



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority



Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority

ANNUAL REPORT  
2017 – 18



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The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority acknowledges the continuing sea country management and custodianship of the Great Barrier Reef by Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Traditional Owners whose rich cultures, heritage values, enduring connections and shared efforts protect the Reef for future generations.

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# LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
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5 October 2018

The Hon. Melissa Price MP  
Minister for the Environment  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with subsection 53(1) of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, I submit the annual report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2018.

The report has been prepared for the purposes of section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, which requires that an annual report be given to the entity's responsible Minister for presentation to the Parliament.

It has been prepared in accordance with the requirements for annual reports for departments, executive agencies and other non-corporate Commonwealth entities, as approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit under subsection 70(2) of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

This annual report has also been prepared in line with the *Resource Management Guide No. 135: Annual reports for non-corporate Commonwealth entities*, updated by the Department of Finance in May 2018. In accordance with section 10 of the PGPA Rule 2014 (Fraud Rule) and the Commonwealth Fraud Control Policy (Fraud Policy), the Authority has prepared fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans and has in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection processes and procedures. We have also taken all reasonable measures to minimise the incidence of fraud and to investigate and recover the proceeds of fraud against the Authority.

Yours sincerely



Russell Reichelt  
Chairman

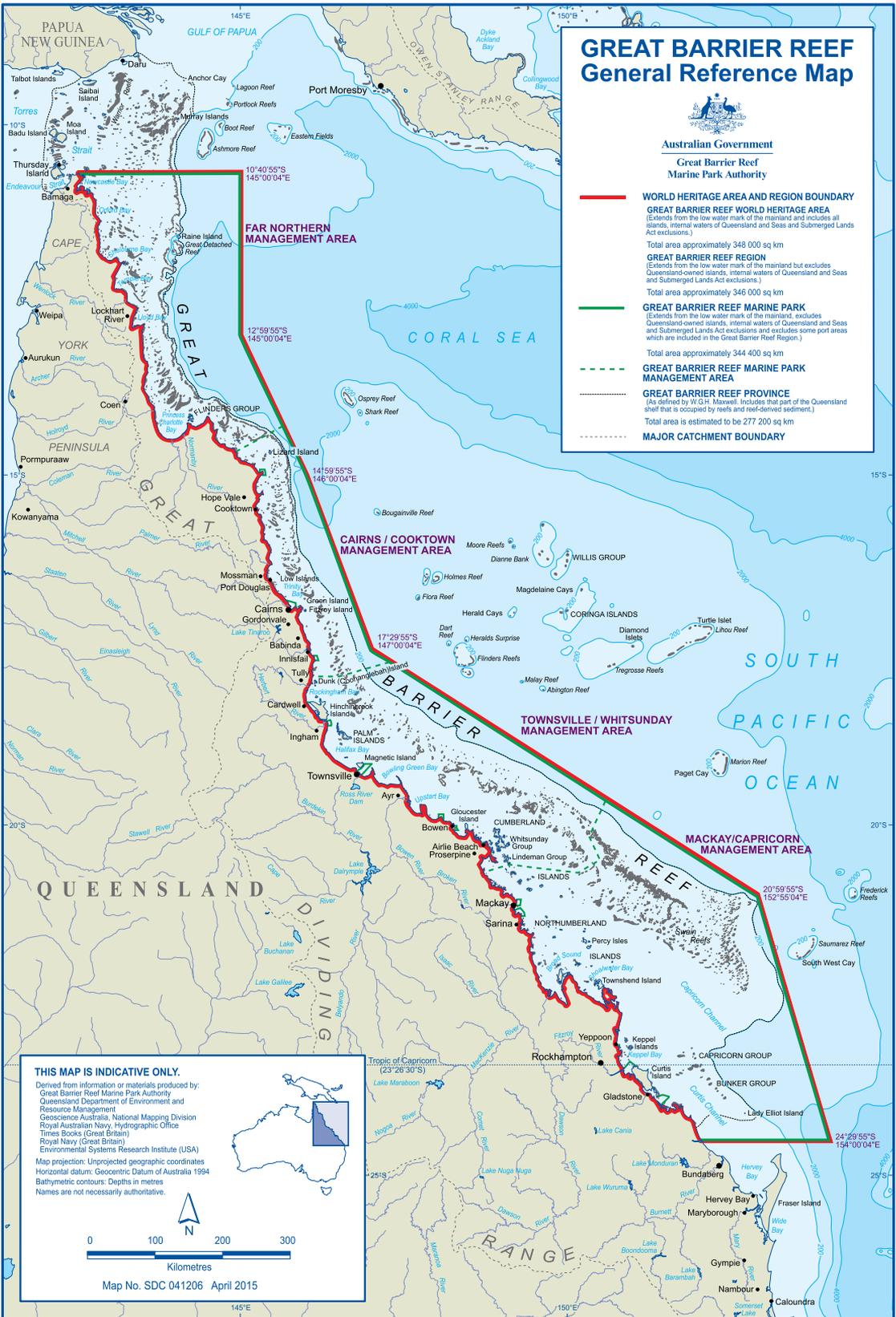


Figure 1: Map of the great Barrier Reef Region

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# INTRODUCTION

## ABOUT THIS ANNUAL REPORT

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Annual Report 2017–18 complies with the requirements for annual reports outlined by the Australian Government Department of Finance in its *Resource Management Guide No. 135: Annual reports for non-corporate Commonwealth entities*.

This annual report includes the Authority's annual performance statements, detailing its performance against criteria as published in the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy Portfolio Budget Statements 2017–18 and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Corporate Plan 2017–18 (Corporate Plan).



The annual report comprises seven parts:

- **PART 1 INTRODUCTION**

Outlines the purpose and structure of the report, and presents the Chairman's review of the Authority's activities and performance for the 2017–18 reporting period.

- **PART 2 OVERVIEW**

Provides corporate background to the Authority, including its role and functions. Also provides a summary of financial performance and a staff overview.

- **PART 3 PERFORMANCE**

Details the actions taken by the Authority in 2017–18 to meet its stated purpose of the long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef for all Australians and the international community, through the care and development of the Marine Park, reporting against key performance indicators outlined in the Authority's performance documents.

- **PART 4 MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Covers the delivery of the management framework that supports effective functioning of the Authority, including corporate governance; statutory and advisory committees; management and training; work health and safety; asset management; corporate services; and management of consultants.

- **PART 5 FINANCES**

Delivers an analysis of financial performance and a detailed financial statement.

- **PART 6 APPENDICES**

Comprises the Authority's resource statement; a staffing overview; information on advertising and marketing, freedom of information and ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance; a list of staff papers and presentations; Queensland Government financials and correction of a material error in the previous annual report.

- **PART 7 ACRONYMS AND INDEX**

Includes a list of acronyms; a glossary; list of requirements; and an alphabetical index.



*Coral reefscape, Lodestone Reef, © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMFA)*

## CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW



The period from July 2017 to June 2018 has been significant for the management of the Great Barrier Reef — being marked by a sense of urgency, commitment and energy by all involved in protecting this great natural wonder which continues to inspire awe in the millions who visit the Reef each year.

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* defines the Authority's purpose — the long-term protection of the Great Barrier Reef. We have a strong track record of more than 40 years of protected area management that allows for conservation and sustainable use. However, the past three years of extreme storms, floods and global oceanic heatwaves call for stronger, more innovative action to strengthen Reef health in the face of the ecosystem's declining condition.

The Great Barrier Reef is a large and beautiful ecosystem under increasing pressure from human activities. The Authority and its partners in the community, industry and the Queensland and Australian governments are acting to relieve pressures from local causes such as poor water quality and over-fishing. However, the most significant pressure on the Reef is caused by the rapidly rising concentration of greenhouse gases in the global atmosphere leading to heatwaves and widespread loss of corals — the building blocks of the whole ecosystem.

During 2017–18, the Authority sharpened its focus through an extensive operational review to ensure our work program delivers benefits for the Reef both now and over the long term, while remaining sufficiently agile to respond to the ecosystem's changing conditions.

The cornerstones of our work are to provide expert knowledge to inform and enable decision makers within and outside the agency. We regulate and manage use of the Marine Park to ensure that direct human activities do not cause environmental harm; and we provide education and foster stewardship to enhance Reef resilience through continuing to improve management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

During 2018 we are celebrating the third International Year of the Reef. We encourage reflection on the value that coral reefs provide globally — some A\$13.5 trillion a year, and support for at least 500 million people worldwide by providing food, coastal protection and livelihoods.

The globally acclaimed and much-loved Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's seven natural wonders, which also provides \$6.4 billion a year to the Australian economy and directly supports 64,000 jobs. It is the sea country of Traditional Owners and integral to the customs and culture of these Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians whose continuous connections to the Great Barrier Reef go back more than 60,000 years. Today, the Reef is a source of pride and inspiration for many Australians who want to ensure it is protected for future generations. We are working with government, communities and industries who share this goal.

### REEF BLUEPRINT SIGNALS STRONGER ACTION NEEDED TO HELP THE REEF

A key achievement during the year was the release of the Authority's *Great Barrier Reef blueprint for resilience*, which signals a new direction for managing the Reef and outlines 10 key actions to strengthen Reef resilience in the face of a changing climate.

The blueprint acknowledges that mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions is the key to

addressing climate change impacts and emphasises that protecting the Great Barrier Reef in a warming world requires strong action now to build Reef resilience.

We are working with partners to implement the blueprint, with a progress report in development. Significantly, the blueprint has already informed the budget process used to develop the landmark \$500 million funding announcement by the Australian Government in May 2018, including a step-change increase in the Authority's management capacity to increase actions to boost resilience and protect the Great Barrier Reef.

The Authority received \$42.7 million over five years from 2019–20 to expand its Joint Field Management Program, with an ongoing increase of \$10.2 million per year after that. This funding, together with a matching commitment from the Queensland Government, significantly boosts our field management capacity. This was in addition to \$4.9 million received by the Authority for field management in January 2018 for two years from 2017–18.

It follows considerable work by the Joint Field Management team over multiple years to review the program's performance and report to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum last July. Included were recommendations on the funding needed to deliver additional actions under the *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050 Plan), the Australian and Queensland governments' overarching strategy for Reef protection released in 2015.

### REEF 2050 MID-TERM REVIEW IDENTIFIES NEW ACTIONS

The Authority's blueprint also provided significant input to the mid-term review of the Reef 2050 Plan, which was brought forward by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum following climate-driven, back-to-back mass bleaching events and other severe impacts to the Reef.

The revised plan, released in July 2018, identifies priorities for immediate action as well as new activities to protect the values of the Reef and improve its resilience. The Authority will lead 33 of the 49 actions in this updated plan.

### DESIGNING A NEW REEF KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

A key component of the Reef 2050 Plan is the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program, being led by the Authority and the Queensland Government.

This new knowledge system will enable timely and informed responses by Reef managers and partners to emerging issues and risks. In addition to helping evaluate whether the Reef 2050 Plan is on track to meet its outcomes, it will provide better access to data and information and inform key management tools like the Authority's Outlook Report.

An updated program strategy was released during the year to provide an overview of progress as well as the pathway ahead. Work across three parallel streams — design, data management and synthesis and reporting — is well underway and the program design is scheduled for delivery late 2018.

### STREAMLINING PERMISSIONS IN THE MARINE PARK

A major milestone in our regulatory role was the release of the Permits Online system for commercial operators, improving efficiency of the Authority's permission management as well as benefiting applicants by enabling them to apply and manage applications online.

This was one of a number of enhancements to our permission system which included Regulation amendments to increase transparency and consistency in assessing permit applications. A service charter was also released, supporting our commitment to improving our permission management.

### MARINE PARK ZONING — COMPLIANCE

Compliance is a critical part of the regulatory approach to protect key values of the Marine Park to support ecosystem recovery following the mass bleaching events and other system shocks.

Improving recreational fishing compliance continues to be a priority for the Joint Field Management Program as the trend in illegal fishing offences increased to the highest number recorded in the Commonwealth Marine Park during 2017–18.



Compliance vessel Reef Sentinel undertakes site assessment at Davies Reef © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

The program has increased its on-water presence as well as conducting targeted compliance programs in identified hotspots for illegal fishing. In addition, it is harnessing technology to boost capacity — such as using drones, investing in new and improved vessels and supporting the Queensland Government's program to expand commercial vessel tracking.

## STEPPING UP CONTROL OF STARFISH PEST

The *Great Barrier Reef blueprint for resilience* identified crown-of-thorns starfish control as one of the most feasible actions to reduce coral mortality on the Great Barrier Reef. The crown-of-thorns starfish, *Acanthaster cf. solaris*, is a voracious predator of live coral. After major flood events, excess nutrients running off the land contribute to 'outbreaks' of the starfish on dozens of reefs at a time, which dramatically reduce the living coral cover on each reef. The recovery time for the fastest growing corals is more than 10 years.

Culling to reduce the severity of these starfish outbreaks to protect live coral is a priority for the Authority. The control program is designed to maintain coral cover while the longer-term problems of poor water quality and reducing greenhouse gas concentrations are being addressed through other government programs.

To date, the program has been successful in maintaining starfish densities below critical thresholds needed for coral growth on 75 per cent on the network of targeted reefs identified as ecological and economically valuable.

Funding for the Authority of \$10.4 million over two years, which commenced in January 2018, will enable the program to expand, tripling the number of starfish control vessels and providing

resources for additional surveillance. A panel of suppliers will deliver this expanded program.

The Authority is working with the research community, including the National Environmental Science Program, to inform the strategic expansion of the control program and advance research that will further improve the effectiveness of the program using an integrated pest management framework.

## INNOVATION TO PROTECT THE REEF

The Authority is also partnering with or enabling a number of habitat restoration projects that trial new technologies and mobilise community efforts to help reefs better withstand and recover from disturbances. The Authority is collaborating with the Australian Institute of Marine Science, CSIRO and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation on a feasibility study as part of the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program — another initiative outlined in the Authority's blueprint, which proposed a suite of interventions to protect the Reef from the escalating threat of climate change.



Wujal Wujal was welcomed as the first Aboriginal Shire Council to become a Reef Guardian © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

## PROTECTING CULTURAL AND HISTORIC HERITAGE

Keeping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage of the Great Barrier Reef strong, safe and healthy for past, present and future generations is paramount to the Authority.

Developed in partnership with more than 20 Traditional Owner groups, the draft *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park* was released for public consultation in February, with

responses providing broad support for its approach.

The strategy sets out how the Authority will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to protect and promote their heritage values.

The final strategy will be considered by the Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee and then submitted to the Marine Park Authority Board for approval in 2018–19.

With respect to historic heritage, the Authority published its *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Commonwealth Heritage Listed Places and Properties Heritage Strategy 2018–21* last December following approval by the Australian Heritage Council and Minister's delegate.

As required by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the strategy describes the heritage properties it controls or owns — Low Island and Low Islets lightstation, Lady Elliot Island lightstation and Dent Island lightstation — and actions for managing, protecting and promoting their heritage values.

### EDUCATING AND FOSTERING STEWARDSHIP

With an area bigger than Italy to manage, our work to protect the Great Barrier Reef will always be a partnership approach. We continue to work with stakeholders and partners to manage threats to the Reef — many of which originate from sources outside the Authority's control, such as water quality from catchment runoff and global climate change.

Through programs such as Reef Guardians, Local Marine Advisory Committees, and our national education centre, Reef HQ Aquarium, the Authority seeks to raise awareness, influence best practice and empower stewardship actions that improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

During the year we launched the Reef Guardian Community and Stewardship Grants program which resulted in 25 projects receiving almost \$50,000 in funding, successfully leveraging more than \$205,000 in-kind support from partners to undertake local actions to support the Reef.

A particular highlight for Reef Guardians was when the Authority, the Kalkie State School and Bundaberg Regional Council met with His Royal Highness, Prince Charles. He visited

work his Foundation sponsored to protect critically endangered loggerhead turtles at Mon Repos beach in Bundaberg. The Authority also led a roundtable discussion with His Royal Highness Prince Charles at Lady Elliot Island where a major program of revegetation is being undertaken by the Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort with philanthropic and government support.



Roundtable event Lady Elliot Island April 2018,  
Photographer: Greg Sullavan

The Reef Guardian Councils program also welcomed its first Aboriginal Shire Council during the year; and the Reef Guardian Schools program continued its 15-year-old program involving 297 schools and almost 130,000 students who learn about the Reef, its values and local protection actions they can undertake.

The Authority has established 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees in communities along the length of the Great Barrier Reef to provide a forum for input and feedback on Marine Park management. The 2015–18 Local Marine Advisory Committee term finished on 30 June with a record 170 members signing up for the new three-year term following an extensive recruitment drive via social and traditional media. A highlights report covers the range of positive activities undertaken by the 12 local committees during the term — from advice on local and Reef-wide issues, to projects such as marine debris clean-ups, promoting no-take of herbivores following bleaching events and supporting seagrass monitoring.

Reef HQ Aquarium, the Great Barrier Reef's national education centre, continues its successful national and international outreach through its videoconferencing program which enables schools, conferences and events to take a virtual dive in the world's largest living coral exhibit. Reef HQ Aquarium is also gaining a solid reputation for as a destination for faculty-led study abroad programs.

About 95,000 local, regional, national and international visitors attended Reef HQ Aquarium daily educational talks and tours, which deliver key messages about the values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area.



International Coral Reef Initiative general meeting Nairobi 2017  
© Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

## INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The Authority continued to maintain and strengthen its internationally recognised reputation as a leader in the protection, conservation and management of coral reef marine parks. In addition to hosting 13 delegations seeking to build their capacity and understanding of coral reef systems, the Authority has also participated in international fora such as the International Marine Protected Areas Congress held in September 2017 in La Serena, Chile.

We are a founding and active member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and attended General Meeting 32 in Kenya where Australia and Monaco were endorsed to co-host the next ICRI Secretariat from mid-2018 to mid-2020. Indonesia subsequently accepted the invitation to join as a third co-host to the Secretariat.

In 2017, the International Coral Reef Initiative declared 2018 to be the International Year of the Reef, which has motivated communities throughout the Great Barrier Reef catchment to celebrate and educate people about the value of coral reefs worldwide.

Reef coastal catchment communities have been involved in the celebrations with Gladstone Regional Council's Ecofest in June themed 'Turn a new leaf, love our Reef', while people in the Burdekin pledged to do their bit for the Reef at the Alva Beach 'It's your Reef' festival.

## PRIORITIES AHEAD

Following the 2017 review of the Authority's governance structure, all recommendations were accepted and the legislation changes required to give effect to them were passed in early 2018. The new arrangements will come into effect in 2018–19. The governing board of the Authority will be strengthened by changing the full-time Chairperson position to a part-time chair and full-time chief executive officer. An additional independent director will take the board to seven members.

The Authority is already well advanced in the production of the 2019 Outlook Report. Drawing on the latest scientific information the report will provide a comprehensive assessment of the state of the Great Barrier Reef and the factors affecting its health and future condition. The report must be delivered to the Minister responsible for the Environment, by 30 June 2019.

The 10 key initiatives of the *Great Barrier Reef blueprint for resilience* that we published in 2017 will continue to guide our priorities in addition to those the Authority is leading under the recently revised *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan*.

A key priority is the implementation of the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program that is presently being designed to be a major step up in capability to monitor and report on key indicators, and inform management actions to protect the Reef — whether they are taken by government, industries, or the public.

Expansion of the Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control Program will be critically important in protecting coral cover. Similarly, our field management activities — monitoring, education and compliance with Marine Park rules — will increase following the significant funding boost to the Joint Field Management program.

## OUR STAFF

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Enterprise Agreement 2018-2021* was approved in March 2018, providing staff with certainty of entitlements over the next three years. The Authority also took an important step in its reconciliation journey with the completion and approval of its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan in May 2018.

Building on 40 years of previous experience working with Traditional Owners in the Reef Region, the Plan demonstrates the Authority's commitment to strengthening relationships, respect and opportunities between staff who identify as First Australians and the wider Australian community.



*This stunning artwork 'Step of Change' by Nicky Bidju Pryor was commissioned as part of the Authority's Reconciliation Action Plan © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)*

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Authority's 2017–18 financial report shows, as at 30 June 2018, an operating surplus of \$10.689 million, due to grants received from Government where suppliers were not able to be contracted during 2017–18 (these funds will be expended in 2018–19), higher than expected special appropriation (environmental management charges) and recovery of legal costs on the *Shen Neng 1* matter.

## IN CONCLUSION

The Authority's work over 40 years is central to Australia's high international reputation for continuous improvement in management of the Great Barrier Reef.

One example is our design and production of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook report in 2009 and 2014 — a format now used by both the Australian State of the Environment Report, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the World Heritage Committee, to check the health of globally-listed heritage properties.

During the 50 years since I first dived on the Reef, it has remained a great natural wonder of the world. However, there is no doubt its condition has been changing under the influence of human activities — most recently, the unprecedented declines in coral cover as a result of the effects of global ocean warming.

Since the Authority was established in 1975, the task of protecting the Reef has increased in complexity with the increasing range of pressures on the Reef. The Authority has adapted its approach over the years to deal with these changing and accumulating pressures and in all cases we have been able to achieve strong benefits for the Reef. Pressures of the past were proposals for mining reef limestone in the 1960s, the exponential growth of tourism in the 1980s, and expansion of fishing fleets and commercial ports in the 1990s. The Authority has tackled each of these issues with education, regulation and collaboration. In 2003 we played a strong role in identifying water quality issues in the catchments and completed rezoning of the Reef in the same year. Since 2007, we have highlighted the risks posed by climate change impacts.

Our understanding of the Reef ecosystem, values and the threats it faces have grown significantly over the years and the Authority has grown in capability to respond to these complex issues.

