



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

ANNUAL REPORT
2005-2006

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





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Australian Government

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Further information

The 2005-2006 Annual Report is accessible on the Authority's web site at http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/annual_reports/ The site also includes supplementary information including a list of staff papers and Authority publications produced during the year. A detailed list of membership of relevant external committees can also be found at www.gbrmpa.gov.au.

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

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

15 October 2006

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

Dear Minister

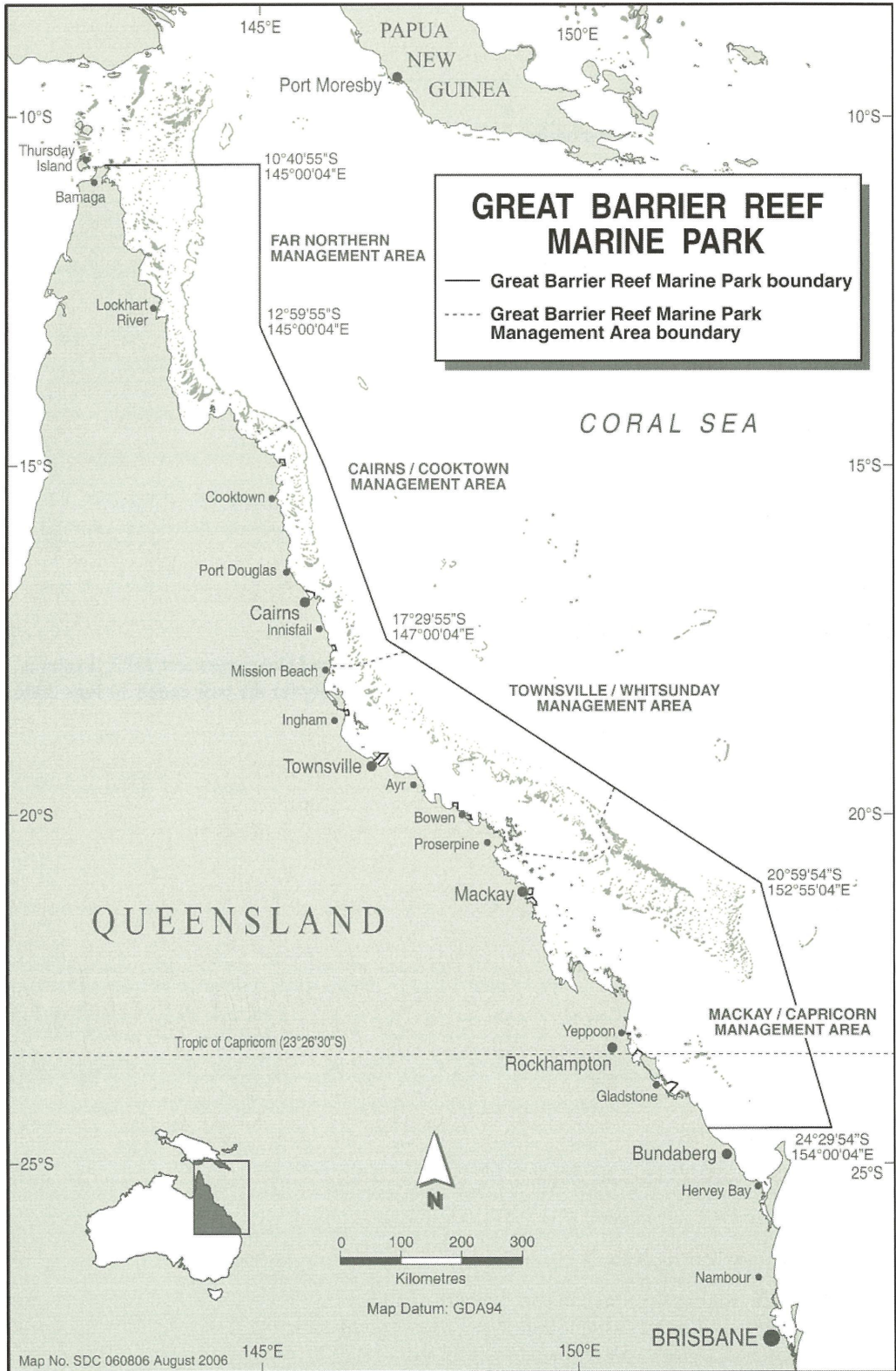
In accordance with section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, I submit the Annual Report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2006.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Chadwick', written in a cursive style.

Hon. Virginia Chadwick, AO

Chairman



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SECTION A

Introduction



Introduction

This year marked the thirtieth anniversary of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. This farsighted legislation has been the foundation for the Australian Government's stewardship of this remarkable ecosystem.

The achievements of the last 30 years were celebrated with the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell, in Townsville. The Minister particularly acknowledged the contribution of a number of special guests and long serving staff.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park continues to be under pressure from a wide range of human and natural impacts. These pressures are widespread, facing marine environments around the world, and it is pleasing that many of the management responses adopted by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) have been copied or adapted elsewhere.

Looking to the future, the Australian Government is conducting a review of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. This review is being done in conjunction with the whole of government review of statutory authorities (the Uhrig Review). I anticipate that the Review will provide a strong and contemporary framework to ensure that the GBRMPA can successfully meet the challenges and threats facing the Reef and its future.

During 2005–06 particular emphasis has been placed on better engaging the community and industry; involving Traditional Owners in managing sea country; implementation of the 2004 Zoning Plan; water quality protection and climate change impacts.

With the Minister's strong support a number of initiatives to build on and enhance industry and community partnerships have been initiated in 2005–06.

Regional offices have been opened, a pilot scheme for Reef Guardian Councils has been initiated and the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee (GBRCC) has been expanded. These initiatives build on the GBRMPA's existing and valued collaboration and partnership with many agencies, industries and communities.

Particular mention should be made of our Queensland Government partners, especially the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol.

Similarly, the GBRMPA values the support of the Australian Government Coast Watch, Australian Federal Police, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, the Department of Defence and the Department of the Environment and Heritage and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority.

Our industry partnership with the Great Barrier Reef marine tourism industry is now recognised nationally and internationally with the partnership and its benefits showcased as best practice. Our relationship with Queensland ports has ensured that while protecting the environment the economic needs of port development have been met. Given the scale of port projects such as Abbot Point this is a pleasing outcome.

The Reef Guardian Schools Programme involving over 150 schools, the 11 Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) and a large number of local initiatives continue to inform communities and to build support for and understanding of the need to protect and conserve the Great Barrier Reef.

December 2005 saw the accreditation of the first Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA) between GBRMPA and the Giringun community. The agreement was also accredited by the Queensland Government through the Queensland EPA. The TUMRA is the first legal agreement between Traditional Owners and GBRMPA. It provides a benchmark for cooperative management of sea country. In particular it includes voluntary conservation actions including hunting. The GBRMPA is actively engaged with other communities to develop TUMRAs with more of the 70 identified Indigenous clan groups in the Great Barrier Reef region.

The GBRMPA seeks to ensure that management decisions are supported by the best available scientific research. The Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef) has been GBRMPA's major research provider.

After establishing the Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility it is timely to acknowledge the contribution that the CRC Board, staff and research partners have made to the GBRMPA's work.

A new zoning plan for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was introduced in 2004. A significant and ongoing community education campaign has ensured ready access to zoning maps and relevant information. Monitoring indicates a high level of community understanding of the zoning plan.

An enhanced surveillance and enforcement presence also indicates a high level of understanding and compliance with zoning plan provisions.

Incursions of foreign fishing vessels in the far north of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park have been met by the diversion of some enforcement capacity and a whole-of-government response to meet this threat. The Australian Government has provided funds for a second rapid response vessel to provide greater capacity.

Efforts to halt the decline in the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park remains a priority for the GBRMPA. The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan is a joint initiative of the Australian and Queensland Governments.

The GBRMPA is actively involved in the implementation of the Plan especially the marine monitoring and communication programmes.

Unusually high sea temperatures last summer led to coral bleaching outbreaks, the most severe being in the southern Great Barrier Reef. Cyclones Larry and Watti while devastating on land averted a mass bleaching event. The GBRMPA will continue its annual coral bleaching monitoring programme and values the input from reef users who report on localised bleaching.

I thank the Marine Park Authority Board members, advisory committee members and the expert and committed staff of the GBRMPA for their work throughout 2005-06.



Hon. Virginia Chadwick, AO
Chairman

Summary of Financial Performance

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

Total appropriation for 2005–06 of \$22.716 million was \$1.259 million less than the 2004–05 appropriation. This was primarily due to the completion of measures introduced in the 2001–02 Budget for implementation of aquaculture regulations, to offset the Environmental Management Charge (EMC) concessions and supplementation for the Reef HQ Aquarium.

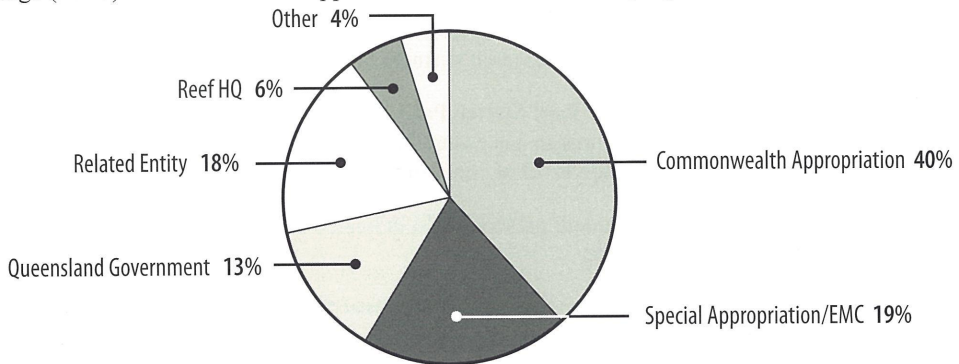


Figure 1: Income by source 2005–06

Income from other sources for 2005–06 of \$15.761 million was \$1.227 million more than in 2004–05. This increase was primarily due to the accrual of funding provided from the Natural Heritage Trust for education about the 2003 Zoning Plan, compliance and enforcement of the Zoning Plan and for monitoring of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan). Revenue from Reef HQ admission sales, memberships and retail operations was six per cent up on 2004–05. Income includes a \$0.3 million Natural Heritage Trust grant to assist with measures to control crown-of-thorns starfish and \$0.3 million from the Australian Greenhouse Office for the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Programme.

The Australian and Queensland Governments provided matching funding for Day-to-Day Management of the Marine Park, which is implemented in partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and other agencies.

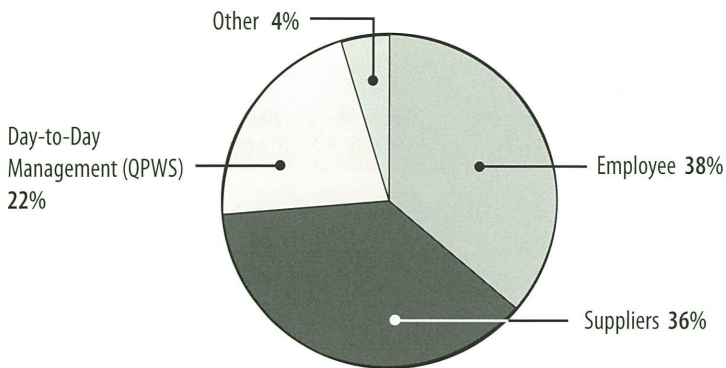


Figure 2: Expenses by category 2005–06

The operating expense of managing the Marine Park in 2005–06 was \$38.579 million, an increase of \$1.409 million from 2004–05. Employee expenses increased due to the third stage of the 2003–2006 Agency Certified Agreement, an increase in staff numbers associated with community engagement and backfilling for a higher than usual number of staff on long-term leave. Expenses for suppliers were higher than the previous year with resources allocated to the compliance and enforcement programme for the 2003 Zoning Plan and for monitoring of the Reef Plan.

The Authority had an operating deficit of \$0.1 million in 2005–06. This was the result of having to absorb the community service obligations for education delivered through the Reef HQ Aquarium and revenue from the EMC-based Special Appropriation being below estimates due to lower than expected tourism numbers.

Explanation of resource table variations

Table 1 provides details of budget and actual resource usage for each of the outputs identified in the 2005-06 Portfolio Budget Statements. The variations from Budget to Actual relate to positions not being filled during the year, actual expenses incurred for programmes to implement the 2003 Zoning Plan, Reef Plan and the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Programme undertaken within Output 1.6 Information for Park Management.

Commencing in the 2005–06 Budget, Indigenous Liaison outputs that were previously part of the Park Management Output Group have been included under Output 1.1 Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships. The expenses for community liaison that were previously part of the Park Management Output Group have been allocated across all outputs.

Resources for Executive and Corporate Services are allocated across all groups. In 2005–06 a new group, Community Partnerships, was established. The expenses for this group are also allocated across all outputs reflecting the need to engage with the community in all areas of the Authority’s operations.

RESOURCES FOR THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY OUTCOME

OUTCOME	<i>Protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef</i>	Budget 2005–06 \$'000	Actual 2005–06 \$'000	Variation to Budget \$'000	Budget 2006–07 \$'000
Price of Departmental Outputs					
Output Group 1.1 -	Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships	1,979	1,769	(210)	1,564
Output Group 1.2 -	Water Quality & Coastal Development	1,798	1,868	70	1,560
Output Group 1.3 -	Fisheries	1,262	1,006	(256)	971
Output Group 1.4 -	Tourism and Recreation	1,802	1,807	5	1,544
Output Group 1.5 -	Park Management				
	1.5.1 Field management of the Marine Park	12,964	13,073	109	14,799
	1.5.2 Planning & Impact Management of the Marine Park	3,662	3,721	59	3,146
		16,626	16,794	168	17,945
Output Group 1.6 -	Information for Park Management	7,887	8,454	567	7,908
Output Group 1.7 -	Reef Education and Communication (includes Reef HQ)	6,691	6,881	190	6,610
Total Price of Departmental Outputs and Resourcing		38,045	38,579	534	38,102
Staff Level (FTEs at 30 June) 2006		180	192	12	197

Table 1: Financial and staffing resources summary

SECTION B

Corporate Overview



Role

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

Legislation

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

Regulations in force under the Act are the:

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

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

The Minister

Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell has been Minister for the Environment and Heritage since July 2004.

Directions to the Authority from the Minister

Subsection 7(2) of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* states that:

‘The Authority shall perform its functions in accordance with any general directions given by the Minister not inconsistent with this Act’.

Subsection 7(3) of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* states that:

‘The Members must include in each report on the Authority under section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* particulars of any directions given by the Minister under subsection (2) of this section during the period to which the report relates’.

No Ministerial directions were given under Subsection 7(2) of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* during the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006.

One Ministerial direction was given under 28(1) of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* that the Australian Property Ownership Framework is to apply to the Authority as a general policy of the Australian Government from 20 March 2006.

Organisation

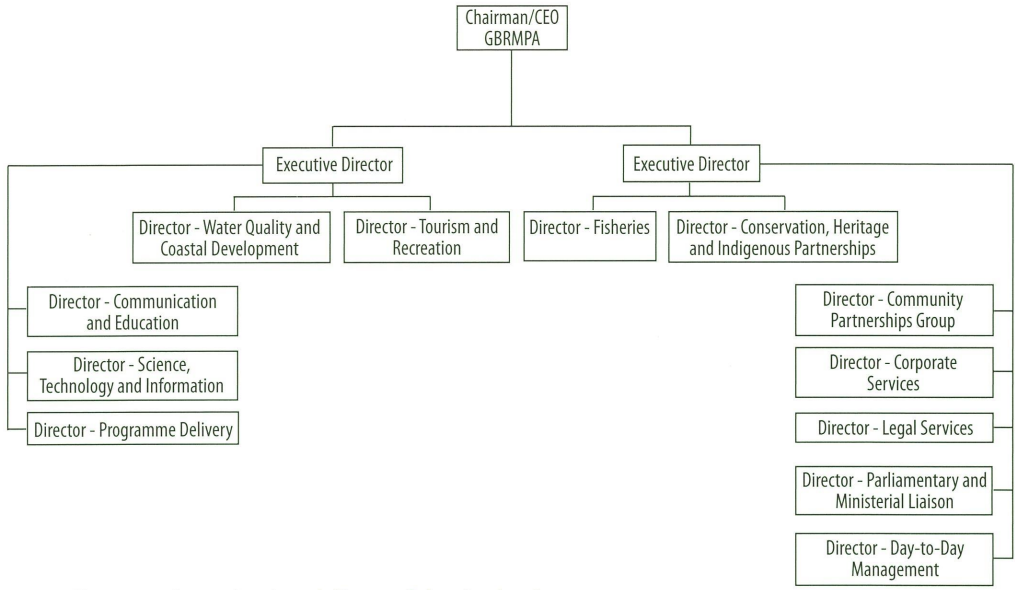


Figure 3: Organisational Chart of the Authority

Corporate governance

Membership of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

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

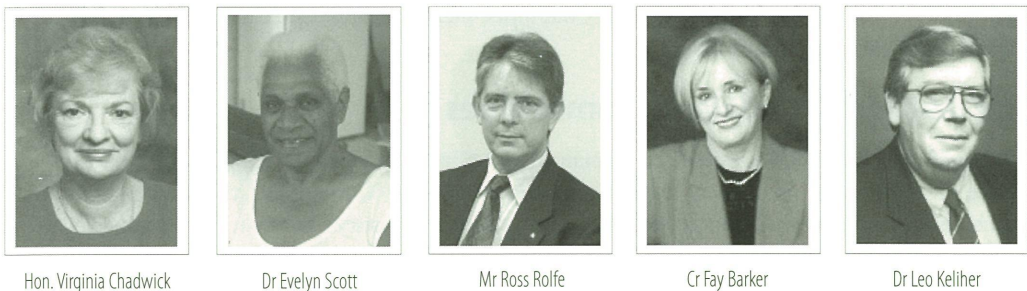


Plate 1: Members of the Authority 2005–06

The members of the Authority during 2005–06 were:

- Hon. Virginia Chadwick, AO (full-time Chairman and Chief Executive)
- Dr Evelyn Scott, AO (part-time member)
- Councillor Fay Barker, OAM (part-time member)
- Dr Leo Keliher (part-time member to 16 November 2005)
- Mr Ross Rolfe (acting part-time member appointed 6 December 2005).

Mr Andrew Skeat acted as Chairman from 12 July 2005 to 24 July 2005 and 1 February 2006 to 3 March 2006 while the Hon. Virginia Chadwick, AO was on leave. Mr John Tanzer acted as Chairman from 25 July 2005 to 9 September 2005 and 19 December 2005 to 23 December 2005 while the Hon. Virginia Chadwick, AO was on leave.

Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee

The Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee was established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* as an independent advisory body for both the Authority and the Australian Government Minister responsible for the environment.

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

The Consultative Committee consists of members appointed by the Minister for a three-year term and a member of the Authority appointed by the Authority for an indefinite term. A list of the Consultative Committee members and meetings features in Appendix 2.

Audit Committee

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

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

The Authority's advisory committees

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

Public Accountability

Internal and external scrutiny

Internal audit is outsourced to Pacific Bridge Pty Ltd. The firm continued to provide professional compliance and performance audit and evaluation services during 2005–06.

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

Comcover provided assistance to the Authority to develop a *Business Continuity Plan* that was completed in December 2005 and procedures outlined in the plan were followed when cyclone Larry was close to the north of Townsville in March 2006.

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

Australian National Audit Office reports

ELB Mann Judd, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office, undertook the external audit of the Authority's 2005–06 Financial Statements (see Section D: Financial Statements).

The Authority was included in the following Auditor General's Reports tabled in Parliament during 2005–06:

- No. 21 – *Audits of the Financial Statements of Australian Government Entities for the Period Ended 30 June 2005*
- No. 22 – *Cross Portfolio Audit of Green Office Procurement*.

The following Auditor General Reports of 2005–06 contain recommendations of relevance to the Authority:

- No. 16 – *The Management and Processing of Leave*
- No. 27 – *Reporting on Expenditure on Consultants*
- No. 37 – *The Management of Infrastructure Plant and Equipment Assets*
- No. 38 – *The Australian Research Council's Management of Research Grants*
- No. 45 – *Internet Security in Australian Government Agencies*
- No. 48 – *Interim Phase of the Audit of Financial Statements of General Government Sector Entities for the Year Ending 30 June 2006*.

Internal audit reports

The Authority's Audit Committee met four times during the year and considered external and internal audit reports and the *Business Continuity Plan*. During 2005–06 internal audits were undertaken in the following areas of operation:

- Compliance
- Environmental Management Charge
- Risk Management Plan and Risk Treatment Schedule
- Project/contract management
- Revenue collection
- Reef HQ
- Human resources management (payroll)
- Purchasing and procurement
- Financial management.

Parliamentary committees and government inquiries

The Authority contributed to an Environment and Heritage Portfolio Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Australia's National Parks, Conservation Reserves and Marine Protected Areas during the year. The Chairman of the Authority appeared at a sitting of the Committee on 31 March 2006.

In October 2004, the Australian Prime Minister John Howard announced a review of the Authority's governance, accountability and performance. The terms of reference for the review were announced in August 2005. The review was undertaken by senior executives of the Department of the Environment and Heritage, the Department of Finance and Administration and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Minister is expected to announce the outcomes of the review in early 2006–07.

Legal actions

There was one ongoing legal action against the Authority during the course of the year. That action was a merit appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the matter was withdrawn.

Ombudsman

The Ombudsman made no comments relating to any of the Authority's permit decisions in 2005–06. There were no actions relating to the appealable selection processes and no comments were made by the Commonwealth Ombudsman with respect to human resource management activities. There were no other external reviews of human resource management decisions during 2005–06.

Freedom of information

The Authority received four requests for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Commonwealth)*. A Freedom of Information Statement is provided in Appendix 3.

Indemnities and insurance premiums

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

Social justice and equity

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

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

The Authority's relationship with Indigenous people is important. All major planning exercises for the Marine Park include consultation with Indigenous communities. During 2005–06, the major focus for consultation was the development of a Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement and management requirements relating to the conservation of dugongs and turtles.

The Authority's Service Charter

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

Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) requires Australian Government organisations to disclose 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.

Appendix 8 provides a summary of Authority activities in 2005–06 in accordance with section 516A of the EPBC Act 1999. This summary was prepared in accordance with *Global Reporting Initiative Sustainability Reporting Guidelines 2002*.

Australian Government Disability Strategy

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

State of affairs of the Authority

A range of activities that began in 2005–06, or the previous year, will be ongoing given the nature of the projects. These include:

- The Marine Monitoring Programme, 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)
- Development and possible accreditation of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (see Output 1.1 Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships)
- Monitoring the Marine Park for zoning compliance (see Output 1.5.1 Field Management of the Marine Park)
- Working with fisheries managers and stakeholders to review and improve management arrangements for various fisheries (see Output 1.3 Fisheries).

International interest

The Authority continued to attract the attention of overseas marine conservation management organisations throughout 2005–06.

International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC1)

Authority staff played several major roles in planning and implementing the first International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC1), held in Geelong, Victoria. It was co-hosted by the Authority, Parks Victoria and the World Commission on Protected Areas with assistance from the Department of the Environment and Heritage, Australian Fisheries Management Authority and The World Conservation Union. The event attracted more than 750 international marine experts from 65 countries and included 19 Authority staff. Many of the world's leading experts on marine protected areas, as well as policy makers and scientists, attended the four-day event that focused on how to better manage the world's marine environment.

The congress was opened by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage Senator Ian Campbell who highlighted many of Australia's recent achievements in marine conservation. The congress programme included 160 concurrent oral presentations covering five key themes and three cross-cutting issues, 120 posters on display, as well as various associated satellite events and other networking opportunities. Seven Authority staff delivered papers at the congress and many other staff were involved in preparing and presenting posters.

Associated with the congress, a specific five-day workshop on Heron Island and two technical tours of the Great Barrier Reef took place over four days each, enabling 45 delegates to learn more about the management of the Great Barrier Reef. The congress itself, the two technical tours and the workshop all generated considerable interest in the Authority's activities, particularly the rezoning of the reef. Following the congress, various international marine experts also specifically came to Townsville to further share their expertise with Authority staff.

Other international interest

During the year a number of Authority staff were invited to add their expertise to conferences and discussions overseas. Of particular note was Dr Kirstin Dobbs leading the Australian delegation to the fourth meeting of signatory States of the Indian Ocean South-East-Asian Memorandum of Understanding created under the Convention of Migratory Species. Held in the Sultanate of Oman in August, a key agenda item was the Indian Ocean – South-East-Asia (IOSEA) Year of the Turtle – 2006 that aims to unite nations and communities to celebrate marine turtles and to support their conservation.

International visitors continued to be welcomed at the offices of the Authority during the year. Authority staff hosted 18 visits by a total of 121 visitors from 22 countries. The visitors were eager to learn more of the work of the Authority and share their experiences in coral reef science and management. Among those visitors were six staff from the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration taking part in the ongoing staff exchange programme between the two organisations that was initiated in 2002.

The Authority's Manager of Research and Monitoring Coordination, Dr Laurence McCook, visited the Philippines, and Sulawesi and Papua in Indonesia during 2005–06 as part of his Pew Fellowship. Utilising the Fellowship, Dr McCook is exploring the integration of management strategies to build ecosystem resilience, especially in the face of climate change. The work combines scientific and policy perspectives on approaches, such as marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries practices, and management of water runoff. The outcomes strongly illustrate the value of community partnerships, and that loss of ecosystem resilience carries significant long-term social and economic costs to local communities.



Plate 2: International delegates to IMPAC1 visit north Queensland to learn best practice in tropical wetlands and marine management

Awards and recognition

International recognition of the Representative Areas Programme continued during 2005–06:

- Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Preservation for UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme – jointly awarded to the Authority and to Dr Ernesto C. Enkerlin-Hoeflich (Mexico) in July 2005
- Gift to the Earth – the World Wildlife Fund’s highest award presented to the Australian Government at the inaugural International Marine Protected Areas Congress in Geelong in October 2005. The award recognised the Zoning Plan as an innovative marine conservation project, setting the benchmark for marine protected areas in Australia and around the world.

Related links:

- Recent awards and recognition:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_gbrmpa/awards.html

Outcomes and outputs structure—guide to the reports

The Authority identified seven Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in 2005–06, with each providing information on how the Authority is achieving its goals and outcomes.

These seven KPIs stem from three major components of the Authority’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 2. 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).

Authority Goal	<i>To provide for the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity through the care and development of the Great barrier Reef Marine Park.</i>	
Component of Goal	Desired outcomes expressed as outputs	Key Performance Indicators
Protection	Output 1.1 Conservation of the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef	KPI 1. The relative numbers of reefs that are ‘healthy’ compared to ‘not healthy’ as assessed by the Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Programme
	Output 1.2 Improved water quality	KPI 2. Trends in end of river pollution loads for key Great Barrier Reef Catchments
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 5. The number of bioregions with adequate 'no take' zones
	Output 1.6 Accurate and adequate information available for management	KPI 6. The number of technical and scientific publications published about the Great Barrier Reef by the Authority and the Reef Cooperative Research Centre
Understanding and enjoyment	Output 1.4 High quality tourism and recreation opportunities	KPI 4. 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 2: The Authority's goals, outcomes and outputs and KPIs

Key Performance Indicators reported against the Portfolio Budget Statements

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

What is this indicator? Hard or stony corals provide much of the structure of coral reefs. The simplest measure of coral reef health is the area, or per cent cover, of reef occupied by living corals. Figure 2 shows per cent cover of hard corals at various sites along the Great Barrier Reef recorded by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) Long-term Monitoring Programme. The individual traces on the graph show the trend in hard coral cover (the amount of substrate covered with living hard coral) at the programme's core survey reefs from 1993 to 2005, measured using video surveys. There is a separate graph for each section of the Great Barrier Reef and for inshore, mid-shelf and offshore reefs.

The graph does not contain data for 2005–06, as the AIMS Long-term Monitoring Programme has been revised to a biannual sampling design to allow the AIMS team to survey sites that also provide information on the effects of the recent rezoning. Accordingly, most of the original long-term monitoring sites will only be visited once every two years and in intervening years AIMS will monitor new sites selected to assess the effects of the 2004 rezoning of the Marine Park. Statistical analyses show this change will provide information on the effects of the zoning and improve the spatial coverage of the monitoring of reef health at relatively little cost in terms of detecting changes in time. Baseline surveys for rezoning monitoring were conducted between October 2005 and May 2006, with the original long-term monitoring sites to be revisited in 2006–07.

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 Long-term Monitoring Programme provides regional-scale information about the changes taking place on coral reefs in the Marine Park. This helps the Authority identify general changes and trends in the 'health' or condition of the environment, and increases the Authority's understanding of the reef ecosystem.

In 2005–06, baseline information for rezoning monitoring was collected that will help to monitor the effect of the 2004 rezoning of the Marine Park and provide better information on spatial patterns of reef health.

What does this indicator mean? Many factors influence hard coral cover on a reef. Disturbances such as cyclones, coral bleaching and outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish can cause sharp declines in coral cover. However, these effects may be localised and, in the absence of subsequent pressures, coral cover on a healthy reef is likely to completely recover over a decade or more. Thus, while the graphs in Figure 4 provide an overview of the 'health' of the reefs, the trends shown should be interpreted in the context of information about the natural disturbances and potential human pressures each reef may have experienced.

For more information about the natural variability of coral reef and how this affects the ability of scientists to determine reef health, view the chapter on corals in the State of the Great Barrier Reef Online at: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/corals/index.html.

Synopsis for 2004–05

Over 2004–05, the AIMS surveys showed that average hard coral cover over the entire Great Barrier Reef did not change markedly over the 13 years of this programme (mean net change 0.12 per cent increase in coral cover and 95 per cent confidence intervals: 0.53 per cent to 0.77 per cent), although there is great variation between reefs and between years. This variation between reefs and over time is normal for corals reefs, which are naturally very dynamic ecosystems. The observed changes in coral cover have largely been driven by cycles of disturbance and recovery initiated by outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish, storms, cyclones and coral bleaching. The latest series of crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks has followed previously observed patterns with crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks beginning in the Cairns and Lizard Island region and progressing south over following years.

