

Environmental Impact Management – Permission System

(Revision 0) Effective from 4 October 2017

Objective: To provide a transparent, consistent and contemporary approach to the joint management of the permission system for the Commonwealth Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Queensland Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park.

Target audience: Primary staff of the managing agencies; secondarily persons wanting to conduct activities in the Marine Parks and the general public.

Purpose

1. To allow the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) (collectively referred to as the managing agencies) to implement a joint permission system that achieves the objects of the Commonwealth *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and Queensland *Marine Parks Act 2004*.

Related legislation/ standards/ policy

2. Complementary legislation allows for the operation of a joint permission system, and includes:
 - a. [Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975](#) (Cth) (GBRMP Act) and [Marine Parks Act 2004](#) (Qld) (the Acts).
 - b. [Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983](#) (Cth) and [Marine Parks Regulation 2017](#) (Qld) (the Regulations).
 - c. [Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003](#) (Cth) and [Marine Parks \(Great Barrier Reef Coast\) Zoning Plan 2004](#) (Qld) (the Zoning Plans).
3. Refer to [Appendix A](#) of this document for a full list of related legislation, standards and policies.

Context

4. The Australian and Queensland governments jointly manage the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area under the principles of the [Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement \(2015\)](#).
5. This policy applies only to joint permissions under the Zoning Plans for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park (the Marine Parks). The State of Queensland will deal independently with any applications relating only to the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park.
6. The joint permission system is operated by the managing agencies, being:
 - a. the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) as the lead Australian Government body, and
 - b. the Queensland Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing's QPWS as the lead Queensland Government agency.
7. This policy applies to permissions and accreditations that are regulated under the Acts, the Regulations and/or the Zoning Plans. The managing agencies' legislated methods of regulating these activities are collectively referred to as the 'permission system'.
8. This policy outlines the managing agencies' approach to implementing the permission system within the Marine Parks. This policy does **not** apply to decisions made under legislation not administered by the managing agencies, such as the Authority's decisions made pursuant to powers delegated under the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*.
9. The main object of the GBRMP Act is to provide for the long-term protection and conservation of the environment, biodiversity and heritage values of the Marine Park. The main purpose of the *Marine Parks Act 2004* is to provide for conservation of the marine environment.

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10. The Zoning Plans are the primary planning instruments for the conservation and management of the Marine Parks. The Zoning Plans explain which activities require permission or accreditation from the managing agencies.
11. The permission system works at the scale of individual projects and is only one tool available to the managing agencies. More strategic tools, such as Plans of Management, site plans and issue-specific policies, manage pressures and impacts at a broader scale. The permission system complements these strategic tools and translates their objectives into individual project decisions.

General principles

12. **Maintaining and enhancing outstanding universal value** – The managing agencies are committed to ensuring that the values of the Marine Parks are protected, conserved and enhanced for future generations. The managing agencies ensure that permission decisions contribute to maintaining values which are in good condition and restoring values which are in poor condition to the greatest extent possible.
13. **Ecosystem based management** – The managing agencies have a responsibility to regulate in ways consistent with an approach that recognises the full array of interactions within an ecosystem, including humans, rather than considering single issues, species or ecosystem services in isolation.
14. **Ecologically sustainable use** – The managing agencies have a responsibility to protect and conserve the values of the Marine Parks as well as to manage the community benefits derived from the Marine Parks in a fair and equitable way for current and future generations. The managing agencies encourage continual improvement and innovations that contribute to achieving the objects of the Acts.
15. **Partnership approach** – The managing agencies work cooperatively to manage the permission system and strive to be transparent and accountable about decisions. In doing so, the managing agencies aim to:
 - a. Deliver effective joint assessment with the Australian Government department responsible for administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
 - b. Endeavour to ensure consistency and complementarity with respect to other policies relevant to managing permitted activities in the Marine Parks.
 - c. Recognise that establishing an effective and meaningful partnership with Traditional Owners is essential to protect Traditional Owner heritage values, conserve biodiversity and enhance the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.
 - d. Consult proactively and participate positively with stakeholders and other regulatory agencies to streamline requirements and maintain strong environmental protection.
 - e. Provide appropriate and meaningful opportunities for the public to understand and contribute to decision making.
16. **Risk assessment procedure** – The managing agencies apply a risk-based approach through the permission system using the [Risk Assessment Procedure](#) to consider the likelihood and consequence of potential impacts to the values of the Marine Parks.

