnerability assessment*, eds J.E. Johnson and P.A. Marshall, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, p. 1-13.

Presentations

Beeden, R. 2008, 'Climate change on the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Raine Island Workshop, Townsville, 6 June 2008.

Beeden, R. 2008, 'Climate change on the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Ocean Acidification Workshop, Australian Institute of Marine Science, Townsville, March 2008.

Beeden, R. 2008, 'Climate change, vulnerability and adaptation in the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Day-to-Day Management Staff Workshop, Townsville, 23 April 2008.

Beeden, R. 2008, 'Climate change, vulnerability and adaptation in the Great Barrier Reef', presented to House of Representatives Joint Standing Committee visit to the Great Barrier Reef, Low Isles, 29 April 2008.

Beeden, R. and Goudkamp, K. 2008, 'Climate change, vulnerability and adaptation in the Great Barrier Reef', presented to James Cook University Coral Biology Class, Townsville, May 2008.

Bonanno, V. 2007, 'Effectiveness and uptake of the GBRMPA's high standard tourism programme', presented to Ecotourism Australia National Conference, Melbourne, 21-22 November 2007.

Briggs, C. 2007, 'Conservation through partnership; a modern approach to sustainably managing tourism in the Great Barrier Reef', presented to 5th Asia Pacific Ecotourism Conference, Marine Ecotourism: Emerging Best Sustainable Practices and Success Stories, Merang Suria Resort, Merang, Trengganu, Malaysia, 27-28 October 2007.

Briggs, C. 2007, 'Sustainable management of tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Meeting with Indonesian Reef Managers Delegation, Townsville, 10 August 2007.

Briggs, C. 2007, 'Tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) Meeting, Townsville, 7 September 2007.

Brown, J. and Schluter, L. 2008, 'Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef', presented to 6th National Conference on Tourism Futures, Gold Coast, 2-4 June 2008.

Cailland, A. 2008, 'Dedicated use moorings', presented to Moorings Forum, Airlie Beach, 20 June 2008.

Cailland, A. 2008, 'Managing moorings in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Moorings Forums, Cairns, 16 June 2008 and Airlie Beach, 20 June 2008.

Cailland, A. 2008, 'Mooring and anchoring in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Moorings Forum, Townsville, 19 June 2008.

Cailland, A. 2008, 'Moorings management in the Cairns/Port Douglas area: co-ordination with MSQ', presented to Moorings Meeting, Cairns, 16 June 2008.

Cailland, A. 2008, 'Responsible Reef Practices: use of moorings', presented to Moorings Meeting, Cairns, 16 June 2008.

Carr, M. and Rosse, R. 2007, 'Planning tools in action', presented to Lecture to students at University of Queensland, Gatton Campus, Townsville, 7 July 2007.

Chin, A. 2008, 'The conservation and management of sharks and rays: case studies, an overview and a quick dip into shark fin soup', presented to GBRMPA Seminar Series, Townsville, 17 June 2008.

Chin, A. 2007, 'The conservation and management of sharks and rays', presented to Lecture to postgraduate class in marine conservation at James Cook University, Townsville, 15 October 2007.

Chin, A. and Kyne, P. 2007, 'Out of the frying pan: the potential effects of climate change in sharks and rays in the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Inaugural Oceania Chondrichthyan Society Conference, Queenscliff, 22-24 October 2007.

Day, J. 2008, 'Key factors in successful management of the sea - lessons learned from Australia's Great Barrier Reef', presented to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/UNESCO Meeting, Paris, March 2008.

Day, J. 2008, 'Marine spatial planning and management ...lessons from the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Duke Marine Laboratory staff, South Carolina, USA, Townsville (video link), March 2008.

Day, J. 2008, 'Marine spatial planning and management ...lessons from the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Agence des Aires Marines Protégées, Brest, France, April 2008.

Day, J. 2007, 'Rezoning the Great Barrier Reef - the relative roles of scientific knowledge, public participation & political support', presented to Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand, July 2007.

Day, J. 2007, 'The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park - ecosystem-based management and ocean zoning,' presented to Indonesian Delegation Visit, Townsville, 10 August 2007.

Day, J. 2007, 'Key Factors in successful management of the sea - lessons learned from Australia's Great Barrier Reef', presented to Baltic Sea Festival, Stockholm, Sweden, August 2007.

Day, J. 2007, 'Ecosystem-based management - the roles of science, public participation and political support in rezoning the Great Barrier Reef', presented to University of Tasmania Lecture Series, Tasmania, September 2007.

Day, J. 2007, 'Developing a comprehensive and ecologically representative marine spatial plan...lessons from the Great Barrier Reef', presented to 1st Mediterranean Conference on MPA Networks (MedPAN), Townsville (video link), October 2007.

Day, J. 2007, 'Tools to assist with marine spatial planning, integrated management and management effectiveness', presented to Joint Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Oceans Management Research Network Meeting, Ottawa, Canada, November 2007.

Day, J. 2008, 'Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marine Zoning Workshop ...lessons about marine spatial planning and management from the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee Workshop to Review the Marine Zoning in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Florida Keys, April 2008.

Day, J. 2008, 'Marine zoning...lessons about marine spatial planning and management from the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Workshop for South African Parks Managers, Townsville, 20 May 2008.

Dobbs, K., Turner, C., Tapim, J., Jackson, L., Barry, G. and Sweeney, M. 2008, 'Working together for sea country management of the Great Barrier Reef', presented to 28th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Loreto, Baja, Mexico, 22-26 January 2008.

Harman, S. and Carr, M. 2008, 'Planning in the GBRMP', presented to Workshop for South African Parks Managers, Townsville, 20 May 2008.

Hoey, J. 2007, 'Research in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: emerging management tools and their value', presented to Australian Coral Reef Society 83rd Annual Conference, Fremantle, 9-11 October 2007.

Honchin, C. 2008, 'Water quality guidelines for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Fitzroy Basin Association Technical Panel, Rockhampton, 12-13 June 2008.

Hood, M. 2008, 'ReefHQ welcomes you to ATE Perth 2008', presented to Australian Tourism Exchange, Perth, 14-20 June 2008.

Johnson, J. 2008, 'The Great Barrier Reef: issues and management', presented to Northwood University students, Townsville, 3 June 2008.

Johnson, J. 2008, 'Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: the role of ports', presented to Consultants and Ports Operators Meeting, Brisbane, 11 June 2008.

McCook, L. 2007, 'Coral reef management and rehabilitation program', presented to Indonesian Delegation Visit, Townsville, 10 August 2007.

McCook, L. 2007, 'Management of the Great Barrier Reef', presented to Lecture to Marine Biology Students at James Cook University, Townsville, 14 August 2007.

McCook, L. 2007, 'Managing for resilience in the face of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef', presented to National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA, 28 November 2007.

McCook, L. 2007, 'Scientific rigour, uncertainty and the burden of proof in research for management', presented to Marine Biology Students at James Cook University, Townsville, 28 August 2007.

McCook, L. 2007, 'We need connectivity data now', presented to Joint ARC-CWG Workshop on Connectivity and Population Resilience: Sustaining Corals Reefs During the Coming Century, Townsville, 13-16 October 2007.

McCook, L. 2007, 'What next? Managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park under climate change', presented to Coral Reef Futures 07, sponsored by the Australian Academy of Science and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, Canberra, 18-19 October 2007.