The greatest pressure continues to be the impacts of climate change, and in particular the trend of increasing ocean temperature causing loss of coral cover and diversity.

Strong management actions within and near the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are essential, but equally important are the actions taken by all countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The 2015 Paris Agreement outlined the need for a global limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius in the long run. Coral reefs worldwide are now under great pressure after a temperature rise of less than one degree Celsius.

I am inspired by the work and commitment of the Authority's staff as well as our many stakeholders — government, non-government, communities and industry — who are all doing their part in protecting this truly awe-inspiring natural wonder.

I thank my colleagues on the Authority Board over the past 11 years — it has been a privilege to serve as Chair at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

**Dr Russell Reichelt FTSE**  
*Chairman*

# OVERVIEW

## ABOUT THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) is a non-corporate Commonwealth entity and operates as a statutory agency under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The Authority sits within the Australian Government Environment and Energy Portfolio and reports to the Minister with the responsibility for the Environment.

The Authority is responsible for managing one of the world's premier natural resources, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Authority's work is driven by the vision of 'a healthy Great Barrier Reef for future generations'.



# OVERVIEW

The Authority implements a range of policies and programs, management strategies and legislative measures to deliver Program 1.1 in the Portfolio Budget Statements<sup>1</sup>, Improving the Outlook for the Great Barrier Reef; and the purpose stated in its corporate plan:

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

***To fulfil its purpose, the Authority focuses on achieving three goals:***

- ***protect and restore the Reef's ecosystem health, resilience and biodiversity***
- ***safeguard the Reef's heritage***
- ***ensure ecologically sustainable use and benefits for current and future generations.***

These goals drive the implementation of actions that aim to protect, manage and restore the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem's health, biodiversity and heritage values – ensuring use of the Marine Park is ecologically sustainable and benefits current and future generations.<sup>2</sup>

The Authority uses a number of tools, including:

- zoning plans
- plans of management
- permissions
- policies and strategies
- formal agreements
- site management arrangements.

Various management approaches are used, including:

- education and awareness
- planning
- environmental impact assessment
- monitoring
- stewardship programs
- habitat protection and restoration works
- compliance and enforcement.

Partnership arrangements with Traditional Owners, the community, business, industry, scientists and government enhance management of the Reef. The Joint Field Management Program is a cooperative partnership and is jointly funded with the Queensland Government. It undertakes activities to support operational and day-to-day management in the Marine Park, the adjacent Queensland Government Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park and on national park islands consistent with the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015.

The Authority's management program builds on existing arrangements to protect biodiversity and heritage values and provide for ecologically sustainable use. The Authority continues these arrangements and draws on information outlined in the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014* and the recommendations of the 2014 *Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment Program Report* in adopting a suite of measures to strengthen the management and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem. The Authority's actions to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef contribute to the delivery of the Australian and Queensland Governments' *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050 Plan).

<sup>1</sup> Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy Portfolio Budget Statements 2017–18

<sup>2</sup> Portfolio Budget Statements, p 231

To attain its purpose and achieve its goals, the Authority structures its activities into four main program areas, as outlined in its corporate plan and Portfolio Budget Statement:

- **PROGRAM AREA 1:** Providing expert knowledge to influence and advise key decision makers on managing, reducing or avoiding significant threats to the Reef and to consolidate the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's influence as the authoritative voice of the Reef.
- **PROGRAM AREA 2:** Regulating and ensuring Marine Park user compliance.
- **PROGRAM AREA 3:** Educating and fostering stewardship to enhance protection of the Reef and to empower others to protect the Reef through education and stewardship.
- **PROGRAM AREA 4:** Enhancing Reef resilience through continuous improvement and new initiatives across all aspects of management.



North Keppel Island © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

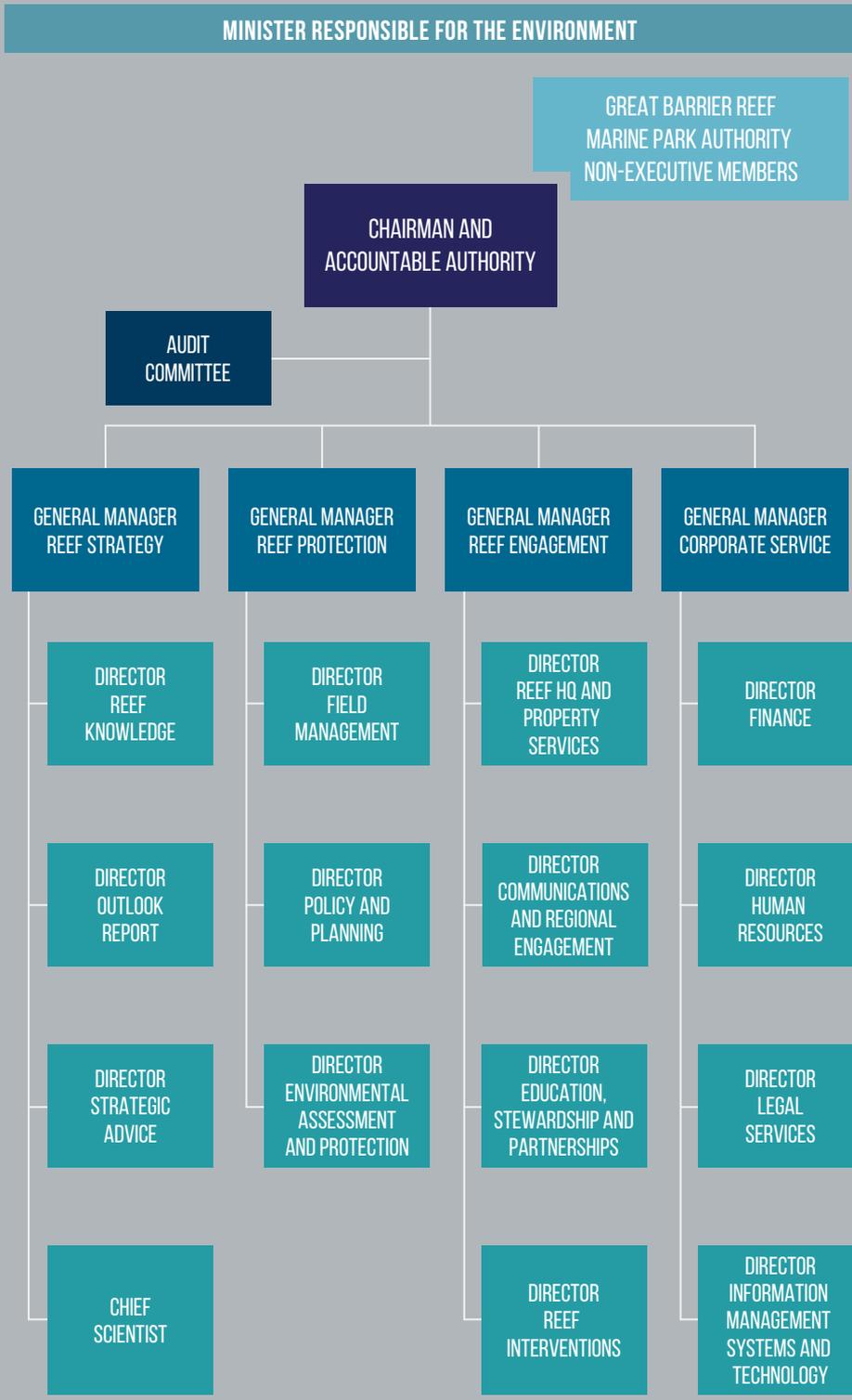


Figure 2: Organisational structure as at 30 June 2018

## RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS

As Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP was responsible for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 2018. He was supported by the Hon. Melissa Price MP, the Assistant Minister for the Environment, who was sworn in on 19 December 2017.

## LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

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

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

Other Acts administered by the Authority are:

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

Regulations in force under the Marine Park Act:

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983.

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

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

As at 30 June 2018, the Authority's statutory board has four part-time members and a full-time chair who is also the agency head for the purposes of the *Public Service Act 1999* and the accountable authority for the purposes of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

## AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION DURING 2017–18

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* was amended in August 2017 and in March 2018.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983 were amended in August 2017 and in October 2017.

The Whitsundays Plan of Management 1998 was amended in August 2017.

## FINANCES OVERVIEW

In 2017–18, the Authority continued to successfully deliver key Reef initiatives, including:

- the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program
- the Marine Monitoring Program
- the Land and Sea Country Partnerships program
- the Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control Program
- field management activities
- stewardship programs.

The total operating revenue for 2017–18 was \$78.880 million, compared with \$96.807 million in 2016–17. This reduction in revenue was primarily due to the *Shen Neng 1* ship grounding litigation settlement (\$35 million in 2016–17), which is offset by additional funding received for the Joint Field Management Program, crown-of-thorns starfish control program and legal cost recovery received in the *Shen Neng 1* litigation matter. Revenue by source is outlined in Figure 3.

As part of the 2017–18 Mid-Year Economic Fiscal Outlook, the Authority received an additional \$1.797 million for the Joint Field Management Program. New federal funding, announced on 29 April 2018, included more than \$42 million in additional funding over six years commencing 2017–18 for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Joint Field Management Program. The funding then has an ongoing commitment of \$10.2 million for future years that will see the Authority's total operating contribution each year at almost \$19 million.

The 2017–18 Joint Field Management Program – Commonwealth contribution budget was \$14.859 million.

In 2017–18 the Authority also received additional appropriation funding on the 2017–18 original budget to deliver key Government initiatives for the Reef, including \$882,000 for control of the crown-of-thorns starfish with a further commitment of \$9.476 million in 2018–19.

Own-source income for 2017–18 was \$36.878 million, \$7.386 million more than in 2016–17. Significant funding was received for crown-of-thorns starfish control, and legal cost recovery for the *Shen Neng 1* litigation matter. Own-source income includes funding from the Reef Trust and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to support the Authority’s work and measures to improve the outlook for the Great Barrier Reef. This is included in funding from related entities.

Related entities are bodies that form part of, or are controlled by the Australian Government. In Figure 4, related entity refers primarily to funds received from the Department of the Environment and Energy.

In May 2018, the Authority received \$4.5 million in legal costs recovery from the *Shen Neng 1* litigation matter that was settled in the Federal Court of Australia in 2016. Of these funds,

\$200,000 was paid to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority to cover its legal costs in the matter.

The Australian and Queensland governments provided matching funding for field management of the Marine Park, which the Authority implemented in partnership with the Queensland Department of Environment and Science.

The operating expense for managing the Marine Park in 2017–18 was \$68.24 million, compared with \$94.375 million for 2016–17. The 2017–18 figure excludes the \$30.720 million (discounted amount) received in 2016–17 as the Commonwealth’s settlement from *Shen Neng 1* litigation, discounted according to AASB 137<sup>3</sup>. Expenses for suppliers were \$8.305 million more than 2016–17. The expenses by category are outlined in Figure 4.

The Authority’s final financial position was \$10.689 million surplus due to grants received from Government where suppliers were not able to be contracted during 2017–18 (these funds will be expended in 2018–19), higher than expected special appropriation (environmental management charges) and recovery of legal costs on the *Shen Neng 1* matter.

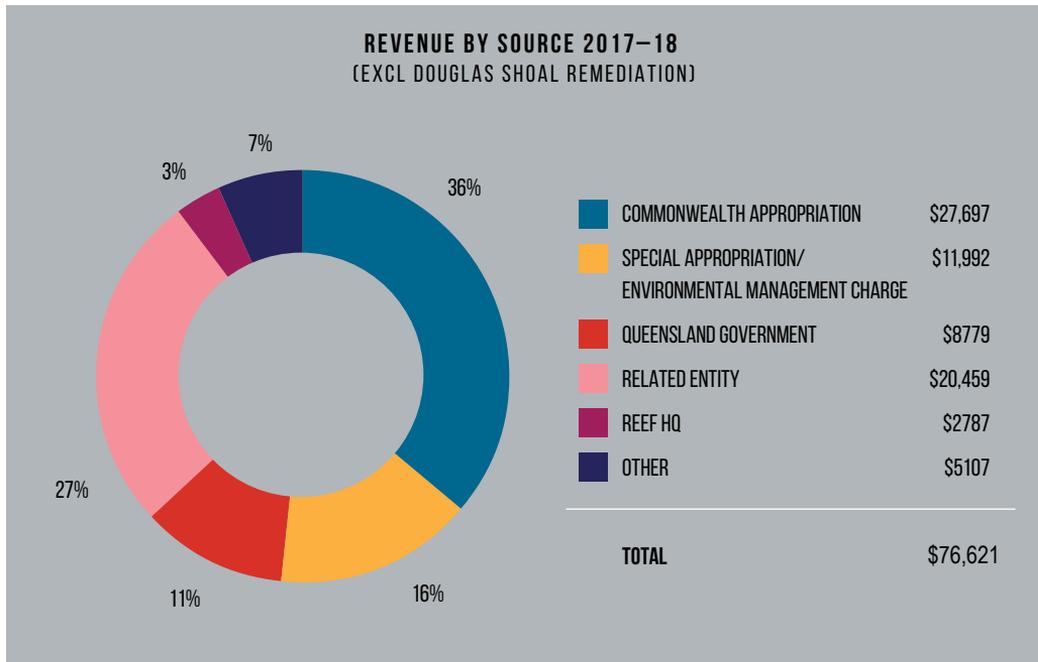


Figure 3: Revenue by source 2017–18

<sup>3</sup> Accounting Standard AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

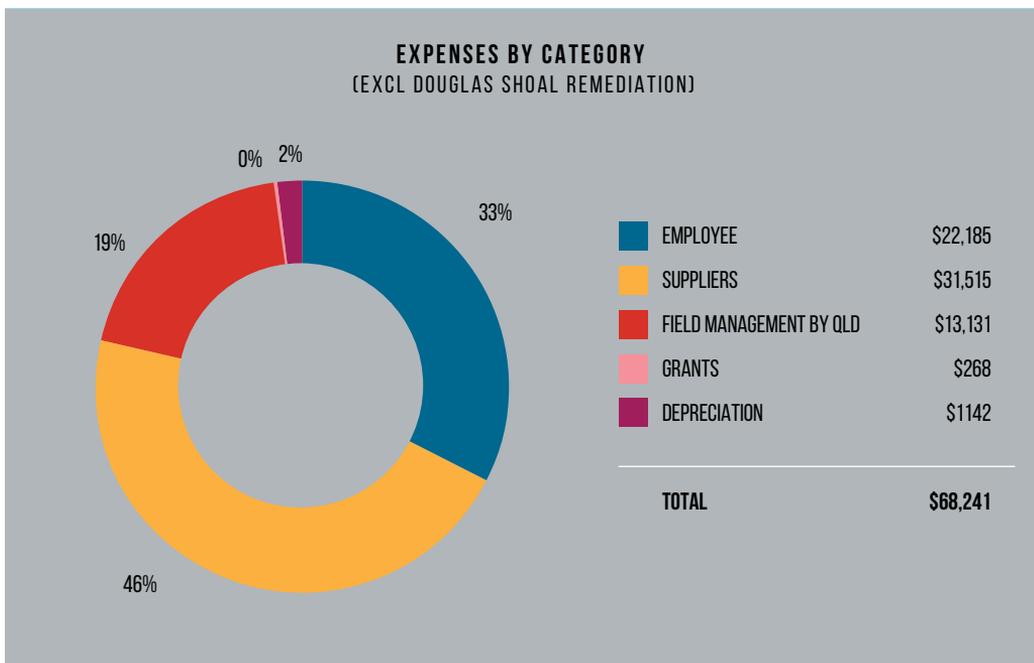


Figure 4: Expenses by category 2017–18

## STAFF OVERVIEW

The Executive Management Group consists of:

- the Chairman
- General Manager Reef Strategy
- General Manager Reef Protection
- General Manager Reef Engagement
- General Manager Corporate Services.

The Authority had 202.58 employees at 30 June 2018, a decrease from 207 at 30 June 2017.

Figures include fixed-term and non-ongoing positions.

The Authority also employs casual staff to work in the Reef HQ Aquarium, which operates seven days a week. In addition, 122 volunteers assist in the day-to-day operation of the aquarium.

See Appendix B for an overview of staffing, employee numbers, and staff composition and location at 30 June 2018.



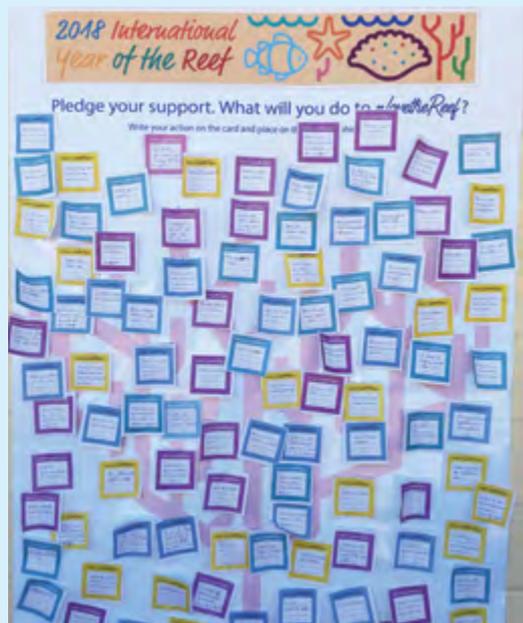
Ex HMCS vessel Protector lies at Heron Island, it's significant as the only seafaring warship commissioned by the South Australian Government © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

# 2018 International Year of the Reef



During the year thousands of people across communities from Bundaberg to Cape York have pledged their commitment to #LovetheReef and take action to reduce environmental impacts on the Great Barrier Reef.

Commitments have included reducing electricity use, reducing use of plastic, and saying no single-use coffee cups and plastic straws. These photos highlight just some of the many activities that Authority staff have been involved in to help celebrate, motivate and educate communities about the value of coral reefs worldwide and the threats they face.







# PERFORMANCE

I, as the accountable authority of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, present the 2017–18 annual performance statement of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, as required under paragraph 39(1)(a) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). In my opinion, this annual performance statement is based on properly maintained records, accurately reflects the performance of the entity, and complies with subsection 39(2) of the PGPA Act.



**Dr Russell Reichelt**  
*Chairman*



As outlined in the Authority's Corporate Plan 2017–2018, the Authority's work program for 2017–18 had an emphasis on protecting, managing and restoring the Great Barrier Reef's ecosystem health and resilience, biodiversity and heritage values. Its restoration approach included investigating intervention tools to assist Reef recovery, signalling a new direction for Reef management.

This section of the report provides performance statements for the Authority's activities within each program area, namely:

- the performance results of the activity against the performance criteria
- an analysis of progress against purpose for each program area.



Purple tipped acropora coral showing radial corallites © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA), photographer: K. Anthony

## PROGRAM AREA 1: PROVIDING EXPERT KNOWLEDGE TO INFLUENCE AND ADVISE KEY DECISION MAKERS ON MANAGING, REDUCING OR AVOIDING SIGNIFICANT THREATS TO THE REEF

The Authority continued to work with stakeholders and partners to manage threats to the Reef's resilience, including climate change, water quality, coastal development and fishing.

Although most of these threats originate outside the Authority's jurisdiction, it provides expert technical and policy advice to partner organisations in relation to avoiding, mitigating and managing their impacts on the Marine Park.

The Authority's involvement in the *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050 Plan) allows it to coordinate the response to key

Reef threats with other Australian Government agencies, the Queensland Government and other parties.

The Authority's advice is based on information collected through the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMReP), as well as the best available information and knowledge from scientists, Traditional Owners, stakeholders and Authority staff. The Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program will underpin the evaluation of the Reef 2050 Plan's progress towards outcomes, objectives and targets. The program is also funding some critical monitoring gaps to prevent interruption to highly valuable long-term data sets. This information will be used to inform the 2019 Outlook Report.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Published the *Great Barrier Reef blueprint for resilience* in December 2017. It responds to unprecedented accumulated pressures that are threatening the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. It outlines the Authority's future-focused approach, of which innovation and adaption are essential elements.
- Contributed to the joint, inter-governmental team that undertook the mid-term review of the Reef 2050 Plan.
- Engaged more than 70 experts to deliver Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program design. These experts are integral to developing fit-for-purpose monitoring program design recommendations, including key indicators and spatial and effective temporal distributions of monitoring sites.
- Conducted an audit of data management practices across current Great Barrier Reef monitoring programs and identified principles for the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting program data management approach.
- Supported the review of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan as a member of the Reef 2050 Joint Secretariat. The plan has been renamed the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Program and its scope broadened to reflect its position under the Reef 2050 Plan.
- Participated in the five-yearly review of the Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program (Paddock to Reef Program) as a member of the Program Leaders group and the core Advisory Committee. The Paddock to Reef Program measures progress towards targets in the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, now the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2018–22.
- Development of a two-year seagrass and habitat condition and trend project with CSIRO. The project focus is cross-program integration and metric development with the goal of refining indicators and metrics for seagrass, and the pressures affecting both coral and seagrass condition and trend in the Marine Park.
- New contracts negotiated for the Marine Monitoring Program and other key monitoring gaps to ensure we continue to have information on the condition and trend of key Reef habitats.
- Created a Resilience Network made up of science and management partners to answer, identify and prioritise management challenges that can be addressed by science.
- Provision of expert advice into proposed fisheries reforms and management review discussion papers, supporting the implementation of the *Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027*.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE RESULTS PROGRAM AREA 1

PERFORMANCE CRITERION <sup>4</sup>	2017–18 TARGET	2017–18 ACTUAL
Key threats to the Great Barrier Reef are identified, and either addressed or, where external, acknowledged through the provision of authoritative and trusted advice.	Partner entities and peak bodies acknowledge the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>quality of the Authority's advice</li> <li>professionalism and expertise of Authority staff.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACHIEVED:</b> for existing monitoring programs.</p> <p><b>NOT ACHIEVED:</b> for RIMReP as it is in a development phase so not yet delivering.</p> <p><b>IN PROGRESS:</b> the 2019 Outlook Report, which identifies the key threats to the Great Barrier Reef is on track to be tabled with the Minister by 30 June 2019.</p>
	100% of very high or high risks to the Reef are identified or have effective actions against them in the Reef 2050 Plan or other plans and strategies.	<b>IN PROGRESS:</b> the Reef 2050 Plan is being updated following the mid-term review.