Where risks are identified, a hierarchy of actions is applied to manage the risks and inform decisions. This hierarchy is illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Hierarchy of avoid, mitigate, offset considered in the assessment of impacts

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17. **Evidence-based decision making** – The managing agencies make decisions using the best information available about the risks posed by the proposed activity, including consideration of the condition and trend of values at the time a decision is made. This is done by:
 - a. considering a range of evidence relevant to the particular decision being made, including scientific, Traditional Owner and community knowledge
 - b. seeking to understand the limitations and reliability of available information. Where there is a high or very high risk to the Marine Parks and scientific uncertainty about the potential impacts, the managing agencies apply the precautionary principle.
18. **Compliance** – The managing agencies monitor and audit compliance with the permission system based on risk. This may include analysing intelligence, conducting field patrols, inspecting facilities, auditing activities and collecting evidence.
 - a. Where non-compliance is detected, the managing agencies pursue action appropriate in the particular circumstances. Actions range from education approaches to stronger measures such as revoking permission.
 - b. The managing agencies seek to achieve the right balance between supporting people to become compliant and deterring intentional non-compliance.

Specific principles

Joint approach

19. Some activities require permission for both Marine Parks. Because of this, a joint permission system has been established to streamline the process for applicants and to ensure a complementary approach between State and Commonwealth Marine Parks.
20. In most cases, the joint permission system includes processes that meet both State and Commonwealth requirements, such as the following:
 - a. A single application completed by the applicant meets the requirements of both Acts and is treated as an application under each of the Acts.
 - b. Where required, a single public comment period meets the requirements of both Acts.
 - c. A single assessment report is prepared with contributions from both managing agencies.
 - d. Two separate decisions are made, on each application, one by the QPWS delegate and one by the GBRMPA delegate.
21. Where both delegates agree to the grant of permission, a single permit document is issued which details the permissions granted under both jurisdictions.
22. It is possible for one agency to grant permission, while the other agency refuses permission. However, complementary legislation and zoning, combined with a long history of working collaboratively, means such cases are rare. Typically any differences are discussed and resolved prior to finalising the assessment report. Where agreement is not reached, the issues are progressively escalated in both agencies to a more senior level.
23. In most cases the Authority administers and manages the assessment process including preparation of an assessment report and, if permission is to be granted, a joint permit.

Multiple-use of the Marine Parks

25. Permissions granted by the managing agencies, such as a permission to conduct an activity or to operate a facility, are:
 - a. temporary – granted only for a specific period of time
 - b. subject to the public's right to enter or use the area for the purposes allowed in the Zoning Plans and Acts.
26. Because of the temporary nature of permissions, facilities must be designed to be removed from the Marine Parks with minimal impact.

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Activities not requiring permission

27. The Zoning Plans establish that certain activities do not require written permission from the managing agencies. These activities include:
- specific activities outlined in legislation
 - low impact activities (in all Zones except Preservation Zones and Designated Areas)
 - activities conducted under an accreditation.

Low impact activities

28. A low impact activity generally means an activity likely to have a negligible impact on the Marine Parks. Factors which the managing agencies consider when determining if an activity may be low impact include:
- The activity does not involve the taking of plants, animals or marine products (such as sand or water).
 - The activity does not require the installation of any fixed facilities.
 - The activity is not explicitly identified in the Zoning Plans as requiring written permission from the managing agencies in a particular zone.
 - The activity poses a low risk of impacting Marine Park values or people's reasonable use of the Marine Parks.
29. A person may contact the managing agencies to seek advice about whether a particular activity is low impact prior to conducting the activity and/or prior to applying for permission to conduct the activity. The managing agencies will advise the person in writing whether the activity has been determined to be a low impact activity not requiring permission in most Zones. This notice may specify how the activity would need to be conducted in order to be a low impact activity or for how long the advice can be relied upon.
30. Previous advice from the managing agencies that an activity is a low impact activity does not mean that the same position will be taken by the managing agencies in future. This is because the managing agencies continually monitor the condition and trend of the Marine Parks and the impacts of activities, providing advice and making decisions based on best available knowledge.
31. If the managing agencies advise that an activity is **not** a low impact activity, written permission is required to enter or use the Marine Parks to conduct the activity. If the proposed activity is not specifically listed in the Zoning Plans as requiring written permission, the proposed activity is considered under the Zoning Plans' category of 'any other purpose'.