- McCook, L. 2008, 'Great Barrier Reef Marine Monitoring Program', presented to Remote Sensing Workshop, CSIRO Davies Laboratory, Townsville, 19 May 2008.
- McCook, L. 2008, 'Managing coral reefs', presented to Workshop on Managing Coral Reefs', facilitated workshop for Indonesian officials from Raja Ampat, Indonesia in Townsville, 6-7 March 2008.
- McCook, L. 2008, 'Conservation planning and managing for resilience in dynamic landscapes', presented to Marine Planning and Dynamic Landscapes Workshop, Magnetic Island, 4 May 2008.
- Monkivitch, J. 2008, 'Activity-specific guidelines: tools to maximise EIA: a case study of coral transplantation from the Great Barrier Reef Australia', presented to 28th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), Perth, 4-10 May 2008.
- Monkivitch, J. 2008, 'EIA at a range of scales: managing shipping in the Great Barrier Reef Australia', presented to 28th Annual Meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), Perth, 4-10 May 2008.
- Monkivitch, J. 2008, 'Ports interface with the marine environment', presented to Pre Conference Workshop: Environmental Management in Ports, part of Regional Ports Conference 2008, Rydges Southbank, Townsville, 12-13 June 2008.
- Owens, R. 2007, 'Managing for sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Indonesian Delegation Visit, Townsville, 8 August 2007.
- Pears, R. 2007, 'Case study: Flowery cod and camouflage cod: science and management', presented to Workshop on Management and Science of Fish Spawning Aggregations in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Townsville, 12-13 July 2007.
- Peut, S., Carr, M. and Rosse, R. 2007, 'Planning for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to GBRMPA Seminar Series, Townsville, July 2007.
- Reichelt, R. 2008, 'Knowledge management for the Great Barrier Reef', presented to 2008 MTSRF Conference: Annual Conference of the Australian Government's Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility, Cairns, 28 April - 1 May 2008.
- Reichelt, R. 2008, 'Overview of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority', presented to House of Representatives Joint Standing Committee visit to the Great Barrier Reef, Low Isles, 29 April 2008.
- Salmon, S. 2008, 'Marine turtles', presented to Training on Marine Monitoring and Biological Information to Bureau of Meteorology staff at Willis Island, Townsville, 13 June 2008.
- Salmon, S., Mantel, P. and Caillaud, A. 2008, 'Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Update', presented to Pre-Season Dwarf Minke Whale Workshop, Cairns, 30 May 2008.
- Salmon, S.; and Caillaud, A. 2007, 'Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Update', presented to Post-Season Dwarf Minke Whale Workshop, Cairns, 16 November 2007.
- Schluter, L. 2008, 'Sustainable management of tourism in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Workshop for South African Parks Managers, Townsville, 20 May 2008.

Skeat, A. 2007, 'Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef: impacts and actions', presented to 2nd International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism, Davos Switzerland, 1-3 October 2007.

Skeat, A. 2007, 'Managing cities to protect the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area', presented to 6th Asia Pacific Cities Summit: Renewing Asia-Pacific Cities Brisbane, 31 August - 3 September 2007.

Skeat, A. 2007, 'Trends, values and the future of Australia's marine jewel', presented to Parks and Leisure Australia National Conference 2007, Rydges Southbank, Townsville, 16-19 September 2007.

Skeat, A. 2007, 'Managing the Great Barrier Reef: the climate challenge', presented to ICOMOS 2007: Extreme Heritage: Managing Heritage in the Face of Climatic Extremes, Natural Disasters and Military Conflicts in Tropical, Desert, Polar and Off-World Landscapes, Australian Annual Conference, Cairns, 19-21 July 2007.

Skeat, A. 2008, 'Launch of the Climate Action Certification Scheme', presented to 6th National Conference on Tourism Futures, Gold Coast, 2-4 June 2008.

Skeat, A. 2008, 'Management of water quality in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area', presented to House of Representatives Joint Standing Committee visit to the Great Barrier Reef, Low Isles, 29 April 2008.

Skeat, A. and Groves, J. 2007, 'The importance of the Great Barrier Reef and actions Industry can take to protect it', presented to Australian Fertilizer Industry Conference, Hamilton Island, 6-10 August 2007.

Skeat, A., Smith, A., Monkivitch, J. and Edison, K. 2008, 'Shipping and the environment: the Great Barrier Reef perspective', presented to Regional Ports Conference 2008, Rydges Southbank, Townsville, 12-13 June 2008.

Smith, A. 2008, 'Impact assessment in the marine environment', presented to IAIA (International Association for Impact Assessment) 08, Perth, 4-10 May 2008.

Smith, A. 2008, 'Leadership in environmental assessment, lessons learnt and innovations from 30 years management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park', presented to Workshop for South African Parks Managers, Townsville, 20 May 2008.

Tanzer, J. 2007, 'Australian coral reefs: adaptive management of critical natural resources', presented to Coral Reef Futures 07, sponsored by the Australian Academy of Science and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, Canberra, 18-19 October 2007.

Tanzer, J., Turner, C. and Andy, J. 2007, 'Sea country partnerships: overview of sea country partnerships on a national, state and regional level', presented to Caring for Country: 2nd National Land and Sea Conference, Cardwell, North Queensland, 9-12 October 2007.

Tapim, J. 2008, 'Traditional owner engagement and Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs)', presented to House of Representatives Joint Standing Committee visit to the Great Barrier Reef, Low Isles, 29 April 2008.

Turner, M. 2008, 'Birds and Willis Island', presented to Training on Marine Monitoring and Biological Information to Bureau of Meteorology staff at Willis Island, Townsville, 13 June 2008.

Turner, M. 2008, 'Bleachwatch', presented to Training on Marine Monitoring and Biological Information to Bureau of Meteorology staff at Willis Island, Townsville, 13 June 2008.

Appendix 8: Ecologically Sustainable Development and Environmental Performance

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) requires Australian Government organisations to include in their annual reports details of the Organisation's contribution to ecologically sustainable development as well as the environmental performance of the organisation. Section 516A also promotes development of a framework that integrates environmental, economic and social considerations and helps improve the environmental and ecologically sustainable development performance of Australian Government agencies.

The following is a summary of activities by the GBRMPA in 2007-08 in accordance with section 516A of the *EPBC Act*.

1. How the activities of the organisation, and the administration of legislation by the organisation, accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development (section 516A(6)(a))

The following activities of the GBRMPA accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development:

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

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

- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef by managing the Zoning Plan introduced on 1 July 2004, in consultation with stakeholders, communities and agencies
- Implementing monitoring and assessment programs flowing from the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* (Reef Plan), an intergovernmental agreement that aims to halt and reverse the decline in water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef within 10 years - closely collaborating with other Australian Government agencies and the Queensland Government to further the sustainability objectives of the Reef Plan

- In conjunction with the Australian Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, and the Queensland Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, the GBRMPA has contributed to the continuation of, and consultation on improvements to, a wide range of fisheries management initiatives in 2007-08
- In partnership with Australian and Queensland Government enforcement agencies, the GBRMPA maintained the level of its compliance operations during 2007-08, resulting in detection and fines against illegal activities in the Marine Park
- Continued the GBRMPA's outreach to the community, through the Community Partnerships initiative with five regional offices to deliver a regionally focused community partnership program
- Identifying and conserving natural, historic and cultural heritage in the Great Barrier Reef, including the Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreement with Traditional Owners and communities
- Preparation of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report. The report will be an important stock take of the Great Barrier Reef, its management and its future
- Encouraging sustainable tourism within the Marine Park through the High Standard Tourism Program.