REEF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

The Authority's advice is sought and acted upon both within Australia and internationally.



Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program design workshop March 2018 © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMFA)

The Authority is widely acknowledged as a trusted and authoritative voice for the Reef — which is underpinned by a commitment to ensuring our decisions and advice are based on the best available science and information.

Direct investment in monitoring and influencing research programs has improved the Authority's knowledge and understanding of key threats. These investments contributed to key synthesis documents about the Reef and its catchment, such as the Reef 2050 Plan, and informed higher-level policy development, program planning and reporting directed towards addressing threats to the Reef's health.

MARINE MONITORING PROGRAM

The Marine Monitoring Program is managed by the Authority, with funding from the Department of the Environment and Energy and research partners. The program is a partnership between a number of organisations. Monitoring is conducted by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), James Cook University, The University of Queensland, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Reef catchments, and community volunteers. The program also integrates information from a range of other monitoring programs including Seagrass Watch, AIMS Long-term Monitoring Program, and Reef Health and Impact Surveys.

<sup>4</sup> Performance indicators are recorded in the Authority's chapter in the Department of the Environment and Energy's 2017–18 Portfolio Budget Statements p. 231 and in the Authority's Corporate Plan 2017–18 p. 20

The program's activities in 2017–18 included:

- Providing the best available science to marine park managers by combining annual reporting (for inshore water quality, pesticides, coral and seagrass) and the *2016 Marine Results Report* with data collected at the paddock and catchment level (on ground cover, catchment loads, and land management practices). This information is published annually in the Great Barrier Reef Report Card.
- Informing other initiatives, including regional report cards (Mackay, Whitsunday and the Wet Tropics regions), Reef recovery plans, and the development of standards and thresholds for management.
- Establishing a joint one-year project to test and implement a water quality metric for the 2017 and 2018 Reef report cards. The project was initiated through the National Environmental Science Programme Tropical Water Quality Hub. The project refined existing tools for assessing water quality condition and trend in the Reef.
- Initiating a project to develop seagrass condition targets for habitats of the Great Barrier Reef as benchmarks against which to report on ecosystem health at a case study location in Cleveland Bay near Townsville. The outcomes of the project will inform the development of the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMReP) and its reporting products.
- Participating in the five-year review of the Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program, an element of the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan. Together with the outcomes of the RIMReP design project, the review established the scope and improvements to the Marine Monitoring Program for the next five years.
- Providing advice to key regional and industry stakeholders through an annual two-day workshop on the condition and trend of the inshore marine environment in 2016–17.

## REEF 2050 INTEGRATED MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Major progress was made towards developing the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMReP).

The program's primary purpose is to enable timely and suitable responses by Reef managers and partners to emerging issues and risks, and underpin the evaluation of whether the Reef 2050 Plan is on track to meet its outcomes, objectives and targets. It will also provide critical input to the Authority's Outlook Report.

The program's activities in 2017–18 included:

- Finalising and publishing an updated RIMReP Strategy. It provides clarity on the program purpose, objectives, milestones and achievements to date.
- Engaging with experts to review and design the RIMReP across 10 themes:
  - human dimensions
  - Indigenous heritage
  - coral reefs
  - seagrass
  - estuaries and catchments
  - physico-chemistry
  - fisheries
  - megafauna
  - islands
  - microbes.

These experts analysed key components for monitoring, assessed adequacy of existing monitoring, and identified gaps, working towards a draft monitoring design. The work will be synthesised into a set of program design recommendations in early 2018–19. Monitoring program design recommendations from the theme reports will be subject to a structured process to support decisions on scaling the final design to one or more budget scenarios ('trade-off analysis'). The trade-off analysis will be designed to ensure final monitoring recommendations are optimised for management needs and is scheduled to be complete by October 2018.

- Conducting an audit of data management practices across current Great Barrier Reef monitoring programs and identifying principles for the RIMReP data management approach. Work is also under way to secure access, licensing and intellectual property

arrangements for data emerging from the program design process.

- Developing protocols for negotiating data sharing agreements with Traditional Owners and guiding appropriate storage and handling of this information.
- Training key staff in dashboard development, data analytics and visualisation, which will assist in developing search and synthesis tools for the RIMReP knowledge platform that make integrated monitoring data accessible and useful for management and reporting purposes.
- Providing support to key monitoring programs that provide critical information for the Outlook Report and other management and program design needs. The Social and Economic Long-term Monitoring Program completed its latest data collection and primary analysis. The final report and interactive dashboards were delivered and will be publicly available in late 2018.
- Finalising a contract to have the northern Great Barrier Reef dugong and large marine turtle population surveyed in October and November 2018. The southern population was surveyed in 2016.
- A range of communications activities are ongoing and products are updated regularly as the program progresses. They include the online communication tool (released in 2018), e-newsletter, steering group meeting communiques, and talking points for use by program partners. These documents are available on the Authority's website.
- Communication and engagement activity included collaboration with the Reef 2050 Communications Network team to ensure alignment of communication outputs. A range of meetings and workshops were attended during 2017–18 to provide information about program development to a range of stakeholders.

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Outputs from projects funded by the National Environmental Science Programme and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation are informing the development of the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMReP). The Authority has worked closely with the National Environmental Science Programme Tropical Water Quality Hub and other partners to identify and guide critical areas of research.

Critical monitoring gaps have been identified and research commissioned. These include:

- zoning plan effectiveness (mid-offshore) — AIMS
- zoning plan effectiveness (inshore) — James Cook University
- social and economic long-term monitoring program — CSIRO
- Marine Monitoring Program — AIMS, CSIRO, James Cook University, University of Queensland, QPWS, Reef Catchments.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

A primary focus of the 2017–18 financial year was progressing the RIMReP design. Challenges posed by the complexity of the program and availability of external experts resulted in a request to extend delivery of that component of the program. Because of interdependencies between program work packages the extension had knock-on effects.

A key purpose and focus of program design work is to track progress towards Reef 2050 Plan targets. Revision of these targets through the 2018 mid-term review of the Reef 2050 Plan may affect some design components.

## OUTLOOK REPORT

### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

The Authority delivered several key presentations in early 2017–18 to communicate key knowledge gaps and forge strong partnerships with key data providers. The engagements facilitated early awareness of the Outlook Report data needs and form a strong evidence base to ensure the Outlook Report is an accountable and authoritative document on the health of the Region.

Between 28 May and 1 June 2018, more than 40 experts convened in Townsville for a week-long scientific consensus workshop, marking an important milestone in developing the Authority's 2019 Outlook Report. The workshop gathered a consensus of views on the health of the Great Barrier Reef Region, with participants grading the current condition and trend of the Region's species, habitats, ecosystem health and heritage values. Risks to these values were also assessed. Workshop outputs, including consensus grades and relevant new or additional studies, are critical to drafting the 2019 Outlook Report.

Independent assessors from Protected Area Solutions Pty Ltd were engaged to assess management effectiveness for the Great Barrier Reef Region. This assessment is in accordance with the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and follows the International Union for Conservation of Nature framework for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas. Three workshops were held to collect evidence from agencies that have a stake in managing direct use of the Region and factors that occur outside, but influence the Region. Interviews with Traditional Owners, peak bodies, researchers and other experts were also conducted to inform the assessment. The final assessment is due late December 2018 and will inform chapter seven of the Outlook Report.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The 2019 Outlook Report will identify the key threats to the Great Barrier Reef and inform the 2020 review of the Reef 2050 Plan. The report is on track to be submitted to the Minister responsible for the Authority by 30 June 2019. The Minister is then required to table the Outlook Report in both houses of Parliament.

## REEF 2050 PLAN — GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

The Australian and Queensland governments' Reef 2050 Plan provides an overarching framework for managing the Reef. It focuses on actions to address key threats and build the health and resilience of the Reef in the face of a changing climate.

The Reef 2050 Plan is a schedule to the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009* between the Australian and Queensland

governments. The agreement ensures an integrated and collaborative approach by the Australian and Queensland governments to the management of marine and land environments within and adjacent to the World Heritage Area.

Fundamental to successful implementation of the Plan, is input from a range of contributors facilitated through:

- a multi-sectoral Advisory Committee to facilitate engagement with industry and the broader community
- an Independent Expert Panel to provide expert scientific advice
- a Steering Group of senior officials from government agencies and monitoring organisations to provide advice on requirements for an effective integrated monitoring, modelling and reporting program.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is an active member of the Reef 2050 Joint Secretariat, comprising representatives from the Authority, the Department of the Environment and Energy, and the Department of Environment and Science's Office of the Great Barrier Reef. The Authority's representatives on the Reef 2050 Joint Secretariat actively support the above mentioned advisory groups, including as the joint chair of the Steering Group.

As a member of the Joint Secretariat, the Authority contributes to implementing the Reef 2050 Plan by providing advice, reporting and participating in workshops and steering committee meetings, and review of key documents and supporting materials. As at 30 June 2018, the Authority led 74 of the 151 actions under the Reef 2050 Plan.

In light of the mass coral bleaching of 2016 and 2017 and the deteriorating outlook for the Reef, the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum brought forward the scheduled mid-term review of the Plan to ensure it addresses current pressures and remains effective. This review, to be finalised in July 2018, is being informed by several reports, including the Authority's *Great Barrier Reef blueprint for resilience*. Amendments will include strengthening the climate change narrative to acknowledge climate change as the biggest threat to the Reef and embedding local climate resilience actions into existing themes.

Through the Strategic Advice section of the Reef Strategy Branch, the agency ensures

alignment of corporate priorities and Reef 2050 Plan initiatives.

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The Authority delivered on requirements as an equal member of the Reef 2050 Joint Secretariat.

## STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENT THE REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE OF THE AUTHORITY

### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

In March 2017, the Australian Government commissioned an independent review of the Authority's governance, led by independent reviewer, Dr Wendy Craik AM.

The review looked at the arrangements governing the Authority to determine whether current arrangements were the best fit to the Authority's work.

The independent review report was released in October 2017 and the Government accepted all 24 recommendations. The Authority has responsibility for implementing 12 of these recommendations, with input to an additional four.

Legislative changes to separate the roles of Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer received Royal Assent in March 2018. This was a recommendation of the review and will occur in late 2018.

The Authority is developing tools to support the operation of the Marine Park Authority Board in line with the Government's response to the review recommendations.

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The Authority is working with the Department of the Environment and Energy to implement the review's recommendations.

## INFLUENCE AND ADVISE ON KEY THREATS

### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

External threats to the Reef were identified and prioritised for the development of position statements. Based on those threats identified in the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014* the statements focused on the greatest risks to the Reef and an internal review of management needs. Priority topics, climate change and

marine debris, were approved by the Marine Park Authority Board.

The format for developing position statements was revised to clearly outline the issue, its impacts and the Authority's desired outcomes.

Position statements leverage the Authority's influence as the authoritative voice on the Reef. They provide contemporary advice on key threats to the Reef and communicate the Authority's position and desired outcomes. Priorities identified in the position statements will be reflected in the Reef 2050 Plan and the Authority's future annual operating plan.

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

Evaluating the success of the Authority in both informing and influencing its target audience will be part of a revised process, although it can be challenging to directly link successful outcomes to influencing activities.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF BLUEPRINT FOR RESILIENCE

### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

Coral reefs around the world, including the Great Barrier Reef, have been experiencing the impacts of compounding pressures from a range of sources, most significantly climate change. The decline in the ecological health of the Reef is unprecedented in our lifetime, and represents a genuine crisis. In response to this crisis, the Authority convened the Great Barrier Reef Summit – Managing for Resilience on 24 and 25 May 2017, to help develop a blueprint to navigate a future characterised by uncertainty and accelerating change.

The *Great Barrier Reef blueprint for resilience* was published in December 2017 and incorporates recommendations from the Reef Summit, along with good practice projects across four themes:

- building a resilience network
- delivering on-ground actions to enhance resilience
- empowering people to be part of the solution
- fostering change.

The blueprint has been widely circulated to stakeholders and partners and informed the Authority's priorities for the mid-term review

of the Reef 2050 Plan. The Authority will document the blueprint's progress and identify opportunities to work with external researchers.

The blueprint provides the Authority with a clear voice and focus on the primary issues and opportunities for improving the resilience of the Reef.

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The 10 initiatives under the blueprint have been allocated to a number of areas within the Authority and activities were given renewed focus late in 2017–18.



*The 32nd International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) held in Kenya on 7-9 December 2017 © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)*

## INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

The Authority continued to maintain and strengthen its internationally recognised reputation as a leader in the protection, conservation and management of coral reef marine parks. Strong international interest in the work of the Authority continued during 2017–18. The Authority hosted 13 delegations seeking to build their capacity and understanding of coral reef and associated ecosystems, with particular interest in marine park planning, management and compliance; sustainable tourism; managing for climate change; education; and collaboration with stakeholders.

The Authority led the Australian delegation attending the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) General Meeting 32 in Kenya. At the meeting, Australia and Monaco were endorsed to co-host the next ICRI Secretariat from mid-2018 to mid-2020. Indonesia subsequently accepted the invitation to join as a third co-host to the Secretariat.

Authority staff attended the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC4) held in September 2017 in La Serena, Chile, presenting on development of the Reef 2050 Plan Cumulative Impact Management and Net Benefit policies and the outcomes of the Authority's Great Barrier Reef Summit – Managing for Resilience.

The United Nations Environment Executive Director, Erik Solheim, visited Australia in January 2018 and Authority staff joined him at a high level event with senior scientists, non-government organisations, coral reef management experts, and government representatives. The Authority's Chief Scientist then joined Director Solheim on a visit to the Reef to provide briefings on marine park management and climate and coral reef science.

The Authority has a representative on the expert advisory group convened by the United Nations Environment Coral Reef Unit to analyse global and regional policy instruments and governance mechanisms that contribute to the protection of coral reefs as well as associated mangroves and seagrasses ecosystems.



*Thirteen international delegations visited the Authority in 2018 © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)*

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The Authority shared its expertise and knowledge of coral reef and marine park management with international audiences. Feedback from participants consistently acknowledged the quality and value of information provided. To support the level of interest, the Authority increased the resources dedicated to assist in meeting Australia's international responsibilities in relation to the protection of the World Heritage Area. This recognises the increasing international interest in coral reefs and supports the Authority's role as co-host of the ICRI secretariat.

### STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF ADVICE

#### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

The Authority introduced new performance measures to inform the 2018–19 Portfolio Budget Statement and corporate plan. The improved framework provides transparent links between the documents and enables staff to see how their activities fit into the overall corporate governance framework and the Australian Government's objectives for managing the Great Barrier Reef.

Strong relationships with the Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Assistant Minister for the Environment and the Department of the Environment and Energy are maintained through the provision of timely and accurate advice on key issues related to the management and protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

As the Secretariat for the Marine Park Authority Board, timely and succinct briefing processes have been essential for informed decision making on Reef related matters.

#### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The Marine Park Authority Board held four meetings during 2017–18. Information provided to the Board enabled it to make effective decisions regarding the Act. Board decisions were made available to the public via the Authority website.

The Authority provided timely advice to the Minister for the Environment and the Australian Government, often in collaboration with the Department of the Environment and Energy.



*Rehabilitated turtle is released on the Strand © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)*

## PROGRAM AREA 2: REGULATING AND ENSURING MARINE PARK USER COMPLIANCE

The Authority is the primary environmental regulator for protecting the Great Barrier Reef. Its role is to set the standards necessary to achieve its purpose and goals and provide certainty about where uses may occur, the types of activities allowed and the conditions under which activities may proceed.

In delivering its work under this program area the Authority uses a combination of management tools and approaches including zoning plans, plans of management, agreements, permits, education, compliance and enforcement.

The Authority's regulatory framework is effective in managing use of the Marine Park and protecting its values; with effort focused on activities presenting the highest risks to the Reef and to improve ecosystem resilience.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Enhanced the permission system to increase transparency and consistency of permission assessments and decision making, generating an estimated \$3 million in annual savings to businesses, individuals and communities.
- Significant progress achieved towards the National Archives Digital Continuity 2020 policy with 89 per cent of applications being submitted digitally via the Permits Online web portal. Applications are also assessed, signed and dispatched digitally where appropriate.
- Reduced the number of pending marine parks permit applications by 31 per cent (223 in June 2017 to 153 in June 2018). The Authority reduced average timeframes for very low risk permits from 16 weeks to less than four weeks and for low risk permits from 16 weeks to seven and a half weeks.
- Increased permits compliance engagement, including presenting as part of the Marine Park inspector training in Cairns, Townsville, Airlie Beach, Gladstone and Rockhampton.
- Finalised amendments to the Whitsundays Plan of Management, which took effect in 2017–18.
- In April 2018, the Authority and the Queensland Department of Environment and Science accredited the 10-year Mandubarra Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreement.
- The draft Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Strategy was released for public consultation in February 2018. Thirty-seven responses were received during the 2.5 months of consultation. There was broad support for the draft strategy and its outcomes and actions.
- Secured additional Australian and Queensland government funding to expand the Field Management Program and achieve field activities identified in the Reef 2050 Plan.
- Enhanced the Joint Field Management Program's field reporting system — a data collection and reporting tool used to report day to day activities and events that occur while conducting planned field activities such as compliance incidents, public contacts, sightings and permit checks. During 2017–18 the system recorded 1093 trip reports comprising 2668 activities and 4222 events such as sightings, public contacts, incidents and information reports.
- Delivered 1598 vessel days at sea across the program's 20 vessels for activities such as compliance, visitor facilities management, incident response and natural resource management. The two primary vessels, *Reef Ranger* and *Reef Heron*, recorded 249 and 125 days, respectively.
- Supported Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people to return to country with Traditional Owners spending 557 person days on program vessels in the World Heritage Area.
- Construction of the new 24 metre vessel *Reef Resilience* commenced. The new vessel, which will replace the ageing *Reef Heron* in Gladstone, will enter service early in 2019.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE RESULTS PROGRAM AREA 2

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA <sup>5</sup>	2017–18 TARGET	2017–18 ACTUAL
The impacts of human activity on the Great Barrier Reef are reduced through effective and efficient regulation and compliance.	Whitsundays Plan of Management finalised and in force.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
	New permit guidelines finalised and existing ones reviewed to improve transparency and consistency in permit decisions.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
	Spatial planning tools identified and priority sites determined for improved protection.	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>
	24% of the Marine Park coastline is managed in accordance with an accredited Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement or Indigenous Land Use Agreement.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
	740 compliance patrol days funded through the Joint Field Management Program.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>
	New compliance tools are identified, trialed and reviewed for effectiveness to address key risks.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>



Celebrating accreditation of the Mandubarra Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreement, photographer: Styledia

<sup>5</sup> These performance indicators are recorded in the Authority’s chapter in the Department of the Environment and Energy’s 2017-18 Portfolio Budget Statements p. 231 and in the Authority’s Corporate Plan 2017-18 p. 22

## MARINE PARK AND SEA COUNTRY POLICY, PLANNING AND REGULATION

### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

In 2017–18 the Authority achieved several key targets to assist reducing the impact of human activity in the Marine Park through effective and efficient regulation and compliance activities.

The Whitsundays Plan of Management was finalised and implemented in stages. Implementation included developing a range of communications tools to enhance community awareness and understanding of the plan. For example, permit holders and Marine Park users in the Whitsundays were provided updates through improved website text, guides and information sheets for matters such as significant bird sites, reef walking and aircraft taxiing at Whitehaven Beach.

To further assist understanding of the management arrangements in the Whitsundays, a detailed guide for superyachts in the Whitsunday Planning Area was developed, and a site plan for Woodwark Bay was prepared to inform Marine Park managers, tourism operators and other users of the management arrangements at this site. The Authority also called for expressions of interest for the allocation of 11 special permissions that allow for improved access to the Whitsundays Planning Area.

Detailed work on a strategic Reef-wide planning and policy approach and roadmap to ensure an efficient and effective risk-based regulatory system has commenced. This work has been discussed with the Indigenous and Tourism Reef advisory committees and the joint Field Management Operations Group.

A review of the policy, Managing Tourism Permissions to Operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (including Allocation, Latency and Tenure) commenced in late 2017. As part of developing the roadmap, a review of external policies and Marine Park Authority Board decisions relating to planning and policy matters in the Marine Park has also commenced. Once the relative risks have been determined, there will be a focus on reviewing tourism management in light of this risk. Both these pieces of work will help inform the strategic risk-based planning approach and roadmap.

In April 2018, the Authority and the Queensland Department of Environment and Science

accredited the 10-year Mandubarra Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreement. As at 30 June 2018, nine Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements were accredited and one Indigenous Land Use Agreement was being implemented within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, covering nearly 25 per cent of the coastline.

The draft Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage strategy was released for public consultation by the Authority on 26 February 2018. The closing date for submissions was 10 May 2018. The strategy will be presented to the Marine Park Authority Board for finalisation in 2018–19.

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The Authority's decision to undertake pre-emptive Reef-wide planning includes setting the risk appetite across the Authority and the Marine Park and identifying the areas where additional focus should occur. To obtain this objective, the Authority established the Policy and Planning section in November 2017. The establishment of this section has enabled a dedicated focus on planning and policy for the Marine Park. It has contributed to, and will continue to contribute to, the Authority's performance.