Accreditation of educational and research institutions

32. The managing agencies may accredit an educational or research institution so that certain activities conducted by the institution no longer require individual written permissions. The managing agencies actively encourage institutions to conduct activities under an institutional accreditation where available.
33. Under the Regulations, the managing agencies may accredit an educational or research institution if the institution has adopted appropriate environmental practices and standards with an ongoing commitment to improve those practices and standards relating to research or education conducted in the Marine Parks.
- To satisfy the requirements outlined in the Regulations, an institution will be expected to enter into a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) with the managing agencies. The MOU will generally specify that the institution must effectively administer its responsibilities, implement a code of conduct, and monitor and report on its activities. To deliver continual improvement, the MOU should be reviewed every five years by the managing agencies and the relevant institution.

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Activities requiring permission

Application for permission

34. The managing agencies require applications for permission to provide enough information about the proposed activity to allow an assessment of potential impacts, and determine the most appropriate risk management measures. The level of information required is commensurate with risk, but generally includes the following:
- Type and scale of activity, duration, location, equipment, materials and methods.
 - Potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on Marine Parks' values and benefits over time and space, including the full life of the proposal as relevant (construction, operation and decommissioning or removal).
 - How impacts to Marine Parks' values will be avoided, mitigated or offset.
 - How impacts to Marine Parks' values will be monitored to determine the effectiveness of the avoidance, mitigation or offset measures.
 - How the proposal complies with relevant plans, policies, guidelines and standards.
35. The managing agencies consider that if an activity forms one stage of a larger overall project or cannot reasonably be evaluated in isolation of other related activities, these related activities must be submitted as a single proposal. The [Application Guidelines](#) provide further guidance on applying for joint permission.

Assessment of an application

The Regulations specify the matters the managing agencies must consider in deciding an application for permission. The detail and rigour of the assessment process will be commensurate with the scale, risk level, complexity and potential impacts of the proposed activity.

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36. **Table 1** explains the assessment approaches used by the managing agencies and provides guidance on the types of activities that may trigger each type of assessment process (note that this table is not exhaustive).
37. For applications that have also been referred under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Authority and the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy establishes a [collaborative approach](#) for determining the appropriate assessment process and the lead agency.

Public comment

38. The managing agencies may decide on an assessment approach that requires an applicant for permission to seek public comment on their proposal if the managing agencies consider that the granting of the permission may restrict the reasonable use by the public of a part of the Marine Parks or is likely to have a significant impact on one or more values of the Marine Parks.
- a. The installation of a new facility within the Marine Parks may restrict the public's reasonable use of an area and as such these applications will generally attract an assessment approach that requires the applicant to seek public comment.
39. GBRMPA requires that public comment is sought as part of public information package, public environment report or environmental impact statement assessment approaches. Targeted Traditional Owner consultation may also be a requirement during the public comment period. See the [Traditional Owner heritage assessment guidelines](#) for more guidance.
40. In considering public comments, the managing agencies consider the issues raised and information provided by the public and in response by the applicant, which are relevant to the permission(s) being applied for.

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Table 1: Types of assessment approaches for activities requiring written permission.

(Note: Refer to Risk Assessment Procedure for an explanation of how the degree of risk is determined).