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

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

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

- Contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, including
 - Improving information on the quality and extent of the Great Barrier Reef's water quality through the Reef Plan
 - Developing a comprehensive monitoring and reporting mechanism for the Reef Plan
 - Developing a community monitoring program for monitoring of the conservation and heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef for future generations
- Contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in marine ecosystems including through implementing the Representative Areas Program
- Contributing to the conservation of river systems through:
 - The Reef Plan
 - Providing advice and assistance for the permit system under the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*

- Implementing the ban on the use of antifouling paints on ships in the Great Barrier Reef
- Public education through a wetlands exhibit at the Reef HQ Aquarium.
- Protecting the World Heritage values of Australia's Great Barrier Reef through:
 - Regulation, including the consideration of proposed actions predominantly in, or adjacent to, the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics of Queensland.
- Working in partnership with stakeholder groups, including:
 - Collaborating with the International Coral Reef Initiative to provide assistance to the international community to promote the conservation of coral reefs through the Global Reef Coral Monitoring Network and the International Coral Reef Initiative Action Network
 - Working with tourism operators to encourage high standards for environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainable tourism activities in the Great Barrier Reef.
 - Implementing the Reef Guardian Councils Program to encourage councils to get involved in environmental projects
 - Implementing the Reef Guardian Schools Program to encourage students to get involved in environmental projects.
 - Working with Cap Reef, a community initiative to monitor changes following the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
 - Working with Traditional Owners to develop sustainable traditional use of marine resources practices
 - Working with the tourism industry in monitoring the Great Barrier Reef through the Eye on the Reef Monitoring Program and the Eyes and Ears Compliance Program
 - Incorporating the views of the community and reef based industries in preparing the Outlook Report
 - Operating various advisory groups to assist in the management of particular issues in Marine Park locations and operational programs.

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

- Implementing the High Standard Tourism Program which recognises high standard operators who are independently certified by Ecotourism Australia
- 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 2007-08 included:
 - Having an accounting framework to measure the commercial values of the Great Barrier Reef

- Continuing the partnership with industry associations through community monitoring programs.

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

The Department of the Environment and Water Resources Portfolio Budget Statement - Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority - lists environmental outcomes for the GBRMPA for 2007-08, as follows:

Group	Outcomes
Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships	Natural, traditional and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park protected and World Heritage obligations are met
Water Quality and Coastal Development	Protection of the Great Barrier Reef from the adverse effects of water pollution and coastal development
Fisheries	Progress towards ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area
Tourism and Recreation	Ecologically sustainable tourism and recreation use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park provided for in partnership with the community and industry
Park Management	Planning, assessment and permitting arrangements delivered to manage impacts on the Marine Park. Field management operations that include surveillance, enforcement, public contact, natural resource management and provision of visitor services delivered in partnership with Queensland Government and Australian Government Agencies
Science and Information for Park Management	Coordination and delivery of the best available scientific and technical information for management
Reef Education and Communication	Delivered effective communication, education, and interpretive and marketing programs and provided a readily accessible onshore reef environment (Reef HQ Aquarium)

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

The above seven outcomes contribute to the GBRMPA's goal: the long term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

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

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

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

The GBRMPA has the responsibility of managing the world's largest living ecosystem, the world's largest World Heritage Area, and Australia's largest declared marine protected area. The GBRMPA manages the Marine Park as a multiple use area, and permits such uses as are ecologically sustainable, and as are permitted by legislation.

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

In conjunction with its agency partners, the GBRMPA maintained compliance and enforcement activities during 2007-08, with additional funding being provided by both Australian and Queensland Governments for field management.

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

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

- Maintenance of eco-certification of the Reef HQ Aquarium by Eco-Tourism Australia
- Further study of energy use by Reef HQ Aquarium
- Energy audit of the GBRMPA's office accommodation in Townsville
- Operating a Green Office Committee to raise awareness of environmental management within the office
- Use of four Hybrid Energy vehicles for fleet use
- Use of ethanol inclusive fuels in vehicles
- Use of bio-diesel fuel for the Reef HQ Aquarium truck
- Reef HQ Café cooking oils recycled by a local bio-diesel company
- Building materials used in Reef HQ exhibits chosen from environmentally sustainable products
- Pest control undertaken using methods designed to minimise environmental impacts
- Office machines (photocopiers, printers) are automatically programmed to save power
- Printers programmed to duplex documents to reduce paper usage
- Printer toner cartridges are remanufactured and photocopier toner cartridges sent to Planet Ark for recycling
- Staff are actively involved in recycling office paper, with paper and cardboard being collected by a local recycling company
- Packaging and envelopes are recycled
- Corporate publications are printed on recycled paper if feasible

- Wherever possible documents are provided electronically to reduce paper usage
- Recycled paper is used in toilets (toilet paper and hand towels)
- All refrigerators are CFC-free
- Toilets have been converted to dual flush as a water conservation measure
- Collection of fluorescent tubes for recycling
- Disused desk top and mobile phones are sent to Planet Ark for recycling
- Cardboard waste is collected for recycling by Cleanaway
- Used paper hand towel is put in with cardboard recycling
- Vehicle leasing decisions take into account Australian Greenhouse Office specifications on fuel consumption targets
- Improvements to the solar energy system at the Low Isles Lightstation and introduction of the use of biodiesel to achieve fuel savings of 40 per cent and at least 80 per cent emission reductions.

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

The primary aim of the Outlook Report is to provide a regular and reliable report on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the overall condition of the ecosystem of the Great Barrier Reef region, social and economic factors, as well as a risk-based assessment of the longer-term outlook for the Great Barrier Reef region.

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

- Increased awareness of energy and greenhouse issues
- Measures relative performance
- Provides a benchmarking tool
- Tracks changes over time
- Identifies high-intensity areas
- Encourages improvement through transparency.

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

During the year the GBRMPA conducted an investigation into the energy and water efficiency of the GBRMPA's head office and the Reef HQ Aquarium. A non-registered Australian Green Building Rating star rating was performed with recommendations provided to improve the traceability of energy use and reduce energy and water use options and allow for a future registered rating.

In considering future office accommodation lease arrangements the GBRMPA will be taking into account the need to specify minimum energy performance standards in contracts, leases and other

relevant documentation for any new leases over 2 000 square metres or major refurbishment.

The GBRMPA has committed to the development of an Environmental Management System (EMS), which has been incorporated as an implementation requirement under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2006 - 2009 Certified Agreement*.

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

Appendix 9: Australian Government Disability Strategy

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

Policy adviser

In its role as a policy adviser, the GBRMPA is the principal adviser to the Australian Government on the care and development of the Marine Park. Public consultation and participation are integral in the management of the Great Barrier Reef. The GBRMPA recognises its responsibility to ensure new policies are developed in consultation with people with a disability, where appropriate. Where possible, public meetings are held in venues with disability access. Public websites and public web entry points have been created in accordance with the accessibility requirements of the *Government Online Strategy*.

Provider

In the provider role, the GBRMPA manages the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Reef HQ Aquarium. Access is provided to the majority of the Marine Park for tourism and recreational activities. Information about the Marine Park is available in accessible formats on the GBRMPA's website at www.gbrmpa.gov.au and in hard copy from the Townsville office, Queensland Parks and Wildlife offices and various Community Access Points situated along the Queensland coast.

The GBRMPA's library has been designed to enable disability access and library staff provide assistance to people with disabilities. The GBRMPA's library services provide access to information on CD-ROM and online catalogues.

Due to the limitations of a marine-based park, access for people with a disability to the Marine Park varies. Reef HQ provides a land-based reef experience for people who would otherwise be unable to access the Marine Park. Townsville Enterprise, the regional tourism body, recognised Reef HQ in its publications as a user-friendly centre for people with disabilities. Improved disability access, tactile and audiovisual displays have been incorporated into the current refurbishment of Reef HQ. Reef HQ provides interpretive facilities, on request, for people with disabilities.

Regulator

Under its regulatory role, the GBRMPA administers the:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*
- *Great Barrier Reef Region (Prohibition of Mining) Regulations 1999*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge-General) Act 1993*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge-Excise) Act 1993.*

Commonwealth legislation specific to the Marine Park is accessible to the public through the GBRMPA website at www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_gbrmpa/legislation_regulations, and brochures and fact sheets are provided on request through the GBRMPA's Public Information Unit.

Public notifications are also made in the *Commonwealth Government Gazette* and, depending on the needs of the person requesting the information, specific requests may be responded to by fax, email or normal postal services. Under section 32 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the GBRMPA is required to provide opportunities for interested people to comment and gain information on changes to the zoning of the Marine Park. This consultative process is achieved through a variety of media including Internet, mail outs, public meetings and public service announcements on both radio and television.