Reporting and financial management under the Land and Sea Country Partnerships Program has been completed in accordance with the memorandum of understanding with the Department of the Environment and Energy.

### MAINTAIN THE PERMISSION SYSTEM

The Authority's permission system is established under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Marine Park Act). Section 2A(3) (d) of the Act states that 'in order to achieve its objects, this Act regulates, including by a system of permissions, use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in ways consistent with ecosystem-based management and the principles of ecologically sustainable use'.

The Authority is responsible for administering permit applications, decisions and post decision conditional approvals under the following pieces of legislation:

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge-General) Act 1993*

- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Environmental Management Charge–Excise) Act 1993*
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Regulations 1983
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003
- *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*
- *Sea Installations Act 1987.*

RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

**Permits managed**

Each permit can include multiple permissions, and each permission may have multiple conditions. As at 30 June 2018, 1371 permits were being managed.

Of these, 64 per cent are categorised as lower risk, level one and routine permits, such as those for commercial tourism operations that provide scuba diving and non-motorised water sports activities.

The remaining 36 per cent of permits are categorised as level two or tailored (for example, heli-pontoons), level three or public information package (for example, sewage and aquaculture discharge) or level four or public environment report (complex or large-scale projects that may have a significant impact on the Marine Park) assessments.

All permissions and applications under assessment are published on the Authority’s website. As of 4 October 2017, the risk levels one to four were replaced with the assessment approaches of routine, tailored, public information package, public environment report and environmental impact statement.

Many of the current permits require several post-permit management actions. For example, complex level three, public information package, and level four, public environment report/environmental impact statement permits, may generate an environmental management plan, a removal plan, a schedule of works, a sampling and analysis plan, or a sampling and analysis report for dredging. Most of the plans will require an assessment, negotiation and written approval by the delegate within the Authority.

**Applications received and decisions made**

During 2017–18, the Authority received 387 applications and granted 422 permits. About 36 per cent of permits issued were lower risk, standard level one, routine permits (Figure 5).

During the reporting period, three level three, public information package applications were received and one decision made. No new level four public environment report applications were received and no level four environmental impact statement decisions were made.

**Multiple permissions**

At the end of the reporting period, the Authority was managing 6362 permissions. Figure 6 represents the total number of current permissions in the Marine Park. Most of the permissions granted were for tourist programs, charter vessels and aircraft, research, moorings and facilities. Facilities include structures such as barge ramps, boat ramps, jetties, marinas, pipelines, pontoons, snorkel trails and marker buoys.

Of the 422 permits granted during the reporting period, 924 individual permissions were issued.

TABLE 3: ASSESSMENT APPROACHES

PRE-4 OCTOBER 2017 RISK LEVEL	POST-4 OCTOBER 2017 ASSESSMENT APPROACH
1	Routine/tailored
2	Tailored/public information package
3	Public information package (PIP)
4	Public environment report (PER)/environmental impact statement (EIS)

### Notifications and directions

During the reporting period, the Authority gave authorisations or directions for 10 Part 5 activities under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003.

### Other decisions

In addition to permit application assessment, the Authority is also responsible for a range of other permission system matters. This includes granting seven compulsory pilotage exemptions, nine site visits to permit holder locations to build stakeholder relations and increase situational awareness. No permits were granted under the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* in the financial year.

### Applications refused, reconsidered and appealed

There were no applications refused during the reporting period. The Authority works closely with applicants to support their understanding of their legal and regulatory obligations to ensure activities are managed effectively and consistently with the Act.

During the reporting period, the Authority received no requests for reconsideration of an initial permit application decision, and no requests for a statement of reasons. The Authority publishes a statement of reasons on its website when there is likely to be significant public interest in the decision.

### Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Two applications continued before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal during the reporting period:

- an application for review of a decision to refuse an application made for a secondary-service determination under regulation 137 of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983 (Marine Park Regulations)
- an application for review of decisions to grant permissions for a program to take animals that pose a threat to human life or safety and to conduct a research program.

Both matters were ongoing as at 30 June 2018.

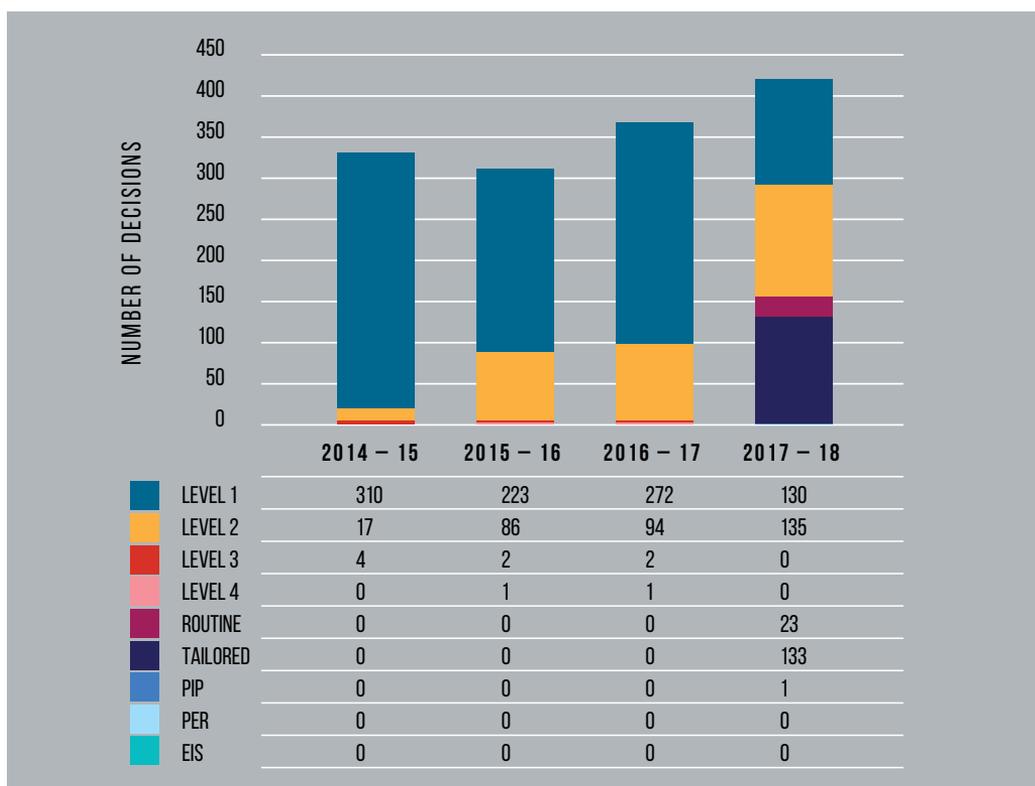


Figure 5: Number of decisions by risk assessment level. Note: from 4 October 2017, a new categorisation for applications took effect

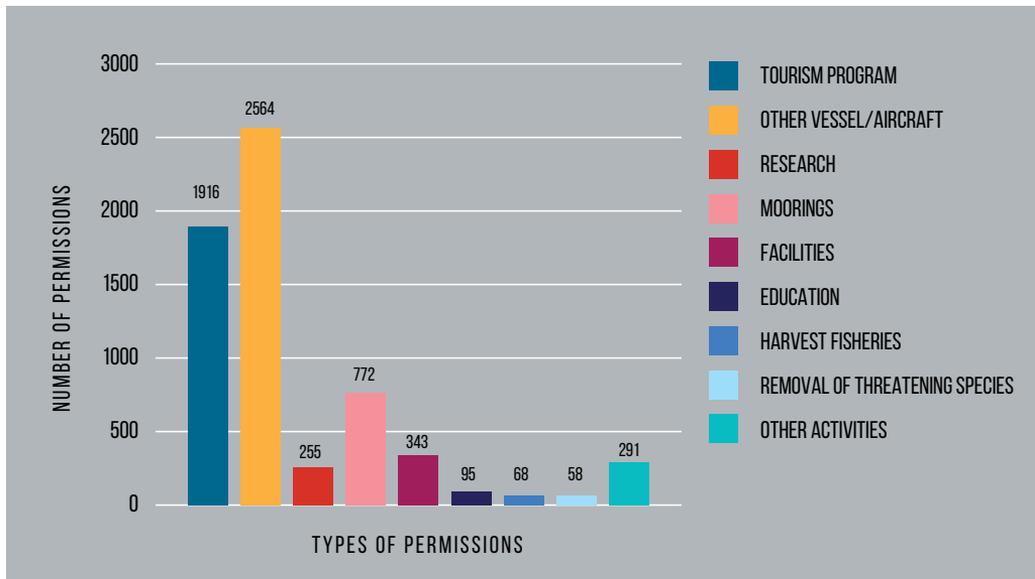


Figure 6: Type and number of current permissions managed by the Authority, as at 30 June 2018

**Permission compliance**

When a permission for activities in the Marine Park is granted, it is subject to conditions that the Authority is responsible for enforcing. Strategies or actions to enforce compliance range from education and assisted self-regulation to stronger mechanisms. There are also formal delegations or authorisations in place that the Authority can use to take action in response to a breach of permit conditions.

The Authority’s Corporate Plan commits to strengthening monitoring and management of compliance risks associated with permission requirements, which complements recommendations made by the Australian National Audit Office audit.

During 2017–18, the Authority continued to implement its Strengthening Permissions Compliance Action Plan 2015–2020, which focuses on the following key areas:

- legislation and permission systems
- education and communication
- monitoring and reporting
- enforcement (including administrative and educational actions).

Through the Annual Permission Compliance Plan, the Authority undertook a suite of administrative compliance activities in 2017–18, including:

- delivering education and training to stakeholders and partner regulatory agencies on permission compliance
- inspecting two targeted moorings
- assisting with implementation of permission-based caution notices to manage low level permit breaches in the field
- contributing to the enhancement of field reporting systems to support the permission system
- reviewing the enforceability of standardised permit conditions for specific permission types
- monitoring permitted use
- delivering education designed to promote self-regulation.

Environmental site supervision was also conducted at priority sites, typically to supervise and ensure permit condition compliance or linked to an approved schedule of works or environmental management plan.

The Authority recorded one or more administrative compliance action/s against 90 per cent of allegations received during 2017–18.

Table 4 and Table 5 summarise the permissions related to reported non-compliances and the actions taken to address non-compliant behaviour.

**TABLE 4: ALLEGED PERMISSION NON-COMPLIANCES REPORTED TO THE AUTHORITY**

PERMISSION NON-COMPLIANCE (ALLEGED)	NUMBER
Failure to display AIN/VIN/BIN*, permit or research	26
Exceeding permit limits (locations, zones volumes, quantities, species)	21
Failure to display mooring reference number	17
Failure to submit/comply with management plan/SOW*	10
Failure to make a booking	8
Other permit condition contravention	8
Failure to comply with MNA/VNA/FNA/ENA*	7
Failure to submit a bond	7
Failure to comply with Queensland/Australian legislation	6
Failure to report/notify	6
Failure to execute a deed	4
Failure to install a facility	4
Failure to maintain a facility	4
Failure to allow for ESS or comply with ESS direction*	3
Failure to maintain eco-certification	1
Failure to comply with plans of management	1
Failure to commence operations	0
Failure to provide evidence of insurance	0
Failure to remove equipment	0
Failure to use permitted methodology	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>133</b>

\*AIN = aircraft identification number; BIN = bareboat identification number; ENA = equipment notification approval; ESS = environmental site supervision; FNA = facility notification approval; MNA = mooring notification approval; SOW = schedule of works; VIN = vessel identification number; VNA = vessel notification approval

**TABLE 5: ACTIONS TAKEN TO RESOLVE REPORTED PERMISSION NON-COMPLIANCES**

COMPLIANCE ACTIONS TAKEN	NUMBER
Commencing operations — extension of time	136
Commencing operations — compliant letter	73
Commencing operations — second intention to revoke letter	41
Education of permittee	32
Request for information — pending suspension	28
Commencing operations — revocation of permission	25
No action alleged non-compliance unsubstantiated / other	18
Referral to assessments delegate — under a process	16
Advisory letter	15
Extension of time	14
Referral to FMCU, DES, MSQ or QPWS to action**	10
Surrender of permission	6
Modification of permit condition, review EMP or update MNA/VNA**	4
Commencing operations — no further action	1
Commencing operations — reconsideration of decision	1
Caution notice	0
Commencing operations — first intention to revoke letter	0
Environmental site supervision or field audit	0
Investigation — suspension of permission	0
Investigation — revocation of permission	0
Penalty infringement notice	0
Reconsideration request decision — permission compliance	0
Reinstatement of a permission — permission compliance	0
Removal of property — order to remove	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>420</b>

\*\* DES = Queensland Department of Environment and Science; EMP = environmental management plan; FMCU = Field Management Compliance Unit; MNA = mooring notification approval; MSQ = Maritime Safety Queensland; QPWS = Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service; VNA = vessel notification approval

### Environmental management charge

The environmental management charge, which is placed on most commercial activities, including visitors using tourism operations in the Marine Park, continues to be a priority for the Authority. To ensure best practice and transparent management of the revenue, the Authority provides guidance material relating to the environmental management charge for permittees.

In 2017–18 the standard tourist program charge per person per day remained at \$6.50, and \$3.25 for part-day tours of less than three hours.

During the year, the Authority undertook 741 environmental management charge administrative compliance actions (see Figure 7).

Each quarter there are between 620 and 670 permit holders that have permissions with environmental management charge obligations. Most of these permit holders (92 per cent) meet their environmental management charge

obligations within the legislated timeframe (one month following end of the quarter). Permit holders who have received one late payment penalty generally pay on time thereafter and do not receive another penalty. Of those who have received multiple late payment penalties, most have received only one further penalty.

### Service level standards

From 4 October 2017, service level standards outlined in the Permission System Service Charter came into effect with the other improvements to the permission system. In order to track progress on the principles outlined in the charter, the Authority committed to the service level standards outlined in Table 6.

Decisions on applications continue to be made as efficiently as possible within existing resources. The charter highlights to applicants that it may take up to two weeks from the Authority making its decision for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to make its decision.

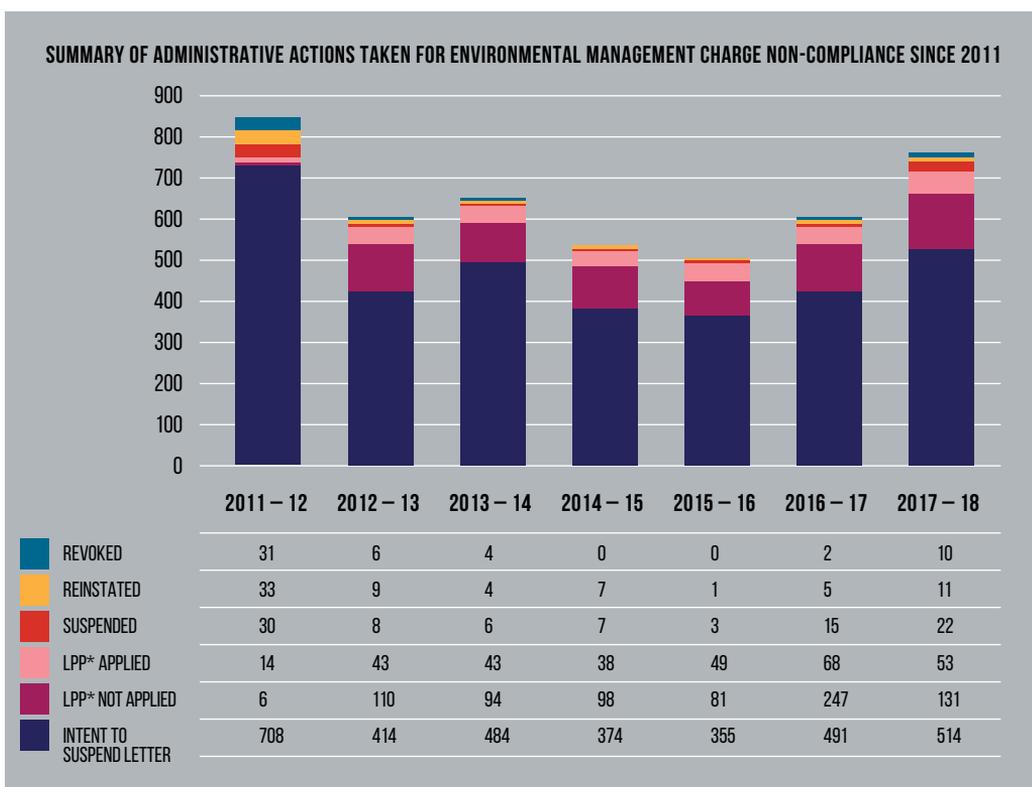


Figure 7: Administrative actions taken for environmental management charge non-compliance, 2011–12 to 2017–18. \* Late payment penalty

TABLE 6: PERMISSION SYSTEM, SERVICE LEVEL STANDARDS FROM 4 OCTOBER 2017

SERVICE LEVEL STANDARD	PERFORMANCE
<b>Assessments and decisions</b>	<b>Mean (since 4 October 2017)</b>
Average time to provide written acknowledgement of receiving properly made application (standard: 10 business days)	4.58 business days
Routine: average time for decision (standard: 25 business days)	18.96 business days
Tailored: average time to send a request for further information (standard: 30 business days from a properly made application)	23.46 business days
Tailored: average time for decision (standard: 50 business days from a properly made application)	37.64 business days
<b>Environmental management charge (EMC) obligations</b>	<b>Performance measure</b>
Send reminders within two weeks of the end of each quarter for those permission holders that are yet to finalise their EMC obligations	Achieved: slight delay in one quarter due to a long-term process improvement
Send intention to suspend notices to those permission holders that have not complied with EMC obligations within one month of the EMC payment becoming due	Achieved
Send suspension and late payment penalty notices to permission holders who fail to remit their EMC obligations within legislated timeframes	Achieved for all quarters
Ensure plans, policies guidelines and information regarding EMC obligations are easily accessible through the Authority's website	Achieved: EMC website reviewed in March 2018
<b>Permission compliance</b>	<b>Performance measure</b>
Ensure plans, policies guidelines and information regarding permission compliance are easily accessible through the Authority's website	Permission compliance external webpage went live on 3 November 2017
Publish on the Authority's website (by 1 August 2017 each financial year) the priority areas for auditing and monitoring	Compliance priorities for 2017–18 available on external website

### **Cost Recovery Implementation Statement**

To fulfil Australian Government requirements outlined in its charging framework and its cost recovery guidelines, the Authority updated its Cost Recovery Implementation Statement. This outlines the Authority's current cost recovery measures in relation to permit application and administration fees. This updated statement was approved by the Accountable Authority and published on the Authority's website.

The statement is limited to justifying existing cost recovery arrangements. As required under the Australian Government's charging framework and cost recovery guidelines, it does not provide a review of these arrangements, or seek to identify improvements. Permission system fees were last reviewed to align with commencement of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003.

The Authority intends to update the statement each calendar year, following tabling of its annual report in Parliament. Updates will include audited financial details and consumer price index increases in permission system fees that take effect annually in January.

### **Management of Defence activities**

The Authority maintained a strong working relationship with the Australian Department of Defence throughout the 2017–18 reporting year.



*The Authority provided advice to the Department of Defence during Talisman Sabre 2017, photographer: CPL David Said (Dept. of Defence)*

Staff provided advice to the Department of Defence on ways to avoid or minimise impacts from a number of defence operations and exercises in the Marine Park. This included the joint Australian and United States training activity, Talisman Sabre. Authority staff also formed part of the Environmental Management Group for the Talisman Sabre exercise that

occurred in Shoalwater Bay defence training area and for the amphibious landing in Stanage Bay, Torilla Peninsula, a non-defence training area. These activities are part of raising awareness and understanding of the importance of operating in a World Heritage Area to visiting militaries.

The Authority updated the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Defence for 2018–20. This formalises commitments to ensure ongoing communication and cooperation on the conduct of defence activities within the Marine Park.

### **Management of port activities**

The Authority updated its Memoranda of Understanding with the Queensland Port Association to reflect the significant changes that have occurred in port management since the introduction of the *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050 Plan).

As part of this work, the Authority provided input to guiding documents under development during 2017–18, in accordance with commitments made under the Reef 2050 Plan including:

- guidelines for the development of long-term maintenance dredging management plans, led by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
- a strategy for managing transshipping in the Great Barrier Reef, led by the then Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Requests for information or advice on dredge material disposal were provided within agreed timeframes.

### **Coordination with Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999**

The Authority has continued to implement the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Department of the Environment and Energy, in relation to the integration and application of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the Marine Park Act.

This memorandum helps integrate and streamline the application and assessment processes when approvals and permissions are required under both Acts, through establishing agreed-to administrative arrangements.

In 2017–18 the Authority advised the Australian Department of the Environment and Energy on 14 pre-referrals, referrals, approved projects and compliance matters.

### **Reef Management System**

The Reef Management System is a database designed to provide simple and seamless functionality to manage permissions for all activities occurring within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The system allows internal staff and external permission holders to manage a range of legislative and regulatory requirements.

A key achievement for phase four development of the Reef Management System during 2017–18 was developing and implementing an online tool to support users to apply for and manage their permissions. This includes the ability to submit information to comply with permit requirements, update contact details and update vessel, aircraft, facility and equipment information.

### **Permits Online**

Ongoing improvements continue to be made to the Permits Online system as a direct result of internal and external user feedback.

There were no changes to documentation during 2017–18. Changes resulting from new Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations (sunsetting) effective during 2018 will not take effect until 2018–19.

## **ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE**

The first phase of improvements toward greater transparency and consistency in the permission system, as identified in the Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment Program Report in 2014 and recommended by the Australian National Audit Office in 2015, were implemented on 4 October 2017.

The measures were realised through amendments to the Marine Park Regulations, revision of the permission system policy and publication of 18 supporting guidance materials, enhancements to the Reef Management System and the development of Permits Online application portal.