While the trends in coral cover are varied, some reefs continue to exhibit more subtle indications of decline that are cause for concern. Some reefs, particularly inshore reefs situated close to the coast, are considered at risk from factors such as land-based pollutant runoff. These additional pressures may hinder the recovery of reefs from disturbance events and in the long-term may alter the ecology and health of these reefs. Monitoring of inshore reefs is continuing through a Marine Monitoring Programme of the joint Australian Government and Queensland Government's *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*.

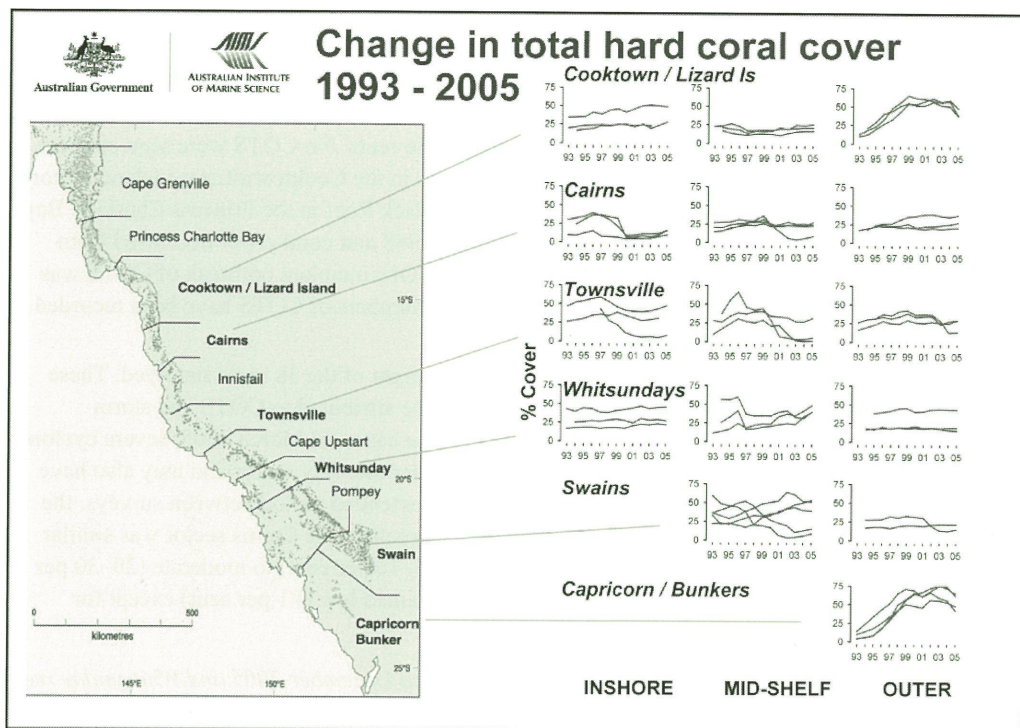


Figure 4: Change in total hard coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef 1993–2005

(Source: Australian Institute of Marine Science)

Information on the live coral cover of various reefs is collected by the AIMS Long-term Monitoring Programme. Reef scientists conduct coral surveys of 47 ‘core’ reefs every summer using a video monitoring technique. Reefs are grouped by latitude and by position on the continental shelf. Each line on the graphs summarises the trends for a different reef in each region. There are three study sites at each reef located in a standard habitat on the north-east face of the reef. At each site the scientists video five 50-metre long transects set at 6 to 12 metres depth. The video records are used to count the number and types of coral present and to calculate the total live hard coral cover for that reef. This amounts to some 40 kilometres of coral reef surveyed and analysed in great detail by the Long-term Monitoring Programme each year.

Synopsis of 2005–06

This information was compiled from baseline surveys conducted at new sites by the AIMS Long-term Monitoring Programme, and from targeted surveys conducted by the Authority. While most of the sites surveyed by AIMS in 2005–06 are new sites, AIMS has previously surveyed many of these reefs by manta tow over the history of the Long-term Monitoring Programme. This has allowed for some broad comparisons between data collected in 2005–06 and data collected in previous years.

Crown-of-thorns starfish and coral cover

Northern Great Barrier Reef (*Cape Grenville, Princess Charlotte Bay, Cooktown, Cairns and Innisfail – October to December 2005*)

Crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) were recorded on four of 36 reefs. No COTS were seen on reefs in the Cairns sector and were only present in very low numbers in the Cooktown/Lizard Island sector (two COTS in total). One active outbreak was recorded at Clack Reef in the Princess Charlotte Bay sector. This outbreak is the first recorded on this reef since 1988 and coral cover decreased from 30–40 per cent to 10–20 per cent on Clack Reef since 1999. One incipient outbreak of COTS was recorded at Quoin Island in the Cape Grenville sector. Low numbers of COTS have been recorded on this reef in the majority of surveys since 1990.

Manta tow surveys indicate clear declines in coral cover on eight of the 38 reefs surveyed. These declines were scattered across all sectors and can variously be attributed to COTS and storm damage, with coral disease likely to have contributed in some cases. In March 2005, severe cyclone Ingrid damaged coral cover on some reefs in the Princess Charlotte Bay sector and may also have affected reefs further south. In certain cases, because of the extended period between surveys, the likely cause(s) of decline remains unknown. Coral cover on reefs in the Cairns sector was similar to 2004–05 or had increased slightly and ranged from low (5–10 per cent) to moderate (20–30 per cent). Coral cover on survey reefs in the Innisfail sector remained low (<1 per cent) except for Hedley Reef (10–20 per cent).

Central Great Barrier Reef (*Townsville reefs – November to December 2005 and Whitsunday reefs – March 2006*)

COTS were recorded on only one of the Townsville reefs (Helix Reef). At Helix Reef, COTS were recorded at an average density of 0.94 per tow, an increase from 0.63 per tow since last year. Helix Reef has been reclassified as an active outbreak. Coral cover on Helix Reef was moderate indicating a decline from the high level seen in previous years.

Coral cover on survey reefs in the Townsville sector was low, except for Helix Reef where cover was moderate (20–30 per cent). The low coral cover is most likely due to COTS outbreaks in previous years. Adverse weather conditions meant that only two reefs (19–131 and 19–138) in the Whitsunday sector were surveyed using manta tow. Coral cover on both these reefs was moderate (10–20 per cent) and showed little change from surveys in recent years. Reef 19–131 remains classified as no outbreak while reef 19–138 is classified as recovering from a COTS outbreak in 1990.

Southern Great Barrier Reef (*Pompey, Swain and Capricorn Bunker reefs – May 2006*)

Five reefs in the Capricorn Bunker sector, one reef (21–062) in the Pompey sector and one reef (21–187) in the Swain sector were surveyed using manta tow. Another reef in the Pompey sector (20–348) was surveyed on SCUBA but rough weather prevented manta tow surveys. No COTS were observed except for low numbers of COTS on one reef in the Pompey sector. The AIMS previously surveyed these reefs between 1991 and 1992.

There were no recent dramatic decreases in hard or soft coral cover apparent on these reefs. Coral bleaching was widespread on Masthead Island Reef in the Capricorn Bunker sector where 10–30 per cent of the total hard coral was bleached. Bleaching appeared to be restricted to mid-shelf reefs

in this sector. Outer shelf reefs were apparently unaffected. Incidence of disease was generally low, restricted to small numbers of scattered coral colonies on all reefs.

Coral cover on all reefs in the region has increased after a region-wide mortality event (most likely due to storm damage but also possibly including a disease component) in 1989. Reef 21–062 in the Pompey sector has not been surveyed previously; coral cover was moderate (20–30 per cent). Reef 21–187 in the Swain sector was surveyed by manta tow in 1992. As in 1992, coral cover was very high (50–63 per cent).

Four of the five outer shelf reefs surveyed in the Capricorn Bunker sector have a very high coral cover (50–63 per cent). Coral cover on these reefs has changed little compared to recent years, although there was evidence of recent storm damage on the front of the reef. Fifteen years ago, coral cover was moderate on Boulton, Fairfax, and Hoskyn Reefs but has since recovered to very high levels. Bleaching and disease were generally restricted to small numbers of scattered coral colonies. Coral cover on the more sheltered Masthead Island Reef was moderate (10–20 per cent), decreasing since the previous survey in 1992 when it was high (30–50 per cent). Masthead Island Reef was experiencing a Reef-wide coral bleaching event at the time of survey, with bleaching affecting 10–30 per cent of the total hard coral cover.

Cyclone Larry

On 20 March 2006, category five cyclone Larry passed through the Central Great Barrier Reef making landfall at Innisfail. Townships under the northern and southern ‘eyewall’ (Babinda and Silkwood) received most damage, but destructive winds caused extensive damage to property and coastal habitats across north Queensland, including the rainforests of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The Authority surveyed seven mid-shelf reefs and one inshore reef between Townsville and Cairns, and the AIMS surveyed six inshore reefs between Mission Beach and Cairns as part of the Marine Monitoring Programme for the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*.

Damage was patchy and varied greatly between reefs and sites. Reefs to the south of the cyclone experienced the most damage, including Feather Reef (directly offshore Innisfail), Ellison Reef, Taylor Reef, and north-facing fringing reefs in the Barnard Islands and Dunk Island. On mid-shelf reefs, live coral cover was generally low before the cyclone struck (see above, with the exception of Hedley Reef). Consequently, the damage observed was mainly structural, with patches of the reef structure peeled away or gouged out and significant movement of rubble.

Of the corals present, approximately 20 per cent showed signs of damage. In the Barnard and Dunk Islands, damage to coral cover was more extensive with significant declines in coral cover and 95 per cent of remaining corals showing signs of damage. Damage was greatest where fragile corals (such as branching and table corals) were more abundant. Reefs to the north of the cyclone suffered much less damage. This is consistent with patterns seen in previous cyclones. In the southern hemisphere, cyclones spin in a clockwise direction and generate stronger wind fields to the south, exposing reefs to the south to greater wind and wave forces.

Coral bleaching

During the summer of 2005–06, hot water developed for a brief period in the northern Great Barrier Reef but persisted in the southern Great Barrier Reef. Generally, bleaching severity was low (<10 per cent of corals bleached) in the Lizard Island (far northern), Cairns (northern), Townsville (central) and the Whitsunday Islands (southern) regions. However, severe bleaching (>75 per cent of corals bleached) was recorded in the far southern region. Inshore reefs off Rockhampton were the worst affected with an average of 84 per cent of corals affected by bleaching in this region (surveys in July 2006 showed that 31 per cent of the corals in this region had died).

Related links:

- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online (Environmental status – corals): www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/corals/index.html
- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online (Environmental status – crown-of-thorns starfish): www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/cots/index.html
- Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Programme website: www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/reef-monitoring-index.html
- Australian Institute of Marine Science Long-term Monitoring Programme reports: www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/projinfo.html
- Australian Institute of Marine Science coral bleaching and crown-of-thorns starfish information: www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/reef-monitoring/reefissues.html
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority coral bleaching information: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/science/bleaching/index.html
- CRC Reef Research Centre coral bleaching information: www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/brochures/bleaching_brochure.pdf
- CRC Reef Research Centre crown-of-thorns starfish information: www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/brochures/cots-brochure_2001.pdf
- CRC Reef Research Centre: information on coral reefs: www.reef.crc.org.au/discover/coralreefs/index.html
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority information on coral reefs: www.reefed.edu.au/explorer

KPI 2: Trends in end of river pollution loads for key Great Barrier Reef catchments

What is this indicator? Nutrients are a key pollutant from urban and agricultural lands and cause increases in the concentration phytoplankton. Chlorophyll *a* is an easily identifiable indicator of phytoplankton concentrations, and is thereby a means to identify increased nutrient loads in the marine environment. The following graphs (Figure 3) show the concentrations of chlorophyll *a* measured in both inshore and offshore waters of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon from 1993 to 2006 at sites in the northern, central, and southern regions. These measurements estimate the concentration of phytoplankton in the water, which in turn provides an indication of the concentration of nutrients present in the water column. Since 2005, chlorophyll *a* sampling has been undertaken through the Marine Monitoring Programme of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*.

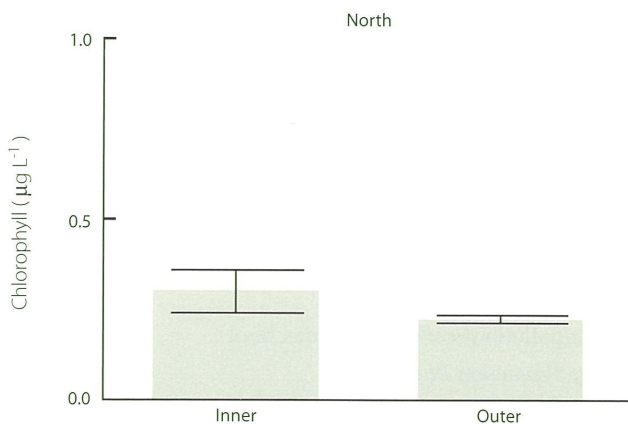
Why is this important? When nutrients from the land enter the waters of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon, they are rapidly taken up by phytoplankton living in the water. Phytoplankton reproduce more quickly when more nutrients are available and thus the quantity of phytoplankton present is an accurate indicator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

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

What does this mean? The three graphs present chlorophyll *a* concentrations in three regions of the Great Barrier Reef. Average concentrations of chlorophyll *a* are higher in inshore samples collected near the coast in the central and southern regions of the Great Barrier Reef. The higher chlorophyll concentrations at these inshore sites are believed to be due to enhanced nutrient availability from terrestrial runoff and recurrent resuspension of shallow water sediments. The inshore chlorophyll *a* concentrations in the central and southern regions are also much higher than those in the inshore northern region.

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

The northern catchments (Cape York) have only limited cropping and agriculture and grazing is carried out at relatively low stocking levels. In contrast, the central and southern regions are characterised by high levels of agricultural activity including intensive cropping activities in the lower catchments, the destruction of coastal wetlands and cattle grazing at high stocking rates in the upper, inland catchments. The amount of fertiliser used in coastal areas has also sharply increased in recent years. These activities have resulted in increased nutrient loads entering the inshore waters, and this is reflected by the higher concentrations of chlorophyll *a* recorded in these regions compared with the relatively undisturbed northern region. The high concentrations of chlorophyll *a* in offshore waters in the southern Great Barrier Reef are related to the natural upwelling of deep sea nutrients.



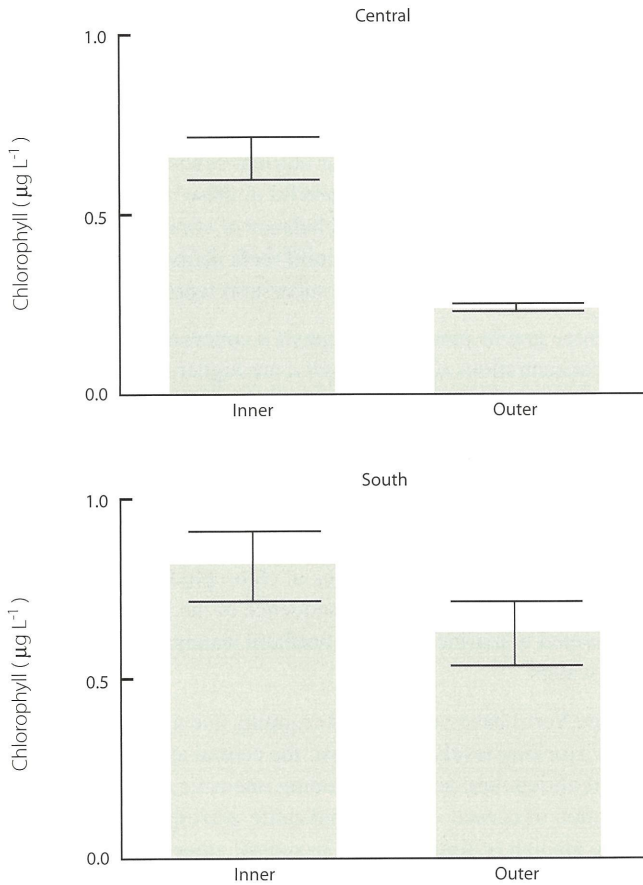


Figure 5: Chlorophyll *a* concentrations at inshore and offshore sites along the Great Barrier Reef averaged from data collected between 1993 and 2006
(Source: the Authority and CRC Reef)

Related links:

- State of the Great Barrier Reef Online:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/sotr/
- The *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan Annual Report 2004–05*:
www.deh.gov.au/coasts/publications/annual-report/04-05/index.html
- The Science Report:
www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/science/index.html
- The *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/rwqpp.pdf

- The Marine Monitoring Programme:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/marine_monitoring.html
- General information about water quality and the Marine Park:
www.reefed.edu.au/explorer/water_quality/index.html
- The CRC Reef website:
www.reef.crc.org.au/discover/threats/waterquality_consensus.html

Reef Plan and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Monitoring Programme

A new water quality and ecosystem monitoring programme (Marine Monitoring Programme) in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon is assessing the long-term effectiveness of the Australian and Queensland Government's *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*.

The *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* (Reef Plan) is a joint initiative of the Australian and Queensland Governments that aims to 'halt and reverse the decline in water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park within 10 years'. The Reef Plan supports partnerships between Regional Natural Resource Management groups, governments, industry sectors and the community to decrease the amounts of nutrients, sediments and other pollutants discharged from waterways into the catchment. Involvement from educational and research institutions is vital to achieving the Reef Plan's goals.

A key component of the Reef Plan is the Authority's implementation of a long-term water quality and ecosystem monitoring programme in the Great Barrier Reef lagoon to assess the effectiveness of the Reef Plan. This is carried out with the assistance of CRC Reef, AIMS, the University of Queensland, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water.

The Marine Monitoring Programme is made up of four key components:

1. River mouth water quality monitoring

Water quality monitoring in river mouths assesses changes over time in concentrations and loads of the major land-sourced pollutants (such as sediments, nutrients and pesticides) that can potentially harm Great Barrier Reef ecosystems. This programme is carried out with the assistance of Natural Resource Management Boards, the Queensland Government and community volunteers.

2. Marine water quality monitoring

Monitoring of marine water quality is required to measure improvements in the waters of the Great Barrier Reef resulting from any reductions in pollutants from the river mouths. Monitoring includes measuring nutrients, water turbidity and pesticide concentrations at key inshore reef sites. Sampling uses traditional water sampling techniques, as well as state-of-the-art sensors with long-term data logging capacity. Volunteers from the tourism industry and local communities are vital in assisting with collection of samples.

3. Marine biological monitoring

Monitoring of the major marine ecosystem types recognised as being most at risk from land-based pollutants (intertidal seagrass beds and inshore coral reefs) is carried out to ensure that any change in their status is identified. SeagrassWatch community volunteers are a cornerstone of this monitoring programme. Mud crabs are collected by the commercial fishing industry in certain inshore areas of the Marine Park to enable monitoring of the bioaccumulation of toxicants in marine animals.

4. Socio-economic monitoring

Socio-economic monitoring assesses the contribution a healthy Great Barrier Reef ecosystem makes to the welfare of Queensland's regional communities and to Australia in general. The monitoring programme reports on three key indicators:

- Market values of Reef industries and their inputs to regional economies
- Patterns of human use of the Marine Park (such as non-commercial recreational activities, tourism and commercial fishing)
- Community and visitor perceptions of, and satisfaction with, the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

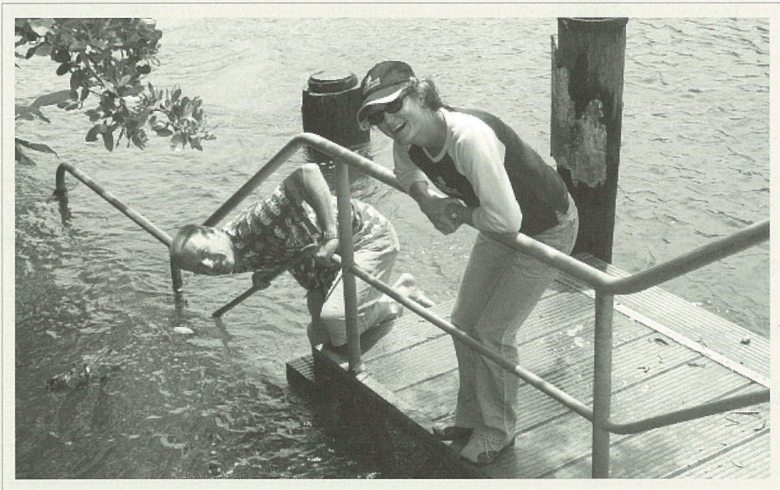


Plate 3: Community volunteers assist the Authority to monitor river mouth pollutants

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 3 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.

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

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

The Authority's objective is to have ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Marine Park. As such, assessment of fisheries for ecologically sustainable management under the *EPBC Act 1999* will help to meet the goals of the Authority.

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 now been assessed.

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	WTO
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

The difference between Exempt and WTO

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

WTO - The fishery is consistent with the *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 3: Completed assessments of fisheries occurring in the Marine Park as at 30 June 2006 (Source: Department of the Environment and Heritage, Sustainable Fisheries Section, July 2006)

Related links:

- Department of the Environment and Heritage Sustainable Fisheries Section:
www.deh.gov.au/coasts/fisheries/
- The Authority's Fisheries Issues 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/
- CRC Reef Research Centre – Status of Queensland's East Coast Fisheries:
www.reef.crc.org.au/research/fishing_fisheries/statusfisheries/

KPI 4: 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 tourists visits occurring in the Marine Park over the last 10 years, based on data from the Environmental Management Charge database. The 'satisfaction' data shows the level of satisfaction expressed by visitors to the Marine Park during 2005–06.

Why is this important? The Authority manages the activities of commercial tourism operations, and is dedicated to ensuring that 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 6 shows the number of tourist visits in the Marine Park since 1995.

The annual number of visitors to the Marine Park has been relatively stable over the last five or so years. Visits to the Marine Park remain concentrated in the Cairns, Port Douglas and Whitsundays areas, representing about 85 per cent of visits. Visitation to areas outside these tourism hubs grew in 2005 by an estimated 10 per cent.

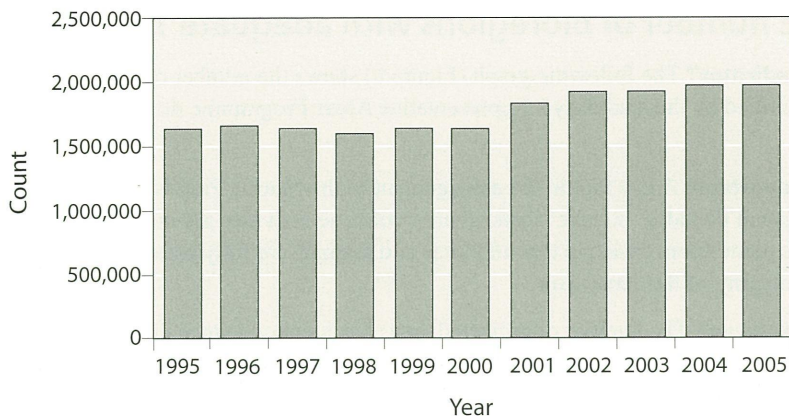


Figure 6: The number of tourist visits in the Marine Park since 1995

Satisfaction

A survey of people from Queensland coastal communities and Australian capital cities by independent market research company Colmar Brunton Research, found more than 80 per cent of respondents who had visited the Marine Park at least once in the last 12 months were satisfied or extremely satisfied with their most recent trip.

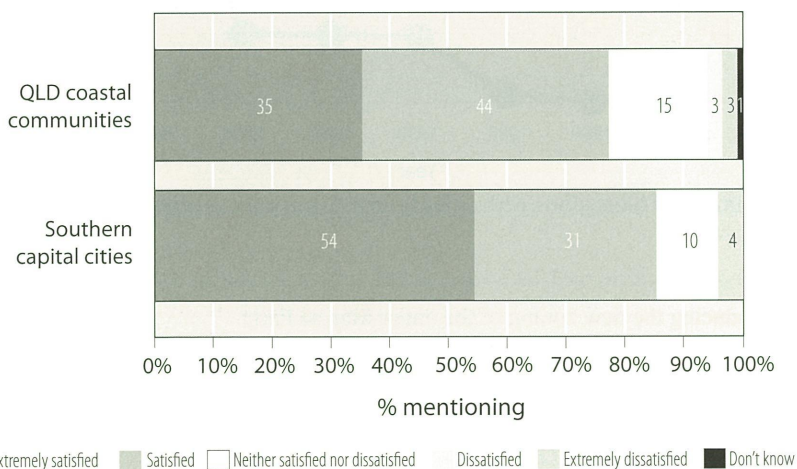


Figure 7: Overall satisfaction with the most recent trip

Related links:

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

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

What is this indicator? The following graph (Figure 8) shows the number of the 70 separate bioregions identified by the Authority's Representative Areas Programme 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 Authority'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, 20 per cent protection for each bioregion was achieved. It is anticipated that the Authority is likely, with further research, to refine its understanding of bioregions. This may alter this indicator in the future.

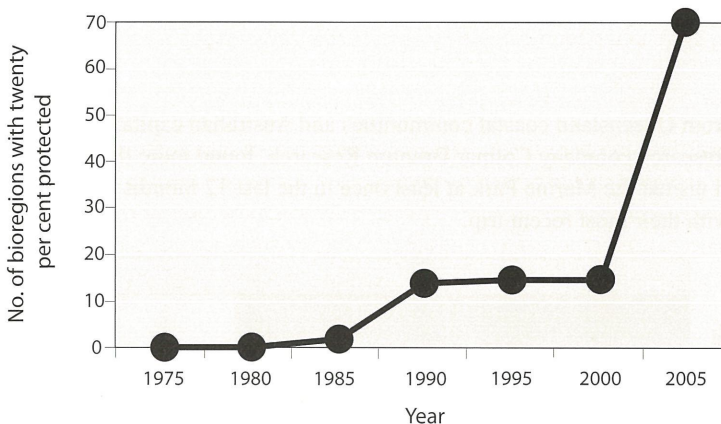


Figure 8: Number of bioregions with at least twenty per cent protected in the Marine Park

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
- Environment Australia National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas:
www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/nrsmpa

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

What is this indicator? The following graph (Figure 9) shows the number of research publications and technical reports published by the Authority and the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef Research Centre) since 1978.

Why is this important? One of the Authority's corporate goals is to promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef and the issues affecting its health and management. The Authority makes a significant contribution to scientific research in the Great Barrier Reef to better understand the ecosystem and the effects of human activities. The CRC Reef Research Centre is the Authority's primary research provider and carries out the majority of the Authority's research programmes. Both the Authority and CRC Reef Research Centre 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? The number of publications released by both the Authority and CRC Reef Research Centre has increased steadily over the years. However the actual number of publications varies from year-to-year due to the varied nature of the research undertaken. Some research projects take more time to complete and reports vary in both size and complexity. In 2005–06, scientific and technical reports were published online on both the Authority and CRC Reef Research Centre websites. 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 Authority and the CRC Reef Research Centre regularly publish information sheets, newsletters and use the media to raise awareness of particular issues or research activities, and to help promote understanding of the Great Barrier Reef. In 2005–06, the CRC Reef Research Centre developed a new web-based search tool that allows users to search a comprehensive list of references stemming from research activities associated with the Centre.

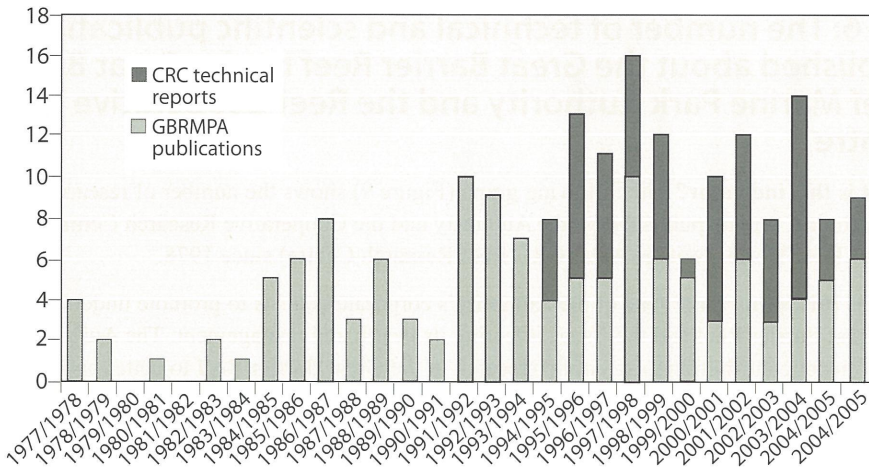


Figure 9: Technical and scientific publications produced by the Authority and the CRC Reef Research Centre (Source: the Authority's Library)

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority technical and scientific publications for 2005–06

Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan) First Annual Marine Monitoring Programme Report September 2005, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, viewed 19 July 2006. www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/documents/RWQPP_report.pdf

Responsible reef practices for tourism operators in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park 2005, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville.

Onboard: the tourism operators handbook for the Great Barrier Reef 2005, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, viewed 19 July 2006. www.tourismoperators.reef.hq.com.au/

CRC Reef Research technical reports for 2005–06

Pearce, R.J., Williams, D.M. 2005, Potential effects of artificial reefs on the Great Barrier Reef, CRC Reef Research Technical Report 60, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, viewed 19 July 2006. www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/techreport/techrept60.htm

Sutton, S.G. 2006, An assessment of the social characteristics of Queensland's recreational fisheries, CRC Reef Research Centre Technical Report 65, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, viewed 19 July 2006. www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/techreport/TechRep65.htm

Tobin, R.C. (et al.) 2005, Fishing for more: a student stakeholder workshop on the biology, ecology, sociology and economics of fisheries, CRC Reef Research Technical Report 59, CRC Reef Research Centre, Townsville, viewed 19 July 2006, www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/techreport/techrept59.htm

Related links:

- The Authority's technical and scientific publications online:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/publications/index.html
- CRC Reef Research Centre technical publications:
www.reef.crc.org.au/publications/techreport/index.html
- CRC Reef Research Centre scientific publications:
www.crcreef.webmetrix.com.au/publications

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

What is this indicator? Figure 10 shows aspects of a community survey, undertaken by independent market research company Colmar Brunton Research. It outlines how respondents in Queensland coastal and southern capital cities rate the likelihood of specific activities' impact on the Marine Park. Figure 9 shows the degree of threat from specific elements.

Why is this important? The Authority aims to develop and execute strategic communication plans that promote and improve the community's understanding of the Marine Park and encourage a change in behaviour. It is therefore necessary for the Authority to keep abreast of the community's perception and level of understanding of the issues relating to the Reef's health and management.