This process also occurs in relation to preparation of plans of management under section 39ZE of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Preparation of an Annual Report on the operation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* is required under subsection 70(2) of the *Public Service Act 1999*. The report is also available on the Internet in an accessible format.

Employer

The GBRMPA works across a number of areas to ensure it provides fair and equitable employment opportunities for all members of the community. The GBRMPA's employment policies, procedures and practices comply with the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. Recruitment information for potential job applicants is made available in various ways depending on the needs of the individual. Recruitment opportunities advertised in the APS Jobs (*Australian Public Service Gazette*) and the press, are accessible through the Internet.

The 2007-08 Annual Workplace Diversity data identifies 4.02 per cent of employees as having some form of disability. The actual number of employees with disabilities is expected to be higher than this figure due to non-disclosure. The GBRMPA's rate of employment of people with disabilities is higher than that of the broader APS (quoted as 3.3 per cent in the *2006-07 State of the Service Report* published by the Australian Public Service Commission).

Within the workplace, the GBRMPA applies the principle of reasonable adjustment. For example, work is arranged to suit individual requirements and the necessary equipment, such as large computer screens or more appropriate keyboards, is provided. Flexible work arrangements are put in place as necessary to suit the needs of the individual. The main building, Day-to-Day

Management Compliance Office, Reef HQ, the conference room and meeting rooms are wheelchair accessible.

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

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

Appendix 10: The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Funded Research and Investigations for 2007-08

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

The MTSRF, managed by the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, is a \$40 million investment in research by the Department of the Environment and Water Resources, to support the management of the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics. Approximately half of the total is being invested in projects that are of direct relevance to the business of the GBRMPA. Over \$2 million of the GBRMPA's Annual Research Program is aligned with the MTSRF Annual Research Program and as such has been identified as an in-kind contribution; in addition, \$663 400 has been invested as cash co-investment in specific projects.

Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility

- Identification of non-reefal species and potential indicator species of a bioregional scale
- Condition and trend of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem: Indicators, thresholds of potential concerns, and ecological effects of Great Barrier Reef Zoning Plan on mid and outer shelf reefs
- Condition, trend and risk in coastal habitats: seagrass indicators, distribution and thresholds of potential concern
- Dating and mapping historical changes in Great Barrier Reef coral communities
- Great Barrier Reef Data synthesis and integration for reporting
- Economic analysis of alternative uses and tradeoffs in the Torres Strait
- Condition trends and projected futures of marine species of conservation concern
- Sustainable use of marine species of conservation concern
- Regional climate scenarios

- Early warning and assessment systems for thermal stress on the Great Barrier Reef
- Resilience to climate change
- Tools to support resilience-based management in the face of climate change
- Identification and impact of invasive pests in the Great Barrier Reef
- Marine and estuarine indicators and thresholds of concern
- Connectivity and risk: tracing materials from the catchment to the Reef
- Freshwater indicators and thresholds of concern
- Wetlands and floodplains connectivity and hydro ecological function
- Socio-economic constraints to and incentives for the adoption of options for water quality improvement
- Analysis and synthesis of information for reporting on the health of the catchment and Great Barrier Reef water quality
- Resilience and connectivity (fish larval movements)
- Effects of the Great Barrier Reef Zoning Plan on inshore habitats and biodiversity, of which fish and corals are indicators
- Evaluation of the resiliency of key inter-reef species
- Evaluation of the impacts from industry and community uses on inshore biodiversity
- Incorporating stakeholders and their values, knowledge and aspirations in the care and development of the Marine Park
- Analysis of recreational and tourism use and impact on the Great Barrier Reef for managing sustainable tourism
- Forecasting risk of exposure to irukandji
- Communication, community engagement and enhanced delivery of Program 8
- Indigenous Landscapes of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
- Integrating ecology, economics and people into forest landscapes
- Strategic Regional NRM and land use planning
- Understanding social resilience and identification of social resilience indicators for management

Also managed by the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre

- *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan - Marine monitoring program*
- *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan - Near shore water quality monitoring*
- *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan - Marine biological monitoring*
- *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan - River mouth monitoring*
- *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan - Pesticide monitoring*
- *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan - Biomarker and bioaccumulation monitoring*

Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies

Led by James Cook University, the Centre partnership includes the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the Australian National University, the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority and

the University of Queensland. The Centre of Excellence organises its research into five broad programs, listed below. Details of research projects conducted under these programs is available from the Centre at: <http://www.coralcoe.org.au/>

- Evolutionary and environmental change
- Understanding and Managing Coral Reef Biodiversity
- Marine Reserves and Reef Connectivity
- Genetic, molecular and physiological processes
- Resilience of linked socio-ecological systems.

The above research involved collaborations between the major research providers in the Great Barrier Reef region. The following research projects are not associated with the above collaborations.

Access Economics, Consultants

- Economic contribution of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

- Recovery of seabed habitat from the impact of prawn trawling

Colmar Brunton Social Research, Consultants

- Applied social research to support Great Barrier Reef Marine Park management.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

- BleachWatch
- Great Barrier Reef Coral Bleaching Fine Scale Ecological Surveys
- Great Barrier Reef Vulnerability Assessments
- ReefTemp
- Social and economic framework for water quality improvement
- Eye on the Reef
- Science for Management Awards
- Pew Fellowship - Coral Reef Resilience

James Cook University

- Dwarf minke whale tourism monitoring program
- Environmental Management of coral reef resilience
- Survey of anemones and anemone fish in the Keppel Island Group
- Reef shark interaction with the reef line fishery in the GBRMPA
- Spatial risk assessment as a management technique to inform the management of Dugongs in the GBRWHA

Queensland Parks and Wildlife

- Compliance - Protecting the Reef
- Monitoring Recovery of Reef Communities at Major Ship Grounding Sites
- Monitoring marine turtle nesting and foraging populations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and adjacent Queensland marine parks.

Reef Check Australia

- Reef Check surveys and activities in the Great Barrier Reef

Tony Charter & Associates, Consultant

- Marine Park Brochure Audit

Sea Research

- Abundances of reef sharks in different zoning categories

Dr Robyn Cumming, Consultant

- *Drupella spp* - Population dynamics and impacts to coral reefs

University of Queensland

- Long-term changes in water quality and ecosystems (in collaboration with the Australian National University)
- Research into coral disease on the Great Barrier Reef
- New Tools for Managing Ecosystem Responses to Climate Change

Appendix 11: Day-to-Day Management Financial Statements

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008**

	Notes	2008 \$	2007 \$
Income			
Revenue			
Appropriations from State Government		6,515,688	4,215,300
Funding from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		6,515,688	4,215,300
Other Revenue		146,273	62,297
Gains			
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment		-	145,485
Total Income		<u>13,177,649</u>	<u>8,638,382</u>
Expenses			
Operating			
Employee expenses		7,155,020	5,255,883
Supplies and services	2	4,196,246	3,406,677
Depreciation	3	479,283	514,599
Losses			
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment		42,181	-
Total Expenses		<u>11,872,730</u>	<u>9,177,159</u>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		<u>1,304,919</u>	<u>(538,777)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2008**

	Notes	2008 \$	2007 \$
Current assets			
Cash assets	4	1,052,740	149,290
Receivables	5	233,762	161,602
Prepayments		43,313	55,319
Total Current Assets		1,329,815	366,211
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	5,397,196	4,907,434
Total Non Current Assets		5,397,196	4,907,434
Total Assets		6,727,011	5,273,645
Current Liabilities			
Payables	7	243,814	195,587
Total Current Liabilities		243,814	195,587
Total Liabilities		243,814	195,587
Net Assets		6,483,197	5,078,058
Equity			
Retained surpluses		3,782,298	2,477,379
Asset revaluation reserve	8	2,700,899	2,600,680
Total Equity		6,483,197	5,078,058