Training modules for staff were produced, along with animations and webpages about the permission system. These changes have reduced application decision timeframes,

reduced regulatory burden for permit holders and facilitated a more risk-based approach to the entire system.

## **JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

The Joint Field Management Program is delivered jointly by the Authority and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). It delivers practical on ground actions aimed at protecting and maintaining well-functioning marine and island ecosystems, and supports ecotourism opportunities and commercial industries. The program's core activities include delivering conservation actions, monitoring ecological and heritage values, responding to incidents, educating and engaging with Marine Park users and upholding compliance.

In July 2017, the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum considered the Periodic Review Report 2017 prepared by the Field Management Strategy Group. The report presented a review of the program's performance since 2011, its capacity to deliver future priorities to 2022, and additional funding recommended to achieve field activities identified in the Reef 2050 Plan and the Reef 2050 Plan Investment Framework. The program has since been the beneficiary of Australian and Queensland government budget announcements to meet the additional funding recommended. The funding is staged to enable considered and sustainable expansion from a joint base funding commitment of over \$17 million to over \$38 million by 2021–22, with a commensurate increase in staff from 115 to 186 people.



*A recreational fishing compliance blitz was conducted in the Gladstone region during Easter 2018 © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)*



Indigenous Ranger training May 2018 © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA), funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, photographer: Leigh Harris, Ingeous Studios

## RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

Compliance with Marine Park and other environmental legislation in the World Heritage Area is undertaken and coordinated by the Joint Field Management Program. The program delivers a risk-based compliance program designed to target non-compliance in the areas with the highest threats to the integrity, health and resilience of the World Heritage Area. It delivers a suite of compliance activities, including surveillance, investigation and administration, in partnership with other government agencies such as QPWS, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, Queensland Water Police and Maritime Border Command.

A total of 888 dedicated compliance patrol vessel days, nine land-based days and 66 days of targeted chartered aerial surveillance was achieved during 2017–18. This is a 20 per cent increase above the key performance indicator of 740 dedicated compliance patrol vessel days. Thirty per cent (269 of the 888) of the vessel days were undertaken during known high risk periods for non-compliant recreational fishing, a significant priority for the program given the ongoing number of recreational fishing offences (Figure 8) and apparent complacency and negligence among recreational fishers around zoning compliance. The increasing detection of recreational fishing offences may be attributed to the program's risk-based intelligence-led focus, with the greater targeting of compliance efforts.

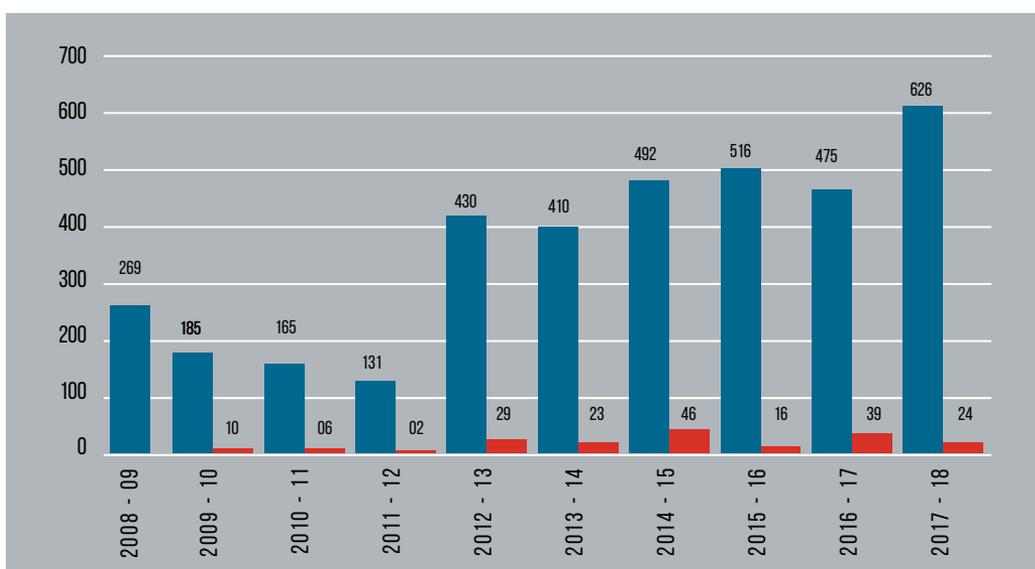


Figure 8: Trend in recreational fishing offences (Note: blue bars indicate Commonwealth offences; red bars indicate the number of state offences)

There has been a significant increase in detection of recreational fishing offences since 2012–13. While there was a slight decline in 2016–17, the number has risen to the highest recorded in 2017–18. During the reporting period, 1189 possible offences were reported from across the Commonwealth and Queensland jurisdictions of the World Heritage Area. Most of these offences were handled through compliance actions such as caution notices (87), advisory letters (331) and warning notices (49). More serious matters resulted in infringement notices (130 notices, \$249,528 in fines) and court action (42 prosecutions, \$104,700 in fines). Administrative enforcement action was taken for two recidivist commercial fishers who have had their access to the Marine Park limited.

There was an increasing trend in the number of compliance reports submitted by members of the public, up from 50 in 2016–17 to 61 in 2017–18. This coincided with the recreational fishing project, a compliance campaign targeting recreational fishers poaching from green zones, which encouraged marine park users to report suspected illegal activity via a 24-hour hotline or the public website. There was also an increase in reports submitted by Indigenous ranger groups, up from six in 2016–17 to 21 in 2017–18.

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are a new compliance tool that have been identified, trialled and their effectiveness reviewed. The UAVs have proven effective in improving surveillance outcomes, particularly where traditional surveillance methods have been ineffective in the World Heritage Area.

The pilot Indigenous Ranger Compliance Enhancement Program successfully concluded with 17 Indigenous Rangers appointed as Marine Park inspectors with name and address powers. Further funding has been obtained through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for training of at least a further 40 Indigenous rangers by June 2020.

The Joint Field Management Program supported the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries expansion of commercial vessel tracking under the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027. The program provided a further \$1 million in funding (\$1.2 million provided in 2016–17) towards the industry rebate

scheme to assist fishers with the purchase and installation of vessel tracking units.

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The Joint Field Management Program enhanced its compliance efforts in 2017–18 as recommended in the Reef 2050 Plan and the *Great Barrier Reef blueprint for resilience*. Factors that contributed to the high performance include delivery of two new replacement vessels, in particular the mid-shelf waters vessel *Reef Sentinel* which has an increased range and night time surveillance capability, good weather opportunities, and modifying traditional vessel patrol patterns from broad areas to instead target and increase time spent in high-risk green zones.

Improving recreational fishing compliance with Marine Park zoning continues to be a priority project for the program. Targeted compliance and communications campaigns were held in Townsville during the Christmas holidays and Gladstone during the Easter holidays. Considerable compliance effort has been directed at high-risk periods for non-compliant recreational fishing. The program has promoted a no tolerance approach to illegal recreational fishing with a shift to issuing infringement notices to offenders where evidentiary requirements have been met, resulting in 130 infringement notices, triple the number issued in 2016–17 (Figure 9).



The Reef supports around 1625 bony fish species © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA), photographer: J Maynard

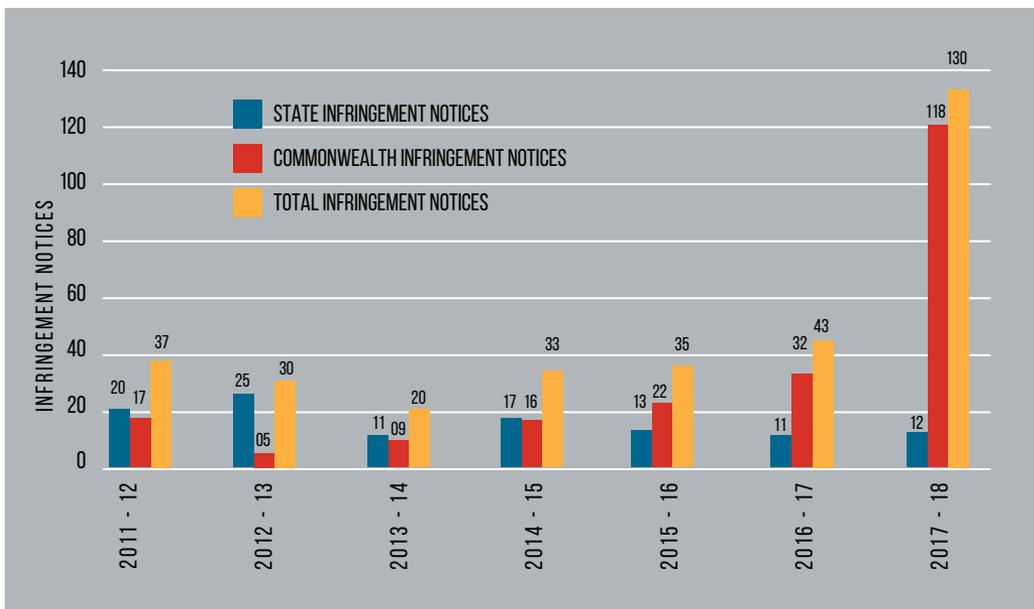


Figure 9: Trend in issuance of infringement notices



Leekees Creek, Great Keppel Island © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

**PROGRAM AREA 3: EDUCATING AND FOSTERING STEWARDSHIP TO ENHANCE PROTECTION OF THE REEF**

The Authority implements a wide range of education and stewardship programs across the Great Barrier Reef catchment and beyond. These include Reef Guardians, Local Marine Advisory Committees, industry training and the management and operation of the Authority's national education centre, Reef HQ Aquarium.

Through these programs the Authority provides technical expertise and advice to its stakeholders including local government, volunteer groups, schools, tourism operators, fishers, farmers, natural resource management bodies and industry.

The Authority's focus is on empowering stakeholders to take action through providing the tools and building the capacity of others to be champions for the Reef.

**TABLE 7: SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE RESULTS PROGRAM AREA 3**

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA <sup>6</sup>	2017–18 TARGET	2017–18 ACTUAL
Improved awareness and adoption of sustainable best practices through education and stewardship programs.	Participants of stewardship and education programs, including Reef HQ programs, report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved awareness of the Great Barrier Reef's values and threats</li> <li>Changed practice and behaviour to protect and enhance the Reef's values.</li> </ul>	<b>ACHIEVED</b>

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Introduced the first round of Reef Guardian research, community and stewardship grants with support from research institutions, Local Marine Advisory Committees and Reef Guardian councils and schools.
- Awarded 25 grants under the inaugural Reef Guardian Community and Stewardship Grants program. Thirty seven applications were received from across the Great Barrier Reef catchment for the \$54,000 of grant monies available. The 25 grants totalled \$49,381 that leveraged over \$205,000 in-kind support from project partners (not including staff/volunteer labour costs).
- Twelve Reef Guardian Research Grants were awarded to post graduate students from six universities, supporting student research on projects relevant to the management of the Great Barrier Reef.
- A Local Marine Advisory Committee exit survey found that of those surveyed more than 98 per cent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the 2015–2018 term.
- A successful recruitment campaign was conducted for the 2018–2021 Local Marine Advisory Committee term, with more than 170 people nominating.
- More than 4000 people visited the Authority's display at Reef 2018 in Rockhampton, learning about the International Year of the Reef, the Great Barrier Reef, its management and actions that people can take in their everyday lives to support the Reef.
- About 95,000 local, regional, national and international visitors attended the Reef HQ Aquarium's daily program of educational talks and tours, which deliver key messages about the values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area.

<sup>6</sup> These performance indicators are recorded in the Authority's chapter in the Department of the Environment and Energy's 2017–18 Portfolio Budget Statements p. 231 and in the Authority's Corporate Plan 2017–18 p. 24.

- Reef HQ Aquarium's outreach using videoconferencing technology was used to deliver Reef education into schools and events around Australia and the world including but not limited to:
  - lifelong learning programs in retirement villages in the United States of America
  - twenty schools around Australia as part of National Education Week
  - Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef event, United Kingdom
  - World Science Centre Summit, Japan
  - the 2018 Commonwealth Games, Athletes Village, Gold Coast, Queensland
  - Asia Dive Expo, Singapore
  - Ecolinc Science and Technology Expo, Victoria.
- Reef HQ Aquarium supported the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Marine Science (ATSIMS) program in partnership with James Cook University, with more than 60 high school students undertaking a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) focused program of activities.
- Reef HQ Aquarium continues to be an integral contributor to North Queensland's strategic positioning as a global destination of excellence for faculty-led study abroad programs. Reef HQ Aquarium has facilitated core components of regionally-based programs to 14 student groups from the United States of America, Japan and China.
- In January 2018, Reef HQ Aquarium launched a new education activity, 'Mermaids and the Clean Up Crew', developed as a fun and engaging way to educate children about the impacts of rubbish on the Reef and marine creatures.
- In support of the International Year of the Reef 2018, Reef HQ Aquarium has created a pledge wall encouraging guests to pledge to take action to reduce their impact on the Reef. These pledges will be placed into a time capsule and buried in the Coral Reef Exhibit to be opened during the next International Year of the Reef.
- Record involvement in Eye on the Reef training and workshops with over 120 tourism staff trained across the Marine Park.
- The Reef Guardian Councils program welcomed its first Aboriginal Shire Council during 2017–18. Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council is doing excellent work in water quality monitoring and upgrading their water treatment plant along with Reef-related community engagement activities.
- The Reef Guardian Fishers program now includes 24 fishing operations spread from Bundaberg to Cooktown, covering most of the commercial fishing activity occurring within the Marine Park.
- In conjunction with key recreational fishing groups and Reef Guardian Councils in Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton, stewardship-based codes of conduct and citizen science based monitoring within the recreational fishing sector are being implemented, with a strategic focus on increasing regional tourism opportunities.
- The Authority is working collaboratively with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to advance implementation of the *Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy: 2017–2027*.
- There are currently 297 Reef Guardian Schools in Queensland with almost 130,000 students.
- Fourteen Future Leaders Eco Challenge (FLEC) events designed to challenge students and their teachers to understand the links between ecosystems and sustainability and 'Reef friendly' actions. Almost 1000 participants were involved, including 90 schools and 115 partner representatives, demonstrating the importance of empowering people to be part of the solution.
- Fourteen Reef Guardian Network meetings were held across the Great Barrier Reef catchment including 114 schools, 13 Reef Guardian Councils with 219 partner representatives. These events brought together individuals, industry representatives and community groups to raise awareness of the challenges facing the Reef and through mutually-supportive partnerships that enable joint participation in efforts to protect and conserve the Reef.

ENCOURAGE TOURISM STEWARDSHIP

RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

High Standard Tourism Operator Program

The Authority is committed to ensuring improved conservation outcomes in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park through the High Standard Tourism Operator program. The program was established in 2004 and recognises tourism operators as high standard when they achieve independent (and voluntary) eco certification through either Ecotourism Australia or EarthCheck. At 30 June 2018, 61 operators were recognised as high standard. High Standard Tourism Operators voluntarily operate to a higher standard than required by legislation as part of their commitment to ecologically sustainable use. These operators are independently certified as meeting best practice standards for the key areas of protection, presentation and partnership.



Twelve local Marine Advisory Committees represent communities along the Great Barrier Reef coast — from Bundaberg in the south to Cooktown in the north © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

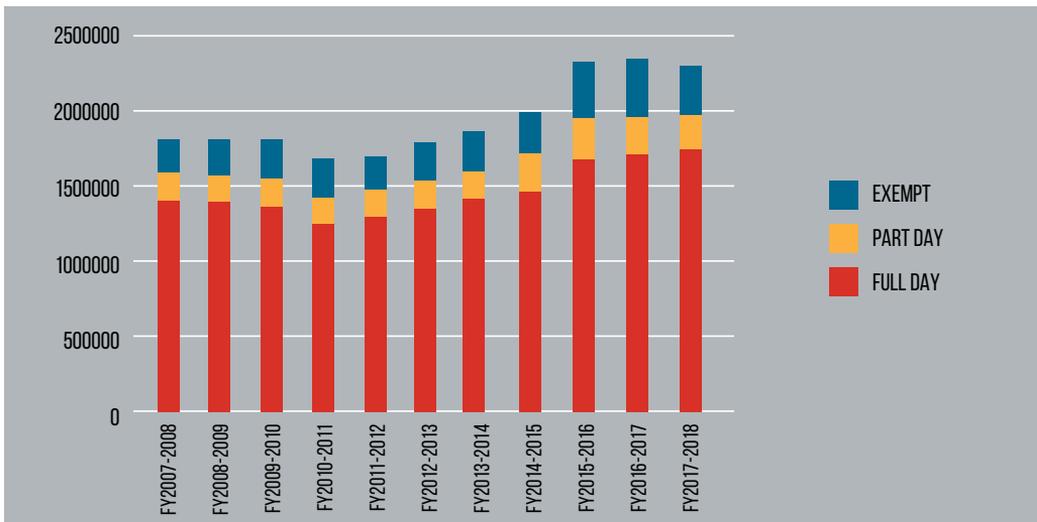


Figure 10: Tourism visits\* to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park since 2007–08

This includes full-day and part-day visitors, and passenger exempt from the environmental management charge. \*These figures do not include stand-alone coral viewing activities and scenic flights. Source: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority environmental management charge records

The Authority held tourism operator workshops in Port Douglas, Cairns and the Whitsundays to provide information and advice on:

- what it means to operate in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- important changes to the way permissions are managed and how this will affect permitted tourism operators
- introduction to the new Permits Online portal to manage applications and save time
- tools to communicate responsible Reef practices.

The Authority has a comprehensive publication available to tourism operators, *Responsible Reef practices for tourism operators in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*, which recommends the best environmental practices for more than 30 activities commonly undertaken in the Marine Park. The Authority has worked with industry to develop a set of more than 15 visual icons — based on responsible Reef practices — to enhance education and awareness among non-English speaking visitors to the Marine Park.



More than 4400 Reef Health Impact Surveys were conducted during 2017–18, © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

### ***Eye on the Reef***

Eye on the Reef is a reef monitoring and assessment program run by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The program enables anyone who visits the Reef to contribute to its long-term protection by collecting valuable information about Reef health, marine animals and incidents, including sightings of crown-of-thorns starfish and charismatic mega-fauna such as whale sharks.

Eye on the Reef brings together the following assessment and monitoring programs:

- The Sightings Network — an Eye on the Reef app (developed in 2013) enables any Marine Park user to report the interesting or unusual things they see on the Reef. These photos and observations feed straight into the Eye on the Reef data management system, and can be linked to the user's Facebook page. The photos and observations sent in by users help the Authority to build knowledge about species diversity, abundance, habitat and range. This harnesses citizen science en masse, while the real-time web reporting and social media elements give the program broad community appeal.
- Rapid Monitoring — an entry-level monitoring program that enables regular Reef users and tourists to get more engaged in Reef reporting and protection. It means core Reef health indicators can be reported by relatively inexperienced people from places that may not be visited regularly. Tourism operators are beginning to offer the Rapid Monitoring program to their guests as a new Reef experience. It provides guests with a better understanding of the Reef while enabling them to contribute to its preservation.
- Tourism Weekly Monitoring — Reef tourism operators and crew carry out weekly observations of specific sites they visit, providing comparative data over time. Initiated in 1997 by the tourism industry, this was the original Eye on the Reef program. The power of Tourism Weekly Monitoring is the frequency of sampling.
- Reef Health and Impact Surveys — an efficient way to provide a snapshot of Reef health at any time on any Reef. Used by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and trained observers, it involves detailed assessments of small areas. It is often used to assess impacts of natural disasters on the Reef, such as cyclones and floods, because of the way it quantifies impacts and indicators.

The Eye on the Reef program and its associated data management and reporting system currently stores 37,649 surveys of reef health and 17,251 records of protected species and significant event sightings. Since its expansion in 2009, more than 600 people have been trained in Eye on the Reef methods. In 2017–18 more than 4400 surveys of Reef health and almost 1550 sightings of protected species and significant events were received.

Data requests continue to be received from research institutions and universities, confirming the scientific value of the data. Nineteen tourism operators are contributing data to the program.

Eye on the Reef workshops were held in early 2018, with 43 participants in the far northern region, 23 in the central region and 58 in the southern region. The Authority conducted two in-water training days for tourism staff with 24 participants in the far northern region and 17 participants in the southern region.

**Reef discovery course**

The Authority is developing a comprehensive online training course, Reef Discovery, which covers the A to Z of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park biology, ecology, geology, heritage, management and interpretation.

Of the 10 modules being developed, as at 30 June 2018, six modules were complete and four modules were in draft stages. The course aims to improve awareness of the Great Barrier Reef’s value and threats.

**Master Reef Guides program**

A world-class Master Reef Guides program commenced in partnership with the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators and Tourism and Events Queensland.