The Authority continues to recognise declining water quality as one of the major threats to the Great Barrier Reef. To better ascertain residents' and visitors' awareness and behaviour in regard to this issue, the Authority has reviewed and adjusted its market research activity. In 2005–06, the Authority modified its data collection to capture attitudes and behaviour toward the increasingly relevant issue of climate change. As in 2004–05 when adding urban and recreational activities, this will enable the Authority to get a clearer picture of people's understanding of the main threats to the Great Barrier Reef in coming years.

What does this mean? The surveys showed more than one-fourth of all respondents were optimistic about the future of the Marine Park over the next 10 years, while at the same time recognising some form of threat exists. More than half of all respondents agreed climate change was the biggest threat, followed by shipping. More than four-fifths of all respondents believed activities on the land had an impact on the Marine Park, with only two-fifths of all respondents believing their activities at home or work had an impact.

The ongoing priorities of water quality and community understanding of the impacts on the Marine Park are being addressed through a new advertising campaign. Messages of water quality and the impacts of individual behaviour form the basis of the campaign across television, billboards, educational products and regional shows that began in 2005–06 and will continue in the next financial year (see Output 1.7 Reef Education and Communication).

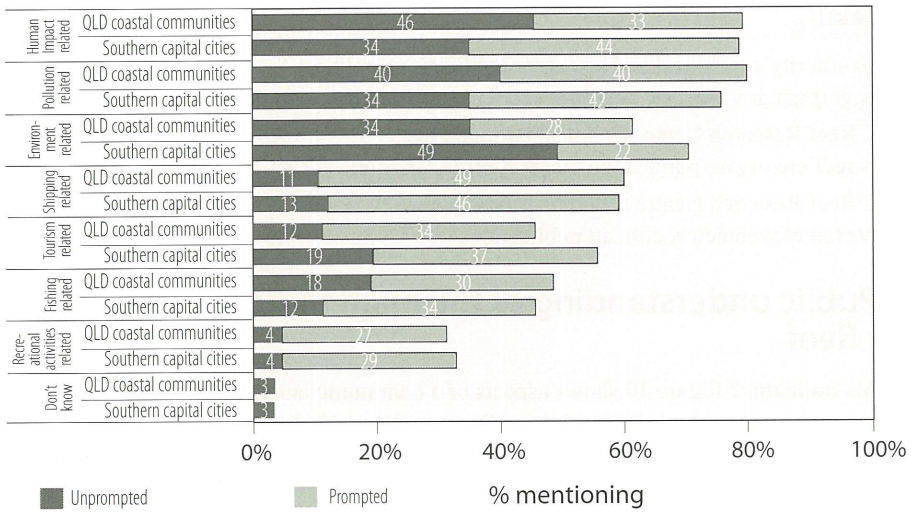


Figure 10: What respondents in Queensland coastal and southern capital cities believe is causing the greatest threat to the Marine Park

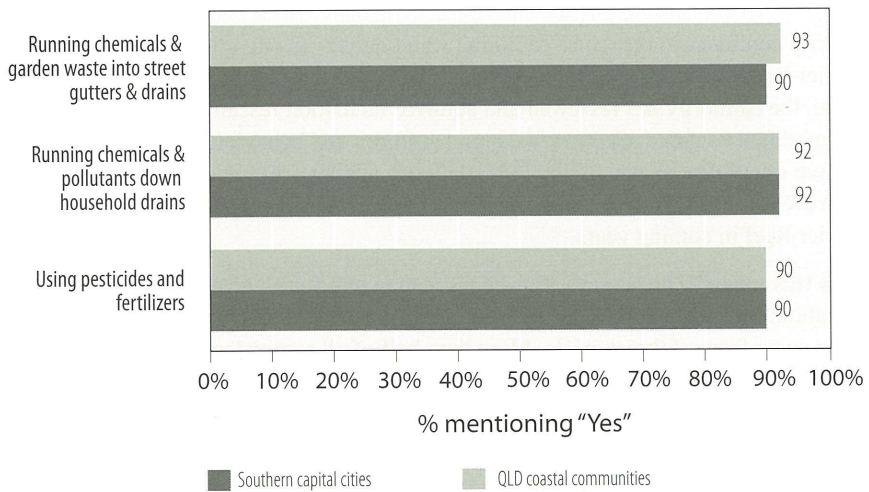


Figure 11: Attitudes towards specific activities that have an impact on the Great Barrier Reef

SECTION C

Report on Operations



Executive

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

Performance analysis

The Executive Group consists of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, the Hon. Virginia Chadwick, AO and the two Executive Directors, John Tanzer and Andrew Skeat. The Chairman is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the Authority, its governance, chairing the Authority Board, and managing the organisation. Critical Issue Groups and Service Groups work to each of the Executive Directors (Figure 12).

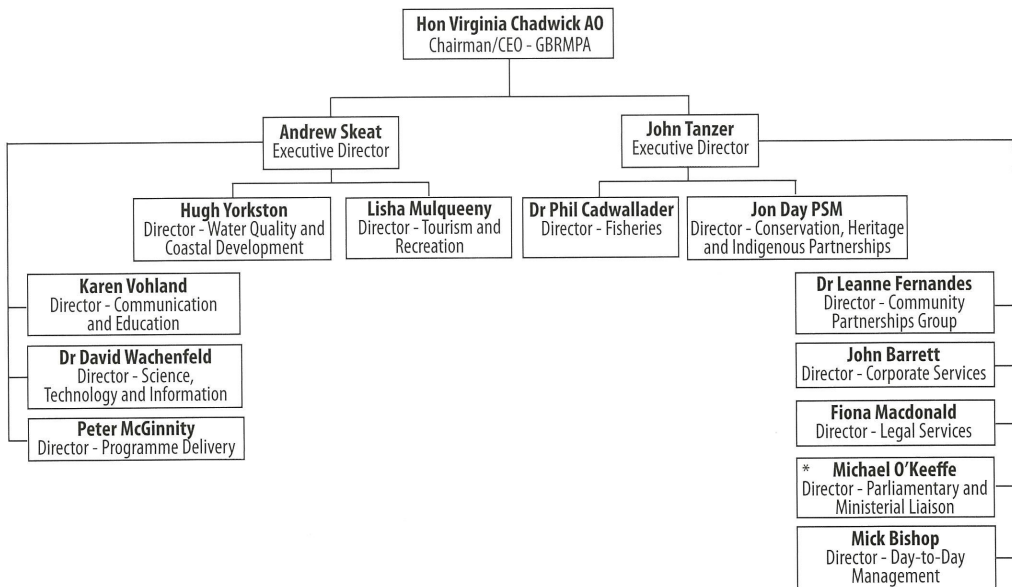


Figure 12: Membership of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Senior Management Team

* Note: James Innes was acting in this role from 8 May 2006.

The Executive Group and the Directors of each of the major work areas form a Senior Management Team responsible for developing policy, coordinating programmes, internal communication, and budget control. Senior Managers are concerned with the day-to-day running of their own areas and managing the intersections arising from the matrix structure.

Focus areas for the Executive in 2005–06 included the review of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (the terms of reference for which were released by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage in August 2005), implementation of a new community engagement initiative and continued implementation of the zoning plan introduced in 2004.

Part of the Australian Government’s last election commitment was to review the activities of the Act and to ensure the concerns of regional communities were clearly heard. Following announcement of the review terms of reference, the Authority provided input as necessary and supported the review team with appropriate technical and other information. The Executive made a presentation to the review on key challenges facing management of the Marine Park.

In May 2005, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage Senator Ian Campbell announced four new regional Queensland offices for the Authority and the appointment of eight staff. This commitment was realised in the form of a new Community Partnerships Group. This initiative has led to a greater involvement of regional communities in management of the Marine Park and has contributed to a very high degree of support in local communities (>82 per cent) for the greater levels of protection of the Marine Park.

Implementation of the Zoning Plan that came into effect in July 2004 has continued to be a high priority. Strong results are being achieved as evidenced by a high level of uptake of information about the new Zoning Plan, good compliance with new arrangements, and a monitoring programme that is already beginning to show increased fish biomass in new no-take (green) areas.

Legal Services

Outcome	Outputs	Performance
An effective legislative framework, commercial legal operations, and litigation	1. Ensure timely and accurate legal advice is delivered to the Authority.	Achieved
	2. Ensure the Authority’s interest in litigation is competently represented, that such litigation is minimised through appropriate legal awareness training, and that Freedom of Information requests are processed in a legally effective manner.	Achieved
	3. Drive the timely progression of legislation subject to the constraints of the Government’s legislative programme.	Achieved

Outcome	Outputs	Performance
An effective legislative framework, commercial legal operations, and litigation	4. Ensure that appropriate commercial legal support is provided to the Authority and the Audit Committee.	Achieved
	5. Ensure that competent legal support is provided for the Authority's corporate governance.	Achieved

Performance analysis

Significant achievements for 2005–06 include:

- Providing effective legal support for branch operations and achievement of corporate objectives
- Attending, and providing legal advice to, various taskforces including taskforces on permits and Environmental Management Charge compliance, moorings, whales, allocation latency and tenure of permits, and the *Bareboat Policy* review
- Providing training on the operation of the Zoning Plan to compliance staff
- Providing training on contracts and procurements to staff
- Providing assistance with the resolution of an application to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal
- Processing four Freedom of Information requests
- Providing legal advice and support in relation to amendments to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*, including the commencement of provisions relating to interactions with cetaceans, allocation of special tourism permissions and the display of unique mooring reference numbers on mooring buoys in the Marine Park
- Lodging Legislative Instrument Backcaptures on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments in accordance with the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*.

One of the objectives of the Legal Services Unit is to ensure that the Authority's interest in litigation is competently represented, and that such litigation is minimised through appropriate legal awareness training for Authority staff.

The Unit was involved in three training packages (including contract management and procurements training) for staff of the Authority and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol on the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*. One-on-one coaching regarding various legal issues was also provided.

The Legal Services Unit dealt with one piece of ongoing litigation during the course of the year. This matter commenced in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and was withdrawn.

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

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

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

The Unit represents the Authority on the Operations Policy and Advisory Committee (OPAC), and Programmes and Scheduling Committee (PASC) of Coastwatch/Customs, the Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas Committee (COMPAC), and on other inter-departmental committees as required.

In 2005–06 the Unit was responsible for the preparation of briefs for Senate Budget Estimates, Senate Additional Estimates and Senate Supplementary Estimates. The Unit continued to liaise with Australian Government agencies on the implementation of major Authority programmes, including the preparation of a Cabinet submission to purchase a vessel to improve compliance capacity, the implementation of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements and the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*.

Departmental Outputs

Output 1.1 Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships

The Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Group develops initiatives and implements programmes for the protection of a wide range of natural and cultural heritage issues, including:

- Protecting threatened species
- Maintaining World Heritage values
- Fostering partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups.

The Group includes two units with specific functions that work together to contribute to the maintenance of all the World Heritage values within the 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
- The **Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit** coordinates the Authority's relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, with current programmes addressing issues such as sustainable traditional use of marine resources, Indigenous tourism, education and research, 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 by implementation of arrangement to manage take of protected species.	Achieved
		Development of a Heritage Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.	Achieved
Price	Representative Areas Programme implemented through the new Zoning Plan with continued involvement of stakeholders and high level of community engagement.	Achieved	
	Arrangements on traditional use of marine resources developed for four Traditional Owner groups.	Australia's first legal agreement accredited; several others underway	
		\$1.979m	

Performance analysis

Species Conservation

Protected species

The Authority is one of many government agencies involved in identifying threats, and coordinating and facilitating conservation programmes 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 Marine Park. There is a strong collaborative inter-agency approach to managing these species, together with continuous assessment of their status and management.

Key activities in 2005–06 included:

- The development and implementation of a communication strategy for protected species in the Marine Park to guide information dissemination and the development of awareness raising products
- Extensive liaison with researchers developing proposals for the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility.

Dugong conservation

The dugong population in the Great Barrier Reef continues to be impacted by a range of human-related activities. The results from aerial surveys conducted periodically from the mid 1980s indicate the dugong population along the urban coast of Queensland, south of Cooktown, is fluctuating but at a level much lower than in the 1960s (Figure 13). The interim results of the 2005 aerial survey indicate that the numbers of dugongs along the urban coast of the Great Barrier Reef have stabilised but are still less than five per cent of the estimated population size in the 1960s.

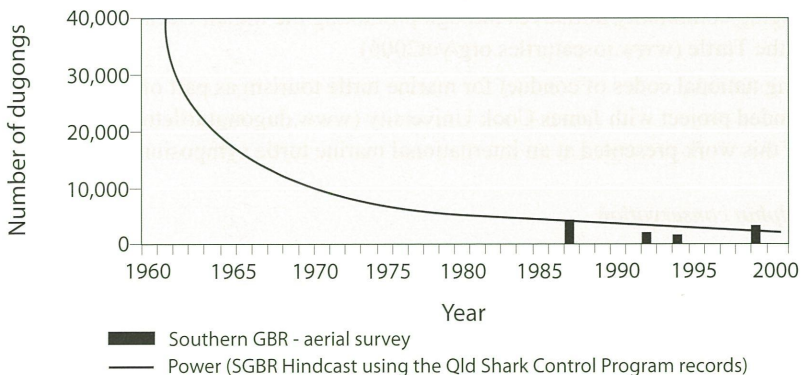


Figure 13: Dugong population status in the Great Barrier Reef along the urban coast of Queensland (Source: the Authority's Species Conservation Section derived from: Marsh, H., De'ath, G., Gribble, N. and Lane, B. 2001, 'Shark control records hindcast serious decline in dugong numbers off the urban coast of Queensland', Research Publication Number 70, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville)

In 2005–06, the Authority enhanced its dugong conservation initiatives by:

- Finalising national codes of conduct for dugong tourism as part of a Natural Heritage Trust funded project with James Cook University (www.dugongturtletourism.org.au)
- Finalising a review of *A Dugong Research Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and Hervey Bay* and the development of a compendium of information about dugongs that will serve as a basis for the development of management strategies for the conservation of dugongs in the Marine Park
- Participating in the first meeting on dugong conservation in the Indian Ocean and South-East-Asian region to develop a Memorandum of Understanding under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)
- Assisting with aerial surveys specifically for dugongs along the urban coast of Queensland and an index block in Torres Strait.

Turtle conservation

All six species of marine turtle found in the Marine Park are threatened. There is ongoing concern for the loggerhead turtle, which has declined significantly in breeding numbers over the past 30 years and for the breeding status of green and hawksbill turtles. In 2005–06, the Authority enhanced its turtle conservation initiatives by:

- 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
- Managing a contract with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that monitors marine turtles at key foraging and nesting areas throughout eastern Queensland
- Leading the Australian delegation to the fourth meeting of signatory states of the Indian Ocean South-East-Asian Memorandum of Understanding for Marine Turtle Conservation, created under the Bonn Convention
- Encouraging community initiatives through promoting the Indian Ocean South-East-Asian Year of the Turtle (www.ioseaturtles.org/yot2006)
- Finalising national codes of conduct for marine turtle tourism as part of a Natural Heritage Trust funded project with James Cook University (www.dugongturtletourism.org.au), with some of this work presented at an international marine turtle symposium, 5 to 8 April 2006.

Whale and dolphin conservation

With more than 30 species of whales and dolphins known to occur in the Marine Park, initiatives for their conservation focus on four species: dwarf minke whale, humpback whale, Australian snubfin dolphin (formerly known as Irrawaddy dolphin) and Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin. Implementation of the *Whale and Dolphin Conservation Policy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*, adopted in March 2000, is proceeding. Actions in 2005–06 included:

- Implementing a communication and education strategy to inform commercial and recreational users of the Marine Park about conservation issues associated with whales and dolphins and the need to abide by regulations for interactions with cetaceans including whale

watching. This included presentations to tourism and recreational boaties, and the production and distribution of flyers, posters, stickers, student fact files and information bulletins for users of the Marine Park.

- Managing a contract with James Cook University for a six-year monitoring programme with the nine permitted tourist operators to assess the sustainability of the swimming-with-dwarf-minke-whales industry. A specific workshop was held for day-boat operators to assist with improving the level of interpretation they provide to passengers and the quality of data collected.
- Implementing regulations to put into operation the Australian National Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin Watching and complement changes under the *EPBC Act 1999*.

Marine wildlife stranding responses

In 2005–06:

- The Authority continued to maintain an effective internal (government staff) and external (public) email-reporting network for marine mammal and turtle strandings and carcasses
- Senior officials of the Authority, Queensland Premier and Cabinet, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries considered a report by an Interagency Committee on Marine Animal Necropsies: they endorsed 15 recommendations for a more efficient and cost effective marine mammal and turtle stranding programme in the World Heritage Area (the Programme). Some of the recommendations included:
 - The need to continue with a modified programme that is prioritised by an assessment of threats, species and areas
 - That the Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit (DDMCU) manages the programme (excluding the Hotline) in the World Heritage Area in accordance with agreed policy direction and work programmes from the EPA and the Authority
 - That staff of the EPA and the Authority develop formal policy in support of the programme jointly
 - That DDMCU develop specific field operational procedures to implement the revised programme
 - That a joint communication strategy be developed between the EPA and the Authority to promote the new EPA Hotline number (1300 130 372) and to phase out the old number (1300 360 898)
 - The Authority developed new stickers to educate Marine Park users of the new phone number
 - That the EPA StrandNet database be upgraded so that regional staff can input stranding incident data via a secure webpage.

Sustainable traditional use of marine resources

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

Other key activities during 2005–06 were:

- Participating in a taskforce of Australian, State and Northern Territory Government representatives to develop a national approach to managing Indigenous hunting of dugongs and turtles. This document was endorsed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council in October 2005 and established a national partnership of government and Indigenous representatives to progress this initiative. One of the first priorities for the taskforce has been to identify how Indigenous communities and scientific experts can be involved in the national approach
- Providing advice as part of a Technical Reference Group to a Natural Heritage Trust funded project in relation to marine turtles and dugongs. The project is managed by the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance and seeks to foster Indigenous community based initiatives for dugong and marine turtle conservation in northern Australia.

Other species and general conservation issues

The Species Conservation Unit continues to provide comment on species conservation issues, and in 2005–06 undertook a range of activities including:

- Providing advice and comment on a wide range of research and development proposals, as well as projects and permit applications. Examples include activities referred by the Department of the Environment and Heritage under the *EPBC Act 1999* and the development of national recovery or wildlife conservation plans (for example, migratory shorebirds)
- Maintaining close liaison with other government agencies regarding management actions including surveillance and enforcement, public awareness, bird conservation issues, and the Queensland Shark Safety Programme
- Delivering presentations on marine species conservation issues and whale watching to Local Marine Advisory Committee meetings, industry groups, and tertiary students
- Providing media releases and interviews on various conservation topics including dugongs, response procedures for stranded wildlife, including turtles and whales
- Writing up results from the Representative Areas Programme relating to significant turtle and dugong habitats and the development of a Reef-wide framework for traditional use of marine resources.

Indigenous Partnerships

Through the broad Indigenous Partnerships Programme and associated service delivery, the Authority works with all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living adjacent to the Marine Park. This includes working with some 70 clan groups from 50 larger tribes in sea country alone. To facilitate working with these groups, Authority staff have identified 25 management areas or groupings of Traditional Owners along the Great Barrier Reef coast, based on the way Traditional Owners work administratively within their groups and tribal lands. Many of these groups have commenced business interactions with Authority staff on developing cooperative management arrangements for their sea country.

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

- Direct interaction with Traditional Owner groups
- Facilitating Indigenous programmes delivery across the Authority and Day-to-Day Management Unit
- Coordination through the Indigenous Issues Senior Management Forum
- Collaborative service delivery and reporting arrangements with State and Commonwealth Government agencies.

The current programme of Indigenous service delivery methodology across the Authority means there are more than just the Indigenous Partnerships staff involved in Indigenous programmes service delivery, both internally and externally. Although this approach has already produced a range of outcomes, it is still periodically being reviewed and improved. A wide range of Indigenous engagement occurred in 2005–06 as shown in Table 4.

Traditional Owner group management unit	Level of engagement in 2005–06	Outline of the Authority's Indigenous engagement in 2005–06*
1. Torres Strait Islander interests	Low	Discussions about Proposed Horn Island Abattoir
2. Gudang	Medium	Preliminary discussions with CPG about RGS, Injinoo Negotiation Table, compliance liaison
3. Yadhaigana	Medium	Injinoo Negotiation Table, compliance liaison, CPG visit, RGS discussions
4. Wuthathi	Medium	Injinoo Negotiation Table, compliance liaison, CPG visit, RGS discussions, preliminary discussions about a TUMRA
5. Kuku Yau	Medium	Compliance liaison, CPG visit, cruise ship issue, crown-of-thorns discussed, SeaRead story
6. Uutaalnganu	Medium	Compliance liaison, CPG visit
7. Umpila	Medium	Compliance liaison, Conservation Reef Advisory Committee Nomination, dive industry issue raised
8. Lama Lama	Medium	Compliance liaison, CPG visit, RGS discussions
9. Guugu Yimmathirr Warra	High	Compliance liaison, coral bleaching SRA, CPG visit, Hopevale Negotiation Table Participant, Land and Sea Expo display, preliminary discussions about a TUMRA
10. Kuku Yalanji	High	Compliance liaison, coral bleaching SRA, CPG visit, Wujal Wujal Negotiation Table Participant, Land and Sea Expo, Indigenous tourism workshop
11. Yirrijandi	Medium	Coral bleaching SRA, Indigenous tourism workshop, CPG visit
12. Gumuy Yindinji	Low	Coral bleaching SRA, CPG visit
13. Gungandji	High	Compliance liaison, coral bleaching SRA, CPG visit, Indigenous tourism workshop, permits advice, reef anchorages consultations, SeaRead story
14. Mandingalbai and Lower Coastal Yindinji	Low	Coral bleaching SRA, CPG visit, reef anchorages consultations
15. Ma:Mu	High	Working group developing TUMRA, coral bleaching SRA, cyclone Larry preliminary reporting, CPG visit

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Traditional Owner group management unit	Level of engagement in 2005–06	Outline of the Authority's Indigenous engagement in 2005–06*
16. Giringun Groups (Djiru, Gulnay, Girramay, Bandjin, Warragamay, Nywaigi)	Very High	First TUMRA accredited December 2005, steering committee continuing to implement TUMRA, compliance liaison, coral bleaching SRA, IMPAC attendance by two delegates, SeaRead story, CPG visit, dugong surveys planning, Goold Island planning
17. Manbarra	High	Coral bleaching SRA, SeaRead story, Manbarra Corporation Presentation, Palm Island Sponge ILUA Day, careers expo display, CDEP presentation, RGS discussions, CPG visit, research permit applications
18. Wulgurukaba	Low	Interested in discussing a TUMRA, coral bleaching SRA
19. Bindal	Low	Preliminary discussions about developing a TUMRA, coral bleaching SRA
20. Gudjuda Groups (Juru, Gia, Ngaro)	Medium	Compliance liaison, coral bleaching SRA, CPG visit
21. Mackay Region Traditional Owner Groups (including Yuibera, Birri, Wiri)	Medium	Compliance liaison, coral bleaching SRA, CPG visit
22. Barada Barna, Kabalbara and Yetimarla	Low	Coral bleaching SRA, interested in discussing a TUMRA
23. Koinjimal	Low	Coral bleaching SRA
24. Dharumbul Peoples (including Woppaburra)	Very High	Working group currently drafting TUMRA, SRA finalised with Woppaburra, compliance liaison, coral bleaching SRA, SeaRead story, Shoalwater Bay POM discussion, threatened species meeting, CPG visit, meetings with Dharumbal hunters, dugong surveys planning, RGS discussions
25. Port Curtis Coral Coast Groups: (Taribelang Bunda, Bailai, Gurang and Gooreng Gooreng)	Medium	Preliminary discussions about a TUMRA, coral bleaching SRA, CPG visit, Gidarjil Native Title Conference Presentation, CAP Bunkers Site Management Arrangements Consultation

Table 4: Outline of engagement with Indigenous Communities adjacent to Great Barrier Reef in 2005–06 (*Abbreviations: SRA, Shared Responsibility Agreement; RGS, Reef Guardian School; TUMRA, Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement)

The Indigenous Issues Senior Management Forum meets approximately every six to eight weeks, and is designed to coordinate and monitor Indigenous programmes and associated management issues across the agency, to discuss new policy proposals, and report through the Executive of the Authority to relevant agencies.

Indigenous Partnerships Liaison Unit

Key activities in 2005–06 included:

Sustainable traditional use of marine resources programme

The highlight for 2005–06 was the accreditation of the Giringun Region Traditional Use of Marine

Resources Agreement (TUMRA). The Girringun TUMRA was the first legal arrangement between Traditional Owners within the Great Barrier Reef Region and the Authority.

A TUMRA is a formal agreement relating to the traditional use of marine resources prepared by Traditional Owners. The Girringun TUMRA was accredited by the Authority as well as the Environmental Protection Agency – Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service as the relevant management agencies.

In November 2005, the six clan groups from the Girringun region (Rollingstone Creek north to Mission Beach) in north Queensland collectively submitted a TUMRA and application for accreditation to the Authority. Girringun region comprises nine Traditional Owner groups, six of these are saltwater people. The Girringun TUMRA was accredited by the above management agencies in December 2005.

The accredited TUMRA provides a significant milestone in implementing the Australian Government's shared responsibility approach, the agreed COAG principles for service delivery to Indigenous communities and the *Sustainable Harvest of Marine Turtles and Dugongs in Australia – A National Partnership Approach 2005* (endorsed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council at its October 2005 meeting). As the first of its type in Australia, the Girringun TUMRA highlights the cooperative management of sea country by Indigenous groups with Australian and Queensland Government agencies.

Specific details of the Girringun TUMRA (which has been accredited for three years) include:

- Identifying the six saltwater clan groups for the Girringun TUMRA region (Djiru, Gulnay, Girramay, Bandjin, Warragamay and Nywaigi) who came together to develop the Girringun TUMRA
- Agreement to not harvest dugongs and the limited take of up to 10 turtles per year managed through a traditional use authority system
- Provision for the Girringun Traditional Owners and governments to work cooperatively against illegal hunting activities in that region
- Species conservation outcomes, including the implementation of a monitoring and reporting framework.

The Girringun TUMRA set a new benchmark for how Traditional Owners and government agencies are working together in a cooperative relationship to sustainably manage sea country and its resources. As complementary arrangements were accredited under both the Australian and Queensland legislation, the Girringun TUMRA has provisions for managing traditional use of marine resources activities within a specified part of the Marine Park as well as within the adjoining State waters in the Great Barrier Reef (Coast) Marine Park.

The accreditation of the Girringun TUMRA in December has created considerable interest from other Traditional Owner groups and is therefore an important precedent. Traditional Owner groups from two other management units are currently in the various stages of developing their own TUMRA for Authority accreditation.

Traditional Owner involvement in tourism and its management

The Indigenous Partnership Liaison Unit contributed to a new project to foster Indigenous participation in tourism and its management. This included active participation in the Indigenous Tourism Working Group and consultations with Traditional Owners in the Cairns region on the allocation process for Regional Tourism Operations.

Cultural and heritage values and cooperative arrangements for sea country management

In 2005–06, the Traditional Owner Information System was further enhanced with the development of the Traditional Owner Resource Bibliography (TORB). The TORB is an annotated bibliography database of over 800 sea country/Traditional Owner references. In December 2005, the TORB was used by the Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation to search for turtle and dugong papers for Cape York Peninsula.

The Authority's staff held one-day permits workshops at the Central Queensland and Gurang Native Title Representative Bodies. An Authority Place Names Strategy was presented at the Committee for Geographic Names in Australasia Conference in Canberra. Cultural advice was provided in major projects and planning arrangements for Shoalwater Bay, Hay Point, Boat Bay, Bauer Bay and Arlington Reef.

Sea country research and education programme

In 2005–06, the Unit developed the *Working together for sustainable traditional use of marine resources* information kits. The information kits contain the new *Working together for turtle management* and *Working together for dugong management* brochures that were designed specifically for facilitating threatened species management issues and solutions at the Indigenous community level. During the year, Indigenous community information stalls were held at the Laura Cultural Festival, Palm Island Careers Day, Townsville NAIDOC Day, Hopevale and Wujal Wujal Land and Sea Expo days.

During the year, Authority staff were also involved in the Hopevale and Wujal Wujal Round Table Negotiations, Natural Heritage Trust Inter Departmental Committee and the Cape York Peninsula Indigenous Land and Sea Management Working Group.

The *Sea Country Newsletter* was further enhanced as a regular feature in the Authority's *SeaRead* newsletter. The new sea country feature has a focus on cultural education and awareness of Traditional Owner groups and sea country issues.

The Authority worked with the Department of the Environment and Heritage in coordinating a Natural Heritage Trust funded programme, which assisted in assessing the extent of coral bleaching as well as the training of Indigenous people for monitoring coral bleaching.

Related links:

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

Heritage strategy

A heritage strategy for the Marine Park was adopted by the Authority in December 2005. The Authority also decided to amend its Corporate Plan 2004–2009 in order to more adequately reflect its obligations to address heritage issues.

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.

The Commonwealth heritage values include places with Indigenous, historic and natural heritage throughout the Marine Park, including the historic values associated with Commonwealth islands, such as Lady Elliot Island and Low Isles. The Authority currently has various management arrangements in place that protect heritage values including:

- *The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and regulations
- The statutory Zoning Plan 2003
- The Plans of Management
- Specific lease arrangements with the various lessees for Commonwealth islands (and in several instances, a permanent on-site caretaker on those islands).

After consideration by the Australian Heritage Council, the draft heritage strategy was approved by the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage in early 2006.

Of the 58 actions identified in the strategy, six have been completed already and seven are currently underway as part of Authority's existing work programme. Some 28 actions are considered ongoing requirements that only occur when a specific situation arises, and 17 are future actions that will need to be addressed over the next two to five years.

Implementation of the heritage obligations for areas within the Marine Park will commence in the 2006–07 Strategic Work Plan, and is expected to have considerable resource implications for staff of the Authority.