The accompanying notes form part of these statements

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	Retained Surpluses		Asset Revaluation Reserve (Note 8)	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance 1 July	2,477,378	3,018,595	2,600,680	2,404,557
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	1,304,919	(538,777)		
Non-Owner changes in equity:				
- Increase/(Decrease) in Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	-	100,220	196,123
- Correction of Error		(2,440)		
Balance 30 June	3,782,297	2,477,378	2,700,900	2,600,680

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008**

	Notes	2008 \$	2007 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Appropriation from State		6,515,688	4,215,300
Appropriation from Cwltb		6,515,688	4,215,300
GST input tax credits from ATO		308,194	259,113
GST collected from customers		18,040	17,765
Other		106,327	63,737
Outflows:			
Employee expenses		(7,073,110)	(5,249,749)
Supplies and services		(4,206,415)	(3,436,139)
GST paid to suppliers		(341,383)	(266,047)
GST remitted to ATO		(18,514)	(20,889)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	9	1,824,515	(201,610)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Inflows:			
Sales of property, plant and equipment		0	148,260
Outflows:			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(921,065)	(266,452)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(921,065)	(118,192)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		903,450	(319,802)
Cash at beginning of the financial year		149,290	469,093
Cash at end of the financial year	4	1,052,740	149,291

The accompanying notes form part of these statements

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007-08**

Objectives and Principal Activities

The Day-to-day (DDM) Programme is a joint arrangement between the Australian and Queensland State Governments that provides the management framework for field operations in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The DDM Coordination Unit, which is staffed by both GBRMPA and Environmental Protection Agency personnel, administers and coordinates the cooperative arrangements between the Australian and Queensland State Governments through the Marine Park Authority (MPA) Board.

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

The MPA Board has adopted the following priorities for the DDM Programme.

1. Priority 1 - Compliance

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

- Line and trawl fisheries;
- Dugong protection;
- New zoning plan green and pink zones; and
- Emerging compliance issues to prevent serious environmental harm.

2. Priority 2 - Vulnerable Species

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

3. Priority 3 - Visitor facilities, natural and cultural resource protection

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

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

4. Priority 4 - Indigenous engagement

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

Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Day to Day Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park have been prepared in accordance with Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. This financial report is a general purpose financial report.

Except where stated, the historical cost convention is used.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007-08 (continued)

(b) The Reporting Entity

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

(c) Funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments

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

(d) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash assets include all cash at bank and on hand, cash equivalents and cheques received but not banked as at 30 June.

(e) Receivables

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

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

(f) Acquisition of Assets

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

(g) Property, Plant and Equipment

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

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

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

(h) Revaluations of Non-Current Physical Assets

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

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

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

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007-08 (continued)**

amount on revaluation is charged as an expense, to the extent it exceeds the balance, if any, in the revaluation reserve relating to that class.

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

(i) Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment

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

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

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

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

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

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

(j) Impairment of Non-Current Assets

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

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

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

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

(k) Payables

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007-08 (continued)

(l) Financial Instruments

Recognition

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

Classification

Financial instruments are classified and measured as follows:

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

Receivables - held at amortised cost

Payables - held at amortised cost

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

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

(m) Employee benefits

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

(n) Taxation

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

(o) Issuance of Financial Statements

The financial statements are authorised for issue by the Director-General and Director of Finance at the date of signing the Management Certificate.

(p) Judgements and Assumptions

The Agency has made no judgements or assessments which may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

(q) Comparatives

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

(r) New and Revised Accounting Standards

No Standards have been early adopted in 2007-08.

At the date of authorisation of the financial report, one of the new or amended Australian accounting standards with future commencement dates will have a significant impact on the Authority. Details of such impact is set out below:

AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements has been revised, but such revisions will not impact on the Authority until 2009-10. This revised standard does not have measurement or recognition implications. Instead, there will be significant changes to the presentation of the Authority's overall financial performance and position, particularly the content of the

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

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007-08 (continued)

Statement of Changes in Equity, and preparation of a new Statement of Comprehensive Income (which will include certain items currently disclosed in the Statement of Changes in Equity, in line with the definition of 'comprehensive income' in the revised AASB 101). Ignoring other potential impacts on the operating result, if the revised AASB 101 was applied by the Authority for 2007-08 reporting, it would have reported comprehensive income of \$1,405,139. The increase in the asset revaluation reserve for 2007-08 (\$100,220) would not therefore be included in the Statement of Changes in Equity.

All other Australian accounting standards and interpretations with future commencement dates are either not applicable to the Authority, or have no material impact on the Authority.

Note 2 Supplies and Services

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Administration costs	944,120	791,748
Corporate support contribution	1,079,250	734,906
Maintenance of assets	820,743	725,445
Operating leases	546,461	446,087
Travel – staff and clients	483,783	427,332
Fuel and Oil	321,889	281,159
Total	4,196,246	3,406,677

External audit fees for 2007-08 are paid by the Environmental Protection Agency and not charged directly to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Day to Day Management program. The program pays an annual corporate support charge to the Environmental Protection Agency to meet costs such as these.

Note 3 Depreciation Expense

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Depreciation incurred in respect of:		
Plant and equipment	347,062	362,405
Buildings	128,322	144,716
Infrastructure	3,748	7,323
Heritage and Cultural	151	155
Total	479,283	514,599

Due to revaluations, there was an increase in depreciation on Buildings and Infrastructure during the reporting period of \$972.

Note 4 Cash Assets

Funds held	1,052,740	149,290
Total	1,052,740	149,290

Note 5 Receivables

<i>Current</i>		
Trade debtors	150,111	109,865
GST receivable	83,651	51,737
Total	233,762	161,602

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK**
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007-08 (continued)

Note 6 Property, Plant and Equipment

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Buildings		
At valuation	4,490,230	4,317,948
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2,122,948)	(1,921,026)
	2,367,282	2,396,922
Infrastructure		
At valuation	132,958	127,110
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(101,760)	(93,701)
	31,198	33,409
Capital works in progress	608,510	67,792
Heritage and Cultural		
At cost	15,452	15,452
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,722)	(1,571)
	13,730	13,881
Plant and Equipment		
At cost	5,482,171	5,426,374
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,105,696)	(3,030,945)
	2,376,475	2,395,429
Total	5,397,196	4,907,434

Buildings and infrastructure values were updated using the Implicit Price Deflator index, effective 30 June 2008.

For buildings, infrastructure, and heritage and cultural assets, the basis of valuation is depreciated current replacement cost.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park has plant and equipment with an original cost of \$482,345 and buildings and infrastructure valued at \$126,558 with a written down value of zero still being used in the provision of services.

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

Asset Reconciliation

	Buildings	Infra-structure	Work in Progress	Heritage & Cultural	Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Carrying amount at 1 July	2,396,922	33,409	67,792	13,881	2,395,430	4,907,434
Acquisitions			566,544		379,679	946,223
Disposals					(51,572)	(51,572)
Transfers			(25,826)			(25,826)
Revaluation	98,683	1,537				100,220
Increments/(Decrements)						
Depreciation	(128,322)	(3,748)		(151)	(347,061)	(479,283)
Carrying amount at 30 June	2,367,282	31,198	608,510	13,730	2,376,475	5,397,196

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007-08 (continued)**

Note 7 Payables

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
<i>Current</i>		
Trade creditors	73,385	105,319
Employee expenses payable	144,616	88,515
GST payable	-	1,749
Payroll Tax payable	25,813	3
Total	243,814	195,587

Note 8 Asset Revaluation Reserve by Class

	Buildings & Land Improve	Major Plant & Equipment	Infra- Structure	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance 1 July 2007	1,614,705	598,345	387,630	2,600,680
Revaluation increments	98,682	-	1,537	100,219
Balance 30 June 2008	1,713,387	598,345	389,167	2,700,899

Note 9 Reconciliation of Net Operating Result to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Surplus/deficit from ordinary activities	1,304,919	(538,777)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation	479,283	514,599
(Gain)/loss on disposal of property, plant & equipment	42,481	(145,485)
Bad Debts Expense	-	880
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(72,160)	586
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	12,006	(21,740)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	57,986	(11,674)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	1,824,515	(201,611)

Note 10 Contingent Assets

There were no contingent assets of a significant nature relating to the Day to Day Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as at 30 June 2008 (2007 \$nil).