The Great Barrier Reef marine tourism industry will be able to formally recognise staff who complete the program, which focuses on enhancing visitor satisfaction through:

- quality interpretation, storytelling and presentation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area’s values to enhance the visitor experience of more than two million visitors annually
- providing Great Barrier Reef marine tourism operators and their staff with up-to-date and accurate information on Marine Park management, Reef ecology and biology and how best to present the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

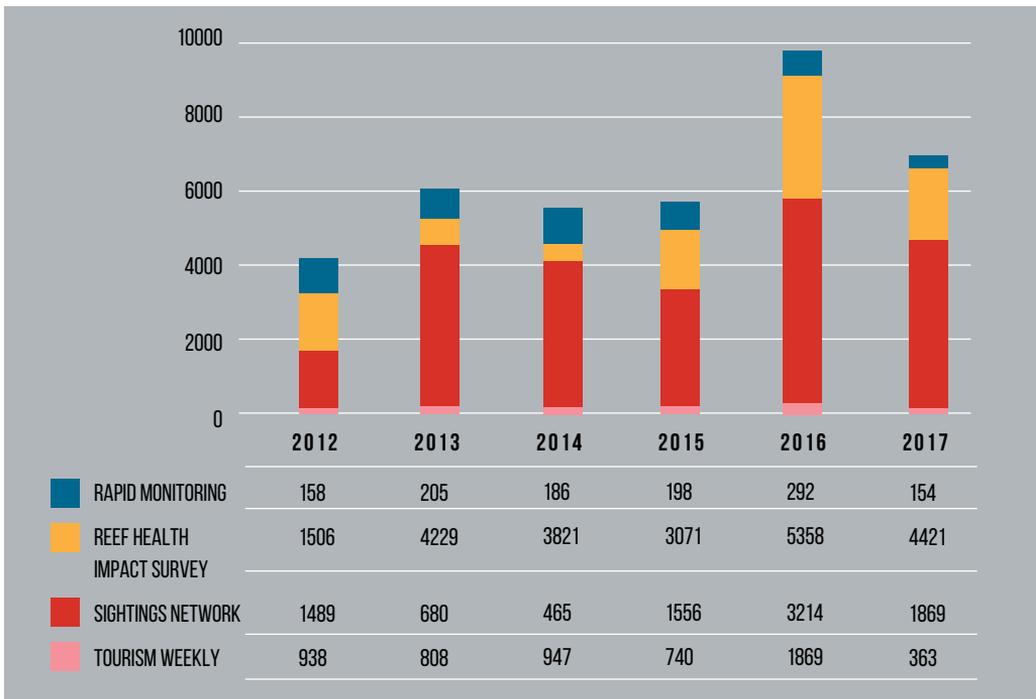


Figure 11: Number of Eye on the Reef surveys per survey method

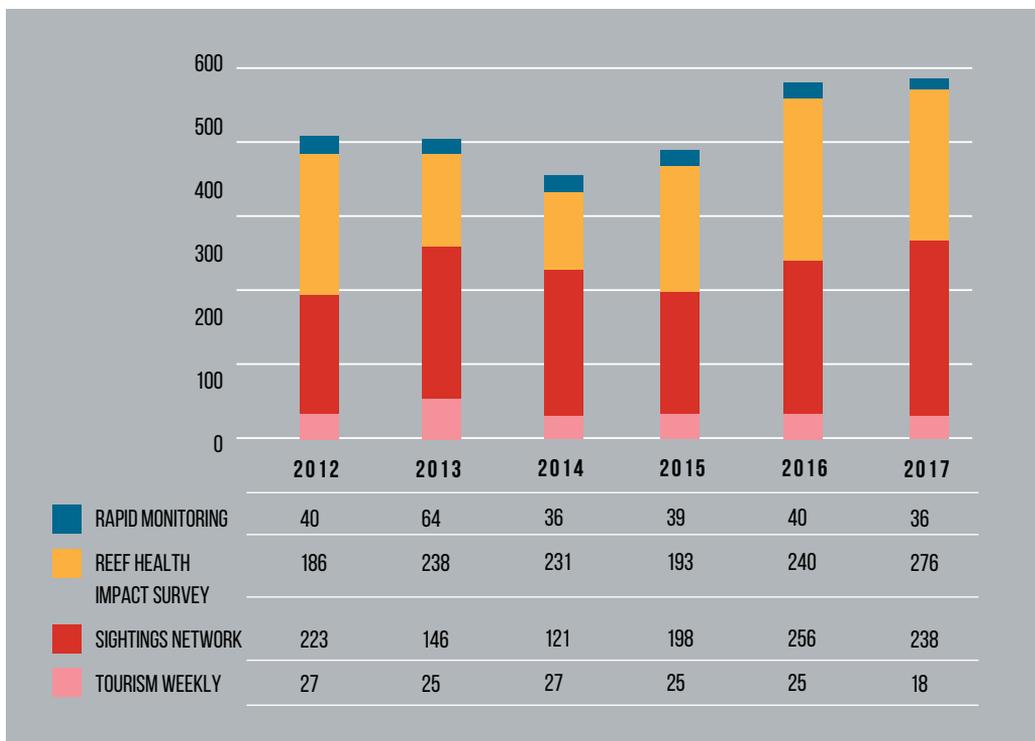


Figure 12: Number of reefs surveyed per survey method

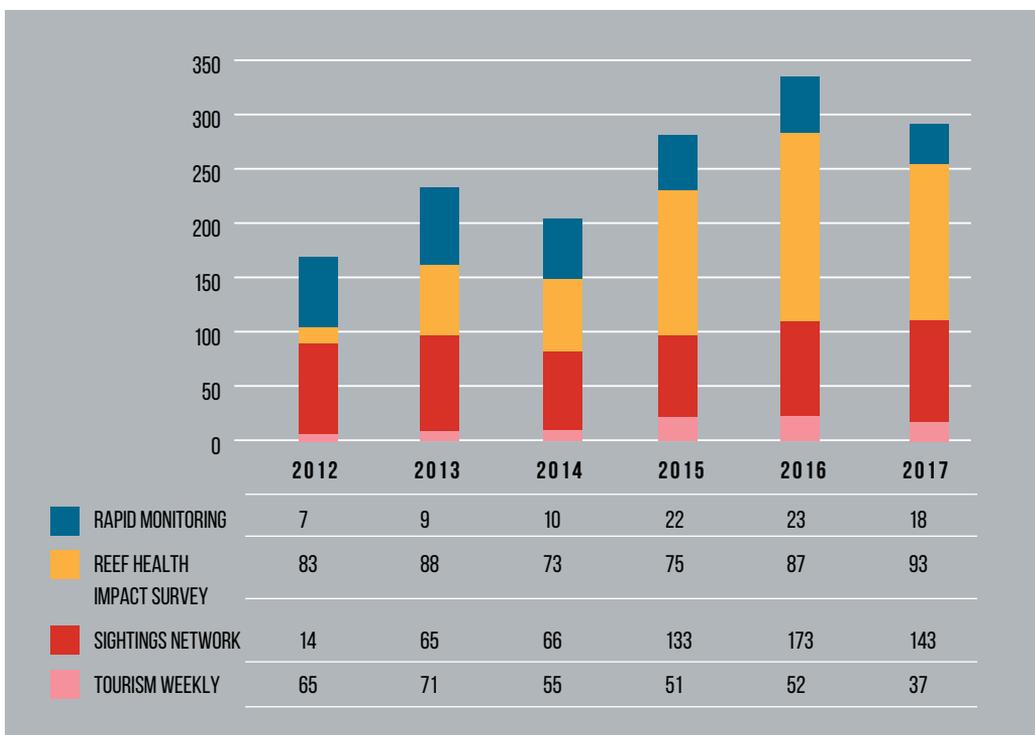


Figure 13: Number of Eye on the Reef participants per survey method

- enhancing visitor compliance with Marine Park management arrangements.

Marine Park tourism operators will also benefit from the Master Reef Guides program through marketing opportunities to further promote the industry, and enhance visitor experience while providing a career path for tourism staff.

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The marine tourism industry is a key partner in the protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef. Tourism operators help enhance visitor experiences of the Reef and play an important role in protecting the amazing biodiversity that supports their industry.

Many tourism operators ensure their activities are best practice by following the Responsible Reef practices for tourism operators guide.

There are also many tourism operators situated across the Marine Park who regularly work in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to monitor the Reef.

Tourism staff who are involved in the Eye on the Reef Monitoring Program have been trained to monitor and record the health of the Reef. Scientists use this information for their research activities and Marine Park managers use it to identify areas requiring concentrated effort.

Tourism staff continue to assist with management of the Reef by reporting any interesting and unusual things they see in the Marine Park through the Sightings Network.



Eye on the Reef training at Heron Island © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

## ENABLE TRADITIONAL OWNER STEWARDSHIP

### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

The Authority takes every opportunity to encourage the establishment of effective and meaningful partnerships between Reef tourism operations and Traditional Owners. This has resulted in tourism product trials involving Indigenous rangers working in partnership with permitted Reef tourism operators.

A module focusing on Indigenous culture has been developed as part of the Reef Discovery course. The purpose of the module was to highlight that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef region, and their strong connections with their land and sea country. The module also articulates the preferred protocol for Reef tourism operators to follow when entering knowledge sharing relationships with Traditional Owners and aims to articulate best practice principles in regard to:

- respecting and recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their rich cultures and unique association with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area
- establishing effective and culturally appropriate Traditional Owner empowered engagement and partnerships
- developing and implementing Indigenous Heritage and Knowledge Sharing Agreements with Marine Park Traditional Owners.

The Authority has also set aside a number of Indigenous Special Tourism Permissions under the Plans of Management for Cairns (five permits), Hinchinbrook (three permits) and the Whitsundays (five permits).

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

As a result of functional realignment within the Authority, 2017–18 was considered a foundational year in supporting Traditional Owner stewardship through strengthening Traditional Owner connections to Reef tourism programs. A number of opportunities to further develop and strengthen Traditional Owner stewardship through connections to Reef tourism programs have been identified and will form the basis for future operational planning of the section.

# DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Highlights 2017 – 18\*

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

**9.9M**

**Impressions**

number of times content is displayed

**1.18M**

**Engagement**

number of interactions users have with the content

**2957**

**Posts**

number of posts to all social media platforms

### IMPRESSIONS



5.1M



3.4M



1M



419K



26K

### POSTS PER CHANNEL



1628



451



245



164

## ENGAGEMENT

**331,214**

**Social media**

**849,060**

**Website sessions**

## WEBSITE

**583,585**

**Users**

the number of users who accessed our website over the year



**57%**



**43%**



**Engagement**

on average users look at 2.09 pages and stay 2mins 40secs

\*Data relates to Authority channels only, does not include Reef HQ Aquarium channels

**EMPOWER OTHERS TO BE REEF STEWARDS**

**RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION**

**Reef Guardians**

Reef Guardian program activities have focused primarily on schools, local government (councils) and fishers. These programs demonstrate that a hands-on, community-based approach can make a real difference to the health and resilience of the Reef through empowering people to be part of the solution. The stewardship actions taken by Reef Guardians have been enabled through activities that build knowledge, support positive environmental action, recognise and foster leadership and facilitate partnerships.

More than 150 Reef Guardian Action Plans were received from participating organisations. Data from these plans inform strategic focus and contributes to evaluating the impact of activities.

Authority support for Reef Guardians has resulted in stewardship opportunities between Reef Guardian Schools and Reef Guardian Councils being strengthened through improved collaboration and events such as Reef Guardian networking meetings, Future Leaders Eco Challenges and combined Reef Guardian initiatives.



Working with Reef Guardian Councils © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA), photographer: Through the Looking Glass Studio

**REEF GUARDIAN NETWORKING MEETINGS WERE HELD IN 13 REGIONS ACROSS THE GREAT BARRIER REEF CATCHMENT. THESE MEETINGS BROUGHT TOGETHER MORE THAN 430 PARTICIPANTS FROM:**

- 116 Reef Guardian Schools
- 13 Reef Guardian Councils
- 2 Reef Guardian Fishers
- 90 partner organisations
- 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees
- 16 government agencies.



Reef Guardians working together to reduce marine debris  
© Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA),  
photographer: Campbell Clark

### **Reef Guardian Community and Stewardship Grants**

The objective of the Reef Guardian Community and Stewardship Grants is to support locally relevant stewardship and community projects to enable the community to contribute to caring for the Reef. The grants encourage collaboration between community groups, Local Marine Advisory Committees, schools and councils to identify what they can do together to positively influence the values of the Great Barrier Reef. Activities supported by the grants contribute to delivering on-ground stewardship actions that support the *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050 Plan) outcomes and targets.

The grants also deliver on the *Great Barrier Reef blueprint for resilience's* focus of 'empowering people to be part of the solution'. The inaugural Reef Guardian Community and Stewardship Grants are due to be concluded in 2018–19 with associated case studies, reports and media relating to the projects provided in line with grant agreements.

To support continual improvement, evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of stewardship activities has been a focus. Internal and external consultation identified opportunities and issues for integrating activities, across the Reef Guardian sub-programs and more broadly across the agency, that promote and enable community stewardship of the Reef.

A model for integrating the Reef Guardian sub-programs and other stewardship activities was developed. The use of four common stewardship principles (leadership, partnerships, knowledge and action) was phased into the planning and evaluation of some activities, and will be further used to prioritise activities based on available resources into the future.

### **Local Marine Advisory Committees**

The Authority is advised on Marine Park management issues at a local level by voluntary community-based committees called Local Marine Advisory Committees. There are 12 committees representing communities along the Great Barrier Reef coast — from Bundaberg in the south to Cooktown in the north.

The Authority hosted a two-day meeting of the Committee Chairs in October 2017, providing an opportunity for senior staff to meet with the community representatives and discuss issues of concern. Updates were provided on Authority priorities and the many and varied local Reef protection actions being undertaken by the community committees.

In March 2018, the committees successfully transitioned to the new Reef Guardian Community Grants process, which replaced the Local Marine Advisory Committee project funds. Each committee had the opportunity to endorse projects in their local area up to the value of \$2000.

At the close of the 2015–18 term, a newsletter was produced to highlight the issues and activities on which the committees focused during the three-year term. This included more than 35 community stewardship projects such as supporting tag and release programs to gather critical fisheries information; a range of marine debris activities, including beach clean-ups, awareness raising and survey work; turtle conservation activities; and coral recovery activities such as removing algae from Magnetic Island reefs. The committees provided feedback on public consultation processes as well as drawing the community and Authority attention to local and Reef-wide issues and concerns such as microbead pollutants, climate change impacts on catchment communities, urban runoff, boat strikes and the role of herbivores in coral recovery following bleaching events.

A communication strategy was implemented as part of a recruitment drive for the 2018–21 term, which saw 176 people nominate to be a member on one of the 12 committees — an increase of more than 50 nominations for the start of the 2015–18 term.

### Regional engagement

Three regional offices — based in Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton — deliver the Authority's engagement priorities to catchment communities, providing information and empowering stakeholders and the public to take action to help the Reef. They provide a tangible presence for the Authority in catchment communities.

One million residents live in the Reef catchment, an area of 300,000 kilometres stretching from northern Cape York to Bundaberg. The regional officers deliver a range of programs throughout the catchment including the Local Marine Advisory Committees, Reef Guardian stewardship program and regional engagement.

A particular focus during the year was recreational users — to promote zoning

compliance and sustainable fishing practices. This was a reflection of corporate priorities and the need to build Reef resilience following mass coral bleaching events. A range of engagement mechanisms were used, including attending fishing club meetings, providing information to tackle stores and staffing booths at fishing competitions and expos. Key messages and conversations focused on the proven benefits of zoning and the risks of non-compliance. Officers also promoted sustainable fishing practices such as the best techniques to release fish, and avoiding anchoring on coral.

Community engagement and education via event attendance enables the agency to share information about Reef health, management and zoning, and engage with people interested in the Reef.

### EVENTS AT WHICH THE AGENCY HAD A BOOTH OR PRESENCE INCLUDED:

- Asia Dive Expo
- International Clipper Yacht Race
- St Lawrence Wetland Weekend
- Reef Catchments Coast Care Holiday Program — Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac
- Tilapia community event
- It's your Reef – community event – Alva Beach
- Whitsunday Reef Festival Family Day
- Annual walk to the lighthouse — Bowen community event
- Brisbane Boat Show
- Kurrimine Beach Fishing Competition
- Moranbah Home Show
- Mackay Botanical Gardens Open day
- Boyne Tannum Hook-Up
- Australian Tourism Exchange
- Cairns Ecofiesta
- Cairns Expo
- Cairns World Sea Turtle Day
- EnvironmentFNQ Roundtable
- Ecofest – Gladstone
- Rockhampton Region Harmony day – fishing traditions focus
- Beef 2018
- Cardwell Coastguard open day
- BCF customer nights throughout the Reef Catchment



*Busi Women's Network collect and connect, Yeppoon 2018  
© Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)*

The regional officers also serviced a network of more than 200 businesses, government agencies and visitor information centres that stock information products provided by the agency. These community access points are an important mechanism to connect with local communities, especially Reef users. During 2017–18, staff reviewed the network, surveying and ranking the community access points based on their effectiveness. The result will standardise and improve servicing, data management and reporting.

During 2017–18, the agency distributed more than 77,500 zoning maps and almost 49,000 associated tools to help marine parks users comply with zoning rules and permitted activities. These were supplied to recreational users and community access points.

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The Authority performed strongly in achieving its purpose through empowering others to protect the Great Barrier Reef. Through its stewardship programs and networks, the Authority gave communities, industry and individuals the knowledge, skills, connections and inspiration to do more to protect this international icon.

Establishing the inaugural Reef Guardian Grants program did stretch human resources, resulting in reduced capacity for existing components of the Reef Guardian program. However, the projects supported by the grants indicate stewardship leaders have been empowered to influence people and actions to protect the Reef and communities are looking to actively support actions that build Reef resilience.

It is expected the resource impost for future grant rounds will be reduced as protocols and procedures have now been established. Opportunities to streamline the process and leverage additional benefits have also been identified.

## INPUT TO QUEENSLAND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES STRATEGY: 2017–2027 IMPLEMENTATION

### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

The Authority's involvement in fishery working groups as part of the *Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy: 2017–2027*, has enabled ecologically sustainable fishing within

the Marine Park to be openly discussed among stakeholders.

Fishery working groups have convened multiple times for the coral reef fin fish and Spanish mackerel, trawl, crab, east coast inshore, tropical rock lobster, sea cucumber, and the marine aquarium fish and coral fisheries. The Authority is also a member of the rocky reef fishery working group that is yet to be convened. These working groups provide advice on the operational and ecological aspects of managing Queensland's fisheries and assist to develop a harvest strategy consistent with the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy.

The Authority has also been involved in working groups focused on sustainability issues related to shark and saucer scallop harvest. Involvement in these working groups, plus Fisheries Research and Development Corporation activities has influenced the establishment of appropriate monitoring and research.

Work conducted with fisheries monitoring and research staff has addressed recognised gaps in the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting program and helped bring research streams together, promoting information sharing. This complements the work of the Reef Guardian program with citizen science, such as Infish, that is providing important information on recreational fishing and value adding to Fisheries Queensland monitoring. This work contributes to Reef 2050 Plan objectives.

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The expert knowledge and advice provided through the Authority's involvement in Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy working groups has resulted in positive outcomes for the management of ecologically sustainable fishing within the Marine Park. In particular, the inclusion in the strategy of sustainable catch limits of 60 per cent unfished biomass by 2027 to build resilience and the development of harvest strategies for all Queensland fisheries, starting with the trawl, east coast inshore, crab and coral reef line fisheries.

The Authority's *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014* identifies five very high and high fishing-related risks that are threats to the Great Barrier Reef.

This important engagement work ensures the Authority's concerns are considered in the development and implementation of *Queensland's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy: 2017–2027*.

### SUPPORT REEF GUARDIAN SCHOOLS

#### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

The Reef Guardian Schools program has improved awareness and adoption of sustainable best practices through educational opportunities via stewardship projects and initiatives. The program continues to be a flagship for the Authority's external stewardship with communities.

Reef Guardian Schools are continuing to deliver and encourage the marine debris messages through drain stencilling activities, source reduction workshops, beach and river clean-ups and single use plastic reduction through the loan kits available to Reef Guardian Schools.

A series of Future Leaders Eco Challenges were facilitated to promote understanding of protecting the Reef. The action-based challenges foster stewardship and promote a community culture of custodianship for Reef protection. This is achieved through hands-on workshops and activities in the catchment. The objectives are regionally varied and focused on local, environmental on-ground project outcomes valued by the community to improve the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. This includes restoration activities (such as tree planting), marine debris clean-ups and water quality monitoring.

The challenges are designed to empower students by giving them a sense of involvement and helping them gain new skills and knowledge to protect the Reef. Teachers participating in the challenges use this time to increase their professional development hours (as described by the Department of Education, Training and Employment), recognising that teachers are learning new skills and knowledge to support formal teaching activities.

The challenges also serve as an initiative to aggregate and connect partners along the Queensland coast. Partners promoted student involvement in regionally specific projects and have provided resources to help support schools in Reef education.

The objective of the Reef Guardian Community and Stewardship Grants (the grants) is to support locally relevant stewardship and community projects to enable the community to contribute to caring for the Reef. Reef Guardian Community and Stewardship grants encouraged collaboration between community groups, Local Marine Advisory Committees, schools and councils to identify what they can do together to positively influence the health of Great Barrier Reef. Activities supported by the grants will contribute to delivering on-ground stewardship actions that support the Reef 2050 Plan outcomes and targets. The grants will also deliver on the blueprint's focus on 'Empowering people to be part of the solution'.



*The Reef Guardian Schools program provides opportunity for schools to get involved in Reef stewardship actions © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)*

#### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The Reef Guardian Schools program continues to provide outstanding opportunities for schools and communities to get involved in stewardship actions. On-ground events provide excellent engagement opportunities and allow for regional partners to value-add to the Reef Guardian projects and activities.

The future focus will be on empowering others by building their capacity to be champions for the Reef and take actions and developing fit for purpose education and communication tools that can be delivered by others in the community.



Reef Guardian students learn about managing the Marine Park for sustainability © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

## DESIGN AND DELIVER HIGH STANDARD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium is the world's largest living coral reef aquarium and is the national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Reef HQ Aquarium allows guests of all ages and physical abilities to get 'up close' to the Great Barrier Reef — recognised as one of Australia's most precious natural treasures.

Reef HQ Aquarium provides education through static and interactive exhibits, continuously seeking ways to make new connections to educate visitors on the heritage and cultural values of the Great Barrier Reef.