World Heritage

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

The Marine Park comprises 99 per cent of the World Heritage Area, the balance being the majority of islands, port areas, inter-tidal areas and internal waters of Queensland. Whilst these areas are part of the World Heritage Area, being within its outer boundaries, they are not part of the Marine Park. Maintenance of the World Heritage values and attributes is a major responsibility of the Australian Government and is an important consideration in the Authority's decision-making and management practices.

Effective management of the Marine Park and complementary management programmes with Queensland Government agencies all contribute to maintaining World Heritage values. During 2005–06, a popular brochure summarising the range of activities protecting the World Heritage Area was updated and is available as a hard copy and on the web.

Related links:

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

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

The impacts from both land and marine sourced water pollution, and coastal development, must be managed to minimise the risk of degradation to the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem. To achieve this, the Authority is working collaboratively with other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, local government, Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies and the wider community.

Successful water quality outcomes led by the Authority during 2005–06 included:

- Implementing key actions in the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*
- Expanding the Reef Guardian concept
- Implementing a project to develop a risk-based compliance regime for shipping and marine pollution incidents in the Marine Park
- Statutory and non-statutory advice on coastal planning and development issues in and adjacent to the Marine Park.

The Outcomes and Outputs are outlined over page.

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.2.1 Protection of the Great Barrier Reef from the adverse effects of water pollution and coastal development.	Quality	Sound scientific methods used to manage impacts of pollutants and develop management standards.	Achieved
		Quality technical input into environmental assessment and cooperative arrangements in the management of water quality and coastal development, especially in accordance with the <i>Reef Water Quality Protection Plan</i> .	Achieved
		Quality input into the cooperative management of shipping in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.	Achieved
	Quantity	Provide input into six Natural Resource Management Plans.	Achieved
		Review 50 development projects which may potentially affect the Great Barrier Reef and provide advice to relevant authorities.	Achieved
		Coordinate and implement the GBRMPA's responsibilities under the nine actions in the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.	Achieved
	Price	\$1.798m	

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, and in 2005–06 the Authority worked extensively with other Australian and Queensland Government agencies, local governments, industry groups and the broader community to implement the Plan's actions.

In 2005–06 the Authority contributed to the development of a Reef Water Quality Partnership, focused on the integration of water quality monitoring and target setting throughout the catchment. The partnership involves Australian and Queensland Government agencies, as well as Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies from within the catchment. In addition to integrating the Authority's long-term water quality and ecosystem health monitoring programme with estuary and in-stream Queensland Government and community water quality monitoring programmes, the partnership provides an opportunity for the Authority to contribute to the water quality target setting process, particularly relating to in-park ecosystem requirements.

Under the Reef Plan, the Authority has also continued to work with other Australian and Queensland government agencies, regional NRM bodies and industry to identify and establish nutrient management zones to minimise the impact of nutrients on the Great Barrier Reef. The Authority co-hosted a meeting with key stakeholders from Department of the Environment and Heritage in

December 2005 to discuss the requirements for identification of these zones. From this meeting a draft scientific report was prepared and sent for peer review. This report outlined a process to identify nutrient management zones.

The Authority has also played 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. Products delivered within this programme include a wetlands exhibit at the Reef HQ Aquarium, interactive wetlands information kiosks located in five key Queensland coastal locations, a Reef Beat wetlands poster series for school students and a Web Quest and associated educational material (see Output 1.7 Reef Education and Communication). The Australian and Queensland Government's jointly launched many of these products on World Wetlands Day (February 2006), whilst the wetlands exhibit in Reef HQ was opened in June 2006.

In 2005–06, the Water Quality and Coastal Development group also continued working 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, such as support for Healthy Waterways advertising in the Mackay-Whitsunday and Rockhampton regions.

Further development of the Reef Guardian concept occurred in 2005–06. In addition to the highly successful Reef Guardian Schools programme (see Output 1.7), the Authority developed a Reef Guardian Council programme in recognition of the significant role that Local Government plays with respect to natural resource management in Great Barrier Reef catchments. The following actions have been completed:

- Formation of the Reef Guardian Council working group, membership drawn from eight Local Government areas contained within the catchment and a representative from the Authority
- Action plans were developed for each of the eight local government areas participating in the working group
- Development of an initial assessment framework in collaboration with the Reef Guardian Council working group
- In collaboration with the Authority's Communication and Education group, developed detailed Reef Guardian Council branding, marketing and communication strategies including a Reef Guardian Council newsletter.

The Authority works collaboratively with other regulatory agencies and the shipping industry on a range of ship safety and pollution prevention measures in the Great Barrier Reef. In 2005–06, the Authority:

- Provided policy and environmental advice to assist in responding to marine pollution incidents
- Contributed to the development of measures, as part of the Australian Government's national programme, to reduce the risk of a marine pest outbreak
- Assessed the risk of a shipping incident and increased the awareness and response capability of Authority staff to act in the event of a shipping incident
- Implemented an improved and coordinated risk-based compliance regime for shipping and marine pollution incidents in the Marine Park.

The Authority provided advice to the Queensland Government on 54 coastal developments under the Queensland Integrated Development Assessment System, one planning scheme (Bauhinia Shire) and two draft Regional Coastal Management Plans. The Water Quality and Coastal Development group also coordinated the Authority response to 32 referrals by the Australian Government's Department of the Environment and Heritage under the *EPBC Act 1999* for developments in or adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Presentations were made at local, regional, national and international forums on the Authority'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: www.Authority.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/water_quality/index.html
- Reef Water Quality Protection Plan: www.deh.gov.au/coasts/pollution/reef/index.html

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 <i>Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries</i> and allow performance to be assessed.	Ongoing
	Quantity	The Authority working with fisheries managers and stakeholders to review and improve management arrangements for the reef finfish, trawl, crab and inshore net (particularly shark) and line fisheries and the dive-based fisheries for tropical rock lobster, sea cucumber and coral.	Ongoing
		Provide key input to the Department of the Environment and Heritage 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> .	First round of assessments completed
	Price	\$1.262m	

Ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Marine Park will be achieved in collaboration with Queensland management agencies. The Authority is working to improve current fisheries

management arrangements by seeking the adoption of a whole of ecosystem approach to address the sustainability of target species, non-target species and the ecosystems on which they depend.

Performance analysis

The Authority worked as a key stakeholder in the development of enhanced fisheries management arrangements under the *Queensland Fisheries Act 1994*. Where necessary, the Authority has raised issues with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F) and provided advice on preferred fisheries management options. The Authority encouraged research to support this process. Recognising input from other stakeholders, the consultative process saw a wide range of fisheries management initiatives introduced during 2005–06. Those with direct benefit to ensuring that fishing in the Marine Park is ecologically sustainable included:

- Ongoing input to QDPI&F's Management Advisory Committee process and major influence in improving fisheries management arrangements in the Marine Park.
- Ongoing input to the Department of the Environment and Heritage strategic assessments of fisheries in the Marine Park. Project teams of Departmental and Authority officers work closely to undertake strategic assessments of each fishery which occurs in or adjacent to the Marine Park.
- Following effective negotiations with QDPI&F and industry in 2003–04 and 2004–05, the Authority worked collaboratively with QDPI&F and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in the development of a formal commercial coral collection management policy. This policy was approved by QDPI&F in December 2005, to be implemented on 1 July 2006. This policy enables a suite of innovative management, compliance and reporting arrangements to be implemented to ensure that the commercial collection of wild coral will meet the *Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)* requirements for the environmentally sustainable management of wild populations of coral. Management arrangements include real-time, prior to landing, quota reporting using the automatic individual voice recognition system developed for the Queensland Coral Reef Finfish Fishery. The three management agencies collaborated to deliver effective, well-received, training and information sessions for compliance officers and industry members prior to the implementation of the policy.
- Continuing negotiations with QDPI&F and industry to develop formal management arrangements for the multi-species sea cucumber fishery that will reduce the risk of serial localised depletion and have enforceable quota arrangements. An industry-developed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that encapsulates an innovative fishing strategy designed to reduce the risk of serial depletion has been implemented. The MOU will enter its third year of operation in July 2006. With industry agreement, compliance with the terms of the MOU has been monitored via a satellite-based vessel monitoring system by the Authority. Compliance has been excellent.
- Continued input to improving management of crab fisheries, including proposed modifications to the dimensions of crab pots to minimise interactions with non-target species.
- Input via the Crab MAC working groups to developing fishery objectives, performance indicators and ecological risk assessments for crab species.

- Working collaboratively with QDPI&F, other government agencies and Indigenous communities to develop opportunities for greater Indigenous participation in fisheries and decision-making in fisheries and marine resource management. The Authority's work has been focussed on achieving improved conservation outcomes, whilst at the same time recognising the need of many Indigenous coastal communities to improve their economic opportunities.
- Continuing input into management arrangements for the Queensland Coral Reef Finfish Fishery following the introduction by Queensland of a management plan for the fishery in July 2004. The fishery is managed using a total allowable catch of 3061 tonnes per year, which is substantially less than the commercial catch prior to the introduction of the management plan.
- The Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (a longline fishery) operates outside but near the Marine Park. The Authority is working to ensure that by-catch issues, including the incidental capture of turtles and sharks, are addressed. The recreational game boat fishery, which operates in the Marine Park, targets species that are taken in the longline fishery. The Authority is working collaboratively with this sector to minimise the impact on target and bycatch species.
- Establishing an independent panel to review changes in the fishing power ('effort creep') in the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery, the aim being to reduce the trawl effort cap in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area commensurate with the estimated changes in fishing power.
- Following the rezoning of the Marine Park, the Authority has continued to consult and liaise with fishery stakeholders and the wider community on a range of matters relating to the rezoning and its effective implementation. The Authority continues to work to improve stakeholder relations with a view to minimising conflict between fishery stakeholders and other users of the Marine Park.

Input into the Marine Park structural adjustment package

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

Input into compliance policy development

The Authority's capability to detect, prosecute and deter illegal fishing in the Marine Park was enhanced through ongoing collaboration and information exchange between the Fisheries Issues Group staff and the Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit over matters concerning the suite of fisheries, and fisheries-related matters, which occur within and adjacent to the Marine Park.

Related links:

- The Authority's Fisheries Issues 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, with approximately 1.9 million visitor days to the Marine Park in 2005 (not including passengers in transit) on commercial operations.

Based on information provided by tourism operators in their Environmental Management Charge returns, visitation is concentrated in the Cairns, Port Douglas and Whitsundays areas.

The Marine Park offers a wide range of tourist experiences including visits to a pontoon, sailing, extended cruising and specialist tours. Tourism in the Great Barrier Reef catchment area is worth about \$5.1 billion each year (Access Economics, 2005) plus an estimated 54 000 jobs in regional communities.

According to Queensland Transport, the number of registered recreational vessels adjacent to the Marine Park has increased by 20.5 per cent from December 2001 to June 2006. The increase from 52 478 vessels to 66 014 vessels indicates a continuing increase in recreational usage of the Marine Park.

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.4.1 Tourism and recreation opportunities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that are high quality and ecologically sustainable.	Quality	Management initiatives for tourism and recreation developed and implemented in partnership with the tourism industry, recreational users and other key stakeholders, with partnership arrangements recognised as very high standard.	Achieved
		Planning and regulatory systems provide transparency and certainty.	Achieved
		Tourism and Recreation opportunities in the Marine Park provided in an efficient and equitable manner as rated by industry satisfaction measures.	Achieved
	Quantity	Numbers of tourists visiting the Marine Park and their levels of satisfaction maintained or increased.	Achieved
		All expiring permits for limited opportunities reviewed for latency.	Achieved
		System in place to recognise and reward high standard operators.	Achieved
		Information and training for industry and other stakeholders provided.	Achieved
	Price		\$1.802m

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 2005–06 include:

- Maintaining an ongoing and active partnership with the tourism industry, recreational users and other stakeholders.
- Improving the management of moorings in the Marine Park by introducing the mandatory identification of each mooring with a unique reference number, encouraging the use of mooring buoys that conform to standard parameters, allocating four spare moorings at Green Island Reef Sensitive Location in the Cairns Area, maintaining a publicly available Internet-based database on all permitted moorings in the Marine Park and amending the policy on moorings management.
- Simplifying access to some of the key tourism sites in the Marine Park by developing and publishing Site Management Arrangements.
- Increasing flexibility for tourism operations through a Reef-wide voluntary system of vessel identification numbers for all tourism vessels, allowing tourism operators to simply and promptly change the vessels used in their operation.
- Launching an initiative to encourage private investment in public infrastructure in the Whitsundays, including a call for registrations of interest with 15 responses received.
- Facilitating sustainable cruise ship access in the Marine Park by maintaining a close working partnership with the cruise ship industry, designating four new cruise ship anchorages in the Cairns area, progressing the designation of cruise ship transit corridors across the Marine Park and convening an annual cruise workshop.
- Managing the partnership with the tourism industry and coordinating government funding of \$300 000 for the crown-of-thorns starfish control programme: this programme protected 35 different sites and collected more than 13 500 crown-of-thorns in 2005–06.
- Managing latency in capped tourism permissions by requiring that reasonable use is made of the permission before a new permission can be granted.
- Introducing an expressions of interest process for allocating capped tourism permissions, including amendments to the regulations.
- Developing and maintaining a comprehensive, easy-to-read website for tourism operators and their staff that explains all they need to know to operate in the Marine Park, including both legislative requirements and best practices. The website, *'Onboard, The Tourism Operator's Handbook for the Great Barrier Reef'* was complemented by a summary booklet and compact disc.
- Improving presentation of the Marine Park by assisting operators to improve the quality of the information they present about the Marine Park by distributing a series of 'Reef Facts' highlighting information about what makes the Marine Park special and auditing an extensive sample of Marine Park tourism brochures (produced by external agencies) to gain an understanding of how the Marine Park is presented and the quality of the information provided.
- Increasing compliance with and understanding of Marine Park management arrangements

by operators and crew through the delivery of six workshops about Marine Park management arrangements, interpretation and avenues to achieve high standards. A total of over 130 people attended the workshops held in the Whitsundays, Cairns and Port Douglas, with all participants recording strong satisfaction.

- Guiding best practice use of the Marine Park by publishing a set of 28 Responsible Reef Practices for tourism operators (addressing activities from anchoring to whale watching).
- Improving protection and presentation of the Marine Park by providing rewards and incentives to those tourism operators who are independently certified with the ECO Certification Programme (Ecotourism and Advanced Ecotourism level) as maintaining high standards throughout their operations. During 2005–06, the number of certified Marine Park operators increased from 23 to 29, with 55 individual certified tourism products. This has resulted in about one-third of tourism visits being undertaken with a certified operation. Thirty-three longer-term (15-year) permits have been granted to certified high standard operations. In addition, the operations are listed on the Authority's website and showcased at trade events such as the Australian Tourism Exchange.
- Working with the tourism industry to address the issue of climate change and its likely effects on tourism in the Marine Park, including a Marine Tourism Leaders Forum on Climate Change, held in Cairns in November 2005.
- Encouraging tourism operators to report Marine Park incidents through the *Eyes and Ears Incident Reporting Programme*, a joint initiative with the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service where 200 incident reporting folders have been distributed to operators and crew.
- Working in partnership with Tourism Queensland and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to foster Indigenous participation in tourism and its management, including developing a position statement and guidelines on communication plus consulting with interested Indigenous communities in the Cairns area.
- Improving community understanding of tourism in the Marine Park by partnering in a joint Sea Week education initiative, including 11 000 posters distributed to schools throughout Australia and a curriculum unit on how tourism is managed in the Marine Park.
- Proactively consulting and briefing 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, designation of cruise ship anchorages and transit corridors, amendments to the policy on bareboats, moorings management, public investment in private infrastructure, correct representation of the Environmental Management Charge and appropriate communication strategies for crew members.
- Regularly communicating with tourism operators and their crew through the quarterly newsletter *From the Deck*.

The productive partnership that has been developed with the Great Barrier Reef tourism industry in particular has produced very positive results and both the partnership itself and the programmes it has produced are being used as national and international case studies:

- The work of the Tourism and Recreation Group has been highlighted by Australia at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme.

- The High Standard Tourism Programme has been used as one of three Australian Tourism case studies for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation initiative on best practices in sustainable tourism management.
- Conservation International has highlighted the Authority as a best practice case study for our work with the cruise ship industry.
- The Authority's work with the cruise industry has been used as a case study in the *Revised Action Plan for the Development of the Australia-Pacific Cruise Industry 2006*, developed by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources as a priority outcome of the *Australian Government's Tourism White Paper 2003*.

Output 1.5 Park Management

Output 1.5.1 Field management of the Marine Park

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

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.1 Field management of the Marine Park.	Quality	A risk-based compliance programme prevents serious environmental harm.	Achieved
		Field programme contributes to the protection of key vulnerable species ecosystems, their habitats 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.	Achieved
	Quantity	Compliance deterrent impact indicated by a change in risk profiles.	Achieved
		Key vulnerable species field works completed.	Achieved
		Indigenous staff employment programme maintained.	Achieved
	Price	\$13.650m	

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

- Natural Heritage Trust contribution to strengthening compliance with the new *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*

- The Authority contribution towards the operation of the Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit
- Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) / Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) 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 Service National Marine Unit
- Customs Coastwatch
- 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 Programme priorities

Priority 1 Compliance

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

- Line and trawl fisheries
- Dugong protection
- New Zoning Plan green and pink zones
- Emerging compliance issues to prevent serious environmental harm.

Priority 2 Vulnerable species

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

Priority 3 Visitor facilities, natural and cultural resource protection

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

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

Priority 4 Indigenous engagement

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

Performance Analysis

In 2005–06, a continuing emphasis was placed on the allocation of resources in accordance with the risk-based analysis of the DDM Programme’s four priorities in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

For the first time, the 2005–06 DDM Programme Annual Business Plan listed performance measures for all specific key deliverable tasks to be completed by designated agencies/work groups for each of the four DDM Programme priorities.

Tasks or works listed under one priority area may contribute to the achievement of objectives under another priority area. As an example, compliance with prohibitions on netting in some areas will help protect vulnerable species such as dugongs and turtles.

Key actions and achievements during 2005–06 included:

Priority 1 – Compliance

- The Australian Government made a special funding allocation of \$8.9 million over three years which commenced on 1 July 2004, with \$2.9 million being available for the 2005–06 financial year. This funding was provided to manage the increased compliance requirements following the implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003.
- An Indigenous Compliance Liaison Officer was recruited in October 2005. This officer is involved in the collection of information relating to compliance issues including illegal hunting, particularly in the far north of the Marine Park and the development of strategies to address these issues.
- A tender process was conducted and agreements developed with 27 operators (Reef-wide), for the charter of vessels and aircraft to enable a fast and effective response to specific compliance issues.
- Exhibit handling and storage systems were enhanced to meet the requirements of Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines and Compliance Management and Investigation Procedures.
- Refresher legislation training was provided to Compliance Staff, Senior Rangers (Compliance) and other Marine Park Inspectors to address issues that have arisen since the implementation of the Zoning Plan.
- A Reef-wide audit of permitted commercial operators was undertaken to determine the level of compliance with the Environmental Management Charge. Further comprehensive audits are anticipated as a result of this audit process.
- The Compliance Unit coordinated activities across a range of partner agencies and providers including:
 - Developing and disseminating a monthly Reef-wide information sheet
 - Providing current intelligence to all agencies prior to vessel patrols
 - Developing and disseminating compliance planners January/June
 - Planning and coordinating operations to address high risk periods for illegal activity.
- A total of 507 possible Commonwealth offences were recorded from 437 incident reports

during the year. In 2005–06 commercial fishing offences decreased from 59 in 2004–05 to 34 whilst recreational fishing offences increased from 194 to 230 for the same period. Reports of illegal hunting increased from seven to 16 which could be attributed to better reporting mechanisms initiated by the new Indigenous Communities Compliance Liaison Officer.

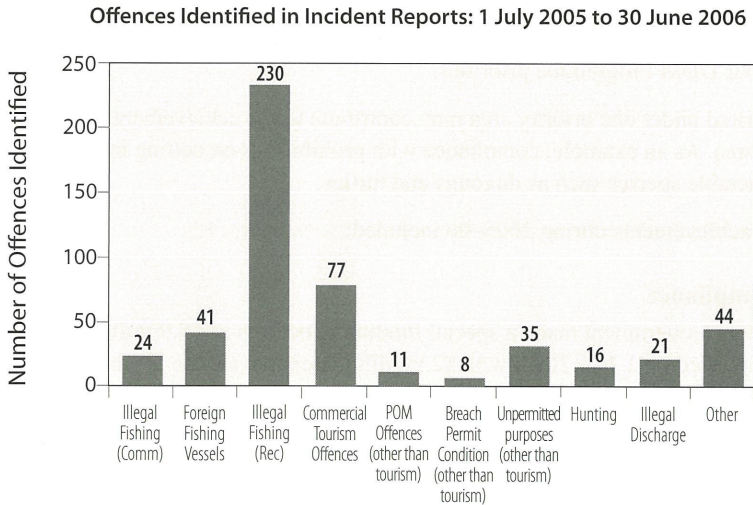


Figure 14: Details of the number of offences identified in 2005–06 Incident Reports by offence type (Source: DDM Compliance Unit) (Comm, commercial; Rec, recreational)

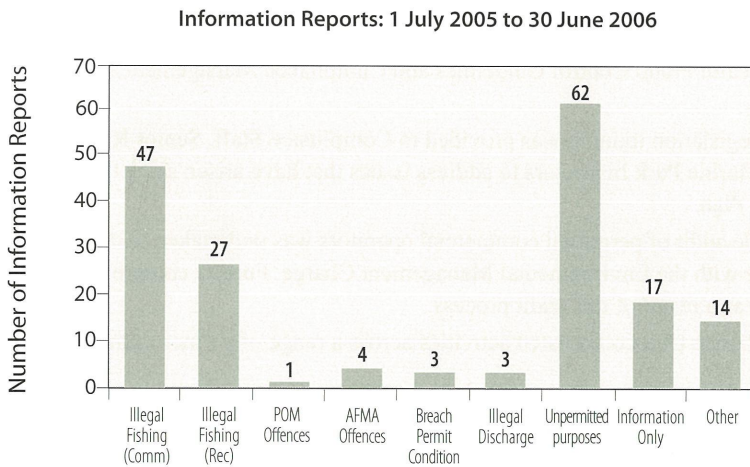


Figure 15: Details of the number of 2005–06 Information Reports received by offence type (Source: DDM Compliance Unit) (Comm, commercial; Rec, recreational)

In 2005–06 a total of 111 successful court actions occurred with fines totalling \$149 970 being imposed. An additional 359 compliance actions were taken including 164 advisory letters (detailed further in Figure 16). This includes follow-up in relation to offences identified in 2004–05, particularly for prosecutions (detailed further in Figure 17).

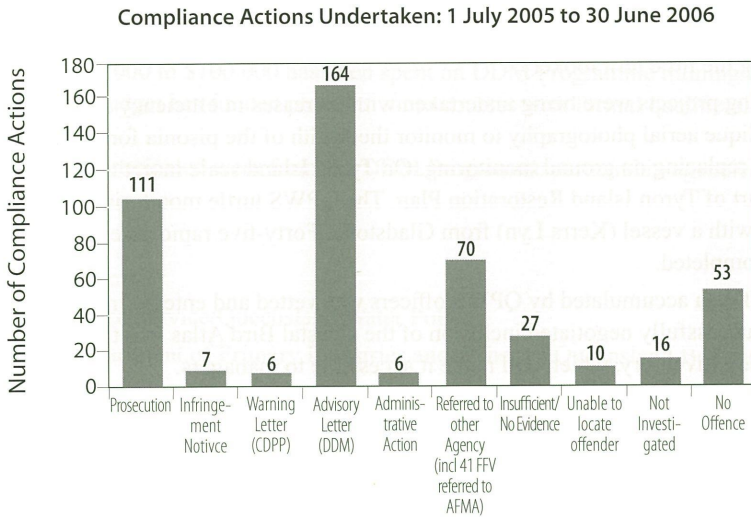


Figure 16: Details of the number and type of 2005–06 compliance actions undertaken (Source: DDM Compliance Unit)

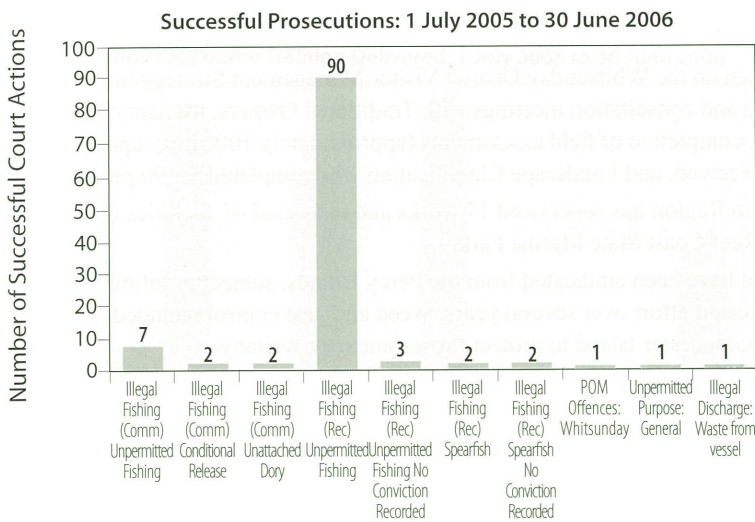


Figure 17: Details of the number of successful 2005–06 prosecutions by offence type (Source: DDM Compliance Unit) (Comm, commercial; Rec, recreational)

Priority 2 – Vulnerable species

Pest control work conducted included the eradication of predators from the turtle nesting sites of Leicester, Marquis and Townsend Islands. A draft island-wide strategy was developed with the Fitzroy Basin Association to address pest impacts on flatback turtle reproduction and destruction of Dawson Yellow Chat habitat on Curtis Island.

Protective works included realignment of the vehicle track at Sandy Point to reduce maintenance while protecting the little tern rookery.

A few monitoring projects were being undertaken with increases in efficiency such as the use of Coastwatch oblique aerial photography to monitor the health of the pisonia forests in the Capricorn/Bunker region, replacing on ground monitoring. On Tyron Island scale insect monitoring has continued as part of Tyron Island Restoration Plan. The QPWS turtle monitoring on Raine Island was supported with a vessel (Kerra Lyn) from Gladstone. Forty-five rapid assessment monitoring surveys were completed.

Twenty years of data accumulated by QPWS officers was vetted and entered into the Coastal Bird Atlas. QPWS successfully negotiated inclusion of the Coastal Bird Atlas into the EPA Queensland Wetland Mapping Inventory, which will make it accessible to managers.

Priority 3 – Facilities management, natural and cultural resource protection

Mooring maintenance included inspections of downlines and surface tackle in the Whitsundays and preparations made for damaged mooring replacement. All elevated structures at Magnetic Island were inspected and stabilisation undertaken of boulders along Forts Track. Significant track upgrades have occurred at Magnetic Island, Wheeler Island, Macushla Campground and Brampton Island.

Prescribed burns were conducted. Burns on Fitzroy, Flinders and Snapper Islands were conducted with Traditional Owners in attendance.

Work undertaken on the Whitsunday District Visitor Management Strategy included holding Steering Group and consultation meetings with Traditional Owners, tourism operators and the general public, completion of field assessments (approximately 100 sites), approximately 400 visitor surveys were received, and Landscape Classification was completed for 90 per cent of visitor sites.

QPWS Northern Region has supervised 17 works and inspected 41 facilities in the Marine Park and Great Barrier Reef Coast State Marine Park.

Goats appear to have been eradicated from the Percy Islands, subject to follow up assessments. This finalises a dedicated effort over several years. Weed and pest control included specific eradication of rubber vine at Gloucester Island to protect Proserpine rock wallaby.

Priority 4 – Indigenous engagement

Indigenous community liaison has included liaison with the Woppaburra people regarding the Keppel Islands interpretive material, and consultation with Indigenous groups in the Whitsundays area for planning.

QPWS assisted with the development of a Traditional Hunting Agreement between the Queensland Minister of Environment and three Aboriginal clans (Juru, Gia and Ngaro) to maintain culture, protect dugongs and protect and use turtles in Queensland waters from Proserpine to Ayr.

An Indigenous compliance officer has been appointed and is working with communities regarding illegal hunting and fishing.

Training

The DDM Training Programme was successfully implemented with 415 participants taking part in 44 training courses, workshops, presentations and briefings.

An increase from \$79 000 to \$100 000 has been spent on DDM Programme training this financial year. This increased budget has funded places in more courses with formal qualifications.

The personnel who participated were from the DDM Programme partnership agencies including:

- The Authority
- The EPA/QPWS
- Customs Coastwatch
- Queensland Police Service/Queensland Water Police
- 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 Programme priorities. Refer to Figure 18 for breakdown of course and participant numbers by DDM Programme priority. Whilst priority 4 (Indigenous engagement) focussed training is not currently being delivered by the DDM Programme, cultural awareness training is being delivered to DDM Programme staff as part of internal training programmes.

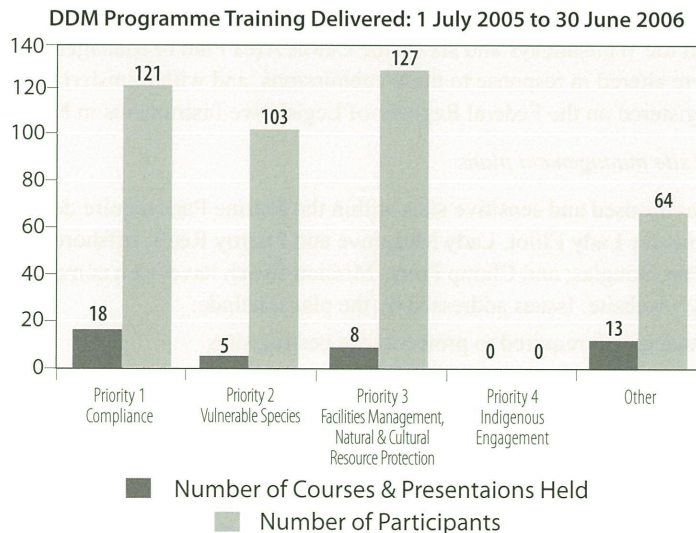


Figure 18: Details of 2005–06 DDM Training Programme courses/presentations held and participant numbers by DDM Programme priority (Source: DDM Compliance Unit)

Output 1.5.2 Planning and Impact Management of the Marine Park

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.5.2 Planning and impact management of the Marine Park	Quality	All plans effectively maintain or enhance natural and cultural values while providing for wise use.	Achieved
		All significant proposals for use of the Marine Park undergo impact assessment.	Achieved
	Quantity	Local area site plans and mooring allocation in place for high use areas.	Substantially Achieved
		Approximately 700 assessments conducted and decisions made, including 30 major projects.	Achieved
Price	\$3.662m		

Performance analysis

Planning

2005 Amendments to the Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management

In response to feedback from users of the Cairns and Whitsundays areas, the Authority decided to amend the plans of management for those areas. The amendments were required to clarify the access available to the proposed new regional tour operations. The Authority also took the opportunity to update references to the Marine Park Zoning Plan and Regulations.