Assessment approach	Characteristics of proposed activity	Key features
Routine Assessment (Level 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has already been assessed by the managing agencies as low risk if conducted in a certain standardised way. The application contains enough information for the managing agencies to predict the risks of the activity with a high level of confidence. The applicant does not have matters related to their suitability to hold a permission for the proposed conduct which require detailed consideration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant must provide the managing agencies with the information specified on the application form. Does not require public comment.
Tailored Assessment (Level 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application contains enough information for the managing agencies to predict the risks of the activity with a high level of confidence, but there are some aspects of the application which require detailed consideration. The applicant may have matters related to their suitability to hold a permission for the proposed conduct which require detailed consideration. Unlikely to have any noticeable or lasting impacts on the Marine Park's values or on the public's reasonable use of a location in the Marine Parks. 	<p>As for Routine Assessments, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires an individualised assessment of non-standardised aspects of the proposal. Pre-application telephone call is encouraged to assist the managing agencies to understand the proposal and to advise the applicant of likely further information requirements. Further information specific to the proposal is commonly sought by the managing agencies. Does not require public comment.
Public information package (Level 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May have a moderate impact on the values of the Marine Parks and/or on the public's reasonable use of the Marine Parks. The applicant may have matters related to their suitability to hold a permission for the proposed conduct which require detailed consideration. Impacts may occur at a local scale. 	<p>As for Tailored Assessments, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A public information package, summarising the proposal, must be made available for public comment. Public consultation is required and additional consultation with other key stakeholders may be required. The applicant must address issues raised by the public.
Public environment report (PER) (Level 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May have a moderate to major impact on the values of the Marine Parks and/or on the public's reasonable use of the Marine Parks. The applicant may have matters related to their suitability to hold a permission for the proposed conduct which require detailed consideration. Significant impacts may occur at a local or regional scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-application meeting between the proponent and relevant managing agencies is encouraged. Prior to application, the background conditions of values should be established by the applicant based on appropriate monitoring and stakeholder engagement. The managing agencies provide a standard or tailored Terms of Reference for the PER. Public consultation is required and additional consultation with other key stakeholders may be required, with details specified in the Terms of Reference. The applicant must address any issues raised in the public comments.

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Assessment approach	Characteristics of proposed activity	Key features
Environmental impact statement (EIS) (Level 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May have a major to extreme impact on the values of the Marine Park and/or on the public's reasonable use of the Marine Park. • The applicant may have matters related to their suitability to hold a permission for the proposed conduct which require detailed consideration. • Significant impacts are likely to occur at a local or regional scale and /or may occur across multiple regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole-of-government briefing is encouraged prior to application. • Prior to application, the background conditions of values should be established based on appropriate monitoring and stakeholder engagement. • The managing agencies provide the applicant with standard or tailored Terms of Reference for the development of a comprehensive EIS. • Public consultation is required and additional consultation with other key stakeholders may be required, with details specified in the Terms of Reference. • The applicant must address any issues raised in the public comments.

Decisions on applications

41. The managing agencies assess and decide applications as efficiently as possible, within existing resources. From October 2017, the Authority will establish service level standards to track progress in efficiencies and decision timeframes, with a view to introducing statutory timeframes in the future.
42. The joint application and assessment process between the managing agencies results in two separate decisions – one decision under Queensland legislation and another decision under Commonwealth legislation. If one or both of the managing agencies decides not to grant permission, the applicant will be advised in writing as soon as possible with an explanation of the reasons for the refusal and rights of review if applicable.
43. If permission is granted, the applicant will receive a permit with conditions on how the activity is to be conducted. When setting conditions the managing agencies apply the following principles. Permission conditions:
 - a. do not fundamentally change the proposed activity
 - b. are reasonable and in proportion to the impacts likely to be caused by the activity
 - c. are clear and easy to understand
 - d. are designed to allow compliance monitoring and enforcement action by the managing agencies
 - e. do not defer decisions about critical matters where this further information is critical to the decision maker's view on whether permission should be granted.
44. The Authority publishes notices of all Commonwealth decisions relating to joint permissions, in the Australian Government Gazette and on its website, as soon as practicable after the applicant has been informed.
45. The [Assessment Guidelines](#) provide further information about the content of a permit such as core matters, permit terms for specific activities, conditions of permission including management and monitoring tools which may be required by the conditions of permission. In general, permission will be granted for eight (8) to 20 years.
46. As understanding of the Marine Parks' values improves and the managing agencies develop more effective management tools, changes may be needed to this Policy and associated guidance materials to continue to protect the Marine Parks. The granting of permission for an activity in the past does not guarantee that permission will be granted for the same activity in the future. Similarly, the conditions of permission may change in response to improved understanding or needs identified by the managing agencies. All applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