The aim is that every guest visiting the aquarium is inspired to make a behavioural change and become a Reef Guardian as a result.

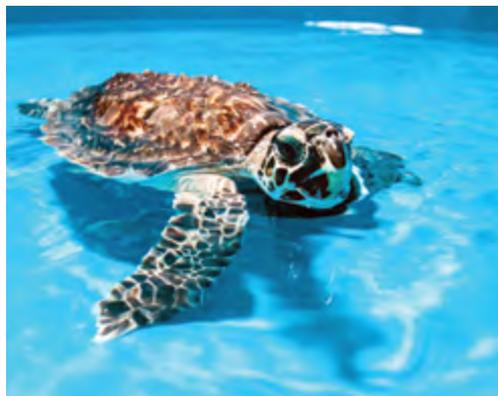
During 2017–18 Reef HQ Aquarium made a concerted effort to increase the number of surveys completed by visitors, thereby improving the value of the data. The number of surveys completed more than doubled from 1642 in 2016–17 to 3729:

- 76 per cent of respondents advised that they have an improved understanding of Reef issues because of their visit

- 73 per cent of respondents advised that they have a better understanding of how they can help protect the Great Barrier Reef because of their visit
- 83 per cent of respondents advised that exhibits were very good.

Technical operations in the aquarium are focused on achieving best practice animal husbandry, presenting themed and relevant exhibits and managing a significant capital works program.

The team continues to achieve success with breeding and, for the second time, saw the birth of a number of olive sea snakes during the year. Having achieved worldwide attention for the first recorded live births in captivity in early 2017, achieving this for a second time confirms the program's status as a world leader in captive animal husbandry. Reef HQ Aquarium has an active research program and data from the new juveniles will be collected over their first year and compared to the previous litter to identify similarities or differences. The data is being recorded and will be analysed with the intention of publishing a scientific paper during 2019.



Since opening, 236 turtles have been cared for at Reef HQ Aquarium's turtle hospital © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

Since opening in 2009, Reef HQ Aquarium's Turtle Hospital has operated under and promoted the C.A.R.E. (Conserve. Act. Rehabilitate. Educate.) philosophy and played a key role in raising community awareness in relation to threatened species and encouraging behavioural change that contributes to nature conservation. Since opening, 236 turtles have been cared for at the turtle hospital. These turtles are a focal point of talks and tours highlighting the dangers of plastic bags and other marine debris.



Reef HQ Aquarium launched a new education activity 'Mermaids and the Clean-up Crew' © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

Reef HQ Aquarium continues to build a strong reputation for sustainability and has now achieved an overall 51.1 per cent reduction (in comparison to the 2006 baseline) in energy consumption throughout the year. During 2017–18 the aquarium saved an additional 31,369 kilowatt hours from the previous year. Reef HQ Aquarium's solar power station produced a total of 317 megawatt-hours, and continued to achieve a total offset of energy in excess of 21 per cent. This was a notable achievement considering the largest solar inverter was offline for a number of months.

ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

Business operations in the aquarium focused on key marketing strategies and increasing educational content in social media posts to engage and attract visitors. Reef HQ Aquarium maintained its triple-tier ECO Certification (Advanced Ecotourism, Climate Action Business and Respecting Our Culture certification) and was inducted into the Trip Advisor Hall of Fame in acknowledgement of consistently high performance.

The impact of significant weather events across north Queensland and the accompanying media impacted broadly on tourism (both revenue and visitation) in the region. While the visitation target was exceeded by 2.25 per cent during 2017–18, at 138,115 guests there were 4495 fewer guests overall. This impact was more noticeable on revenue which was down by 3.91 per cent overall. To demonstrate, in comparison to April 2017, visitor numbers in April 2018 saw a 52 per cent reduction in interstate visitors and a 34 per cent reduction in international tourists. This was compounded in June when the customarily busy final week of the financial year was lost as the school holiday period started late, on 30 June 2018.



For the second time, Reef HQ Aquarium saw the birth of a number of olive sea snakes © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

## PROGRAM AREA 4: ENHANCING REEF RESILIENCE THROUGH CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND NEW INITIATIVES ACROSS ALL ASPECTS OF MANAGEMENT

The Authority undertakes a range of actions to protect the Reef and enhance its resilience. This includes managing the Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control Program, delivering island conservation projects and educating marine parks users about the importance of following zoning rules, and enforcing them. In addition, planning started on the project to remediate Douglas Shoal following the damage caused by the coal carrier, *Shen Neng 1*, when it ran aground in 2012. A subsequent settlement was paid to the Authority in 2016 for the removal of polluted rubble from the reef.

These actions highlight the Authority's responsiveness in adapting its management approach to address new threats and incidents that affect the Reef's resilience.

In response to events over recent years, including consecutive years of coral bleaching, coral disease outbreaks, a category four tropical cyclone, and a major crown-of-thorns starfish outbreak; the Authority has revisited and adjusted its strategic plans for managing the Reef. It has prioritised efforts to embed actions that mitigate the risks posed by climate change — particularly by developing, implementing and enabling interventions to build the Reef's resilience in the face of climate change.

The *Authority's Great Barrier Reef blueprint for resilience* signals a new direction for managing the Reef. It outlines 10 key initiatives for Reef management, focused on actions that deliver maximum benefits for Reef resilience.

**TABLE 8: SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE RESULTS PROGRAM AREA 4**

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA <sup>7</sup>	2017–18 TARGET	2017–18 ACTUAL
Enhanced coral reef resilience through identifying and working with partners to implement adaptive management intervention.	Develop and release a position statement on potential interventions to enhance Reef resilience.	<b>NOT ACHIEVED</b>
	Management intervention options to support resilience are identified and prioritised.	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>
	A number of new interventions that are prioritised progress to piloting and evaluation.	<b>ACHIEVED</b>

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Crown-of-thorns starfish densities have been maintained to below ecologically sustainable thresholds for coral growth on 75 per cent of the 57 priority reefs between Port Douglas and Townsville identified for their high ecological and economic value.
- Conducted and finalised an open tender process to establish a panel of suppliers to deliver additional vessels and trained crews for an expanded crown-of-thorns starfish control program.
- Approached the market with open tender opportunities for Douglas Shoal remediation planning, project management and environmental monitoring services.
- The Joint Field Management Program was a partner in three localised reef restoration activities — macroalgae removal at Florence Bay, the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre's Reef Havens project and the Southern Cross University coral larvae reseeding project. The first large scale removal took place in July 2018 following delays in 2017–18 as a result of bad weather.

<sup>7</sup> These performance indicators are recorded in the Authority's chapter in the Department of the Environment and Energy's 2017–18 Portfolio Budget Statements p. 231 and in the Authority's Corporate Plan 2017–18 p. 26.

**IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT INTERVENTIONS FOR KEY REEFS TO INCREASE REEF RESILIENCE**

**RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION**

The Authority is leading a project to map how, where and why some reefs continue to retain good healthy coral cover (so-called ‘fortunate reefs’). It aims to identify areas in the Reef that have relatively low exposure to impacts, retain relatively higher coral cover, recover rapidly after impacts, and make relatively higher contributions to the coral larval supply.

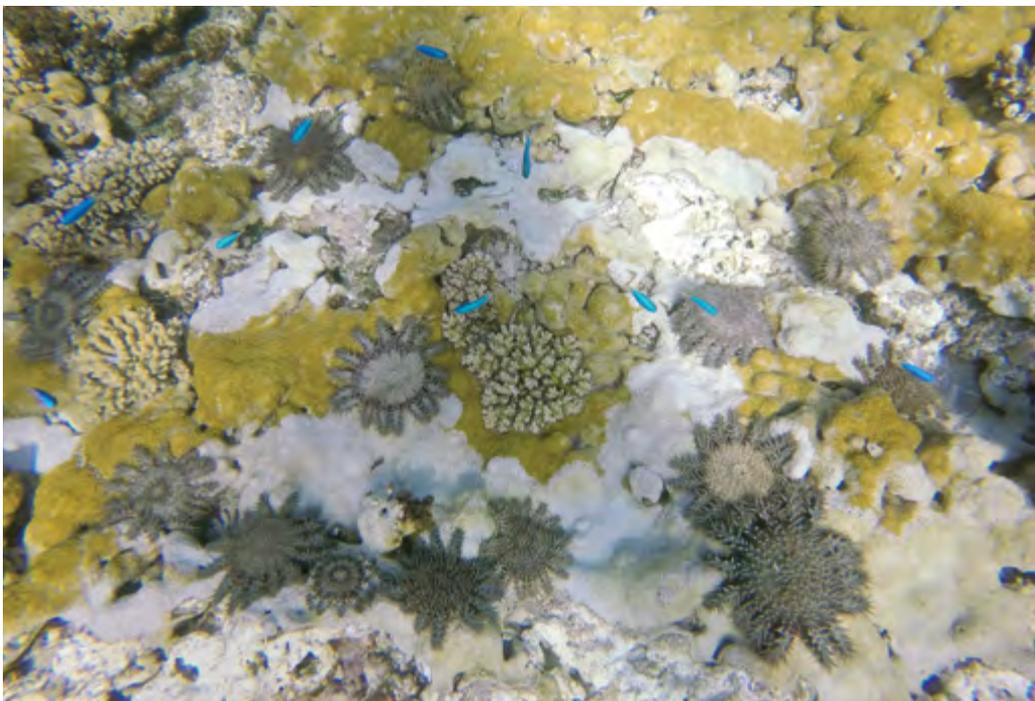
The project includes exploring the use of cumulative exposure modelling of cyclones, bleaching, flood plumes, and crown-of-thorns starfish in identifying fortunate reefs. Collaborators at the University of Queensland were contracted to provide significant technical contribution, and key experts from a range of other organisations, including AIMS and CSIRO, are also involved.

The Authority is partnering or enabling a number of restoration projects that trial new technologies and mobilise community efforts to help reefs better withstand and recover from disturbances. This includes:

- partnering the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program which will inform longer-term research and development on coral reef restoration techniques that can be applied to the Great Barrier Reef and coral reefs globally. The first stage — to assess the feasibility and risks of a broad range of potential ideas and techniques to build resilience and assist recovery — is underway. The project is led by the Australian Institute of Marine Science and CSIRO in conjunction with a range of other partners (Great Barrier Reef Foundation, James Cook University, the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology)
- further trials of larval re-seeding, to enhance coral growth, occurred at Heron Island in November 2017, following additional funds announced by the Australian Government to develop this technique. The trials also included collecting natural coral spawn slicks for restoring the Reef. The project is a partnership between Southern Cross

University, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation

- the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre is investing \$2.2 million of Australian Government funds into trialling new technology for reducing the heat stress that causes coral bleaching. The Reef Havens proposal combines science and engineering to develop equipment for mixing and cooling water on reef sites. The pilot will be run at Moore Reef near Cairns.
- the Great Barrier Reef Recovery Magnetic Island is a local level initiative where Reef Ecologic and SeaLink Queensland are teaming with community members to restore the health of coral reefs around Magnetic Island. The Authority granted research permits allowing the controlled collection of seaweed in order to give future corals more space to grow and juvenile corals room to settle
- the Douglas Shoal environmental remediation project has established a project plan and commenced open tender processes to secure technical services related to remediation planning, project management and environmental monitoring. Project timeframes have been refined through the planning stage
- the crown-of-thorns starfish control program is applying best-available science to strategically target ecologically and economically valuable reefs in the Marine Park for surveillance and culling. To date, crown-of-thorns starfish numbers are being maintained below the ecologically sustainable thresholds for coral growth and recovery on 75 per cent of the 57 reefs prioritised for control in the program. The Authority recognises that managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park will also increasingly involve interventions, which aim to improve resilience of coral reef habitats. Efforts to reduce impacts on the Marine Park must complement proactive work that assists coral recovery and strengthens the Reef’s ecosystem.



The Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control Program continues to protect economically and ecologically important reefs © Queensland Government (QPWS), photographer: Sascha Taylor

The *Great Barrier Reef blueprint for resilience* sets out the Authority's approach and acknowledges new tools and innovative methods must be developed to manage the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park if the Reef's outlook is to be transformed.

Guidelines have been drafted to assist applicants wanting to implement interventions to improve the resilience of coral reef habitats in the Marine Park. The guidelines outline the risk assessment process the Authority would conduct in considering applications to undertake such interventions. These draft guidelines will be presented to the Marine Park Authority Board early next financial year for approval.

#### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

Existing interventions continue to be effectively delivered and strong progress has been made on a number of new interventions such as expanding the Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control Program. However, staffing constraints have impacted timeframes for the Douglas Shoal environmental remediation project, and timeframes for the delivery of additional vessels and trained crews for the expansion of the crown-of-thorns starfish control program.

The crown-of-thorns starfish control program continues to provide a strong contribution to maintaining Reef resilience by protecting economically and ecologically important reefs. Expansion of the program will significantly enhance these efforts.

A position statement on potential interventions to enhance Reef resilience was not progressed in recognition that the *Great Barrier Reef blueprint for resilience* effectively captured the Authority's approach on this issue. Guidelines have been drafted, which were available for public comment for more than two months. The guidelines will assist potential permit applicants wanting to implement new approaches to building Reef health in the Marine Park.

#### REEF HEALTH AND MARITIME INCIDENT RESPONSE

##### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

The Joint Field Management Program — a partnership between the Australian and Queensland governments — responds to maritime and environmental incidents that pose a threat to the World Heritage Area in collaboration with other responsible agencies. Incidents include ship and smaller vessel

groundings and sinkings, pollution spills, coral bleaching, marine pest incursions, stranded marine animals and severe weather events, such as cyclones and flooding.

The program assessed 101 maritime events with the potential to cause environmental harm, 13 of which involved vessels over 100 metres. The events included 48 vessel groundings, 17 sinkings and eight spills of substances, including fuel, oil and molasses. A risk assessment was undertaken for all maritime events notified to the program with in-field response required for 20 incidents, including seven site assessments of damage.

Five official joint Commonwealth–Queensland ‘order to remove notices’ were issued to vessel owners for vessels that had run aground or sunk and posed a significant threat to the World Heritage Area. These notices were issued at no cost to the Authority.

The Authority conducted its annual pre summer workshop to assess climate related risks to the Great Barrier Reef. Participants included scientists and managers from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University, the Torres Strait Regional Authority, Parks Australia, the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operations, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Queensland Department of Environment and Science.

Workshop participants reviewed the previous 2016–17 summer conditions, considered climate outlooks for the 2017–18 summer, assessed the risk to the Great Barrier Reef for the 2017–18 summer and discussed monitoring activities needed.

The Authority closely tracked environmental and reef health conditions throughout the warmer months through monitoring weather forecasts and models, keeping stakeholders up-to-date through reef health reports throughout the year.

During the high risk months between November and April, weekly internal updates were prepared and circulated and updates were provided on the public website every one to two months.

Six staff undertook two days of training to learn streamlined in-field techniques for more consistent site assessment and reporting. This enhanced the program’s capacity to complete site assessments for damage quickly and efficiently following maritime events.

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The program is continually improving its incident response capability and procedures. Having access to timely and regular reports of environmental and reef health conditions is a significant improvement that enables forward planning for any response activity needed in the field.

Having more staff who are trained in site assessments enables a faster response following maritime incidents and improved consistency in assessment and reporting. These site assessments will be increasingly important in informing damage mitigation and rehabilitation of sites.

## MARINE AND ISLAND CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

### RESULTS AGAINST PERFORMANCE CRITERION

The Joint Field Management Program undertook 1980 in-water Reef Health and Impact Surveys across 189 reefs to assess the health of the Great Barrier Reef. This included 1239 associated with crown-of-thorns starfish surveillance.

These surveys produce a Reef-wide picture of the condition of the Great Barrier Reef and informed the situational awareness of environmental and reef health conditions reporting. The program also undertook subtidal seagrass monitoring at six sites — at Newry, Hinchinbrook and Flinders islands, and Tongue, Bathurst and Lloyd bays. This provided a broad geographic assessment of seagrass condition across the World Heritage Area to contribute to the Authority’s Marine Monitoring Program.

There were 5822 individual broadscale manta tows undertaken across 109 reefs, surveying around 1150 kilometres of the Reef to help direct crown-of-thorns starfish control activities. Manta tows involve towing a snorkeller behind a vessel to make direct observations of the reef. The program also culled 41,000 crown-of-thorns starfish in the southern Swains Reefs while the Crown-of-thorns Starfish

Control Program's vessels were tasked with culling and monitoring activities in the northern region.

The program conducted 286 bird surveys at 155 different locations across the World Heritage Area — 144 at essential sites needing annual visits and 35 at significant sites that needed visits at least every five years. There were 113 species of bird observed, of which, 19 species were breeding. An additional 107 incidental or opportunistic surveys were completed to provide further information about seabird and shorebirds within the World Heritage Area. This comprised 98 per cent of the essential site monitoring required for 2017–18 and — together with previous years — has achieved 83 per cent of significant site monitoring required by 2020.

The monitoring at Raine Island identified what is likely the first sighting of a phoenix petrel in Australia. It was also the second consecutive year of herald petrel breeding with two pairs each laying a single egg in 2017–18, which is the first evidence of breeding since the 1980s. The largest ever recorded breeding event of brown boobies in the Great Barrier Reef was identified at East Fairfax Island, with 4029 breeding pairs.

As at 30 June 2018, 99 per cent of public moorings and 94 per cent of reef protection markers were operational. The installation of 83 new public moorings and 40 new reef protection markers expanded the World Heritage Area's reef protection program to 223 public moorings and 214 reef protection markers to protect coral and seagrass habitats. The mooring and Reef protection expansion was funded through the Queensland Government and Commonwealth Reef Trust.

Experimental and control quadrants were established in Florence Bay on Magnetic Island and surveyed for coral cover and fish numbers prior to starting macroalgae removal. Trials were undertaken to test the efficiency of using scuba for algae removal with snorkeller, vessel and shore support. The program collaborated with partners Reef EcoLogic and the Australian Institute of Marine Science in planning and design and engaged with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to identify options for authorising large scale removal of macroalgae.

The program is also assisting with reef intervention initiatives led by others, including the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre's Reef Havens project and the Southern Cross University coral larvae reseeding project. The program assisted Southern Cross University with the collection, holding and subsequent release of coral larvae around Heron Island during spawning in 2017, with early results showing good coral settlement in the experimental sites.

### ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The marine and island conservation activities undertaken by the program contribute to enhancing reef, island and species resilience.

These increases in-field delivery reflect additional funding received from the Authority for Reef Health and Impact Surveys and crown-of-thorns starfish surveillance, prioritising delivery consistent with *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan* and the *Reef blueprint for resilience* and continuous improvements to vessel and staff scheduling.



Intervention work at Raine Island © QPWS, photographer: Gus Burrows



# MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's governance framework for the 2017–18 reporting period is based on the legislative requirements of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Marine Park Act), the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and the *Public Service Act 1999*.

The Authority reports to the Minister responsible for the Environment. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Board (Authority Board) oversees the Authority, which is structured into four branches:

- Reef Strategy
- Reef Engagement
- Reef Protection
- Corporate Services

The Authority uses the best available scientific information to guide its work, and engages with experts and the community, including through two Reef Advisory Committees and 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees.

The Authority's main office is in Townsville. There are regional offices in Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton to ensure a close connection with those communities. An office in Canberra provides a key liaison function with the Minister's office, the Department of the Environment and Energy, and other Australian Government agencies. A small office in Brisbane provides a liaison function with Queensland Government partners, particularly the Office of the Great Barrier Reef.



## GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY BOARD

The Chairman and members of the Authority Board are chosen by the Minister responsible for the Environment and appointed by the Governor-General.

The Marine Park Act requires that the Authority Board includes a member with qualifications or extensive experience in a field related to the functions of the Authority; a member with knowledge of, or experience in, the tourism industry; a member nominated by the Queensland Government; and an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person with knowledge of, or experience concerning, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues relating to the Marine Park.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY BOARD



### DR RUSSELL REICHELT FTSE

Dr Reichelt is the Chairman and accountable authority of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

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

He has a PhD in marine science and has served as CEO of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Chairman of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, and as a member of Australia's State of the Environment Committee.

He has previously chaired the National Oceans Advisory Group, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's Wealth from Oceans Flagship Advisory Committee and Seafood Services Australia Ltd.

He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering; the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (UK); and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Honorary positions include Adjunct Professor in the College of Marine and Environmental Sciences at James Cook University, and at the University of Queensland.

He was reappointed Chairman of the Authority Board on 1 November 2012 for a second five-year term and extended for one year on 1 November 2017.



### MS MELISSA GEORGE

Ms George is a Wulgurukaba woman whose traditional area includes Magnetic Island and the greater Townsville region.

She has been actively involved in protecting and managing land and sea through community natural resource management projects, and liaising with and advising the Queensland and Australian governments. Ms George was a member of the Indigenous Advisory Committee (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) between 2002 and 2015 including as Chair from 2006 to 2015.

She was reappointed as a member of the Authority Board on 22 November 2012 for a five-year term and extended for one year on 22 November 2017.



### PROFESSOR EMMA JOHNSTON AO

Professor Johnston is an award-winning scientist, educator and communicator and a professor of marine ecology and ecotoxicology at the University of New South Wales. Professor Johnston investigates human impacts on marine ecosystems, with a particular emphasis on stress ecology, invasion biology and the development of biomonitoring tools. She has published more than 100 refereed papers in coastal ecology. She graduated with a BSc (Hons) from the University of Melbourne in 1997 and a PhD from the University of Melbourne in 2002.