The proposed amendments to these plans were released for community consultation from 15 June to 15 July 2005. Submissions were received from a range of interest groups. Eight submissions were received on the Whitsundays and six on the Cairns Area Plan of Management. The final amendments were altered in response to these submissions, and with ministerial and parliamentary support were registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments in November 2005.

Development of site management plans

A number of heavily-used and sensitive sites within the Marine Park require detailed plans. Site management plans for Lady Elliot, Lady Musgrave and Fitzroy Reefs, offshore Gladstone; Low Isles, offshore Port Douglas; and Clump Point, Mission Beach have been completed and published on the Authority's website. Issues addressed by the plans include:

- Visitor management required to protect turtle nesting sites
- Protecting coral and dive sites from anchoring
- Location of tourism facilities (moorings and pontoons)
- Ensuring areas are retained for public access
- Carrying capacity and trigger limits for review of the site management arrangements.

Updates have also been completed for existing site plans for Milln and Flynn Reefs, offshore Cairns to ensure general access is not restricted by proposals to relocate tourism operation moorings.

Other outputs of interest:

- Updating information available on the Authority’s website to provide increased access to management documents, for example, the Cairns Area Site Plans
- Working closely with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to develop the Whitsundays Visitor Management Strategy and providing input into the development of state-lead planning – Fitzroy Island Marine Management Plan.

Performance analysis

Environmental Impact Management

Environmental management systems (Permits)

Figure 19 represents a total of 959 permissions assessed. Tourism was the highest proportion, and the majority of applications were for continuation of existing operations. In addition, 81 permissions were transferred between operators. All permits issued were subject to conditions necessary for the protection of the values of the Marine Park. Six applications were refused.

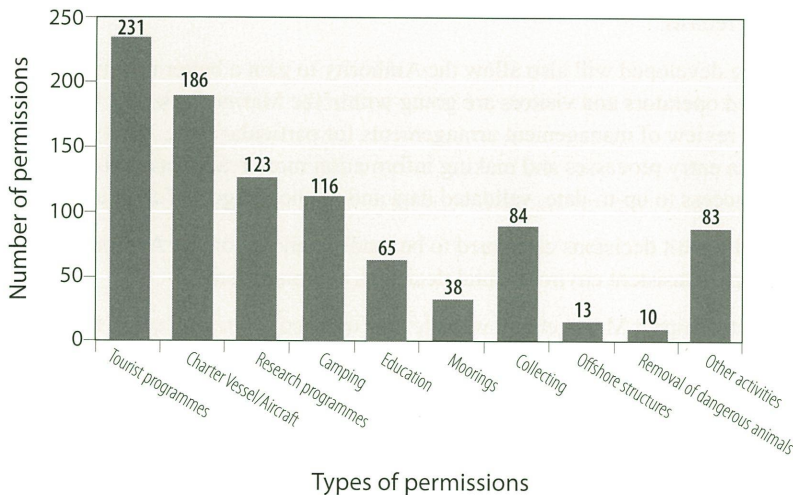


Figure 19: Types of permissions granted by the Authority during 2005–06 (Source: the Authority)

Approximately 14 per cent of these applications 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.

This year was particularly characterised by an increase in the number and size of dredging and spoil disposal projects associated with deepening of ports and harbours. One of the largest and most complex projects involves dredging and spoil disposal at Hay Point, Mackay. Potential environmental impacts to water quality, seagrass and coral were addressed. Monitoring and management is ongoing with this project.

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

The Authority maintained liaison with the Department of Defence and Port Authorities about their activities in/ or adjacent to the Marine Park. The Authority 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 major achievement was the finalisation of *Strategic Environmental Assessment of Defence Activities in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area*, which describes how planning and procedures will be implemented during Defence training exercises to ensure protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

Environmental management systems

The Authority is undertaking a substantive review of data base systems to improve access to the information required for permits compliance and management in the Marine Park. The aim is to automate a range of (currently) manual permit and compliance-related functions, 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 Authority 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 continued to be made available on the Authority'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, such as artificial reefs, Strategic Environmental Assessment systems, risk assessment case studies of a range of major projects and staff papers.

Related links:

- Environmental Impact Management:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/eim/index.html

Performance analysis

Commonwealth Islands

In 2005–06 the Authority formalised coordinated management arrangements for Commonwealth islands. It incorporated these management requirements into strategic, corporate and budget planning and appointed a programme coordinator.

A risk assessment exercise was undertaken for 70 islands owned by the Commonwealth of Australia that form part of the Marine Park. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority transferred 21 islands to the Authority in 2003. Most of the remaining 49 islands fall under the auspices of the Department of Defence.

The risk assessment identified priority infrastructure, leasing and permitting arrangements, which were subsequently addressed in the development of new lease and permits for tourism operators on Lady Elliott and Dent Islands, and a review of the existing research based lease on Low Isles.

Liaison with the Department of the Environment and Heritage, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and the Department of Defence was conducted to ensure best use of resources related to the management of Commonwealth Islands within the Marine Park.

A Commonwealth Islands Heritage Strategy was developed as part of the larger Authority Heritage Strategy. A scoping exercise was conducted to facilitate the development of Heritage Management Plans for Lady Elliott Island and Dent Island. An information database was also developed for the 21 Authority-owned islands.

Output 1.6 Information for Park Management

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

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
1.6.1 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 programme for Great Barrier Reef health and water quality established.	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
	Quantity	A network availability of over 98 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
		Level of community involvement in monitoring of new Zoning Plan.	Achieved
	Price	\$7.887m (including a \$1.9m contribution to the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area).	

Performance analysis

The Science Technology and Information Group's role is to coordinate the delivery of information needs throughout the Authority, 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 and Heritage's Knowledge Management Committee that 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 Authority while maintaining the expected high standard of service and usability. Two of the major focuses this year were the initial development of the Permits, Compliance and Management System and security upgrades. More information on the website is also outlined in Output 1.7 (Reef Education and Communication).

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

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

Effective information systems to meet Authority needs

A number of web-based and other databases have been developed to support internal administrative functions along with the functional specifications for the Permits, Compliance and Management System.

Effective accessible network and technical services

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

Library and Image Services

Meeting client needs was both the primary goal and primary achievement for Library and Image Services throughout the year. Significant progress was made towards further enhancement of

corporate knowledge management across the agency. The Authority's Knowledge Management Committee membership was broadened to ensure wide corporate input into knowledge-related decisions. The Library Manager continued in the role of Committee Chair, and also participated when required in other relevant Australian Government forums.

Develop the Library collection

New information requirements for the agency were identified during the establishment of the regional offices, and new and adapted services were established for each office. This has provided the regional offices with essential on-hand reference material, as well as expanded access to electronic resources. There is now a direct link between catalogue records and downloadable versions of documents, such as all Authority Research Publications and CRC Reef publications.

Reference services

Web-based services continued to be an important tool for information dissemination. Library and Image Services now use Wiki technology to further enhance corporate knowledge and information sharing. RefShare, has become the preferred tool for sharing large bibliographic databases. Several subject-specific bibliographies have been included in RefShare, strengthening the trend towards corporate knowledge and information sharing.

Image collection services

Major projects placed extremely heavy demands on Image Services, especially with the Authority's 30-year celebration activities. Staff produced products that formed an important part of the official ceremony. Images were used heavily in the development of many significant information products and communication tools throughout the year. The quality of the final products is a strong statement of the Image Collection's diversity and quality, as well as the technical expertise of Image Services staff.

Subject-specific databases

Demand for subject-specific databases increased throughout the year. The REEF bibliographic database material about the Great Barrier Reef region, is commercially available nationally and internationally. During 2006–07, it is planned to begin a project to link database records to full text publications from agencies such as the Authority, CRC Reef and Coastal CRC.

The Traditional Owner Resource Bibliography was released on to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Intranet during the year. It is hoped to make the Bibliography publicly available via the Internet during 2006–07.

Spatial Data Centre

The Spatial Data Centre continues to provide a high level of mapping and spatial request services to support effective management of the Marine Park. The level of support for Marine Park compliance increased this year with the services provided including the production of maps for external agencies such as the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority.

Two major undertakings of the Spatial Data Centre during 2005–06 were the updating of the

detailed Marine Park zoning map series and the development of a new series of boat ramp zoning signs. Over 150 unique signs were developed for boat ramps stretching along the entire coastline of the Marine Park. Both of these projects were 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.

A recent initiative of the Spatial Data Centre has been the development of highly detailed interpretive mapping products, using rectified aerial photography, for site-specific management arrangements. By using aerial photography in these products, map-users can easily pinpoint physical features such as land formations or reef edges in relation to management boundaries. The unit has also worked with the newly established Community Partnerships Group to produce a map series outlining administrative boundaries, such as local government areas and natural resource management boundaries, which are relevant to the operation of the new regional offices.

The Spatial Data Centre also continued to showcase its involvement with the Representative Areas Programme. Centre Manager Paul Tudman, presented a poster at the world's first Internal Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC1) last October on how the Authority used GIS and decision-support systems to rezone the Marine Park.

Research and Monitoring Coordination

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

Throughout 2005–06, the Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit provided scientific advice on a wide variety of issues. Of particular importance was social science support for developing systems and frameworks for monitoring and reporting social and economic data, to inform management decisions. Other initiatives included the development of an online system documenting the scientific information needs for management of the Marine Park, and relating those to the research activities taking place.

Monitoring for adaptive management

The Authority has initiated two major programmes to monitor the effectiveness of current major management initiatives. The information from these monitoring programmes will help refine and improve management of the Marine Park into the future through adaptive management.

The Unit has further progressed the scientific monitoring programme to track the environmental changes resulting from the rezoning of the Marine Park, with monitoring of coral reefs underway, and pilot programmes in place to assess effects on shoal country. A new research study is being initiated to assess the extent to which protected areas subsidise fish populations in open areas, by supplying larval fish.

The successful implementation of the Marine Monitoring Programme for the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* was reported to the Prime Minister and Queensland Premier in 2005. Reports on the monitoring progress are produced annually and are available from the Authority's website. The Authority engaged Access Economics to report on the economic values of the Great Barrier Reef, and Colmar Brunton Social Research to report community attitudes toward the Marine Park and its management. The Authority has also engaged coastal communities and Regional Natural Resource Management bodies in the implementation of the monitoring programme.

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 and Marine Monitoring Programmes, and through briefings to community groups and Local Marine Advisory Committees. These programmes 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 programmes 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

Most of the Authority's scientific information needs are met through outsourcing. The CRC Reef Research Centre has been the Authority's primary research provider until this, its final year. The Unit maintained extensive liaison with the Centre to ensure the research programme closely reflects the Authority's research needs. With the Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities due to commence in 2006–07, the Unit has been heavily involved in providing advice and support to the Department of the Environment and Heritage and to research providers in the development of the North Queensland Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility, and the transition of scientific research programmes from the CRC Reef Research Centre to the Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility. This process benefited significantly from having an up-to-date understanding of research information needs and activities, as outlined above.

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 programme 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

The Climate Change Response Programme has progressed the Authority's understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on the Marine Park, and the strategies that might mitigate these impacts. This has taken place in close collaboration with the Australian Greenhouse Office, the Pew Fellowship programme, and numerous research organisations.

The Unit's combined social and natural science expertise is being applied to ensure the social and

ecological dimensions of the climate change phenomenon are addressed in a coordinated manner in the development of a *Climate Change Action Plan for the Great Barrier Reef*. As a precursor to the Action Plan, work is well underway on the development of a vulnerability assessment on the threats from climate change to the Great Barrier Reef. The Unit also responded to the serious coral bleaching on the southern Great Barrier Reef this last summer, ensuring that the Australian Government and local communities had authoritative information on the extent and severity of this event.

Tropical cyclone Larry

In late March 2006, category five cyclone Larry crossed the north Queensland coast, causing extensive damage to communities between Cairns and Ingham. The Research and Monitoring Coordination Unit conducted a survey of damage to coral reefs immediately following cyclone Larry. This survey showed that damage to reefs overall was less extensive than the damage to terrestrial habitats. Generally, impacts on reefs to the south of the cyclone's track were most severe, including some damage to reef structure. Damage to coral populations was relatively minor, largely because coral populations had not yet recovered from damage by crown-of-thorns starfish in recent years.

Scientific support

The Unit also continues to provide substantial scientific support and advice to other groups within the Authority and the Department of the Environment and Heritage on major development assessments and permits, and topical issues such as coral bleaching, crown-of-thorns starfish, the economic values of the Great Barrier Reef, and community perceptions and views of the Great Barrier Reef and its management. The Unit has developed 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.

Disseminating research results

Over 2005–06, the *State of the Great Barrier Reef Report Online* was updated to provide 13 chapters online. The web-based report and related products continue to be highly successful. The Authority aims to ensure the *State of the Reef* website is the most up-to-date and authoritative description of the condition of the Great Barrier Reef. It is also used as an authoritative educational resource for schools and universities in Australia and overseas, and it is now linked to the ReefED website.

As well as the Marine Monitoring Programme reports and the continued expansion of the *State of the Reef Report*, staff in the Unit also contributed to numerous scientific publications and conference presentations. Throughout 2005–06, the Authority hosted 36 seminar presentations attended by some 930 people as part of the Authority's seminar series. This series disseminates the latest research information, in a user-friendly format, to researchers and managers in Townsville, Rockhampton, Mackay 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 Authority and the Reef HQ Aquarium.

Outcome		Outputs	Performance
Effective communication, education and marketing programmes.	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 Authority initiatives supported by an appropriate communications strategy.	Achieved
		25 per cent increase in Reef Guardian School programme participation.	Achieved
		New reef-related education modules developed.	Achieved
		Increased usage of the Authority and reef websites.	In progress
	Price	\$3.412m	
	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
	Quantity	10 per cent increase in visitor attendances.	In progress
		Increased community penetration of memberships	In progress
	Price	\$3.279m	
	TOTAL	\$6.691m	

Performance analysis

Communication and Education

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 and school.

This saw the Unit provide internal stakeholders with communication advice on media relations, advertising, events, publications and products, educational material, the 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.

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, and the Programme Delivery Group.

Relationship building with these and a range of other external stakeholders continued to be a major focus for the Unit. The Unit continued to supply free zoning maps and other information products to more than 200 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 Authority'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 2005–06 the focus was on educational elements linked to priority areas such as zoning compliance and water quality, with these featuring in-school curriculum units, Reef Guardian School projects and the educational side of the Reef HQ Aquarium.

The 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.

Regional shows

A high emphasis was again placed on getting out in the community, with staff from the Unit and others in the Authority participating in a range of boat and regional shows from the Gold Coast to Cairns. This face-to-face communication was an important aspect of community engagement and information-sharing, reaching thousands of people this year. A survey completed by visitors to the Authority's booth at regional shows will be used by the Unit to determine interest/understanding and ensure appropriate and targeted material is provided at future events and will be reported in the 2006–07 Annual Report.

Summary of main communication and education activities

Communication and education tool/tactic	Description	Quantity
Communication Strategies	Planning communication activities so appropriate tools and tactics are used to reach the target audience.	14 developed or revised: Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Group Commonwealth Islands Year of the Turtle Whale Watching Marine Monitoring Programme Climate Change Reef Water Quality Protection Plan Reef Guardian Councils Tourism and Recreation Reef Guardian Schools Reef HQ Aquarium Research and Monitoring Day-to-Day Management Coordination Unit
Identification and development of new products	Publications and products produced by the Organisation (communication collateral to support campaigns).	102 key products include zoning campaign billboards, flyers and posters; Reefhouse posters, stickers and comic book; report and brochure for Marine Monitoring Programme.
News releases	Media opportunities identified and releases generated to print, television and radio media. A comprehensive media-tracking system is now in place, which will enable comparisons of media activity in future reports.	45
SeaRead	The Authority's bi-monthly 12-page external newsletter.	Six editions in 2005-06 distributed to more than 3000 stakeholders.
Public inquiries	Requests for information received by the Public Information Unit	1140 zoning-related 2201 other
Revenue	Money generated from sales, royalties and copyright through the Public Information Unit.	\$6079.71 (total)
Number of Reef Guardian Schools	Number of schools participating in the programme.	162
Videoconferencing	Videoconferencing allows education staff to spread the message about the Marine Park to students across the nation and the world.	More than 2000 people (including domestic and international audiences) reached through this activity.

Table 5: Key Communication and Education activities

30-year anniversary

The Unit played a key role in organising a special event to celebrate the Authority's 30-year anniversary as reef managers and custodians. The Minister for the Environment and Heritage Senator Ian Campbell, joined 300 guests, including staff, to celebrate the milestone. Other special guests included the then Minister for Defence, Senator Robert Hill (Minister for the Environment and Heritage 1996–2001), The Hon. Dr David Kemp (Minister for the Environment and Heritage 2001–2004) and Member for Herbert, Peter Lindsay.

Zoning compliance: Don't be the catch of the day

This was the tagline to an advertising campaign and supporting products 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, news releases, SeaRead articles, information booths at regional shows, maps distributed through Community Access Points, updated signage and other targeted communication. Data from the DDMCU revealed that since the education programme began there was a 47 per cent decrease in the number of incidents and a 61 per cent decrease in the number of offenders/offences.

The Reef is closer than you think

Research from 2005 community surveys indicated that while over 80 per cent of people believed human activities impacted on the reef, less than 45 per cent believed what they did at home made a difference. This link between land-based activities and the quality of water in the Marine Park was the focus of a new animated television campaign and education material for school students. Known as 'Reef House', the campaign reminded the community of the catchment-to-reef connection by highlighting what goes down sinks and drains can enter waterways and end up in the Marine Park. The campaign encouraged people to be more environmentally-responsible at home, work and school to help protect the Marine Park. This included recycling, washing cars on the lawn, composting and avoiding plastic bags. The campaign was supported with billboards, posters, stickers and educational activities and resources. Creative concepts were focus-group-tested and evaluated, with a full evaluation of the campaign planned for September 2006.

Website

The Authority's website continued to rank at the top of major search engines' results with respect to the Great Barrier Reef and associated subjects. The most popular areas within the Authority site related to dugongs, biodiversity, and zoning. Since the employment of a Project Manager for web content in the last quarter, new initiatives included a web style guide, more in-depth reporting of web statistics and trends, and an overview of the whole site aimed at improving the quality of material, reducing duplication and increasing responsiveness. A new content management system was purchased and is due for commissioning in the first quarter of the next financial year. Structural planning, work-flow-design, training implementation and data-migration were all underway in the final quarter of 2005–06. For the 2005–06 financial year the Authority served over 4.5 million web pages to nearly 1 million unique visitors.

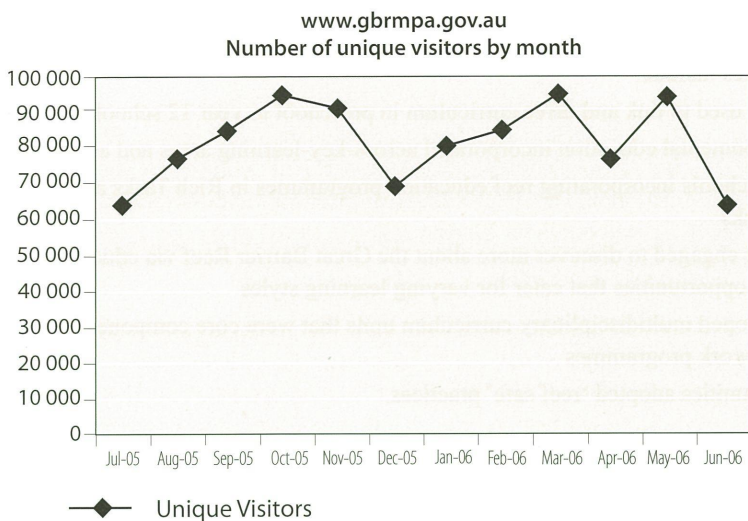


Figure 20: Number of unique visits by month to the Authority website (Source: the Authority)

Education

Reef Guardian Schools programme

The Reef Guardian Schools programme continued to enjoy enormous success. It is an action-based school participation programme related to current issues affecting the Great Barrier Reef, providing opportunities for students, teachers, parents, caregivers and friends to participate in a range of educationally beneficial initiatives. The programme also provided ways for schools to promote environmentally sustainable practices within local communities, whilst promoting a positive image of the school itself.

In the 2006 school year there were 162 registered Reef Guardian Schools and an additional eight Environmental Education Centres that have committed to facilitating Reef Guardian activities and supporting Reef Guardian Schools. The programme has been adapted to work with and within the complexity of the school systems, aiming to strengthen relationships in the process of encouraging behavioural change.

Statistics about schools within Reef Guardian Schools Programme:

- 85 per cent have adopted a whole school approach to the programme
- 78 per cent are actively managing water consumption
- 88 per cent have waste management projects in place within their school
- 81 per cent have active recycling programmes within their school
- 45 per cent are involved in habitat monitoring
- 99 per cent are involved in school and community clean-up days
- 90 per cent have implemented community-awareness-raising-programmes.

Outcomes from 2005–06 Reef Guardian Schools Programme

Educational outcomes include:

- The Reef was used to link and drive curriculum in preschool to year 12 school contexts
- Marine environmental education incorporated across-key-learning areas and across age-groups
- New Basics Schools incorporating reef education programmes in Rich Tasks and Teacher Generated Tasks
- Learners were engaged to discover more about the Great Barrier Reef via educational materials and opportunities that cater for varying learning styles
- Schools developed multidisciplinary curriculum units that were core components in their school-based work programmes
- School communities adopted ‘reef safe’ practices.

Environmental outcomes include:

- Outputs to the Reef have been reduced in schools, for example polluted stormwater, litter, green waste, plastics, cigarette butts
- Plastic bag use being minimised in schools and calico/environmentally friendly bags introduced
- Amount of cigarette butts entering waterways being reduced
- Schools reducing waste that normally would go to landfill
- Native birds returning to school grounds and gardens of surrounding homes due to on-ground revegetation projects
- Beach areas were cleaner – being audited and maintained by schools
- Water quality entering the Reef was improving as schools maintain drains, build litter traps and clean-up polluted areas
- Revegetation projects, learn-scapes and native gardens were being established by schools
- Coastal plants are being propagated and used for coastal revegetation activities
- Schools were reusing green waste and food waste in worm farming initiatives
- Habitat areas were being established for native animals
- Recycling programmes were integrated into schools’ daily activities
- School and community monitoring of waterways, groundwater, seagrass, and coral bleaching is being undertaken
- Wastewaters being reused as opposed to entering the Reef and coastal waters.

Social outcomes include:

- Environmental behavioural change was being achieved in Reef Guardian Schools and their communities
- Commitment to protect the Reef among schools and their communities was being achieved
- School and local community perceptions, attitudes and behaviours towards the Reef and the environment in general were changing

- Communities were being involved in Reef-friendly activities
- Cooperative approaches to the improvement of the Reef were being facilitated
- New families in the community were choosing Reef Guardian Schools due to the educational opportunities offered by the Programme
- The Programme has promoted student leadership, responsibility, presentation skills, self-esteem, relationship skills and entrepreneurial skills
- Media and community links raised the schools' profile.

Economic outcomes include:

- Schools saved money through reduced resource usage, for example reduced electricity and water use
- Schools nominated for and received money from grants, awards and in-kind contributions
- Fundraising from calico bag incentive was used to develop and further enhance environmental education activities
- Schools sold produce that has been grown in school permaculture gardens at local markets to fund further environmental education projects.

Reef ED website

The Reef ED website (www.reefed.edu.au) continued to provide students and teachers with a comprehensive portal to reef education programmes and products. The site expanded during the 2005–06 year to include links to industry training courses such as the Bareboat Accreditation Course and the Reef Discovery Course, formally known as the Tourism Staff Certificate Course. Visitation to the Reef ED website site increased, with the site receiving 239 012 unique visits during 2005–06 with these visitors accessing 943 452 pages of reef education materials. During the 2005–06 year the Reef ED website was visited by people from 192 countries.

Reef Education Products

Under the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetlands Protection Programme, the Authority worked in partnership with the Department of the Environment and Heritage and Queensland Environment Protection Agency to develop a range of different education products to highlight the values of wetlands and their importance in maintaining the Reef's health. These products included:

The Wetlands Exhibit at Reef HQ Aquarium which aimed to develop a fuller appreciation for the important role that coastal wetlands played in sustaining the ecological balance of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, encouraged people to think about their impacts on water quality within their catchments and initiate behavioural changes within them. The wetlands exhibit was a partnership by the Authority and the Department of the Environment and Heritage, with other major sponsorship contributions from Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment. The partnership with Regional NRM bodies meant the exhibit, and its positive message, is linked back into the local communities within the Great Barrier Reef Catchment. Interpretive signage that complements the exhibit explained the importance of wetlands for protecting the Reef, while showcasing some of the significant wetlands in each NRM region, as nominated by NRM bodies.

The Wetlands Information Kiosks provided an innovative and interactive touch screen experience

to help enhance knowledge and understanding, and engender a stewardship of wetlands among the wider community. The kiosks provided information, interpretive material and interactive learning activities, which could be operated using the touch-screen-enabled-computer kiosks. The kiosks also showcased significant wetland areas within the Great Barrier Reef catchment. The kiosk software also tracked the use of the product and its effectiveness in communicating key messages.

The primary school teaching unit 'Exploring Wetlands' was specifically targeted at middle to upper primary-aged students. The unit was curriculum-focused and addressed outcomes specified by the Queensland Studies Authority in the Key Learning Areas of Science and Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE). The unit aimed to engage students through activities encompassing a variety of appropriate teaching and learning strategies.

The Exploring Wetlands – Web Quest was an inquiry-oriented activity in which some or all of the information that participants interact with comes from resources on the Internet. The Web Quest is located on the Reef ED website www.reefed.edu.au. The Web Quest encouraged students to investigate wetlands as enormously valuable habitats that were worth understanding and conserving. While the primary focus was students within the formal education sector, learners of all ages who participated in the Web Quest developed an understanding about wetland habitats, food chains and the effect of human activity on wetland areas. The interactive functionality of the Web Quest allowed participants to experience a simulated visit to a wetland and test its water quality at different locations, using some virtual scientific equipment.

Reef Beat – Wetlands was an educational resource comprising 10 full-colour posters and a support booklet of associated educational activities that enabled teachers and students to learn more about wetlands and the Great Barrier Reef. The aim of this resource was to help teachers and students understand the nature of wetlands in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment and the management of human impacts. The resource also aimed to increase awareness about the importance of good water quality and wetland care and the effects of declining water quality on the Great Barrier Reef.

Reef HQ

The Reef HQ Aquarium is the national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef and plays a key role in educating and raising public awareness about the Marine Park. It includes interpretive displays and interactive exhibits that aim to present an accurate and inspiring snapshot of the unique marine environment. The Aquarium has eco-certification from Ecotourism Australia, which means the centre is committed to best practice ecological sustainability, natural area management and the provision of quality ecotourism experiences.

Revenue trends and visitor numbers

While Reef HQ got off to a slow start to the financial year, as far as revenue was concerned, the second half of the year was strong.

Reef HQ hosted 109 763 visitors in 2005–06, up from the previous year but just short of an ambitious visitor target of 120 000.

Feedback

Reef HQ operated a variety of feedback mechanisms including suggestion slips, a visitor book and six-monthly visitor surveys.

Criteria	January 2006	June 2006
Improved understanding of the Great Barrier Reef	94%	85%
Satisfaction rating	91%	94%
Per cent of new visitors	61%	71%
Revisit period	45 months	33 months
Per cent of families	66	67
Per cent of members	20	12

The results confirmed Reef HQ's effectiveness as a means of conveying key issues about the Great Barrier Reef and acting as an important agent in the shaping of community attitudes. The very high satisfaction ratings consistently recorded emphasise that Reef HQ combines a valued and engaging experience with education and communication.

Volunteers

Volunteers are a vitally important element in almost all of Reef HQ's operations. This year 159 volunteers were active (146 adults and 13 students). As part of the annual intake 42 new volunteers were recruited and trained in Reef HQ's operations, customer service and marine biology. Volunteers contributed 16 600 hours of voluntary service this year. In November 2005, they celebrated a collective milestone of 250 000 hours of voluntary service.

Membership

Membership numbers continue to strengthen. There are 10 506 individual members of Reef HQ, on 3198 actual memberships.

Reef HQ Aquarium Education

Reef HQ's education programmes 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 programmes provided 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
- Understand why protecting the future of the Great Barrier Reef is important
- Understanding what they can do to protect the Reef.

During 2005–06 reef education programmes reached 7590 students. This number is slightly down on the 2004–05 figure and has been attributed to a decrease in the middle school international market from the United States of America.

Reef Videoconferencing

Students of all ages from around Australia and the world were able to experience the Reef with Reef Videoconferencing. During their underwater fact-finding mission, classrooms were transported to the Coral Reef and Predator Exhibits at Reef HQ Aquarium. State-of-the-art videoconferencing technology unlocked unique teaching and learning experiences, including information delivered live by a SCUBA diver. Reef Videoconferences are supported by comprehensive teaching materials, educating 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 Videoconferences are very different from other multimedia resources, such as video recordings or television presentations, because they are interactive educational experiences specifically tailored to suit each individual audience group.

The facilitation of Reef Videoconferences both nationally and internationally continues to grow with an 18 per cent increase in the number of schools receiving reef education via this medium. During 2005–06 reef education programmes were facilitated to 2270 students nationally and internationally using Reef Videoconferencing technology.

Community Partnership Group

The objective of the Community Partnerships Group is to help enhance management decisions, compliance and stewardship through embedding a culture of effective, best-practice community engagement across the Authority. On 11 March 2005 the Minister for the Environment and Heritage announced the Authority’s regional offices would be established to “enhance local involvement in decision making and to ensure everyone gets the chance to have their views heard”.