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47. The managing agencies monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of permission conditions in managing impacts of conduct on the values of the Marine Parks, and permission conditions may be modified if necessary to ensure protection of the Marine Parks. Where permission conditions are updated during the grant of a permission in response to a continuation application, which were not included in the original permission, the managing agencies explain these changes to the applicant or permission holder.
48. The grant of permission by the managing agencies to conduct activities within the Marine Parks does not absolve a permission holder of their obligations to comply with requirements of other applicable Commonwealth and State legislation. A range of other approvals, permits or licences may be required in addition to a permission from the managing agencies.

Implementation

49. This policy will be reviewed and updated if required at least every three (3) years.
50. Guidelines are available which provide further detail on how the Authority assesses, decides and manages specific aspects of the permission system and the application process.
51. For actions that are wholly or partially outside the Marine Parks and that require an approval under the EPBC Act, the Authority will continue to liaise with the Commonwealth Department responsible for the EPBC Act. Where a bilateral agreement exists between the Australian Government and the Queensland Government, depending on the terms of the agreement the Commonwealth Department's role may be delivered by the Queensland Government. The Authority will work with both levels of government according to agreed procedures, such as a Memorandum of Understanding, to provide advice on matters that may affect the Great Barrier Reef.

Definitions

Refer to [Appendix B](#) for a list of permission system definitions.

Supporting information

1. Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report (the Outlook Report)
2. Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment Report (the Strategic Assessment)
3. Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment Program Report (the Program Report)

Further information

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Document control information

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Appendix A: Related Legislation, Standards and Policy

1. *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 (Cth)*
2. *Marine Park Act 2004 (Qld)*
3. *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983 (Cth)*
4. *Marine Parks Regulation 2017 (Qld)*
5. *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003 (Cth)*
6. *Marine Parks (Great Barrier Reef Coast) Zoning Plan 2004 (Qld)*
7. *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015*
8. *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
9. *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge-General) Act 1993*
10. *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge-Excise) Act 1993*
11. *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*
12. *Cairns Area Plan of Management 1998*
13. *Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004*
14. *Whitsundays Plan of Management 2017*
15. *Shoalwater Bay (Dugong) Plan of Management 1997*
16. *Public Governance Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act)*
17. *Privacy Act 1988*
18. *Native Title Act 1993*
19. Policy on moorings in the Great Barrier Reef
20. Cruise Ship Operations within the Great Barrier Reef
21. Managing Tourism Permissions to Operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (including Allocation, Latency and Tenure)
22. Policy on Managing Bareboat Operations in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
23. Marine Tourism Contingency Plan for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
24. Managing Activities that Include the Direct Take of a Protected Species from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (at the time this policy was approved, this document was under review)
25. Operations Policy on Whale and Dolphin Conservation in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
26. Dredging and Spoil Disposal Policy
27. Dredging coral reef habitats policy
28. Compliance framework – Environmental Management Charge (internal policy)
29. Compliance framework – permission system (internal policy) (at the time this policy was approved, this document was under development)
30. [Guidelines: Applications for joint permissions](#)
31. [Guidelines: Permission assessment and decisions](#)
32. [Risk Assessment Procedure for the permission system](#)
33. [Guidelines: Location-specific assessment](#)
34. [Guidelines: Activity Assessment - Tourist programs involving whale watching or swimming with whales](#)
35. [Guidelines: Historic heritage assessment - Maritime Cultural Heritage Protection Special Management Area](#)