Note 11 Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities of a significant nature relating to the Day to Day Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as at 30 June 2008 (2007 \$nil).

Insurance

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

Note 12 Commitments

There were no non-cancellable commitments of a significant nature relating to the Day to Day Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as at 30 June 2008 (2007 \$nil).

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007-08 (continued)**

Note 13 Financial Instruments

The Authority has the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities:

Category	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
Financial Assets			
Cash	4	1,052,740	149,290
Receivables	5	233,762	161,602
Total		1,286,502	310,892
Financial Liabilities			
Payables	7	243,814	195,587
Total		243,814	195,587

Credit Risk Exposure

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment.

The following table represents the Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk based on contractual amounts net of any allowances:

Category	Maximum Exposure to Credit Risk		
	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
Financial Assets			
Cash	4	1,052,740	149,290
Receivables	5	233,762	161,602
Total		1,286,502	310,892

No collateral is held as security relating to financial assets held by the Authority. No credit enhancements relate to the financial assets held by the Authority.

The Authority manages credit risk through the use of a credit management strategy. This strategy aims to reduce the exposure to credit default by ensuring that the Authority monitors all funds owed on a timely basis. Exposure to credit risk is monitored on an ongoing basis.

No financial assets and financial liabilities have been offset and presented net in the Balance Sheet.

No financial assets have had their terms renegotiated so as to prevent them from ageing past due or impaired, and are stated at the carrying amounts as indicated. Ageing of past due but not impaired and impaired financial instruments are disclosed in the following tables:

2008 Financial Assets Past Due But Not Impaired

	Not overdue	Contractual Repricing/Maturity Date:				Total	Total Financial Assets
		Less than 30 days	30-60 days	61-90 days	More than 90 days		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Financial Assets							
Receivables	177,120				56,642	233,762	
Total	177,120				56,642	233,762	

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007-08 (continued)**

2007 Financial Assets Past Due But Not Impaired

	Not overdue	Contractual Repricing/Maturity Date:			Total	Total Financial Assets
		Less than 30 days	30-60 days	Overdue 61-90 days		
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets						
Receivables		161,602			161,602	161,602
Total		161,602			161,602	161,602

Liquidity Risk

The Authority's exposed to liquidity risk in respect of its payables.

The Authority manages liquidity risk through the use of a liquidity management strategy. This strategy aims to reduce the exposure to liquidity risk by ensuring the Authority has sufficient funds available to meet employee and supplier obligations as they fall due. This is achieved by ensuring that a minimum level of cash is held within the bank account so as to match the expected duration of the various employee and supplier liabilities.

The following table sets out the liquidity risk of financial liabilities held by the Authority. It represents the contractual maturity of financial liabilities, calculated based on cash flows relating to the repayment of the principal amount outstanding at balance date.

	Note	2008 Payable in			Total
		< 1year	1-5 years	> 5 years	
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	7	243,814			243,814
Total		243,814			243,814

	Note	2007 Payable in			Total
		< 1year	1-5 years	> 5 years	
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	7	195,587	-	-	195,587
Total		195,587	-	-	195,587

Market Risk

The Authority does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to commodity price changes.

Interest Rate Sensitivity Analysis

The Authority is not subject to interest rate sensitivity. It does not receive interest on Cash balances.

Fair Value

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities is determined as follows:


- The fair value of cash, cash equivalents, receivables and payables approximate their carrying amounts and are not disclosed separately below.

The carrying amounts of all financial assets and all financial liabilities are representative of their fair value.

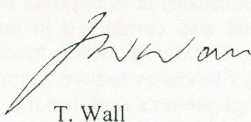
**CERTIFICATE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
In relation to the day to day operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**

The foregoing Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement and Notes to and forming part of the financial statements have been prepared as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. We certify that:

- (i) the statements together with the other information and notes to and forming part thereof are in agreement with the accounts of the Environmental Protection Agency; and
- (ii) the receipt and expenditure of monies and the control and management of assets were in accordance with the approved programs and in accordance with the aforementioned agreements and previous agreements executed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments with regard to day to day management; and
- (iii) in our opinion:
 - a. the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
 - b. statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the transactions and cash flows of the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to the day to day operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, and of the financial position as at 30 June 2008.


B. Lang
Acting Director, Finance & Resource Management

Date: 8 August 2008


T. Wall
Director-General

Date: 8 August 2008

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Day to Day management program, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2008, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies other explanatory notes and certificates given by the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency's Acting Director, Finance and Resource Management and Director-General.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Director-General's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Deed of Agreement dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with the *Auditor-General of Queensland Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit is planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement in the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Director-General, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independence

The *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* promotes the independence of the Auditor-General and QAO authorised auditors. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Queensland public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament.

The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

Auditor's Opinion

In accordance with the Deed of Agreement dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, I have audited the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park's Day-to-day Management financial report, and –

- (a) I have received all the information and explanations which I have required; and
- (b) in my opinion the financial report has been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the financial performance and cash flows of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Day-to-Day Management for the financial year 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 and of the financial position as at the end of that year; and
- (c) the financial report is in agreement with the accounts and records of the State.



C J WEH, CPA
(as Delegate of the Auditor-General of Queensland)



Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

SECTION F

Glossary and Indexes



Glossary

AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
AO	Officer of the Order of Australia
APS	Australian Public Service
Authority	Great Barrier Reef Advisory Board
<i>Act (the)</i>	<i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975</i>
<i>CAC Act</i>	<i>Commonwealth Companies and Authorities Act 1997</i>
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COTS	Crown-of-thorns starfish
CPG	Community Partnerships Group
CRC Reef Research Centre	Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
DEWHA	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
DDM	Day-to-Day Management Program
DDMCU	Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
ELF	Effects of Line Fishing Experiment
EMC	Environmental Management Charge
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
<i>EPBC Act</i>	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EXEC	Executive Level
FAICD	Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors
F/T	Full-time (staff position)
<i>FMA Act</i>	<i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>
FTE	Full-time Equivalent (staff position)
FRAC	Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee
GBRCC	Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee
GBRMPPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GBRWHA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
Hon	Honourable

IPLU	Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LMAC	Local Marine Advisory Committee
MP	Member of Parliament
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTSRF	Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee
NESB	Non-English speaking background
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OAM	Medal of the Order of Australia
P/T	Part-time (staff position)
PCAMS	Permits Compliance and Management Systems
PSM	Public Service Medal
PWD	People with a disability
QDPI&F	Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
QPW	Queensland Parks and Wildlife
RAP	Representative Areas Program
<i>Reef Plan</i>	<i>Reef Water Quality Protection Plan</i>
TRRAC	Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee
TUMRA	Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement
WTO	Wildlife Trade Operation
WQIP	Water Quality Improvement Plan

Compliance Index

Location of information provided is in accordance with the *Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments, Executive Agencies and FMA ACT Bodies*, issued by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in June 2008.