Through the Representative Areas Programme and the resultant rezoning, it was recognised the Authority learned a lot about the people and places that make up the Marine Park. These new regional offices aim to help consolidate and build on this local knowledge and understanding. The regional offices also assist in working more closely with agencies such as Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and other Queensland Government agencies. The Authority Chairman Hon. Virginia Chadwick, AO stated that “perhaps it seems obvious but the better we know and understand the Park and its communities socially, economically and ecologically the better our management responses are likely to be”.

Outcome	Strategic 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.	Achieved
	2. Ensure effective information flows between regional offices and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.	Achieved
	3. Ensure effective functioning of Local Marine Advisory Committees.	Achieved
	4. Ensure adequate skills and support for staff involvement in effective and coordinated community engagement.	In progress
	5. Effective and coordinated issues identification and elevation both internally and externally.	In progress

Performance analysis

In 2005–06, three regional offices were established to better service the communities in the five regions adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef:

- **Cape York Region:** from Cooktown through to the northern tip of Cape York and based in the Cairns office with 1.5 full-time staff
- **Far Northern Region:** from the Daintree to Mission Beach and based in the Cairns office with 1.5 full-time staff
- **Northern Region:** from Hinchinbrook to the Burdekin and based in the Townsville head office four full-time staff (including the group Director and support staff)
- **Central Region:** from Bowen to St Lawrence and based in the Mackay office with two full-time staff
- **Southern Region:** from Marlborough to Bundaberg and based in the Rockhampton office with two full-time staff.

The group helped build better and, in many cases, new information flows between communities and the Authority. The focus during 2005–06 was educating the community on and encouraging their compliance with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003, which came into effect in July 2004.

Key activities during 2005–06 were:

- Developing a Strategic Plan, budget, position descriptions and staff performance plans for the new Community Partnership Group
- Establishing the physical regional offices and support structures in Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton
- Recruiting and training of 11 regional liaison staff, in both the regions and head office in Townsville

- Developing and implementing guidelines and protocols for the operation of the regional offices
- Developing and implementing a number of community information and knowledge-sharing systems for the Authority
- 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 Authority issues in the community and improving consideration of community issues in Authority decision-making
- Improving issue management through early identification of locally relevant issues and appropriate elevation and addressing of issues before they escalate
- Managing an independent assessment of the Local Marine Advisory Committee processes
- Preparing improved guidelines for Local Marine Advisory Committees based on the independent assessment
- Establishing 11 new Local Marine Advisory Committees under the improved guidelines as the previous three-year term of the Committees had come to a conclusion
- Coordinating the new 11 Local Marine Advisory Committees and their activities.

Corporate Services

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

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

During 2005–06, Corporate Services' major achievements included:

- Provision of monthly budgeting and reporting to the Department of Finance and Administration and to the Department of the Environment and Heritage
- Ensured staff have an understanding of the Authority, corporate policy, systems and procedures by conducting staff inductions that include human resources, finance and office services
- Development of a *Business Continuity Plan*
- Conclusion of negotiations regarding a new Certified Agreement with staff to come into effect from 2 July 2006
- Training staff in revised Authority Procurement Guidelines in accordance with government policy
- Increased staff capabilities through the provision of levels of training in leadership, performance management, workplace diversity, occupational health and safety and other key Australian Public Service subject areas
- Continued to enhance the Environmental Management Charge compliance framework
- Providing high quality Secretariat services to the Authority and its committee structures.

Environmental Management Charge

The Authority collected a total Environmental Management Charge (EMC) of \$7.3 million in 2005–06. Revenue from the EMC provides funding for research, reef user education and management of the Marine Park. A compliance framework is in place and has been discussed with the Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee. An important element of the compliance framework is to communicate to clients their statutory obligations under the legislation. This is necessary because of the high turnover of staff in the tourism industry.

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

The EMC receipting database was changed to an oracle platform to conform to the Authority's Information Technology Policy. The database will be able to perform all the necessary functions to administer the EMC requirements.

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

Accommodation

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

Small regional offices were established in Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton. Ministerial and Parliamentary Liaison Unit staff occupy an office within the Department of Environment and Heritage offices in Canberra.

Resource management

The majority of positions within the Authority were staffed on a continuing basis (See Appendix D for details of staffing as at 30 June 2006). The output groups developed for the Portfolio Budget Statements remain relevant and provide a sound focus for the Authority's activities.

The major organisational change during the year was in relation to the establishment of the Community Partnerships Group. The Group is now fully operational with offices established in Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton.

Learning and Development

The Authority spent \$245 304 on learning and development opportunities for employees during 2005–06, including conference attendance. This covered a wide range of activities with a focus on leadership/management development, consultation and facilitation skills, project management, information technology, occupational health and safety, and technical/professional skills. Conference attendance and study assistance were predominately used to develop and maintain technical/professional expertise. In addition, a substantial amount of 'on-the-job' training and coaching took place.

Workplace Relations

The Authority values its employee's contributions and is committed to consulting employees about workplace matters that affect them and considering their views in making decisions wherever reasonably possible. The Authority Consultative Group is the peak formal consultative mechanism between management and employees.

During 2005–06 the Authority Consultative Group was the vehicle for negotiation of the Authority Workplace Agreement 2006–09. The agreement contains adjustments to remuneration and conditions that are tailored to meet the Authority's specific operations and circumstances.

The main features of the agreement are:

- It is an employee collective agreement covering 189 employees
- It is a three-year agreement reducing agreement making costs
- Further tailoring of conditions to tie remuneration to performance
- Expansion of work/life balance conditions to enhance attraction, retention and productivity
- A commitment to a range of productivity improvements.

All Senior Executive Level employees have Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs). Consistent with the Government's workplace relations policies and policy parameters for agreement making in the Australian Public Service, the Authority may enter into AWAs with employees. As at 30 June 2006 the Authority had two Senior Executive Level employees on AWA's and two Executive Level employees on AWA's.

Performance pay is made available through AWA's. During 2005–06, four Authority employees were eligible to receive performance pay of which all four employees received performance pay. The aggregate bonus payment for the agency as a whole was \$42 122 and the average payment was \$10 530.

SECTION D

Financial Statements





Financial Statements



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for Environment and Heritage

Scope

The financial statements and members' responsibility

The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by Members and Chief Executive;
- Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Statement of Cash Flows;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Schedules of Commitments and Contingencies; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2006.

The members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are responsible for preparing the financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and that comply with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. Accounting Standards and mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia. The members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are also responsible for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

Audit Approach

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

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

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

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

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

Independence

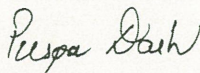
In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the ethical requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Audit Opinion

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

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's financial position as at 30 June 2006 and of its performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with:
 - (i) the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders; and
 - (ii) applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia.

Australian National Audit Office



Puspita Dash
Acting Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor General

Canberra
25 September 2006

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2006 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 *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

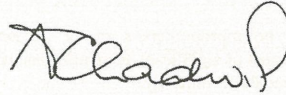
In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Authority will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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



Fay Barker
Member

22 SEP 2006



Virginia Chadwick
Chief Executive Officer

22 SEP 2006

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
INCOME STATEMENT
for the year ended 30 June 2006

	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$
INCOME			
<i>Revenue</i>			
Revenues from Government	4A	22,715,639	23,975,266
Goods and services	4B	2,284,873	2,152,136
Interest	4D	510,325	424,665
Project revenues	4E	7,147,823	6,371,753
Other	4F	844,086	758,815
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	7(b)	<u>4,973,000</u>	<u>4,827,000</u>
Total revenue		<u>38,475,746</u>	<u>38,509,635</u>
<i>Gains</i>			
Net gains from sale of assets	4G	<u>1,217</u>	<u>-</u>
Total gains		<u>1,217</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL INCOME		<u>38,476,963</u>	<u>38,509,635</u>
EXPENSES			
Employees	5A	14,759,345	13,511,033
Suppliers	5B	13,976,799	13,631,972
Depreciation and amortisation	5C	1,132,988	992,450
Write-down and impairment of assets	5D	176	555
Net loss on sale of assets	4G	-	9,961
Cost of goods sold	4C	197,551	201,904
Grants	6	85,461	86,500
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	7(d)	<u>8,427,009</u>	<u>8,735,617</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>38,579,329</u>	<u>37,169,992</u>
OPERATING RESULT		<u>(102,366)</u>	<u>1,339,643</u>

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
BALANCE SHEET
as at 30 June 2006

	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	8A	7,532,108	6,773,782
Receivables	8B	3,082,891	3,045,440
Investments under s18 of the CAC Act	8C	16,700	16,700
<i>Total financial assets</i>		<u>10,631,699</u>	<u>9,835,922</u>
Non-financial assets			
Land, buildings and leasehold improvements	9A, D	12,709,244	12,892,825
Plant and equipment	9B, D	2,148,461	1,932,671
Intangibles	9C, D	301,332	310,273
Inventories	9E	84,303	62,468
Other non-financial assets	9F	152,461	107,898
<i>Total non-financial assets</i>		<u>15,395,801</u>	<u>15,306,135</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>26,027,500</u></u>	<u><u>25,142,057</u></u>
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	10A	1,200,019	897,592
Other payables	10B	4,768,196	4,596,382
<i>Total payables</i>		<u>5,968,215</u>	<u>5,493,974</u>
Provisions			
Employee provisions	11A	3,688,069	3,252,194
Other provisions	11B	90,000	-
<i>Total provisions</i>		<u>3,778,069</u>	<u>3,252,194</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u><u>9,746,284</u></u>	<u><u>8,746,168</u></u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>16,281,216</u></u>	<u><u>16,395,889</u></u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		4,204,004	4,204,004
Reserves		15,898,613	15,910,920
Accumulated deficits		(3,821,401)	(3,719,035)
TOTAL EQUITY		<u><u>16,281,216</u></u>	<u><u>16,395,889</u></u>
Current assets		10,868,463	10,006,288
Non-current assets		15,159,037	15,135,769
Current liabilities		9,202,846	8,329,570
Non-current liabilities		543,438	416,598

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

**GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

for the year ended 30 June 2006

	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations		22,944,000	23,794,000
Permit assessment fees		439,985	374,129
Interest		478,210	446,636
Reef HQ admission fees		1,315,289	1,258,673
Net GST received from Australian Taxation Office		234,816	473,003
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management		4,798,000	4,712,000
Environmental management charge		7,287,165	7,594,368
Other receipts		8,356,876	10,342,089
Total cash received		<u>45,854,341</u>	<u>48,994,898</u>
Cash used			
Grants		85,461	86,500
Employees		14,323,470	13,218,939
Suppliers		13,916,798	15,505,091
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management		8,427,009	8,735,617
Refunds of Environmental management charge		15,526	13,102
Environmental management charge payments to Commonwealth		7,500,000	7,400,000
Total cash used		<u>44,268,264</u>	<u>44,959,249</u>
Net cash from / (used by) operating activities	12	<u>1,586,077</u>	<u>4,035,649</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		30,958	18,171
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		858,709	656,222
Net cash from / (used by) investing activities		<u>(827,751)</u>	<u>(638,051)</u>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held			
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		6,773,782	3,376,184
Cash at the end of the reporting period	8A	<u>7,532,108</u>	<u>6,773,782</u>

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 year ended 30 June 2006

	Accumulated Results		Asset Revaluation Reserve		Special Purpose Reserves		Other Reserves		Contributed Equity		Total Equity	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening Balance	(3,719,035)	(5,058,678)	7,334,877	5,484,426	200,000	200,000	8,376,043	8,376,043	4,204,004	4,204,004	16,395,889	13,205,795
Adjustment for errors												
Adjusted Opening Balance	(3,719,035)	(5,058,678)	7,334,877	5,484,426	200,000	200,000	8,376,043	8,376,043	4,204,004	4,204,004	16,395,889	13,205,795
Income and Expense	-	-	(12,307)	1,850,451	-	-	-	-	-	-	(12,307)	1,850,451
Revaluation adjustment	-	-	(12,307)	1,850,451	-	-	-	-	-	-	(12,307)	1,850,451
Subtotal income and expenses recognised directly in equity	(102,366)	1,339,643	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(102,366)	1,339,643
Net Operating Result	(102,366)	1,339,643	(12,307)	1,850,451	-	-	-	-	-	-	(114,673)	3,190,094
Total income and expenses	(3,821,401)	(3,719,035)	7,322,570	7,334,877	200,000	200,000	8,376,043	8,376,043	4,204,004	4,204,004	16,281,216	16,395,889
Closing balance at 30 June												

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 2006

	2006	2005
By Type	\$	\$
Capital commitments		
Plant and equipment ¹	50,031	101,392
Total capital commitments	<u>50,031</u>	<u>101,392</u>
Other commitments		
Operating leases ²	1,908,338	2,268,145
Other commitments ³	2,019,040	5,924,892
Total other commitments	<u>3,927,378</u>	<u>8,193,037</u>
Commitments receivable	(361,583)	(542,675)
Net commitments by Type	<u><u>3,615,826</u></u>	<u><u>7,751,754</u></u>
By Maturity		
Capital commitments		
One year or less	50,031	101,392
Total capital commitments	<u>50,031</u>	<u>101,392</u>
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	826,992	844,854
From one to five years	1,081,346	1,423,291
Total operating lease commitments	<u>1,908,338</u>	<u>2,268,145</u>
Other commitments		
One year or less	1,942,040	5,814,892
From one to five years	77,000	110,000
Total other commitments	<u>2,019,040</u>	<u>5,924,892</u>
Commitments receivable	(361,583)	(542,675)
Net commitments by Maturity	<u><u>3,615,826</u></u>	<u><u>7,751,754</u></u>

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS

as at 30 June 2006

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 2005-06. The term of the first option for renewal of 3 years has been exercised. The term of the second option for renewal is 3 years.
Leases for office equipment	Lease payments are paid monthly
Lease for motor vehicles	Leases are for a period of 24 months or 30,000 kilometres; 24 months or 40,000 kilometres; 24 months or 50,000 kilometres; 36 months or 75,000 kilometres; 36 months or 90,000 kilometres; No contingent rentals exist

3. As at 30 June 2006, other commitments comprise amounts to be paid under contracts for consultancy services and purchase orders for other services and supplies.

Commitments to the Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef) are included above and are disclosed at Note 18.

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

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES
as at 30 June 2006

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
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
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

Note	Description
1	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
2	The impact of the transition to AEIFRS from previous AGAAP
3	Events after the Balance Sheet Date
4	Income
5	Goods and Services
6	Grants
7	Day-to-day Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
8	Financial Assets
9	Non-Financial Assets
10	Payables
11	Provisions
12	Cash Flow Reconciliation
13	Remuneration of Members
14	Related Party Disclosures
15	Remuneration of Executives
16	Remuneration of Auditors
17	Average Staffing Levels
18	Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
19	Cash Bonds
20	Financial Instruments
21	Appropriations
22	Reporting of Outcomes
23	Financial Statements: Day-to-day Management

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Accounting

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

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

The statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (or FMOs, being the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Orders (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 01 July 2005)*);
- Australian Accounting Standards issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period; and
- Interpretations issued by the AASB and Urgent Issues Group that apply for the reporting period.

This is the first financial report to be prepared under Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS). The impacts of adopting AEIFRS are disclosed in Note 2.

The Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Statement of Changes in Equity have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities, which as noted, are at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and values are in whole dollars unless disclosure of rounded amount is specifically required.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, assets and liabilities are recognised in the Balance Sheet when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are not recognised unless required by an Accounting Standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments and the Schedule of Contingencies.

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

1.2 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

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

1.3 Statement of Compliance

The financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS).

Australian Accounting Standards require the Authority to disclose Australian Accounting Standards that have not been applied, for standards that have been issued but are not yet effective.

The AASB has issued amendments to existing standards, these amendments are denoted by year and then number, for example 2005-1 indicates amendment 1 issued in 2005.

The table below illustrates standards and amendments that will become effective for the Authority in the future. The nature of the impending change within the table, has been out of necessity abbreviated and users should consult the full version available on the AASB's website to identify the full impact of the change. The expected impact on the financial report of adoption of these standards is based on the Authority's initial assessment at this date, but may change. The Authority intends to adopt all of the standards upon their application date.

Title	Standard affected	Application date*	Nature of impending change	Impact expected on financial report
2005-1	AASB 139	1 Jan 2006	Amends hedging requirements for foreign currency risk of a highly probable intra-group transaction.	No expected impact
2005-4	AASB 139, AASB 132, AASB 1, AASB 1023 and AASB 1038	1 Jan 2006	Amends AASB 139, AASB 1023 and AASB 1038 to restrict the option to fair value through profit or loss and makes consequential amendments to AASB 1 and AASB 132.	No expected impact
2005-05	AASB 1 and AASB 139	1 Jan 2006	Amends AASB 1 to allow an entity to determine whether an arrangement is, or contain, a lease.	No expected impact

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

Title	Standard affected	Application date*	Nature of impending change	Impact expected on financial report
			Amends AASB 139 to scope out a contractual right to receive reimbursement (in accordance with AASB 137) in the form of cash	
2005-6	AASB 3	1 Jan 2006	Amends the scope to exclude business combinations involving entities or businesses under common control.	No expected impact
2205-9	AASB 4, AASB 1023, AASB 139 and AASB 132	1 Jan 2006	Amended standards in regards to financial guarantee contracts.	No expected impact
2005-10	AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 and AASB 1038	1 Jan 2007	Amended requirements subsequent to the issuing of AASB 7.	No expected impact
2006-1	AASB 121	31 Dec 2006	Changes in requirements for net investments in foreign subsidiaries depending on denominated currency.	No expected impact
	AASB 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures	1 Jan 2007	Revise the disclosure requirements for financial instruments from AASB 132 requirements.	No expected impact

* Application date is for annual reporting periods beginning on or after the date shown

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

1.4 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 entity.

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

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

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

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Provisions are made when the collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139.

Revenues from Government – Appropriations

Amounts appropriated for Departmental outputs appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as revenue, 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.

Environmental management charge (EMC) special appropriations revenue is recognised when the Authority has the right to receive the revenue and it can be reliably measured. This is deemed to occur when monies are received by the Authority from tourist operators. Refer to note 4A.

1.5 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.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

Restructuring of Administrative Arrangements

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

Other distributions to owners

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

1.6 Employee Benefits

As required by the FMOs, the Authority has early adopted AASB 119 Employee Benefits as issued in December 2004.

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 as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Leave

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

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

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of an actuary as at 30 June 2006. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

Superannuation

Staff of the Authority 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 Commonwealth. 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.

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

From 1 July 2005, new employees are eligible to join the PSSap scheme.

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

1.7 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and 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 Authority 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.

1.8 Cash

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

1.9 Financial Risk Management

The Authority's activities expose it to normal commercial financial risk. As a result of the nature of the Authority's business and internal and Australian Government policies, dealing with the management of financial risk, the Authority's exposure to market, credit, liquidity and cash flow and fair value interest rate risk is considered to be low.

1.10 Investments

Investments are measured at their fair value.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

1.11 Derecognition of Financial Assets and Liabilities

As prescribed in the FMOs, the Authority has applied the option available under AASB 1 of adopting AASB 132 and 139 from 1 July 2005 rather than 1 July 2004.

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire or the asset is transferred to another entity. In the case of a transfer to another entity, it is necessary that the risks and rewards of ownership are also transferred.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the obligation under the contract is discharged or cancelled or expires.

For the comparative year, financial assets were derecognised when the contractual right to receive cash no longer existed. Financial liabilities were derecognised when the contractual obligation to pay cash no longer existed.

1.12 Impairment of Financial Assets

As prescribed in the FMOs, the Authority has applied the option available under AASB 1 of adopting AASB 132 and 139 from 1 July 2005 rather than 1 July 2004.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at each balance date.

Comparative Year

Receivables were recognised and carried at original invoice amount less a provision for doubtful debts based on an estimate made when collection of the full amount was no longer probable. Bad debts were written off as incurred.

1.13 Trade Creditors

Trade creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amounts at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

1.14 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent Liabilities and Assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but are discussed in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset, or represent an existing liability or asset in respect of which settlement is not probable or the amount cannot be reliably measured. Remote contingencies are part of this disclosure. Where settlement becomes probable, a liability or asset recognised. A liability or asset is recognised when its existence is confirmed by a future event, settlement becomes probable (virtually certain for assets) or reliable measurement becomes possible.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

1.15 Acquisition of Assets

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

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

1.16 Property, Plant and Equipment (PP&E)

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 'makegood' provisions in property leases taken up by the Authority where there exists an obligation to restore the property to its original condition. These costs are included in the value of the Authority's leasehold improvements with a corresponding provision for the 'makegood' taken up.

Reef HQ

The Reef HQ building was funded as a Commonwealth-State Bicentennial project, through the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Association Incorporated. The building was sub-leased by the Authority from the Association for a period of 75 years, the end date for the lease being in the year 2061. Following the winding up of the Association in September 2001 that lease arrangement is now between the Authority and the Townsville Port Authority. Under the terms of the arrangement the Authority is responsible for the maintenance of the building as necessary and for all expenses and revenue in relation to its operation.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

Revaluations

Basis

Land, buildings, plant and equipment are carried at fair value being revalued with sufficient frequency such that the carrying amount of each asset class is not materially different, as at reporting date, from its fair value. The regularity of independent revaluations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets. Valuations undertaken in each year are as at 30 June. Valuations in any other year are made by the members.

All valuations have been made by members at fair value with independent advice sought for some items in each class. The latest formal fair value valuations were at 30 June 2005 for leasehold improvements and 30 June 2004 for all other assets.

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

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

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 the Income Statement. Revaluations decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly through the Income Statement 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 Authority using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation. Leasehold improvements are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the lesser of the estimated useful life of the improvements or the unexpired period of the lease.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), 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.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

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

	2006	2005
Buildings	50 years	50 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Lighthouse properties	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and equipment	1 to 20 years	3 to 20 years

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 5C.

Impairment

All property, plant and equipment were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2006. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

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

No indicators of impairment were found for property, plant and equipment held at fair value.

1.17 Intangibles

The Authority'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 Authority's software is 3 to 8 years (2004-05: 3 to 8 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2006.

1.18 Lighthouse properties

The Authority has assumed responsibility for a number of lighthouse properties in the past.

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

1.19 Inventories

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

1.20 Taxation

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

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST:

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

1.21 Comparative Figures

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

1.22 Insurance

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

1.23 Advances for day-to-day management

Except for expenditure on fixtures upon land owned by or under the direct control of the Commonwealth or the Authority, payments to the Queensland Department of the Environmental Protection Agency for day-to-day management are fully expensed in the year of payment (refer to note 7 for details of the day-to-day management items).

2 The impact of the transition to AEIFRS from previous AGAAP

There were no AEIFRS impact on the Authority's Financial Statements.

3 Events after the Balance Sheet Date

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

4 Income

<u>Revenues</u>	2006 \$	2005 \$
<u>4A Revenues from Government</u>		
Appropriations:		
Operational	10,646,000	11,682,000
Special appropriations	7,271,639	7,581,266
Commonwealth contribution to day-to-day management: refer Note 7 (b)	4,798,000	4,712,000
Total revenues from Government	<u>22,715,639</u>	<u>23,975,266</u>
<u>4B Reef HQ revenues</u>		
Admission fees	1,315,289	1,258,673
Donations and sponsorship	14,771	21,470
Membership program	159,128	122,163
Shop sales	405,222	385,561
Other revenue	390,463	364,269
Total Reef HQ revenues	<u>2,284,873</u>	<u>2,152,136</u>
<u>4C Reef HQ shop trading results</u>		
Shop sales	405,222	385,561
Less: Cost of goods sold		
Opening stock	59,317	69,072
Plus: Purchases	216,212	192,149
Less: Closing stock	(77,978)	(59,317)
Cost of goods sold	<u>197,551</u>	<u>201,904</u>
Gross profit from trading	<u>207,671</u>	<u>183,657</u>
<u>4D Interest</u>		
Interest on deposits	510,325	424,665
Total interest revenue	<u>510,325</u>	<u>424,665</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
4E Project revenues		
Project revenue from related entities	7,022,235	6,358,937
Project revenue from external entities	125,588	12,816
Total project revenues	<u>7,147,823</u>	<u>6,371,753</u>
4F Other revenues		
Other revenue - from external entities		
- Sale of the authorities education and information material	3,894	7,082
- Permit assessment fees	439,985	374,129
- Cost recovery	151,544	54,519
- Other	248,663	323,085
Total other revenues	<u>844,086</u>	<u>758,815</u>
Gains		
4G Net Gain / (Loss) from Sale of Assets		
Plant and equipment		
Proceeds from disposal	30,958	18,171
Net book value of assets disposed	29,741	28,132
Net gain / (loss) from disposal of plant and equipment	<u>1,217</u>	<u>(9,961)</u>
5 Goods and Services		
5A Employee Expenses		
Wages and salaries	11,547,690	10,327,397
Superannuation	1,786,317	1,632,744
Leave and other entitlements	1,377,323	1,399,902
Separation and redundancy	-	78,547
Other employee benefits	48,015	72,443
Total employee expenses	<u>14,759,345</u>	<u>13,511,033</u>

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<u>5B Suppliers</u>	2006	2005
	\$	\$
Provision of goods - external entities	1,469,970	1,690,835
Rendering of services - related entities	1,061,443	738,831
Rendering of services - external entities	10,637,827	10,435,939
Operating lease rentals*	741,215	700,851
Workers' compensation premiums	66,344	65,516
Total supplier expenses	<u>13,976,799</u>	<u>13,631,972</u>

* These comprise minimum lease payments only

5C Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation

Buildings and leasehold improvements	648,908	624,614
Plant and equipment	<u>399,196</u>	<u>293,977</u>
Total depreciation	1,048,104	918,591

Amortisation

Intangibles - Computer software	84,884	73,859
Total depreciation and amortisation	<u>1,132,988</u>	<u>992,450</u>

5D Write-down and impairment of assets

Bad and doubtful debts expense	176	555
Total write-down and impairment of assets	<u>176</u>	<u>555</u>

6 Grants

Augmentative research grants	6,461	-
Other grants	79,000	86,500
Total Grants	<u>85,461</u>	<u>86,500</u>

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

- (a) Principles agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments relating to the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park provide for:
- The Queensland Department of Environment, now known as the Environmental Agency (EPA) to carry out the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, subject to the instructions from the Authority in accordance with intergovernmental agreements;

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- The Commonwealth to fund 100% of an initial capital works program required to establish management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park on a sound basis; other capital costs (ie, the post-initial program) of day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to be shared equally between the two Governments;
- The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments to meet in equal shares the recurrent costs for the day-to-day management in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (which may include Queensland national parks or Queensland marine parks, the use or management of which would or might affect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park);
- Moveable property funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used and administered by Queensland; proceeds from the sale of any such moveable property are paid into the day-to-day management account to offset Commonwealth/Queensland contributions on a 50:50 basis;
- Fixed assets funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used by Queensland and administered by the Government (or the Authority) which owns or controls the land on which the fixture is located;
- Expenditure on day-to-day management to be in accordance with an annually agreed programme; and
- The Authority to administer funds provided by the Commonwealth and Queensland for these purposes.

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

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
Queensland Government contribution Refer Note 7(c) below	4,973,000	4,827,000
Commonwealth Government appropriation Recurrent and post-initial capital programs Refer: Note 4 (a)	4,798,000	4,712,000
Other revenue from permit assessment fees.	81,946	76,571
	<u>9,852,946</u>	<u>9,615,571</u>

- (c) In 2004-05 an amount of \$175,000 was reported as 'Revenue received in advance' from the the Queensland Government, in 2005-06 no amount was recorded as 'Revenue received in advance'.
- (d) Payments to the Queensland Government for day-to-day management for 2005-06 totalled \$8,427,009 (2004-05 \$8,735,617).
- (e) Financial Statements for day-to-day management which have been prepared by the EPA and audited by the Queensland Auditor-General are at Note 23.

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8 Financial Assets	2006 \$	2005 \$
<u>8A Cash and cash equivalents</u>		
Day-to-day management account	304,528	329,213
Cash on hand	11,660	16,994
Authority operations accounts	7,215,920	6,427,575
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>7,532,108</u>	<u>6,773,782</u>

8B Receivables

Goods and services - external entities	112,899	144,793
Goods and services - related entities	44,113	-
Less: Allowance for doubtful debts	(1,170)	(2,500)
Receivable from the Commonwealth	906,017	1,134,378
Interest receivable - external entities	45,890	13,776
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	254,499	47,582
EMC Receivables	1,700,000	1,700,000
Other receivables - external entities	20,643	7,411
Total receivables (net)	<u>3,082,891</u>	<u>3,045,440</u>

All receivables are current assets. Credit terms are net 30 days (2005: 30 days)

Receivables (gross) are aged as follows

Not overdue	3,031,538	2,988,743
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	-	-
- 30 to 60 days	7,103	14,925
- 61 to 90 days	-	601
- more than 90 days	45,420	43,671
Total receivables (gross)	<u>3,084,061</u>	<u>3,047,940</u>

The allowance for doubtful debts is aged as follows:

Not overdue	-	-
Overdue by:		
- less than 30 days	-	-
- 30 to 60 days	-	-
- 61 to 90 days	-	-
- more than 90 days	1,170	2,500
Total allowance for doubtful debts	<u>1,170</u>	<u>2,500</u>

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8C <u>Investments under s18 of the CAC Act</u>	2006 \$	2005 \$
Shares in other companies - listed	16,700	16,700
Total investments	<u>16,700</u>	<u>16,700</u>
All investments are current assets.		

At 30 June 2006, the Authority held shares in two listed companies, Baycorp Advantage Limited and Insurance Australia Group Limited (formerly NRMA Insurance). The shares were acquired in the 2001-02 financial year as a result of the companies being listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. The shares acquired at no cost. The shares held are ordinary shares.