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36. [Guidelines: Activity assessment - Photography, filming and sound recording](#)
37. [Guidelines: Activity assessment - Fixed Facilities](#) (at the time this policy was approved, this document was under development)
38. [Guidelines: Historic heritage assessment - WWII features and sites, and voyages and shipwrecks](#)
39. [Guidelines: Historic heritage assessment - lightstations](#)
40. [Guidelines: Historic heritage assessment - other places of historic and social significance](#)
41. [Guidelines: Traditional Owner heritage assessment](#)
42. [Guidelines: Woppaburra Traditional Owner heritage assessment](#)
43. [Guidelines: Dugong Impact Assessment in the Permission System](#) (at the time this policy was approved, this document was under development)
44. [Guidelines: Seagrass Impact Assessment in the Permission System](#) (at the time this policy was approved, this document was under development)
45. [Guidelines: Social value assessment](#)
46. [Guidelines for managing research in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park](#)
47. Sewage Discharges from Marine Outfalls to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
48. Guidelines on Coral Transplantation
49. Guidelines for the Emergency Disposal of Foreign Fishing Vessels
50. Guidelines for the Management of Artificial Reefs in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
51. Guidelines for Managing Visitation to Seabird Breeding Islands
52. Management of Commercial Jet Ski Operations Around Magnetic Island
53. Indigenous Participation in Tourism and its Management
54. Guidelines for the Use of Hydrodynamic Numerical Modelling for Dredging Projects in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
55. [EPBC referral deemed applications information sheet](#)
56. Permits Information Bulletin – No Structure Sub-Zones

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Appendix B: Permission system definitions

Accreditation

Means accreditation of an educational or research institution, harvest fishery or Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreement in accordance with the Regulations.

Activity

Engaging in conduct within the Marine Park, including use of, or entry to, the Marine Park, for the purpose of conducting a program, project, development, undertaking, action or operation.

Applicant

A person or body corporate who has made an application for permission to enter or use the Marine Park.

Authority

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, as established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Consequence

The outcome of an event affecting objectives; to what degree an impact may affect a value of the Marine Park (and, as a result, the objects of the Act). Consequences may be certain or uncertain and can have positive or negative effects on objectives.

Continuation application

Has the meaning given in the Commonwealth *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*. At the time of publishing this policy, these Regulations provided that continuation application means an application for a permission for which the following conditions are met:

- a. the permission is of the same kind and relates to the same conduct as a permission (the original permission) the applicant holds or held;
- b. either:
 - i. the application was made before the original permission ceased to be in force; or
 - ii. the application was made after the original permission ceased to be in force but the Authority decided under subregulation 88H(2) to treat the application for the permission as having been made before the expiry of the original permission.

Decision maker

A delegate; An officer of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority who has been provided with decision making power under relevant delegations of the Chairman or the Authority; an officer of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service who has been provided with decision making power under relevant delegations

Event

A change in situation; something happening or not happening (when it was expected); an incident or occurrence that exposes a value to a hazard.

GBRMPA

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, as established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park (State Marine Park)

Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park established by the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Marine Park)

Commonwealth Great Barrier Reef Marine Park established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (C'th) as amended from time to time.

Great Barrier Reef Region

Means:

- a. the area described in Schedule 1; and
- b. such area (if any) contiguous with the northern boundary of that area as is prescribed;
- c. other than any part of such an area that is referred to in section 14 of the Seas and Submerged Lands Act 1973 or is an island, or a part of an island, that forms part of Queensland and is not owned by the Commonwealth.

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Hazard

A source of potential harm; a situation, action or behaviour that may negatively impact a Marine Park value, whether intentionally or unintentionally; some may be outside the ability of GBRMPA's permission system to control (such as global greenhouse gas emissions).

Heritage value

Has the meaning given in section 528 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. At the time of publishing this policy states that 'heritage value of a place includes the place's natural and cultural environment having aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance, or other significance, for current and future generations of Australians'.

Impact

Has the meaning given in the Commonwealth *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983*. At the time of publishing this policy, these Regulations provided that relevant impacts of proposed conduct or permitted conduct means:

- a. the potential direct and indirect impacts of the conduct, and the potential cumulative impacts of the conduct (in conjunction with other conduct, events and circumstances), on the environment, biodiversity, and heritage values, of the Marine Park or a part of the Marine Park; or
- b. the risk of the proposed conduct restricting reasonable use by the public of a part of the Marine Park and the extent of that restriction (if any).