Note: na indicates that the relevant material was not applicable to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during 2007-08

Letter of transmittal	iii
Aids to Access	
Table of Contents	v-vii
Alphabetical index	202-208
Glossary	198-199
Contact points	ii
Internet home page address and Internet address for Annual Reports	ii
Review by Acting Chairman	
Introduction	2-3
Overview of Agency's performance and financial results	4-6
Outlook for following year	2-3
Agency Overview	
Overview description of agency	8-11
Role and legislation	8, 96
Organisational structure	9, 36
Outcome and output structure	16
Where outcome/output structure differ from Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS)	na
Report on Performance	
Review of performance in relation to outputs and contribution to outcomes	17-34
Actual performance in relation to performance targets in PBS/ Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement (PAES)	36-98
Details in changes in performance targets from those in PBS/ PAES	na
Discussion and analysis of performance	17-34
Performance against Service Charter standards	na
Social justice and equity impacts	13-14
Discussion and analysis of financial performance	4-6
Summary resource table by outcome	6
Management Accountability - Corporate Governance	
Corporate governance practices	10-11, 93-97
Names of senior executives	10, 132-134
Senior management committees	133-140
Certification of fraud measures in place	11-12

External Scrutiny	
Significant developments	11-16
Judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals	2-3
Reports of the Auditor-General, a Parliamentary Committee of Ombudsman	12-13
Management of Human Resources	
Assessment of effectiveness	95-96, 173-174, 94-95
Statistics on staff	158-159
Certified agreements and Australian Workplace Agreements	96-97
Performance pay	96
Contracts exempt from Purchasing and Disposal Gazette	na
Assets Management	95
Purchasing	
Assessment of purchasing against core policies and principles	na
Consultants and Competitive Tendering and Contracting	
Number of consultancy services and total expenditure	140-141
Competitive tendering and contracting contracts let and outcomes	na
Absence of contractual provisions allowing access by Auditor-General	na
Contracts exempt from Purchasing and Disposal Gazette	na
Commonwealth Disability Strategy	
Performance in implementing the Commonwealth Disability Strategy	14, 174-176
Financial Statements	180-195, 99-146
Other Information Relating to Annual Reports	
Occupational health and safety	85, 159-160
Freedom of information	13, 155-156
Advertising and market research	156-157
Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance	14, 168-174
Discretionary grants	na

Alphabetical index

A

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships 41-4, 155
see also Indigenous
accommodation 95
Administrative Appeals Tribunal 13
advisory committees 37
Agency Certified Agreement 5
agricultural chemicals 3, 21-3
anemone and coral bleaching 50
antifouling paints on ships 170
aquarium fish fishery 51-2
Aquarium *see* Reef HQ Aquarium
Audit Committee 11, 150-3
Auditor's Report 100-101
audit reports 11-12
Australian Government Disability Strategy 14
Australian Heritage Council 44
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies 77
Australian Institute of Marine Science 3
 long-term monitoring program 17-21
Australian National Audit Office 12
Australian Research Council 79

B

balance sheet 104
Barker, Fay 10, 148, 150
biodiversity assessment 36
bioregions with protection 26-7
bird conservation 41
bird monitoring 67-9
bleaching of coral 18, 21, 50, 79, 93
BleachWatch 79, 93
boating shows 83
by-catch species 50

C

Cairns Area Plans of Management 71
Cairns City Earth Hour 2
Cap Reef recreational fishing monitoring program 2, 92, 170
capability development 96
Cape York Local Marine Advisory Committees 42
catch and release fishing 50
Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies 177-8
Chadwick, Virginia 10, 148
chlorophyll *a* concentration 21-3
climate change 2-3, 36, 83, 92-3
 impacts 21, 33, 51-2
 initiatives in tourism 55
 government inquiry 13, 48
 vulnerable species 67
Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2012, 2-4, 92-3
Climate Change and the Great Barrier Reef: A Vulnerability Assessment 93
clownfish and coral bleaching 50
COAG National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 3, 80, 92
Coastal Catchments Initiative 22
coastal development 22, 33, 36, 45-9, 68, 154
commercial fishing 50
commercial use of Reef 37, 50
Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997, 2, 94
Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines 11
Commonwealth Islands 4, 74
communication and education 80-91
community engagement 2, 36, 79, 169
education 4
 monitoring groups 50

- partnerships 91-2
- perception of reef threats 32-4
- compliance to legislation 152
- compliance by visitors to Park 59-66, 169-70
- conservation of species 36, 39-41, 153
- consultancy services 156-7
- control framework 151
- coral reefs
 - bleaching 18, 21, 50, 79, 93
 - diseases 18-20
 - finfish fishery 51
 - health assessment 17-21
- coral collection fisheries 49-52
- coral cover, long-term monitoring 17-21
- Coral Triangle Initiative 15
- corporate governance 10-11
- corporate services 36, 93-8
- crab fisheries 49, 51
- CRC Reef Research Centre 27-30
- crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) 3-4, 18-21, 55, 78
- cruise ship access 55-6
- CSIRO 178
- cultural heritage management 41-4, 69-70
- customer debt management 12
- cyclones/wild weather 18-21, 68

D

- databases 43, 77
 - reef visitors 95
- Day-to-Day Management 59-70, 156
 - financial statements 180-95
- Defence, liaison with 72
- Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts 2, 37, 41, 51, 80
- disability strategy 14, 174-6
- diseases of coral 18-20
- dive-based fisheries 49, 51

- diving and snorkelling 53, 55, 160
- dolphin conservation 40
- dugong conservation 14, 40-3, 67
- dwarf minke whale tourism 55

E

- East Coast Fisheries 24-6, 40, 51
- East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery 40
- ECO Certification Program 54
- ecologically sustainable development 14, 168-74
- ecosystem based fisheries management 52
- ecosystem health/resilience 37
- ecosystem protection 26-7
- Ecotourism Australia 54-5, 87
- education and communication 63-4, 80-91
- employees 96, 158-9
- energy management 87, 95, 172-4
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, 14, 24, 41, 44, 48-9, 168
- environmental impact management 71-2, 172-3
- Environmental Management Charge 5, 12, 53, 56-7, 72-3, 95
- environmental performance 14, 48, 168-74
- Environmental Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*, 169
- Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee 11, 155
- equal employment opportunity 97, 158-9
- Erubam Le Land Use Agreement 69
- executive 36-7
- expenses 5, 103
- export from fisheries 25
- external accountability 152
- external audit 100-103, 152-3
- Eye on the Reef Monitoring Program 54, 79, 170

F

facilities management 67-9
Far North Queensland 2025 Regional Infrastructure and Development Plan 48
field management 2-4, 36, 57-70, 156
fin fish fisheries 49, 51-2, 153
Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, 2, 4, 8, 11, 94, 153
financial performance, summary 4-6
financial statements 99-146
 Day-to-Day Management 180-95
fires on islands 68
fish catch limits 50
fish spawning aggregations 52
fisheries management 3, 24-6, 36, 49-52
 foreign fishing vessels 60
Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee 52, 153
Fisheries Regulation 1995, 52
Fisheries Regulation 2008, 52
Fraud Control Plan 11
freedom of information 13, 38, 155-6
funding 4, 58-9

G

Garrett AM, Peter ii, 9
general managers 36
Girringun TUMRA 42
government inquiries 13, 48
Great Barrier Reef
 Audit Committee 150-3
 catchment wetlands mapping 47
 Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2012, 2-3, 80, 92-3
 Ministerial Council ii, 8, 149-50
 see also Local Marine; Outlook Report; environmental research ethics; zoning plans
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975, 2, 8, 10-11, 24, 169

 amendments 8-9, 13
 review 9, 149
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment Bill 2007, 9, 13
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
 committees 11, 149-55
 financial performance 4-6
 financial statements 99-146
 fraud control plan 11
 funding 58-9
 Marine Monitoring Program 21-3
 members 10-11, 148-9
 Minister ii, 9
 regional offices 2
 Representative Areas Program 26-7
 risk management 11, 151
 Service Charter 14
 Sustainable Fishing Group 52
 Workplace Agreement 96-7
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008, 9
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983, 52
Green Island 58
Green Zones 3, 26-7, 78
grouper mortality 52
Gungandji TUMRA 69