9 Non-Financial Assets

9A Land, buildings and leasehold improvements

Land and buildings		
- at fair value	15,763,385	15,748,791
- accumulated depreciation	(5,460,942)	(5,085,584)
Leasehold improvements		
- at fair value	1,919,696	1,706,655
- accumulated depreciation	(1,261,966)	(988,415)
Lighthouse properties		
- at fair value	1,749,071	1,511,378
Total land, buildings and leasehold improvements	<u>12,709,244</u>	<u>12,892,825</u>

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

Movements in Asset Revaluation Reserve

Increment for leasehold improvements	-	518,361
Increment for lighthouse properties	(12,307)	1,332,090
	<u>(12,307)</u>	<u>1,850,451</u>

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	2006	2005
	\$	\$
9B <u>Plant and equipment</u>		
Plant and equipment		
- at fair value	4,828,620	4,327,611
- accumulated depreciation	(2,680,159)	(2,394,940)
Total plant and equipment	<u>2,148,461</u>	<u>1,932,671</u>

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

9C <u>Intangibles</u>		
Software purchased	851,474	775,531
Accumulated amortisation	(550,142)	(465,258)
Total intangibles	<u>301,332</u>	<u>310,273</u>

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9D Analysis of Property, Plant, Equipment and Intangibles

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

	Land and Buildings \$	Leasehold Improvements \$	Lighthouse Properties \$	Land, Buildings and Leasehold Improvements Total	Plant and Equipment \$	Computer Software \$
As at 1 July 2005						
Gross book value	15,748,791	1,706,655	1,511,378	18,966,824	4,327,611	775,531
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(5,085,584)	(988,415)	-	(6,073,999)	(2,394,940)	(465,258)
Opening net book value	10,663,207	718,240	1,511,378	12,892,825	1,932,671	310,273
Additions:						
By purchase	14,593	123,041	250,000	387,634	644,726	75,943
from recognition of 'make good' provision	-	90,000	-	90,000	-	-
Net revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	-	(12,307)	(12,307)	-	-
Depreciation/ amortisation expense	(375,358)	(273,550)	-	(648,908)	(399,196)	(84,884)
Disposals:						
Other disposals	-	-	-	-	(29,740)	-
As at 30 June 2006						
Gross book value	15,763,384	1,919,696	1,749,071	19,432,151	4,828,620	851,474
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(5,460,942)	(1,261,965)	-	(6,722,907)	(2,680,159)	(550,142)
Closing net book value	10,302,442	657,731	1,749,071	12,709,244	2,148,461	301,332

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	2006	2005
	\$	\$
9E Inventories		
Inventories held for sale	84,303	62,468
Total inventories	<u>84,303</u>	<u>62,468</u>
All inventories are current assets.		
9F Other Non-Financial Assets		
Prepayments	152,461	107,898
Total other non-financial assets	<u>152,461</u>	<u>107,898</u>
All other non-financial assets are current assets.		
10 Payables		
10A Suppliers		
Trade Creditors	1,200,019	897,592
Total supplier payables	<u>1,200,019</u>	<u>897,592</u>
All supplier payables are current liabilities. Settlement is usually made net 28 days.		
10B Other Payables		
Revenue received in advance	2,134,571	1,756,095
Amounts owed to Commonwealth	2,606,017	2,834,378
Other	27,608	5,909
Total other payables	<u>4,768,196</u>	<u>4,596,382</u>
All other payables are current liabilities.		

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11 Provisions	2006	2005
	\$	\$
11A Employee Provisions		
Salaries and wages	89,145	46,382
Superannuation	14,199	6,594
Provision for long service leave	2,011,192	1,745,420
Provision for annual leave	1,545,023	1,408,340
Separations and redundancies	-	30,750
Other	28,510	14,708
Total employee provisions	<u>3,688,069</u>	<u>3,252,194</u>
Current	3,234,631	2,835,596
Non-Current	453,438	416,598
Total employee provisions	<u>3,688,069</u>	<u>3,252,194</u>
11B Other Provisions		
Provision for 'Make Good'	90,000	-
Total other provisions	<u>90,000</u>	<u>-</u>
All other provisions are non-current liabilities.		

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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12 Cash Flow Reconciliation	2006	2005
	\$	\$
Reconciliation of cash per Balance Sheet to Statement of Cash flows		
Cash at year end per Statement of Cash Flows	7,532,108	6,773,782
Balance Sheet items comprising above cash:		
'Financial Asset - Cash'	7,532,108	6,773,782
Reconciliation of operating result to net cash from operating activities:		
Operating result	(102,366)	1,339,643
Depreciation and amortisation	1,132,988	992,450
Gain on disposal of assets	(1,217)	9,961
(Increase) / decrease in receivables (other than loans)	(37,451)	(66,128)
(Increase) / decrease in inventories	(21,835)	9,948
(Increase) / decrease in other assets	(44,563)	(7,117)
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	435,875	357,610
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	302,427	(213,840)
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	(77,781)	1,613,122
<i>Net cash from / (used by) operating activities</i>	<u>1,586,077</u>	<u>4,035,649</u>

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13 Remuneration of Members

Remuneration - members of the Authority

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

	2006	2005
\$0 - \$14,999	2	-
\$15,000 - \$29,999	2	3
\$240,000 - \$254,999	-	1
\$255,000 - \$269,999	1	-
Total number of members of the Authority	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	\$	\$
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by members of the Authority	<u>305,522</u>	<u>293,792</u>

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

14 Related Party Disclosures

Authority members' interest in contracts

On the basis of statements declared by members in accordance with s.16A of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act* or s. 21 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, no Authority member has received or become entitled to receive a benefit, other than a benefit included in the aggregate of remuneration received or due and receivable shown at Note 13 by reason of a contract made by the Authority member or with a firm of which the Authority member is a member or with a company in which the Authority member has a substantial interest.

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15 Remuneration of Executives

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

	2006	2005
\$130,000 - \$144,999	1	2
\$145,000 - \$159,999	-	1
\$160,000 - \$174,999	-	-
\$175,000 - \$189,999	-	-
\$190,000 - \$204,999	1	1
\$205,000 - \$219,999	1	1
Total	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

	2006	2005
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of executives shown above:	\$ <u>544,624</u>	\$ <u>832,313</u>
	\$	\$

The aggregate amount of separation and redundancy/termination benefit payments during the year to officers shown above:	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
---	----------	----------

The executive remuneration includes all officers concerned with or taking part in the management of the Authority during 2005-2006 except the Chief Executive Officer. Details in relation to the Chief Executive Officer have been incorporated into Note 13 Remuneration – Members of the Authority.

16 Remuneration of Auditors

	2006	2005
The cost of financial statement audit services provided to the Authority were:	\$ <u>44,000</u>	\$ <u>42,500</u>

No other services were provided by the Auditor-General.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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17	Average Staffing Levels	2006	2005
	The average staffing levels for the Authority during the year were:	192	184

18 Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

The Co-operative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef) was established to provide strategic scientific information, education and training to enhance reef-based industry and management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. As at 30 June 2006, the Authority's commitment to the CRC Reef, in cash contributions, 'in kind' contributions and amounts payable from EMC collections was:

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
Within one year	-	2,325,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,325,000</u>

19 Cash Bonds

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

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 2006

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
Cash at bank 1 July	745,349	592,452
RECEIPTS : Cash Bonds	49,300	210,000
Interest	20,228	20,075
	<u>814,877</u>	<u>822,527</u>
PAYMENTS : Return of Bonds	203,621	77,135
Bank fees	62	43
Cash at bank 30 June	<u>611,194</u>	<u>745,349</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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20 Financial Instruments

20A Interest Rate Risk

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate 30 day terms		Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	
		2006 \$	2005 \$	2006 \$	2005 \$	2006 \$	2005 \$	2006 \$	2005 \$	2006 %	2005 %
Financial Assets											
Cash at bank & deposits at call	8A	3,753,230	2,717,691	-	-	-	-	3,753,230	2,717,691	4.65	4.5
Cash on hand	8A	-	-	-	-	11,660	16,994	11,660	16,994	n/a	n/a
Term deposit	8A	-	-	3,767,218	4,039,097	-	-	3,767,218	4,039,097	5.7	5.5
Receivables for goods & services (gross)	8B	-	-	-	-	157,013	144,793	157,013	144,793	n/a	n/a
Other receivables	8B	45,890	13,776	-	-	20,643	7,411	66,533	21,187	4.65	4.5
Shares (not associates)	8C	-	-	-	-	16,700	16,700	16,700	16,700	n/a	n/a
Total		3,799,121	2,731,467	3,767,218	4,039,097	206,015	185,898	7,772,354	6,956,462		
Total Assets								26,027,500	25,142,057		
Financial Liabilities											
Trade creditors	10A	-	-	-	-	1,200,019	897,592	1,200,019	897,592	n/a	n/a
Other payables	10B	-	-	-	-	4,768,196	4,596,382	4,768,196	4,596,382	n/a	n/a
Total		-	-	-	-	5,968,215	5,493,974	5,968,215	5,493,974		
Total Liabilities								9,746,284	8,746,168		

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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 for the year ended 30 June 2006

20 Financial Instruments (cont.)

20B Net Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	Note	2006		2005	
		Total carrying amount \$	Aggregate net fair value \$	Total carrying amount \$	Aggregate net fair value \$
Financial Assets					
Cash at bank and deposits at call	8A	3,753,230	3,753,230	2,717,691	2,717,691
Cash on hand	8A	11,660	11,660	16,994	16,994
Term deposit	8A	3,767,218	3,767,218	4,039,097	4,039,097
Receivables for goods and services	8B	157,013	157,013	144,793	144,793
Other debtors	8B	66,533	66,533	21,187	21,187
Shares (not associates)	8C	16,700	16,700	16,700	16,700
		<u>7,772,354</u>	<u>7,772,354</u>	<u>6,956,462</u>	<u>6,956,462</u>
Financial Liabilities					
Trade creditors	10A	1,200,019	1,200,019	897,592	897,592
Other payables	10B	4,768,196	4,768,196	4,596,382	4,596,382
		<u>5,968,215</u>	<u>5,968,215</u>	<u>5,493,974</u>	<u>5,493,974</u>

20C Credit Risk Exposures

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

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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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 for year ending 30 June 2006

21 Appropriations

Appropriations: Bills 1 & 3

Particulars	Departmental Outputs		Total	
	2006 \$'000's	2005 \$'000's	2006 \$'000's	2005 \$'000's
Year ended 30 June 2005				
Balance carried forward from previous year	-	-	-	-
Appropriation Acts 1 and 3	15,444	16,394	15,444	16,394
Available for payment of CRF	15,444	16,394	15,444	16,394
Cash Payments made out of CRF	15,444	16,394	15,444	16,394
Balance carried forward to next year	-	-	-	-
Represented by:				
Appropriations Receivable	-	-	-	-

Special Appropriations

Special Appropriation is appropriated in accordance with Section 391 of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act for the operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.	Departmental Outputs		Total	
	2006 \$'000's	2005 \$'000's	2006 \$'000's	2005 \$'000's
Year ended 30 June 2005				
Balance Carried forward from previous year	1,134	953	1,134	953
Special Appropriation	7,287	7,594	7,287	7,594
Available for payment of CRF	8,421	8,547	8,421	8,547
Payments made out of CRF	7,500	7,400	7,500	7,400
Refunds paid out of CRF	16	13	16	13
Balance carried forward to next year	906	1,134	906	1,134
Represented by:				
Appropriations Receivable	906	1,134	906	1,134

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

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22 Reporting of Outcomes

- 22A The Authority is included in Outcome 1 of the Environment and Heritage Portfolio. The specific sub-outcome for the Authority is the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.

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
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for the year ended 30 June 2006

22B Net Costs of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1	
	2006 \$'000	2005 \$'000
Departmental expenses	38,579	37,170
Total expenses	38,579	37,170
<i>Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non-government sector</i>		
Departmental	3,220	2,550
Total costs recovered	3,220	2,550
<i>Other external revenues</i>		
Departmental		
Sale of goods and services - to related entities	7,022	6,359
Interest	510	425
Net gains from disposal of assets	1	-
Permit assessment fees	440	374
Other	4,973	4,827
Total Departmental	12,947	11,985
Total other external revenues	12,947	11,985
Net cost/(contribution) of outcome	22,413	22,635


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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
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 for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006			
	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$
<i>Income</i>			
<i>Revenue</i>			
Appropriations from State Government		4,213,505	4,377,159
Funding from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		4,213,504	4,377,158
Other		53,018	34,419
<i>Gains</i>			
Gain on sale of property, plant and equipment		3,391	95,224
Total Income		<u>8,583,418</u>	<u>8,883,960</u>
<i>Expenses</i>			
<i>Operating</i>			
Employee expenses		4,909,442	4,993,934
Supplies and services		3,043,474	3,420,419
Depreciation	2	493,702	496,560
<i>Losses</i>			
Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment		-	4,513
Total Expenses		<u>8,446,618</u>	<u>8,915,426</u>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		<u>136,800</u>	<u>(31,466)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 BALANCE SHEET
 AS AT 30 JUNE 2006

	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$
Current assets			
Cash assets	3	469,093	661,692
Receivables	4	162,188	158,860
Prepayments		33,964	35,996
Total Current Assets		<u>665,245</u>	<u>856,548</u>
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	4,968,406	4,833,674
Total Non Current Assets		<u>4,968,406</u>	<u>4,833,674</u>
Total Assets		<u>5,633,651</u>	<u>5,690,222</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables	6	210,499	301,721
Total Current Liabilities		<u>210,499</u>	<u>301,721</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>210,499</u>	<u>301,721</u>
Net Assets		<u>5,423,152</u>	<u>5,388,501</u>
Equity			
Retained surpluses		3,018,595	2,881,795
Asset revaluation reserve	7	2,404,557	2,506,706
Total Equity		<u>5,423,152</u>	<u>5,388,501</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
 For the year ended 30 June 2006

	Retained Surpluses		Asset Revaluation Reserve (Note 7)	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance 1 July	2,881,795	2,911,817	2,506,706	2,201,522
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	136,800	(31,466)	-	-
Assets not previously recognised	-	1,444	-	-
Non-Owner changes in equity:				
- Increase/(Decrease) in Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	-	(102,149)	305,184
Balance 30 June	3,018,595	2,881,795	2,404,557	2,506,706

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006

	Notes	2006 \$	2005 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
<i>Inflows:</i>			
Appropriations from State Government		4,213,505	4,377,159
Payments from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		4,213,504	4,377,158
Other		72,183	55,097
GST collected from customers		16,783	18,638
GST input tax credits from ATO		364,998	371,418
<i>Outflows:</i>			
Employee expenses		(4,891,033)	(4,974,024)
Supplies and services		(3,099,814)	(3,301,435)
GST paid to suppliers		(287,492)	(411,431)
GST remitted to ATO		(23,496)	(8,133)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	8	<u>579,138</u>	<u>504,447</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
<i>Inflows:</i>			
Sales of property, plant and equipment		3,393	241,498
<i>Outflows:</i>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(775,130)	(551,983)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>(771,737)</u>	<u>(310,485)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(192,599)	193,962
Cash at beginning of financial year		661,692	467,730
Cash at end of financial year	3	<u>469,093</u>	<u>661,692</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2005-06

Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park have been prepared in accordance with Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS) for the first time. The disclosures required by AASB 1 *First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards* concerning the transition from previous Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) to AEIFRS are provided in Notes 13 and 14. The financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with Finance Minister's Orders "*Schedule 1: Requirements for the preparation of Financial Statements of Australian Government Entities*" and as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Except where stated, the historical cost convention is used.

(b) The Reporting Entity

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

(c) Funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments

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

(d) Cash Assets

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Cash Flows, cash assets include all cash at bank and on hand 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.

(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 recognized for financial reporting purposes in the year of acquisition:

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

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



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2005-06 (continued)

(h) Revaluations of Non-Current Physical Assets

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

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

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

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

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

(i) Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment

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

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

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

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

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

Class	Rate
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 Agency 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.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2005-06 (continued)

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.

(l) Employee entitlements

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

(m) Taxation

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

(n) Issuance of Financial Statements

The financial statements are authorised for issue by the Director-General and Director of Finance at the date of signing the Management Certificate.

(o) Judgements and Assumptions

The Agency has made no judgements or assessments which may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

(p) Comparatives

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

Note 2: Depreciation Expense

	2006	2005
Depreciation incurred in respect of:	\$	\$
Plant and equipment	177,354	170,621
Vessels	142,936	142,574
Buildings	166,164	176,073
Infrastructure	7,093	7,137
Heritage and Cultural	153	155
Total	493,702	496,560

Due to revaluations there was a decrease in depreciation on Buildings and Infrastructure during the reporting period of \$4,572.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2005-06 (continued)		
	2006 \$	2005 \$
Note 3 Cash Assets		
Unexpended funds	469,093	661,692
Total	469,093	661,692
Note 4 Receivables		
<i>Current</i>		
Trade debtors	117,385	36,551
GST receivable	44,803	122,309
Total	162,188	158,860
Note 5 Property, Plant and Equipment		
Buildings		
At management valuation	..	4,151,632
At independent valuation	3,997,204	..
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,652,731)	(1,528,218)
	<u>2,344,473</u>	<u>2,623,414</u>
Infrastructure		
At management valuation	..	85,503
At independent valuation	114,824	..
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(78,029)	(52,243)
	<u>36,795</u>	<u>33,260</u>
Capital works in progress	712,883	19,616
Heritage and Cultural		
At cost	15,452	15,452
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,417)	(1,262)
	<u>14,035</u>	<u>14,190</u>
Vessels > \$250,000		
At cost	3,588,976	3,574,735
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2,716,446)	(2,573,511)
	<u>872,530</u>	<u>1,001,224</u>
Plant and Equipment		
At cost	1,714,644	1,732,837
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(726,954)	(590,867)
	<u>987,690</u>	<u>1,141,970</u>
Total	4,968,406	4,833,674
Independent valuations of buildings, infrastructure and heritage and cultural assets were performed as at 1 July 2005 by the State Valuation Services using 'fair value' principles.		
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 \$479,303 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 <i>Non-Current Asset Accounting Guidelines for the Queensland Public Sector</i> (May 2001).		



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2005-06 (continued)

Asset Reconciliation	Buildings	Infra-structure	Work in Progress	Heritage & Cultural	Vessels > \$250,000	Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Carrying amount at 1 July	2,623,414	33,265	19,016	14,190	1,001,225	1,141,970	5,833,675
Acquisitions			693,267		14,241	23,074	730,582
Revaluation	(112,777)	10,628					(102,149)
Increments/(Decrements)							
Depreciation	(166,164)	(7,093)		(1,351)	(142,936)	(177,354)	(493,702)
Carrying amount at 30 June	2,344,473	36,795	712,883	12,839	872,532	987,690	4,968,406

Note 6 Payables

	2006	2005
Current	\$	\$
Trade creditors	123,241	226,160
Employee expenses payable	87,381	63,972
GST payable	4,874	11,536
Payroll Tax payable	3	3
Total	210,499	301,721

Note 7 Asset Revaluation Reserve by Class

	Buildings & Land Improve	Major Plant & Equipment	Infra-structure	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance 1 July 2005	1,535,296	598,345	373,065	2,506,706
Revaluation increments			10,628	10,628
Revaluation decrements	(112,777)			(112,777)
Balance 30 June 2006	1,422,519	598,345	383,693	2,404,557

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

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
Surplus/deficit from ordinary activities	136,800	(31,466)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation	493,702	496,560
(Gain)/loss on disposal of property plant & equipment	(3,391)	(90,711)
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(3,329)	(21,875)
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	2,032	11,056
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(46,676)	140,833
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	579,138	504,447

Note 9 Contingent Assets

There were no known contingent assets of a significant nature as at 30 June 2006 (2005 \$100,000)



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2005-06 (continued)

Note 10 Contingent Liabilities

There were no known contingent liabilities of a significant nature as at 30 June 2006 (2005 \$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 11 Commitments

There were no known commitments of a significant nature as at 30 June 2006 (2005 \$nil).

Note 12 Financial Instruments

Interest Rate Risk Exposure

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

	Floating Rate	1 year or less	1 to 5 years	Greater than 5 years	Non Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average Rate %
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Financial Assets							
Cash	469,093	..	..	..	..	469,093	4.63
Receivables	..	..	..	..	162,188	162,188	NA
	469,093	..	..	..	162,188	631,281	
Financial Liabilities							
Payables	..	..	..	..	210,499	210,499	NA
	..	..	..	..	210,499	210,499	NA

- Floating interest rate represents the most recently administered market rate applicable to the instrument at 30 June 2006.
- The fixed rate represents weighted average market interest rate.

Credit Risk Exposure

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets net of any provisions for impairment as indicated in the Balance Sheet.

No significant credit risks have been identified.

Fair Values

The fair value is determined as follows:

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



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
 NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2005-06 (continued)

Note 14 Reconciliation of Adjustments from previous GAAP to Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS) – as at 1 July 2005

Note	Previous GAAP 1/07/2005 \$'000	Effect of transition to AEIFRS		AEIFRS 1/7/2005 \$'000
		Opening Adjustments 1/07/2004 \$'000	2004-05 Adjustments \$'000	
	Current Assets			
	661,592	..	..	661,692
	158,560	..	..	158,860
	35,996	..	..	35,996
	<u>856,148</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>856,548</u>
	Non Current Assets			
14.1	5,210,495	(314,166)	(63,055)	4,833,674
	<u>5,210,495</u>	<u>(314,166)</u>	<u>(63,055)</u>	<u>4,833,674</u>
	Total Assets	6,067,143	(314,166)	5,690,222
	Current Liabilities			
	301,721	..	..	301,721
	<u>301,721</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>301,721</u>
	Total Liabilities	301,721	..	301,721
	Net Assets	5,765,722	(314,166)	5,388,501
	Equity			
14.2	3,259,316	(314,166)	(63,055)	2,881,795
	2,506,706	..	..	2,506,706
	<u>5,765,722</u>	<u>(314,166)</u>	<u>(63,055)</u>	<u>5,388,501</u>

Notes to Reconciliation

14.1 The adjustments to Property, Plant and Equipment are as follows:

Write-off of previously capitalised administrative overhead costs which have been included in the value of constructed assets	(1,492)
Write-off of assets purchased and capitalised during the year, but below new asset recognition threshold	(61,563)
Adjustment to property, plant and equipment	(63,055)

14.2 The adjustments to Retained Surplus are as follows:

Write-off of previously capitalised administrative overhead costs which have been included in the value of constructed assets	1,492
Write-off assets purchased and capitalised during the year, but now below new asset recognition thresholds	61,563
Adjustment to retained surplus	63,055

Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows

The adjustments to the Income Statement as a result of transition to Australian equivalents to IFRS are as follows:

Previously reported operating surplus under GAAP for year ended 30 June 2005	31,589
Adjustments due to change to property, plant and equipment reported above	(63,055)
Operating deficit under Australian equivalents to IFRS	(31,466)

No material adjustments were required to the Statement of Cash Flows as a result of transition to Australian equivalents to IFRS.

Depreciation expense decreased by \$62,112 as a result of the above adjustments to property, plant and equipment.



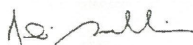
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

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

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

- (i) the statements together with the other information and notes to and forming part thereof are in agreement with the accounts of the Environmental Protection Agency; and
- (ii) the receipt and expenditure of monies and the control and management of assets were in accordance with the approved programs and in accordance with the aforementioned agreements and previous agreements executed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments with regard to day to day management; and
- (iii) in our opinion:
 - a. the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
 - b. statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the transactions and cash flows of the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, and of the financial position as at 30 June 2006.



N. O'Sullivan
Director, Finance & Resource Management

Date: 10 August 2006



T. Wall
Director-General

Date: 10 August 2006



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Scope

The Financial Report

The financial report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park consists of the income statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, notes to and forming part of the financial report and certificates given by the Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency and officer responsible for the financial administration of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, for the year ended 30 June 2006.

The Director-General's Responsibility

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

Audit Approach

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

Audit procedures included –

- examining information on a test/sample basis to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report;
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;
- obtaining written confirmation regarding the material representations made in conjunction with the audit; and
- reviewing the overall presentation of information in the financial report.

Independence

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

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

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

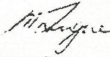
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2006

23 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

Audit Opinion

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

- (a) I have received all the information and explanations which I have required, and
- (b) in my opinion -
 - (i) the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
 - (ii) the financial report has been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view, in accordance with the prescribed accounting standards of the transactions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the financial year 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and of the financial position as at the end of that year.


Madonna Tongue
(Delegate of the Auditor-General of Queensland)



Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

SECTION E

Appendixes



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

Qualifications of Marine Park Authority members

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

Dr Evelyn Scott, AO has been involved in Aboriginal Affairs over the past 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 Leo Keliher was Director-General of the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet until November 2005, at which time he was appointed to the position of Chairman of the Service Delivery and Performance Commission. He holds a First Class Honours degree in Economics and a Master of Arts from the University of Queensland. Dr Keliher holds a Doctorate from the London School of Economics and Political Science (University of London). He resigned from the Board on 16 November 2005.

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 was appointed to the Board on 6 December 2005.

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

organisations. Cr Barker was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day 2006 Honours List.

During 2005–06, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority held three meetings:

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
196	8 September 2005	Brisbane	Hon. Virginia Chadwick, AO, Cr Fay Barker, Dr Leo Keliher and Dr Evelyn Scott, AO
197	8 December 2005	Brisbane	Hon. Virginia Chadwick, AO, Cr Fay Barker, Mr Ross Rolfe and Dr Evelyn Scott, AO
198	7 April 2006	Townsville	Hon. Virginia Chadwick, AO, Cr Fay Barker OAM, and Dr Evelyn Scott, AO

Table 6: Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2005–06

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. The Council comprises four Ministers, two from each Government. Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell, Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage, is Convenor and Chairman of the Council. The other members of the Council are the Hon. Fran Bailey MP, Minister for Tourism and Small Business, the Hon. Desley Boyle MP, Queensland Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women and the Hon. Margaret Keech MP, Queensland Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development.

The former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Hon. Warren Entsch MP, represented the Australian Minister for Tourism and Small Business at the thirty-second meeting of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council on 6 September 2005.

The meeting on 6 September 2005 focussed primarily on the report to the Prime Minister and the Premier of Queensland to implement the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* and the *Three Year Business Strategy 2005–2006 to 2007–2008*.

Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee

The Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee was established under section 20 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* as an advisory committee to the Authority and to the Minister

responsible for the environment. The Committee provides an important channel of communication between the Minister, the Authority, the Queensland Government departments responsible for the environment, and major sectors of users and interest groups.

The Committee consists of members appointed by the Minister for a three-year term and a member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority appointed by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for an indefinite term.

Name	Organisation/Affiliation
Dr Russell Reichelt	Chairman
Hon. Virginia Chadwick, AO	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Mr Timothy Anderson	Member, Local Marine Advisory Committee
Mr Noel Lawson	Chairman, Water Quality and Coastal Development Reef Advisory Committee (resigned 23 February 2006)
Mr Alan Feely	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Mr Peter Frawley	Chairman, Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee
Mr Paul Freeman	Member, Local Marine Advisory Committee
Mr Richard Leck	Conservation
Mr Stephen McGuire	Member, Local Marine Advisory Committee
Mr Colin McKenzie	Tourism
Mr Daryl McPhee	University of Queensland
Mr Bob Muir	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests
Mr Justin Murphy	Department of Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development
Mr John Olsen	Commercial Fishing
Mr Stephen Oxley	Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage
Mr Phillip Rist	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interests
Mr Don Robinson	Member, Local Marine Advisory Committee
Mr Graham Scott	Member, Local Marine Advisory Committee
Ms Diane Tarte	Chairman, Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee
Associate Professor Peter Valentine	James Cook University
Mr Vernon Veitch	Recreational Fishing
Mr Terry Wall	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Mr Simon Woodley	Chairman, Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Reef Advisory Committee

Table 7: Members of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee 2005–06

All members were appointed on 7 November 2005 for a three-year period (ending 6 November 2008) with the exception of Mr Alan Feely, whose term is current until 3 March 2007. During 2005–06, the Consultative Committee held two meetings:

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
GBRCC 72	15 November 2005	Townsville	22/23
GBRCC 73	5 April 2006	Brisbane	16/22

Table 8: Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee 2005–06

Great Barrier Reef Audit Committee

The following people were members of the Audit Committee during 2005–06:

- Mr Barry Sheedy, Chairman, an accountant practising in Mackay
- Cr Fay Barker OAM FAICD, member, part-time member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Dr Leo Keliher, member, part-time member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (Dr Keliher resigned on 8 November 2005)
- 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 Jon Day, member as Acting Executive Director on the Authority's staff
- Ms Lisha Mulqueeny, member as Acting Executive Director on the Authority's staff.

During 2005–06, the Audit Committee held four meetings:

Meeting	Date	Location	Attendance
AC 29	7 July 2005	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Cr Fay Barker, Mr John Tanzer
AC 30	23 August 2005	Mackay	Mr Barry Sheedy, Mr Andrew Skeat Mr Jon Day (Acting Executive Director)
AC 31	8 December 2005	Brisbane	Mr Barry Sheedy, Cr Fay Barker, Mr John Tanzer, Ms Lisha Mulqueeny (Acting Executive Director)
AC 32	30 May 2006	Townsville	Mr Barry Sheedy, Cr Fay Barker OAM, Mr Andrew Skeat

Table 9: Meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Audit Committee 2005–06

Business activities of the Audit Committee concerned:

- Annual financial statements
- Environmental Management Charge
- Day-to-day management
- Reef HQ operations
- Risk management plan
- Internal audit services
- Various internal audit reports.

Roles and responsibilities

The committee has no executive powers, unless delegated to it by the Board. The committee is directly responsible and accountable to the Board 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 Authority rests with the Chief Executive Officer. The responsibilities of the committee may be revised or expanded in consultation with, or as requested by, 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 Authority'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 Authority's risk management framework on its control environment and insurance arrangements
- Review whether a sound and effective approach has been followed in establishing the Authority's business continuity planning arrangements, including whether disaster recovery plans have been tested periodically
- Review the Authority's fraud control plan and satisfy itself that the Authority 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 Board (including whether appropriate action has been taken in response to audit recommendations and adjustments), and recommend their signing by the Chairman of the Board
- 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 Authority's annual report is consistent with the signed financial statements
- Satisfy itself that the Authority has appropriate mechanisms in place to review and implement, where appropriate, relevant Parliamentary Committee reports and recommendations
- Satisfy itself that the Authority 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 Authority's risk assessment and management arrangements
- Review the effectiveness of the system for monitoring the Authority's compliance with relevant laws, regulations and associated government policies.

Internal audit

- Act as a forum for communication between the Board, senior management and internal and external audit
- Review the internal audit coverage and annual work plan, ensure the plan is based on the Authority's risk management plan, and recommend approval of the plan by the Board
- Advise the Board 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 programmes conducted by internal and external audit and other review functions
- Review all audit reports and provide advice to 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 Board the appointment of the internal auditor.