Location

A discrete, identified reef; or a continuous non-reef area of up to 10 square kilometres.

Low impact activities

Has the meaning given in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*. At the time of publishing this policy, the Zoning Plan provided that low impact activity means an activity that is likely to have a negligible impact on the Marine Park, but does not include an activity declared for the purposes of this definition in the Regulations.

Marine park values

Includes those values and processes identified in in the *Outlook Report* and the *Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment Report*.

Marine Parks Regulation

Means the *Marine Parks Regulation 2017* (Qld)

Mitigation measures

Actions that, if implemented, would reduce risk (by reducing the consequence and/or likelihood of impacts).

Objectives

Within the permission system, this means the objects of the Act.

Offset

Actions that, if implemented, would compensate for likely impacts and therefore may counteract some consequences.

Operating a facility

Has the meaning given in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*. At the time of publishing this policy, these Regulations provided that continuation application includes:

- a. discharging waste from the facility; or
- b. building, assembling, fixing in position, maintaining or
- c. demolishing the facility; or
- d. constructing or operating mooring facilities for vessels or aircraft; or
- e. operating a landing area or facility for aircraft.

Permission

Written approval to enter or use the Marine Park for a specific purpose, in cases where this is required by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* and *Marine Parks (Great Barrier Reef Coast) Zoning Plan 2004*.

Environmental Impact Management – Permission System (Revision 0)

Permission holder

A person, company or entity who is granted a written permission by the managing agencies pursuant to the Acts and Zoning Plans to use or enter a Zone in the Marine Parks.

Permission system

Legislation, policies, guidelines, procedures and systems related to how the agency manages permissions and accreditations that are regulated under the Acts, the Regulations and the Zoning Plans; and activities outlined in Part 5 of the GBRMP Zoning Plan.

Permit

A document issued by the managing agencies which details the permission(s) granted by the managing agencies. A permit may include one or more permissions.

Precautionary principle

Has the meaning given by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. At the time of publishing this policy, the Act provided that the precautionary principle means the principle that lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing a measure to prevent degradation of the environment where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.

Regulations

Means the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983* (Cth)

Risk

Defined by the Australia/New Zealand Standard for Risk Management (AS/NZS 31000:2009) as “effect of uncertainty on objectives;” within the permission system, “risk” relates to uncertainty as to whether the objects of the Acts can be achieved.

Severity

How serious a consequence would be if it occurred; the degree of degradation that would occur to the value if that consequence occurred.

Taking an animal, plant or marine product

Has the meaning given in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*. At the time of publishing this policy, the Zoning Plan provided that taking an animal, plant or marine product includes:

- a. removing, gathering, catching, capturing, killing, destroying, dredging for, raising, carrying away, bringing ashore, interfering with and obtaining (by any other means) the animal, plant or marine product; and
- b. attempting to do anything mentioned in paragraph (a).

Traditional Owner

Has the meaning given by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. At the time of publishing this policy, the Act provided that Traditional Owner means an Indigenous person:

- a. who is recognised in the Indigenous community or by a relevant representative Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander body:
 - i. as having spiritual or cultural affiliations with a site or area in the Marine Park; or
 - ii. as holding native title in relation to that site or area; and
- iii. who is entitled to undertake activities under Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander custom or tradition in that site or area.

Values

Aspects or attributes of an environment that make it of significance; Marine Park values include biodiversity, social, historic heritage, Traditional Owner heritage and other heritage.

Works

Means all activities associated with installation, construction, maintenance and/or removal of all plant and materials comprising or used in connection with the permitted activities (including dredging, installations, structures, facilities, moorings, vessels or aircraft of any kind associated directly or indirectly with the permission) and the use (authorised or unauthorised) of the Marine Parks in connection with the permit.

Zone of impact

The geographical area that may be exposed to direct, indirect, consequential or cumulative impacts from the proposed activity.

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