H

Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park 48
hard coral cover, long-term monitoring 17-21
Heritage Strategy 44
historic stories of Reef 83-4
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change Water, Environment and the Arts 13, 48
Human Resources Management 95-6
hunting by Indigenous people 34, 41, 60-1, 69

I

illegal fishing/hunting in Park 52, 60
image services 76-7
impact assessment 36
impact management/planning 70-4
incidents/offences in Park 38, 62-5
income 4
indemnities and insurance premiums 13
Indigenous people 14
 fishing 50, 52, 69
 hunting 34, 41
 land and sea management 43, 69
 liaison unit 41-5
 partnerships 36, 60, 69-70, 153-5
 TUMRAs 3, 14, 41-3
Indigenous Place Names 42
Indigenous Reef Naming Strategy 42
Indigenous Special Tourism Permissions 55
Indigenous Stakeholder Forum 42
Indigenous tourism 41-2
information technology 76
Innovative Science for Sustainable
 Management of Coral Reef Biodiversity
 79-80
Inquiry into Climate Change and
 Environmental Impacts on Coastal
 Communities 48
inshore net fisheries 49, 51
Integrated Planning Act 1997, 48
intelligence reporting and analysis 65-6
internal audit 11, 152
international involvement 15-16

J, K

James Cook University 41, 55, 67, 178
Key Performance Indicators 17-34

L

leasing of Commonwealth Islands 4

legal actions 9, 13
Legal Services 37-8
legislation 8-10
 amendments 2
 compliance 152
library and image services 76-7, 174
litigation 38
lobster fisheries 49, 51
Local Marine Advisory Committees 11, 13, 37,
 42, 79, 92, 154-5

M

Mamu TUMRA 3, 41-3
maps and mapping iv, 77-8
Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility
 27-30, 55, 74, 79-80, 176-7
Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery 51-2
Marine Monitoring Program 3, 48-9, 79-80
Marine Park Management 36
marine water see water
members of Authority 10-11, 148-9
mining in Park prohibited 172
Minister ii, 9
Ministerial Council ii, 8, 149-50
Ministerial Services 38-9
moorings 56, 67-8, 71
mussels 72

N

NAIDOC celebrations 42
National Action Plan for Salinity and Water
 Quality 12
National Climate Change and Fisheries Action
 Plan 51-2
National Climate Change Framework 3
Native Title issues 42
natural and cultural resource protection 67-9
Natural Heritage Trust 4, 12
news releases and media interviews 82

'no take' areas 3, 26-7, 78
nutrients 3, 21-3

O

Occupational Health and Safety 97-8, 159-60
ocean temperatures 33, 67, 93
offences/incidents in Park 38, 62-5
oil spills 68
Ombudsman 13
organisation structure 9, 96
outcomes and outputs 16-17, 39-98, 171
Outlook Report 2, 36-7, 40, 52, 56, 83-4
Indigenous partnerships 153-5
reference group/taskforce 37

P

Parliamentary committees 13
parliamentary liaison 38-9
partnerships 2-5, 12, 47
see also community, Indigenous
performance payments 96
permits 71-2
for tourism 52-56
Permits Compliance and Management System
5, 56, 73-4, 95
personnel security management 12
pest control work 68-9
pesticides 21-3
planning/impact management 36, 70-4
pollution of water 21-3, 33-4, 45-9, 68
Port Authorities 72
Portfolio Budget Statements 5-6
Portfolio Reference Group 37
prosecutions of users 64-5
protected areas 26-7
protected species 40-1
public accountability 11-16
Public Information Unit 82

public understanding of threats to reef 32-4
publications 27-30, 160-8

Q

Queensland Department of Primary Industries
and Fisheries (QDPI&F) 24, 50-2
Queensland Environmental Protection Agency
43, 46-7
Queensland Fisheries Act 1994, 50-2
Queensland Government 3-4, 10
agencies 37, 45-9
Queensland Inshore Finfish Fishery 51
Queensland Parks and Wildlife 4, 58, 179
Queensland Shark Control Program 41
Queensland Wetlands Program 22, 46-9

R

recreation and tourism 13, 31-32, 34, 52-7
recreational fishing 50-2
Reef Advisory Committees 37, 80, 153-5
Reef Beat 45, 48, 86
Reef Check 79
Reef education and communication 63-4, 80-91
reef fin fish fisheries 49
Reef Guardian Council Program 47
Reef Guardian Schools program 3, 81-6, 92,
170
Reef HQ Aquarium 12, 81-2, 87-91
disability strategy 174
revenue 4, 6, 88
reef line fishery 50
Reef Plan 4, 21-3, 45-9, 79, 168
Reef and Rainforest Research Centre 48, 79,
177
Reef Recollections 83-4
Reef Rescue Plan 42
Reef visitor database 95
Reef Watch 45
Reef Water Quality Partnership 47

Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 4, 21-3, 45-9, 79, 168
ReefTemp 93
regional offices 2, 91-2
Regional Partnerships Program 12
regional shows 83
Reichelt, Russell ii, 2-3, 10, 36, 148-9
Research and Monitoring Coordination 78-80
research funded 176-9
resources 5-6
revenue 4
Review Report 8-9
risk management 11-12, 151
role 8
roles and responsibilities 8
of Audit Committee 151-3
Rolfe, Ross 10, 148
runoff water 3

S

safety training 98
school curriculum unit 45
scientific and technical information 74-80
scientific and technical publications 27-30, 160-8
scientific support 80
Scott, Evelyn 10, 148
sea country use 3
research 41-3
sea cucumber fisheries 49
sea level rising 34
sea surface temperature 67, 93
seabirds 68-9, 74
SeaRead 82
sediment in runoff water 3, 21-3
Service Charter 14
shark fisheries 49, 51
sharks 40-1, 50-1
shifting baselines concept 83-4

shipping 68, 72, 172
Sightings Network 54
Skeat, Andrew 10, 36, 150
Smith, Ken 10, 149
snorkelling and diving 53, 55
social justice and equity 13
social surveys 79
Spatial Data Centre 77-8
species conservation 36, 39-41, 153
staff 5-6, 94-5, 158-9
fishery scientist exchange 52
publications 27-30, 160-8
State Coastal Management Plan 48
State of the Great Barrier Reef Online 52
statement of cash flows 106
statement of changes in equity 105
Story Place 43
bibliography 77
Strategic Policy Communication and Government 36
surveillance of Park 61-2
sustainable fishing group 52

T

tag and release fishing 50
Tanzer, John 10, 36, 150
technical and scientific publications 27-30
tourism 13, 79
permits 52-6
tourism and recreation 36, 52-7
Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee 42, 55, 153
tourism research 55-6
Traditional Owners 3, 41-2, 67-8, 170
Profile Database 44
Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs) 3, 14, 41, 93
training 69-70, 96, 98, 159
tourism staff 56-7

trawl fisheries 49
Turnbull, Malcolm 9
turtle conservation 14, 40-2, 67, 74, 93
 harvest 43

U, V

University of Queensland 179
value-added contribution of tourism 53
vessel sinking/groundings 68, 72
videoconferencing at ReefHQ 90-1
visitation data 31-2, 52
volunteers 89
vulnerable species 67

W

water efficiency 34, 173-4
water quality 18, 21-3, 33-4, 36, 83
 acidity 34
 improvement plans 48-9, 79, 154, 168
 monitoring 3-5, 48-9, 79-80
 pollution 45-9
website 84
wetlands 46-9
whale conservation 40-1, 55
Whitsundays Plans of Management 71
Wildlife Trade Operation 25
Woppaburra TUMRA 42-3
workplace 96-7
 disability strategy 175-6
World Heritage Area 39, 44-5, 49, 56
World Heritage Committee 15
Wuthathi ILUA 69
Wuthathi TUMRA 3, 41-3, 93

Y, Z

Yarrabah TUMRA 69
zoning plans 2, 4, 8, 71, 78, 92, 168
 compliance 83
 and fishing interests 50
 maps for users 81



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