External audit

- Act as a forum for communication between the Board, senior management and internal and external audit
- 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 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 *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 (CAC 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 26 and 27 July 2005 and on 13 and 14 December 2005. The Committee, comprising 14 members including an independent Chairman, provided valuable guidance on a variety of matters, in particular species conservation issues, the traditional use of marine resources and the implementation and monitoring of the Representative Areas Programme.

Water Quality and Coastal Development Reef Advisory Committee

The Reef Advisory Committee for Water Quality and Coastal Development met on 2 August 2005 and on 29 and 30 November 2005. The Committee, comprising 17 members including an independent Chairman, provided advice on key issues in the implementation of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*, and the strategic approach taken by the Authority to water quality issues. Valuable guidance was also provided on specific issues such as the Reef Guardian programme, marine monitoring programmes, wetland protection and the management of point source pollution (for example, aquaculture and sewage).

Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee

The Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee (FRAC) met during 2005–06 on 22 and 23 September and on 16 and 17 February. The Committee comprised 16 members, including an independent Chairman. A new FRAC term will begin early in 2006–07.

FRAC meetings addressed several key issues and provided advice on them to the Authority. Where relevant, a synthesis of FRAC outcomes has been used to inform other Authority critical issues and service groups. Issues addressed included:

- Ecologically sustainable management of fisheries – an in-depth review of the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) process for the assessment of fisheries in the Marine Park that must be undertaken under the *EPBC Act 1999*
- Progress by QDPI&F in dealing with the recommendations following the EPBC fisheries assessments
- Capricorn Reef Project – the Central Queensland community-based recreational fishing monitoring programme
- Effects of Line Fishing (ELF) experiment and ELFSim (computer modelling) for the Coral Reef Finfish Fishery
- The DEH structural adjustment package following rezoning of the Marine Park Management of the trawl, inshore finfish, coral reef finfish and the dive-based fisheries in the Marine Park
- Compliance with fisheries and Marine Park legislation
- Protected species policy development

- The Community Partnerships initiative
- Water quality issues in the Marine Park, including the launch of new interactive educational resources
- Artificial reefs
- Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme
- New Authority research information system and Authority research priorities.

Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee

The Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee (TRRAC) met on 1 and 2 November 2005 and on 2 and 3 February 2006. The Committee of 20 members provided valuable guidance on a variety of matters, in particular cruise shipping, bareboat operations, permit allocation, latency management, Indigenous participation in tourism and responses to climate change. The Committee was integral in the Marine Tourism Leaders Forum on Climate Change and the development of the Summary or Outcomes including a set of specific actions. The Committee also initiated the development of an Authority-facilitated Industry Action Group on Climate Change to provide a focal point for industry awareness and change. In addition, the Cruise Shipping Working Group was involved in the Annual Cruise Industry Workshop on 26 April 2006 and the Working Group on Indigenous Participation in Tourism and its Management was involved in developing a position statement and guidelines, plus consultations with Indigenous communities. After the February meeting, the Authority began the process of appointing members for the third Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee.

Great Barrier Reef Local Marine Advisory Committees

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

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

Local Marine Advisory Committees provide a forum for the local community and representative stakeholder groups to discuss marine resource management issues and advise the Authority accordingly. They provide an opportunity for resource management agencies to meet with the local community and address local concerns. The Committees also provide information to the public 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 Authority.

Between July and October 2005 an assessment of the Committees' functions was carried out to improve procedures and functions prior to the formation of the new Committees. The outcomes of this assessment lead to the review and development of improved guidelines for the Committees' operations. In November 2005, the Authority called for nominations for membership of the new three-year term Committees in 11 regional centers. The new Local Marine Advisory Committees were established in early 2006 and, on average, continue to meet once every two months. At the time of publication, there were 197 Local Marine Advisory Committee members, averaging 17 members per committee.

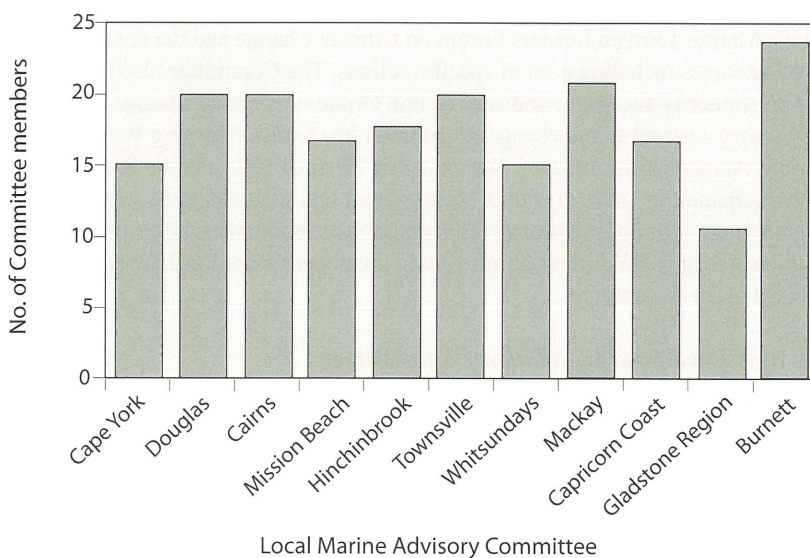


Figure 21: Local Marine Advisory Committee membership 2006

The Annual Local Marine Advisory Committee Chairs Conference was held on 8 to 9 October 2005 in Townsville. Each of the 11 Chairs attended the conference together with one other representative from their Committee. Major issues discussed at the conference included suggestions and potential recommendations for the assessment of Local Marine Advisory Committee functions, involvement in sharing information about the Authority's activities with their local communities and providing a local perspective back to the Authority on management issues, and the participation of Committee members in the Reef Guardian Schools Programme.

All Local Marine Advisory Committees are currently establishing their work programmes for the financial year. An example of their work includes some committees developing a local boating and fishing map to further enhance understanding of zoning arrangements, as well as to provide local boating and fishing information based on community knowledge. The aim of the local maps is to

complement the Authority's zoning maps at a local level, targeting areas popular for recreational boating and fishing and to raise awareness of Marine Park issues including species conservation and best environmental practices.

Providing ways to get science about the marine environment to the broader community and water quality in the Great Barrier Reef catchment have both been identified as high priorities by all Local Marine Advisory Committees for the new term.

Great Barrier Reef Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee

The Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee met once during the 2005–06 financial year. On 5 July 2005 the Committee discussed two research applications. The Environmental Research Ethics Advisory Committee recommended the granting of the permits, although they recommended that one of the permits should not be renewed unless specific data was provided. These recommendations were accepted and implemented by the Authority.

Indigenous representation on the Authority committees

There are 28 positions available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on various committees within the Authority's management structure. This includes statutory and voluntary representation on the Authority Board, GBRCC, 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

Documents available for purchase

The following documents are available for purchase (including bulk-purchase) through selected outlets:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and Regulations
- Plans of Management.

Documents available without charge

The following documents are available, for free, for single copies only from the Authority's Townsville office:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003
- Zoning maps of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Great Barrier Reef General Reference map
- Strategic Plan
- Environmental Management Charge information booklets
- Media releases and communiqués
- Various information brochures, posters, bulletins and leaflets
- Research reports and workshop proceedings.

Facilities for access

The Townsville office holds most documents relating to Authority decisions and operations as well as that of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee. It is possible to arrange access to documents, available under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, through either the Canberra or Townsville offices. Staff are available to provide assistance in relation to any aspect of Freedom of Information requests.

Members of the public may make inquiries in relation to Freedom of Information matters, and inspect documents to which access has been granted, at either office. Business hours are 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Formal requests for access to documents must be directed to the officers listed on the following page. Information about facilities for access by disabled people can be obtained by contacting the Freedom of Information Officer at the Townsville office.

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

- Computer printer
- Microfiche reader
- Slide projectors
- Video and audio tape records
- Photocopy machine
- Reading areas.

Freedom of Information procedures and initial contact points

Inquiries may be made in writing, by telephone or in person at any time of the official Freedom of Information access points listed below. It is recommended that inquirers provide a telephone number.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

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

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Ground Floor	
John Gorton Building	
King Edward Terrace	GPO Box 791
PARKES ACT 2600	CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6274 1922	
Facsimile: (02) 6274 1509	

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

In consultation with applicants, documents will be made available by mail to the address specified by the applicant or at the official Freedom of Information access points. The authorised decision-makers under the *Freedom of Information Act* for the Authority, with official addresses for the lodging of requests, are:

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

The Executive Director
Great Barrier Reef Marine
Park Authority
PO BOX 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Director of Corporate Services
Great Barrier Reef Marine
Park Authority
PO BOX 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Appendix 4: Consultancy Services

Seventeen new consultancy services contracts over \$10 000 were let during 2005–06 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 \$389 300. Seven ongoing consultancy services contracts were active in the reporting year. Total expenditure for ongoing consultancy services contracts over \$10 000 was \$2 133 568 including \$1.996 million on monitoring the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan*.

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.

A large proportion of research has previously been outsourced to the CRC Reef Research Centre, principally through the financial contribution of \$13.2 million over seven years commencing in 1999–2000. Field management of the Marine Park is implemented through the Day-to-Day Management Programme, the majority of which is carried out by Queensland Government agencies.

Boab Interactive	\$33 000
Digital Dimensions	\$31 751
Down South Design	\$1 680
Extremely Graphic	\$9 520
Grafik Switch	\$3 805
Graphic Gesture	\$1 113
Mariat Design	\$2 304
McGregor Marketing Group	\$5 706
Miller Corporation Communications	\$7 821
Sheridan, Watman and Friends	\$37 070
Trish Hart	\$4 962
Verve Design	\$6 875

Table 10: Creative agencies used 2005-06

AEC Group Limited	\$74 427
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Table 11: Market research and polling organisations used 2005-06

Queensland Department of Transport (Maritime Safety Queensland)	\$6 000
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Table 12: Direct mail organisations used 2005-06

4TTT Community Radio	\$2 500
Australian Tourist Publication	\$6 804
Coastline	\$2 780
HMA Blaze Pty Ltd	\$207 460
Inflight Magazine	\$2 732
Island Impressions	\$4 680
Jetstar	\$1 595
Local Attractions	\$2 640
Macquarie Regional Radio	\$5 610
North Australian Publishing Company	\$7 968
Northern Services Courier	\$1 207
North Queensland Newspapers	\$7 233
Paradise Outdoor Advertising	\$66 619
Readings Cinema	\$4 334
Reflections Media Pty Ltd	\$8 550
Seven Network	\$7 128
Southern Cross Broadcasting	\$7 811
Tourism Queensland	\$2 115
Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Media Association	\$2 500
Townsville Enterprise	\$8 817
WIN Television Qld Pty Ltd	\$1 306

Table 13: Media advertising organisations used 2005-06

Appendix 5: Staffing Overview

Diversity

	ONGOING EMPLOYEES					NON-ONGOING EMPLOYEES				
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total
Classification	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T		F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T	
APS1	3	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1
APS2	15	2	9	0	26	5	0	2	0	7
APS3	12	0.64	4	0	16.64	2	0	3	0	5
APS4	16	0	5	0	21	3	0	1	0	4
APS5	15	0.8	2	0	17.8	0	0.67	7	0	7.67
APS6	10	3.07	19	0	32.07	1	0	2	0	3
EXEC1	8	1.49	22	0	31.49	0	0	0	0	0
EXEC2	3	0.8	10	0	13.8	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
CEO	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	82	8.8	72	0	162.8	13	0.67	16	0	29.67

Total number of employees = 192.47

Table 14: Employees of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 2006

(APS, Australian Public Service Officer; Exec, Executive Level; SES, Senior Executive Service; CEO, Chief Executive Officer).

Classification	Women	NESB1	NESB2	NESB	ATSI	PWD
APS1(4)	4 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
APS2(33)	21 (64%)	2 (1%)	3 (2%)	3 (2%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
APS3(22)	15 (69%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)
APS4(25)	19 (76%)	3 (2%)	5 (3%)	5 (3%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)
APS5(25)	17 (68%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	4 (2%)	1 (1%)	5 (3%)

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Classification	Women	NESB1	NESB2	NESB	ATSI	PWD
APS6(35)	14 (40%)	6 (3%)	6 (3%)	6 (3%)	3 (1%)	2 (1%)
EXEC1(32)	10 (31%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	3 (2%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
EXEC2(14)	4 (29%)	3 (2%)	1 (1%)	4 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
SES2(2)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
CEO(1)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Table 15: Representation of EEO groups within salary levels as at 30 June 2006

(NESB1, Non-English Speaking Background, second generation (Mother); NESB2, Non-English Speaking Background (Father); NESB, Non-English Speaking Background, first generation; ATSI, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; PWD, People with a disability)

Appendix 6: Occupational Health and Safety

Commitment

The Authority is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and visitors to the workplace. In 2005–06, the Authority continued to strengthen its occupational health and safety framework by increasing its Occupational Health and Safety Officer role to full-time incorporating responsibility for diving activities and implementing the recommendation of the Comcare audit conducted in 2004–05.

Activities

Activities undertaken to implement the Comcare audit recommendations included:

- Providing training to all Occupational Health and Safety Committee members to enable them to effectively undertake their duties
- Implementation of standard hazard/risk management processes
- Addition of relevant occupational health and safety information/standards in procurement guidelines and purchasing procedures
- Review of hazard identification, inspection and reporting systems
- Hazard management training
- Review of confined space entry procedures
- Development of a *Personal Protective Equipment Policy and Procedure*
- Signage reviewed to comply with AS1319
- Inclusion of cadmium exposure in laboratory risk assessment procedures and implement records and procedures for health testing

- Review of policy and procedures for incident notification
- Occupational health and safety induction and training for management.

Statistics

In 2005–06, employees of the Authority lodged 14 incident reports; six claims for compensation were accepted and two claims for compensation were unsuccessful. Most incidents were of a minor nature.

Appendix 7: Staff Papers from the Authority during 2005–06

The following staff papers were published or presented during 2005-06. Copies are available from either the web site of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (www.gbrmpa.gov.au) or from Library and Image Services.

Published Papers

Cappo, M., De'ath, G., Boyle, S., Aumend, J., Olbrich, R., Hoedt, F., Perna, C. and Brunskill, G. 2005, 'Development of a robust classifier of freshwater residence in barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*) life histories using elemental ratios in scales and boosted regression trees', *Marine and Freshwater Research* 56: 713–723.

Colliver, A. 2005, 'The challenge of using education, training and communication for the preservation and protection of the Great Barrier Reef', in *Yokohama International Workshop for the Revival of the Tokyo Bay Ecosystems, Yokohama City, 25-27 November 2005*, Yokohama Academic Foundation, Yokohama, Japan, p. 62-75.

Colliver, A. 2005, 'Guarding the future', *EQ Australia* Summer: 48–49.

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Appendix 8: Ecologically Sustainable Development and Environmental Performance

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the *EPBC Act*) requires Australian Government organisations to include in their annual reports details of the organisation's contribution to ecologically sustainable development as well as the environmental performance of the organisation. Section 516A also promotes development of a framework 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 Authority in 2005–06 in accordance with section 516A of the *EPBC Act*. This summary has been prepared in accordance with *Global Reporting Initiative Sustainability Reporting Guidelines 2002*.

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 Authority accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development:

- Administering and enforcing the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Act 1975*, which explicitly recognises these principles
- Working with the Department of the Environment and Heritage, other agencies and stakeholders to promote ecologically sustainable development focused on:
 - Ensuring the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
 - Providing policy advice to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage to ensure that the Authority'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 continuing to implement the Zoning Plan introduced on 1 July 2004, in consultation with stakeholders, communities and agencies
- Implementing monitoring and assessment programmes 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 and Heritage, and the Queensland Fisheries Service, the Authority has contributed to the introduction of a wide range of fisheries management initiatives during 2005–06
- In partnership with Australian and Queensland Government enforcement agencies, the Authority increased the level of its compliance operations substantially during 2005–06, resulting in record detection and fines against illegal activities in the Marine Park
- To improve the Authority's outreach to the community, the Authority implemented a new Community Partnerships initiative and set up five regional offices to deliver a regionally focused community partnership programme.

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 Authority Act 1975* (section 39Z).

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 programme for monitoring of the conservation and heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef for future generations
- Funding the *State of the Reef Report 2005*.
- Contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in marine ecosystems including through implementing the Representative Areas Programme
- 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
 - 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.
- Protecting the World Heritage values of Australia's Great Barrier Reef through:
 - Regulation, including the consideration of 23 proposed actions predominantly in, or adjacent to, the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics of Queensland
 - Identifying an inventory of areas of interest for the National Heritage Strategy Inventory.
- Working in partnership with stakeholder groups, including:
 - Collaborating with the International Coral Reef Initiative to provide assistance to the international community to promote the conservation of coral reefs through the Global Reef Coral Monitoring Network and the International Coral Reef Initiative Action Network.

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

- Assisting in the development of the structural adjustment package for the Representative Areas Programme for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Implementing an accreditation programme for tourism operators
- Working in partnership with Great Barrier Reef businesses and industry to improve valuation by industry to include environmental and social costs and benefits activities in 2005–06 included:
 - Developing an accounting framework to measure the commercial values of the Great Barrier Reef
 - Continuing the partnership with industry associations through community monitoring programmes.

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

The Department of the Environment and Heritage Portfolio Budget Statement, Part C, section 2 – Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority – lists environmental outcomes for the Authority for 2005–06, as follows:

Group	Outcomes
Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships	Natural, traditional and cultural values protected and World Heritage obligations are met.
Water Quality	Minimal degradation of the Great Barrier Reef from water pollution and coastal development.
Fisheries	Ecologically sustainable fisheries that do not compromise the value of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area.
Tourism and Recreation	Enhance tourism and recreation opportunities in the Marine Park.
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	Delivered best available scientific and technical information for policy development and management.
Reef Education and Communication	Delivered effective communication, education, and interpretive and marketing programmes.
Community Partnerships	Enhance community partnerships and improved regional delivery of Authority services.

Table 16: How the Authority's outcomes contribute to ecologically sustainable development

The above nine outcomes contribute to the Authority's goal: the protection, wise 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 Authority's activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

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

The Authority has the responsibility of managing the world's largest living ecosystem, the world's largest World Heritage area, and Australia's largest and oldest declared marine protected area. The Authority 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 Authority'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 Authority has significant responsibilities for ensuring the conservation of fish stocks, and the environment that sustains them.

In conjunction with its agency partners, the Authority has significantly increased its compliance and enforcement activities during 2005–06, with increased funding allocated to enforcement by way of additional Natural Heritage Trust funding.

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

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

- Operating a Green Office Committee to raise awareness of environmental management within the office
- Taking delivery of two Hybrid Energy vehicles during 2004–05 for fleet use
- Office machines (photocopiers, printers) are automatically programmed to save power
- Printers programmed to duplex documents to reduce paper usage
- Printer toner cartridges are remanufactured and photocopier toner cartridges sent to Planet Arc for recycling
- Staff are actively involved in recycling office paper, with paper and cardboard being collected by a local recycling company
- Packaging and envelopes are recycled
- Corporate publications 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 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.

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

The Authority has committed to the development of an Environmental Management System (EMS), which has been incorporated as an implementation requirement under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2003 Certified Agreement.

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

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 Authority has developed a disability action plan, which provides for reporting requirements identified in the strategy. The Authority has identified that it performs the roles of policy adviser, provider, regulator and employer.

Policy adviser

In its role as a policy adviser, the Authority is the principal adviser to the Australian Government on the care and development of the Marine Park. Public consultation and participation are integral in the management of the Great Barrier Reef. The Authority recognises its responsibility to ensure new policies are developed in consultation with people with a disability, where appropriate. Where possible, public meetings are held in venues with disability access. Public 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 Authority manages Commonwealth marine parks 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 Authority's website at www.gbrmpa.gov.au and in hard copy from the Townsville office, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service offices and various Community Access Points situated along the coast.

The Authority's library has been designed to enable disability access and library staff provide assistance to people with disabilities. The Authority's library services provide access to information on CD-ROM and online catalogues.

Due to the limitations of a marine-based park, access for people with a disability to the Marine Park varies. Reef HQ provides a land-based reef experience for people who would otherwise be unable to access the Marine Park. Townsville Enterprise, the regional tourism body, recognised Reef HQ in its

publications as a user-friendly centre for people with disabilities. Improved disability access, tactile and audiovisual displays have been incorporated into the current refurbishment of Reef HQ. Reef HQ provides interpretive facilities, on request, for people with disabilities.

Regulator

Under its regulatory role, the Authority administers the:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*
- *Great Barrier Reef Region (Prohibition of Mining) Regulations 1999*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge-General) Act 1993*
- *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 Authority website at www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_gbrmpa/legislation_regulations, and brochures and fact sheets are provided on request through the Authority's Public Information Unit.

Public notifications are also made in the *Commonwealth Government Gazette* and, depending on the needs of the person requesting the information, specific requests may be responded to by fax, email or normal postal services. Under section 32 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the Authority is required to provide opportunities for interested people to comment and gain information on changes to the zoning of the Marine Park. This consultative process is achieved through a variety of media including intranet, mail outs, public meetings and public service announcements on both radio and television.

This process also occurs in relation to preparation of plans of management under section 39ZE of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Preparation of an Annual Report on the operation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* is required under section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. The report is also available on the internet in an accessible format.

Employer

The Authority works across a number of areas to ensure it provides fair and equitable employment opportunities for all members of the community. The Authority's employment policies, procedures and practices comply with the requirements of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*. Recruitment information for potential job applicants is made available in various ways depending on the needs of the individual. Recruitment opportunities advertised in the *Australian Public Service Gazette* and the press are accessible through the Internet.

The 2004–05 Annual Workplace Diversity data identifies six 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 Authority's rate of employment of people with disabilities is higher to that of the broader APS (quoted as 3.8 per cent in the *2004–05 State of the Service Report* published by the Australian Public Service Commission).

Within the workplace, the Authority applies the principle of reasonable adjustment. For example, work is arranged to suit individual requirements and the necessary equipment, such as large computer screens or more appropriate keyboards, is provided. Flexible work arrangements are put in place as necessary to suit the needs of the individual. The main building, Day-to-Day Management Compliance Office, Reef HQ, conference rooms and meeting rooms are wheelchair-accessible.

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

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

Appendix 10: The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Funded Research and Investigations for 2005-06

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority supports the following research through funding arrangements. The list is presented per research provider.

Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

The Reef Cooperative Research Centre was the major provider of research for management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in 2005–06. The Authority is a partner in and funds research undertaken by the Reef CRC through cash contributions of \$665 000 and in-kind contributions of \$420 000. In addition the Reef CRC receives \$1 200 000 from the Environmental Management Charge through the Authority. Though all Reef CRC projects are supported directly or indirectly through this Authority funding, other partners in the CRC take carriage of specific research areas. For instance, fisheries stock assessments and fishery management related research is conducted under the auspices of the Reef CRC but is primarily the responsibility of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. Unless there is a direct Authority involvement, such as through the task associate programme, these projects are not listed here.

- A baseline study of the biological effect of creating no-take coral reefs
- Advanced technologies for monitoring water quality in the Great Barrier Reef
- Assessing land based threats and impacts: nutrient supply fluxes
- Assessing impacts of terrestrial runoff on inshore reefs
- An ecological-economic approach to fisheries investment where latent effort exists: sustainability implications for the Great Barrier Reef reef-line fishery
- An *Irukandji* Culture and Holding Facility in the Whitsundays
- A scientific basis for reducing the impact of vessel traffic on sea turtles.
- Characterisation of the *Irukandji* venom proteins
- Chrysophyte (golden algae) nuisance blooms in the Great Barrier Reef region: causes and

solutions

- Climate and oceanographic change from high-resolution records in large fossils *Porties*, Magnetic Island, Queensland
- Coastal fisheries resource monitoring in the GBRWHA
- Consequences of spatial patterns in life history characteristics of a coral reef fish subject to different harvest strategies
- Conservation genetics of sea snakes in Australian waters, with emphasis on the GBRWHA
- Data and information analysis
- Determining optimal capacity where latent effort exists
- Development of an Individual Transferable Catch Quota Model for the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery of the Great Barrier Reef
- Do complex water movement patterns around reefs cause settlement, biodiversity or productivity hotspots?
- Dugong distribution and abundance on the urban coast of Queensland: A basis for management
- Effects of Line Fishing
- Effects of water quality on the distribution of corals on coral reefs
- Enhancing the ecological basis for conservation management of dugongs using innovative satellite tracking technologies
- Enhancing the ecological basis for managing dugongs in the GBRWHA
- Environmental Factors and the Distribution of Breeding Seabird Populations in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA): A Cartographic Approach
- Exploring reef futures
- Factors affecting coral fitness in an experimental reef mesocosm
- Fishing and fisheries project implementation
- Hydrodynamics cause spatial variability in coral reef assemblages: Implications for marine reserve design
- Identification and monitoring of habitats critical to the GBRWHA in or adjacent to shipping lanes and coastal ports
- Identifying critical marine plant habitats within the GBRWHA
- Indigenous land and seascapes and associated practices at Yarrabah Aboriginal Community, north Queensland
- Information management system
- Introduced marine pests
- Introduced marine species – A situation and gap analysis for the Northern Planning Area
- *Irukandji* syndrome: definition, physiological progression and optimal treatment
- Knowledge exchange
- Knowledge management systems
- Liaison and information management for fishing and fisheries research

- Long-term chlorophyll monitoring of Great Barrier Reef waters
- Long-term Monitoring of Coral Reefs within the GBRWHA (AIMS LTMP).
- Long-term monitoring of sea temperatures at Ports Corporation Queensland ports
- Modelling multi-species fishery dynamics
- Modelling multi-species targeting of fishing effort in the Queensland coral reef finfish fishery
- Investigating survival of fish released in Australia's tropical and subtropical line fisheries
- New tools for assessing health, status and trends in nearshore marine ecosystems
- Nutrient recovery from reef-bound waste water effluents
- Otoliths in the tropics: theory and methods
- Perceived and actual differences in recreational line catch trends in estuaries open and closed to commercial fishing in north Queensland
- Population dynamics and stock structure of red throated emperor and others
- Ports and Harbours Seagrass
- Ports and Shipping Implementation
- Port surveys
- Possible removal of nitrogen and phosphorus from waste-water using Struvite
- Queensland east coast storm tide statistics – web presentation of data
- Reef Futures Programme Management
- Reef Water Quality Protection Plan – Marine monitoring programme
- 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
- Regional dynamics in the marine climate of the GBRWHA
- Role of environmental factors in distribution of breeding seabird populations in the GBRWHA
- Role of microbial communities and bioreactive surfaces in post-bleaching nutrient dynamics on coral reefs
- Seabed Biodiversity Project
- SeagrassWatch: community-based monitoring of seagrass habitats
- Sediments and nutrients in north Queensland tropical streams: Changes with agricultural development and pristine condition status
- Serranid biology
- Status of near-shore reefs of the Great Barrier Reef
- Social assessment of recreational fishing in the Great Barrier Reef region
- Social and economic effects of rezoning and other environmental policies
- The accumulation of larvae by oceanographic features: do they cause recruitment and

biodiversity hotspots?

- The collection of Irukandji jellyfish from onshore and offshore coastal Queensland for taxonomy and toxicology research
- The effects of line fishing on the Great Barrier Reef
- The effects of rezoning on habitats between reefs
- The impact of stress on the faunal associates of reef-building corals
- The impacts of anthropogenic noise on coastal marine mammals: dugongs and dolphins
- The role of coral endoliths in coral disease
- The social and economic values associated with Indigenous Use of Marine Resources Stage One — Towards cooperative management of Indigenous hunting by remote community in the GBRWHA
- Towards sustainable environmental experiences for the live aboard diving industry on the Great Barrier Reef
- Treatment of biofouling in Internal seawater systems
- Understanding the effects of management changes in the Great Barrier Reef on the recreational fishing community
- Understanding the social characteristics of Queensland's recreational anglers.

Australian National University

- Long-term changes in water quality and ecosystems (in collaboration with University of Queensland).

Colmar Blunton Social Research, Consultant

- Applied social research to support Great Barrier Reef Marine Park management.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

- Recovery of seabed habitat from the impact of prawn trawling.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

- BleachWatch
- Great Barrier Reef Coral Bleaching Fine Scale Ecological Surveys
- Great Barrier Reef Vulnerability Assessments
- ReefTemp.

James Cook University

- An experimental test of the effectiveness of the new zoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park under RAP

- Dwarf minke whale tourism monitoring programme
- Environmental history of the Great Barrier Reef since European settlement: implications for contemporary management
- Environmental Management of coral reef resilience
- Southern Great Barrier Reef Dugong Aerial Surveys (2005).

Monash University

- Assessment of pollutant flux from catchments.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

- 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.

Robin Aiello, Consultant

- Eye on the Reef programme.

Southern Cross University

- The role of sediment denitrification in the nitrogen budget.

Tourism Research Australia

- Queensland Dive and Snorkel Industry 2006 (in collaboration with Tourism Queensland, Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, Department of the Environment and Heritage).

University of Queensland

- Development and evaluation of a Phytotox-Test for field and laboratory testing of phyto-toxic chemicals in water.
- Ecology, Physiology and Molecular Biology of Coral Disease on the Great Barrier Reef
- Long-term changes in water quality and ecosystems (in collaboration with the Australian National University)
- Research into coral disease on the Great Barrier Reef.

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 Marine Park Authority
Act (the)	<i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Act 1975</i>
CAC Act	<i>Commonwealth Companies and Authorities Act 1997</i>
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COTS	Crown-of-thorns starfish
CRC Reef Research Centre	Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
DEH	Department of the Environment and Heritage
DDM	Day-to-day Management Programme
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
EPBC Act	<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)
FTE	Full-time Equivalent (staff position)
FRAC	Fisheries Reef Advisory Committee
GBRCC	Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GBRWHA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
Hon	Honourable
IMPAC1	International Marine Protected Areas Congress
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)
PSM	Public Service Medal
PWD	People with a disability
QDPI&F	Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
RAP	Representative Areas Programme
Reef Plan	Reef Water Quality Protection Plan
TRRAC	Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee
TUMRA	Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement

Compliance Index

Location of information provided is in accordance with the *Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments, Executive Agencies and FMA ACT Bodies*, issued by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in June 2005.

Note: na indicates that the relevant material was not applicable to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during 2005–2006.

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