Professor Johnston has led more than 20 major research projects for industry, government, the Australian Research Council and the Australian Antarctic Science Program. From 2010 to 2014 she was an Australian Research Fellow for the Australian Research Council, and in 2012 became the inaugural Director of the flagship Sydney Harbour Research Program for the Sydney Institute of Marine Science. She is currently the lead author of the Federal Government State of Environment Report for the Australian Coast and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of New South Wales.

Professor Johnston has received a string of awards, including the inaugural Australian Academy of Science Nancy Millis Medal (2014), the Eureka Prize for the public communication of science (2015) and the Hynes Award from the Canadian Rivers Institute (2016). Professor Johnston was a recipient of the Office of the Order of Australia (June 2018), is a senior advisor to both government and industry, and is Vice-President of Science and Technology Australia (STA).

She was appointed as a member of the Authority Board on 5 May 2016 for a five-year term.



### MRS MARGIE MCKENZIE

Mrs McKenzie has extensive senior managerial and ownership experience in the Queensland marine tourism industry. She is currently the managing director of a marine tourism consulting company in Cairns; has been a scuba diving instructor for 30 years, most of which was on the Great Barrier Reef; and is still an active instructor examiner with RAID (an online diver training program). Mrs McKenzie was a working partner in one of Australia's largest dive training and reef experience companies based in Cairns and has spent seven years as the general manager of Scuba Schools International.

As a Certified Practising Accountant, Mrs McKenzie has specialised in assisting tourism and small business to develop into profitable enterprises.

Mrs McKenzie was appointed as a member of the Authority Board on 16 May 2013 for an initial five-year term and was reappointed for a further five-year term commencing 21 June 2018.



### MR DAVE STEWART

Mr Stewart was appointed Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in February 2015.

Prior to this role he was the Secretary for Transport for New South Wales, where he led around 27,000 people shaping planning, policy and delivery of public transport, roads and freight across New South Wales.

After a long career in local government, and engineering construction in Australia and the United Kingdom, Mr Stewart joined the Queensland Government in 2006 as Deputy Coordinator-General within the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, where he was responsible for delivering major water and road projects.

From June 2008 he was the Director-General of Queensland Transport and then the Department of Transport and Main Roads, overseeing the integration of organisations to a new customer-focused model. His primary responsibility was transport leadership, including strategic policy and planning, system stewardship, infrastructure delivery and service delivery.

One of his highlights as the Director-General has been participating in the community champions program for Indigenous communities, where he regularly visited Gulf communities and assisted them with accessing much-needed government services.

He is passionate about regional Queensland and engaging directly with residents, business, government and community leaders.

He is a civil engineer and holds Masters Degrees in Business and Engineering Science. He completed an executive program at Harvard University looking at private sector involvement in infrastructure delivery. He is a Fellow of Engineers Australia and an Honorary Fellow, Chartered Institute of Transport and Logistics.

Mr Stewart was appointed as a member of the Authority Board on 23 July 2015 for a three-year term, concluding on 22 July 2018 and was recently re-appointed the Queensland member of the Authority Board on 21 June 2018 for a five-year period.

## AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

During 2017–18, the Authority Board held four meetings (Table 9).

**TABLE 9: MEETINGS OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY BOARD, 2017–18**

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	ATTENDANCE
MPA 247	19 September 2017	Canberra	Present: Dr R Reichelt, Chairman; Prof E Johnston, Science Member; Mrs M McKenzie, Tourism Member; Mr D Stewart, Queensland Member; Ms A Woods, Minutes Secretary  Apologies: Ms M George, Indigenous Member
MPA 248	5 December 2017	Townsville	Present: Dr R Reichelt, Chairman; Prof E Johnston, Science Member; Mrs M McKenzie, Tourism Member; Mr D Stewart, Queensland Member; Ms A Woods, Minutes Secretary  Apologies: Ms M George, Indigenous Member
MPA 249	13 March 2018	Airlie Beach	Present: Dr R Reichelt, Chairman; Prof E Johnston, Science Member; Mrs M McKenzie, Tourism Member; Mr D Stewart, Queensland Member; Mr M McInerney, Minutes Secretary  Apologies: Ms M George, Indigenous Member
MPA 250	28 June 2018	Townsville	Present: Dr R Reichelt, Chairman; Prof E Johnston, Science Member; Mrs M McKenzie, Tourism Member; Mr D Stewart, Queensland Member; Mr M McInerney, Minutes Secretary  Apologies: Ms M George, Indigenous Member

MPA = Marine Park Authority



Schooling cardinal fish © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

**SENIOR EXECUTIVE**



**BRUCE ELLIOT – General Manager, Reef Engagement.**

The branch comprises the following sections:

- Reef HQ and Property Services
- Communications and Regional Engagement
- Education, Stewardship and Partnerships
- Reef Interventions



**SIMON BANKS – General Manager, Reef Protection.**

The branch comprises the following sections:

- Field Management
- Policy and Planning
- Environmental Assessment and Protection



**MARGARET JOHNSON – General Manager, Reef Strategy.**

The branch comprises the following sections:

- Strategic Advice
- Reef Knowledge
- Outlook Report
- Chief Scientist



**ANNE LEO – General Manager, Corporate Services.**

The branch comprises the following sections:

- Finance
- Human Resources
- Legal Services
- Information Management Systems and Technology / Chief Information Officer

An organisational chart depicting the senior executives and their responsibilities is in the Overview section of this report, Figure 2.



*Stingray in waters off Lady Elliot Island © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA), photographer: Chris Jones*

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Authority's Chairman as the accountable authority established an Audit Committee in compliance with section 45 of the PGPA Act and Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 (PGPA Rule) section 17 Audit Committees for Commonwealth Entities.

The Audit Committee provides independent assurance and assistance to the accountable authority and the Authority Board on the Authority's risk, control and compliance framework, and its financial and performance reporting responsibilities.

The Audit Committee comprised the following members during 2017–18:

- Ian Rodin, member and Chairman
- Phillip Fogarty, member and Queensland Government representative (Department of the Premier and Cabinet)
- Margie McKenzie, member and Authority Board representative (term ended 15 May 2018)
- Michael O'Keeffe, member (term ended 31 December 2017)
- Margaret Johnson, member (appointed 22 May 2018).

During 2017–18, the Audit Committee held four meetings (Table 10).

**TABLE 10: MEETINGS OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE, 2017–18**

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	ATTENDANCE
AC 76	31 August 2017	Townsville	Ian Rodin, Phillip Fogarty, Michael O'Keeffe
AC 77	9 November 2017	Townsville	Ian Rodin, Margie McKenzie, Michael O'Keeffe
AC 78	22 March 2018	Townsville	Ian Rodin, Phillip Fogarty, Margie McKenzie
AC 79	14 May 2018	Townsville	Ian Rodin, Phillip Fogarty, Margie McKenzie

AC = Audit Committee

## FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Functions and responsibilities are set out in the Audit Committee's Charter of Operation, reflecting requirements under the PGPA Act and regulations. The charter covers the Audit Committee's functions in relation to:

- financial reporting
- performance reporting
- risk oversight and management
- systems of internal control.

Members of the Audit Committee are expected to understand and observe the legal requirements of the PGPA Act and Regulations. Members are also expected to:

- act in the best interests of the Authority
- apply good analytical skills, objectivity and good judgement

- express opinions constructively and openly, raise issues that relate to the Audit Committee's responsibilities and pursue independent lines of inquiry
- contribute the time required to review provided meeting papers.

## INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS

During 2017–18, internal audits undertaken in accordance with the strategic internal audit plan included:

- complaints management
- payroll management
- Douglas Shoal environmental remediation project management
- information systems security maturity assessment
- permits and decisions management.

### RISK MANAGEMENT

The Authority continued to improve its risk management capability in 2017–18 by further integrating its framework and accompanying risk assessment tools into the everyday business activities of the Authority.

Improvement work is informed by an annual assessment of the Authority's risk management maturity, provided via participation in Comcover's risk management benchmarking program. The overall maturity of the Authority's risk management framework improved in 2017–18 from an 'integrated' to 'advanced' level of maturity. The Audit Committee oversees the Authority's risk management framework.

The internal audit function continues to provide independent assurance to the Authority on the integrity and reliability of operational, financial and fraud risk mitigation arrangements in place.

### FRAUD CONTROL

The fraud control policy and plan is consistent with the Australian Government fraud control framework, and gives effect to the fraud control provisions of the PGPA Act and Rule 10 of the PGPA Rule.

The fraud control policy and plan is also aligned to *AS8001–2008 Fraud and corruption control*, and the better practice guidance developed by the Australian National Audit Office.

In 2017–18 the Authority re-examined its fraud risks in order to identify and implement additional treatments, seeking to minimise opportunity for, and the incidence of fraud.

Collectively, the fraud risk assessment and management process and corresponding fraud control policy and plan, continue to:

- facilitate appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection in a way that meets the specific needs of the Authority
- reduce the incidence of fraud in the Authority as much as is reasonably practicable
- facilitate the process to recover the proceeds of fraud against the Authority.

Five enquiries regarding suspected fraud were made to the Authority's fraud liaison officer during 2017–18. One was resolved through the court process and the amount is subject to recovery through the State Penalties

Enforcement Registry, one remains subject to assessment and there was no evidence to support the other three allegations.

### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Authority has a number of committees that provide support and strategic advice, including two Reef Advisory Committees and 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees. Other committees may be appointed from time to time to deal with specific issues. All committees have terms of reference and procedures established by the Authority. Their composition and membership is reviewed as necessary.

The Authority's Reef Advisory Committees were established to provide advice about actions that could be taken to address risks to the Marine Park.

The Tourism Reef Advisory Committee met on 2–3 November 2017 and 8–9 May 2018.

The Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee met on 27–28 September 2017, 19–20 February 2018 and 28–29 May 2018.

At the 249th meeting of the Marine Park Authority Board, members approved the extension of the existing Tourism Reef Advisory and Indigenous Reef Advisory Committees through to 30 June 2019.

The Reef Advisory Committees are competency-based, and comprise a cross-section of stakeholder interests with expertise and experience in relevant areas. Each committee includes members appointed as representatives of particular groups or sectors (for example, industry, recreational, government), or for their links to Traditional Owner groups. Staff of relevant branches and sections work closely with the committees to ensure policy and strategic direction are developed in consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees operate along the Great Barrier Reef catchment. Representing community interests from Cape York south to the Burnett region, Local Marine Advisory Committees provide an avenue for local communities to discuss areas of concern directly with the Authority. The committees also have input into the management of the Marine Park, and undertake activities that contribute to its long-term protection.

Each Local Marine Advisory Committee meets five times a year. Members are appointed for a three-year term, with the current term ending at 30 June 2018.

## CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL PLANS

The Authority undertakes planning at corporate and operational levels. In 2017–18, the

Authority's corporate and operational planning was influenced by the commitments in the *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050 Plan), the recommendations in the *Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment: Strategic Assessment Report*, and the findings of the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014*. The corporate and operational planning process is shown in Figure 14.

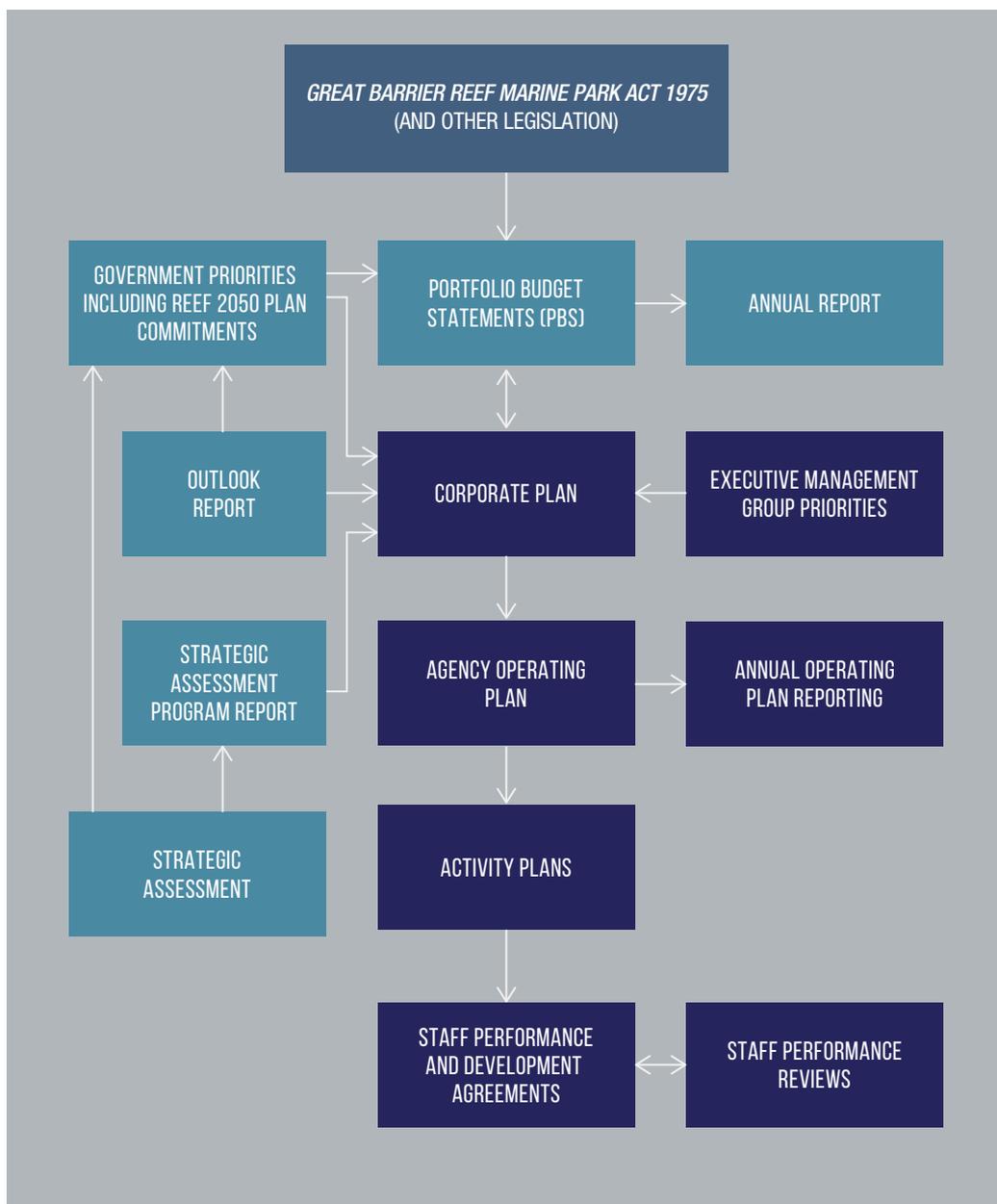


Figure 14: Corporate and operational planning process

### CORPORATE PLAN 2017–18

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Corporate Plan 2017–18 outlines the Authority's purpose, activities, performance criteria and other information as required under the PGPA Act. It focuses on delivering outcomes required by legislation, especially the Marine Park Act, through the achievement of three goals:

- protect and restore the Reef's ecosystem health and biodiversity
- safeguard the Reef's heritage
- ensure ecologically sustainable use and benefits for current and future generations.

To achieve these goals, the Authority delivers its management program under four main program areas:

- **PROGRAM AREA 1:** Providing expert knowledge to influence and advise key decision makers on managing, reducing or avoiding significant threats to the Reef
- **PROGRAM AREA 2:** Regulating and ensuring Marine Park user compliance
- **PROGRAM AREA 3:** Educating and fostering stewardship to enhance protection of the Reef
- **PROGRAM AREA 4:** Enhancing reef resilience through continuous improvement and new initiatives across all aspects of management.

### ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

The Corporate Plan is supported by an annual operating plan. This plan sets out detailed actions to achieve the Authority's goals.

### SERVICE CHARTER 2017–2020

The Service Charter outlines the Authority's goals, aims and customers, and its commitment to customers. The Authority aims to provide appropriate services to meet all of its commitments and continues to develop services as new issues arise. The Service Charter will be reviewed regularly in line with these changes.

The Service Charter is available on the Authority's website.

### ETHICAL STANDARDS

The Authority is committed to the Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct set out in the *Public Service Act 1999*, which is an integral part of the people management framework. It is incorporated into the Authority's Corporate Plan and the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Enterprise Agreement 2018-2021*.

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

### EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Audit Committee Charter of Operation and other documents reflect the requirements for audit committees under the PGPA Act.

O'Connor Marsden & Associates Pty Ltd was contracted to provide internal audit services to the Authority for 2017–18. Internal audit work was undertaken in accordance with an agreed strategic internal audit plan.

In line with the Australian Government's focus on accountability and corporate governance, audit activity concentrated on areas of potential high risk, and sought to provide assurance regarding the adequacy of existing control frameworks and compliance with the provisions of relevant legislation.

There were no judicial decisions that significantly affected the Authority's operations during 2017–18.

### AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE REPORTS

RSM Australia Pty Ltd, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office, undertook the external audit of the Authority's 2017–18 financial statements (see Part 5 Finances).

The following Auditor-General reports of 2017–18 may contain recommendations of relevance to the Authority:

- No. 6 – The Management of Risk by Public Sector Entities
- No. 8 – Administration of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- No. 35 – Management of Special Appropriations

- No. 36 – Corporate Planning in the Australian Public Section 2017–18
- No. 49 – Senate Order for Departmental and Entity Contracts (Financial Year 2016–17 Compliance)
- No. 53 – Cyber Resilience.

## COMMONWEALTH OMBUDSMAN

No complaints were made to the Ombudsman in the 2017–18 financial year.

## MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

### PEOPLE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

The Human Resources section provides a range of services for:

- payroll
- recruitment
- work health and safety
- learning and development
- dive operations and training
- security management
- office and facility services
- workplace relations management, which includes high-level advice and assistance to managers and supervisors regarding workforce planning, performance management and case management matters.

The section proactively supports line areas to meet business objectives as outlined in the annual operating plan.

### TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Authority invested \$428,199.50 in learning and development in 2017–18. This includes the costs of training courses, conference attendance, formal qualifications, study fee reimbursements and professional memberships.

The Authority continued to systematically reinforce fundamental public service values through mandatory corporate training delivered via eLearning modules. This year the target was fraud awareness and financial delegations. In-house corporate (face-to-face) training programs contributed to the enhancement of 'soft' skills in science writing and compelling case study. Specialised in-house training included first aid, dive and resuscitation, emergency response, health and safety, and a variety of field-based skills.

The Authority maintains its support of employees' professional development, with time off for face-to-face study and reimbursement of professional fees upon successful completion of a semester of study.

## WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Authority's working environment varies from a contemporary office to remote camping. Officers conduct extensive fieldwork that includes boat patrols, in-water reef health surveys, engineering and water quality management. The Authority's broad community consultation involves officers liaising with schools, landholders, tourism operators, the fishing industry and Traditional Owners (including in remote locations).

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Authority's Workplace Health and Safety Committee met four times during the reporting period. During 2017–18, 42 incident reports were submitted by employees. Of those reported, two incidents were classified as notifiable to Comcare as a serious or dangerous illness or incident and were reported to Comcare. Three claims for compensation were submitted to and accepted by Comcare during the same period.

The Authority continues to provide an employee assistance program to enable support for work and family matters. Between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018, 18 staff and family members used this service (totalling 37.5 clinical delivery hours).

Quarterly workplace inspections to identify hazards have been conducted by the Authority's work units. These were reported to the Authority Consultative Group, Work Health and Safety Committee, Executive Management Group and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Board.

During the reporting period, significant investment was put into revising and updating general work health and safety arrangements, including the provision of two new automated external defibrillators, and new hand held radios for the team of emergency response officers and first aid officers. This new equipment will ensure fast and effective response times during an emergency.

Training was provided for health and safety representatives and harassment contact officers during the reporting period.

Emergency procedures were reviewed, and emergency evacuation drills conducted, in accordance with the Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008.

Comcare conducted an audit into the Authority's Rehabilitation Management System. There were nine non-compliances noted and 10 other observations that required action. A rehabilitation action plan has been drafted to address the issues identified. An audit of the Work Health and Safety Management System is scheduled for the 2018–19 financial year.

The aim of the Authority's health and wellbeing program is to support staff to create healthy habits, and being sun safe is a significant part of that. The program is directed towards forming habits around simple things like working in the shade where possible, wearing UV sun smart shirts, wide brim hats and sunglasses with UV protection, and using 50+ sunscreen, which are all provided to our employees who work outdoors. Promoting regular skin checks for all employees forms a fundamental part of the approach.

In March 2018, approximately 95 employees received a free influenza vaccination as part of our health and wellbeing program. These numbers are a significant increase in comparison to previous years. The Authority will continue to work on new initiatives that complement and build on what is already in place, to help and encourage staff to be and stay healthy.

### DIVE SAFETY AND OPERATIONS

Two revisions of the dive operations manual this reporting period have resulted in the Authority coming into full compliance with changes in the role and medical requirements for occupational diver supervisors. It has also brought the Authority into conformity with the Australian Standard governing occupational diving recompression chamber requirements. The dive operations manual is currently undergoing a further major revision (expected completion in August 2018), which aims to clarify and streamline snorkelling operations.

An on-site Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS) accredited Onshore Dive Supervisor training course was run with our partner training organisation. Six Authority staff took part in the course, resulting in a six-fold increase in the number of qualified occupational

dive supervisors on the dive register. This continuing education has led to greater operational flexibility and increased safety.

The high pressure scuba compressor and bank cylinder system located at Reef HQ Aquarium were relocated to the new mezzanine platform. This move followed the commissioning of a new compressor fill panel in 2016–17. The panel, compressor and bank system are now fully compliant with Australian Standards, and a regulated maintenance program has been instituted. A new fill station induction and training program for dive supervisors has been developed and instituted.

The Authority introduced in-house first aid and dive-related training to the Agency in 2014. Over three and a half years, in-house training and dive course facilitation with our partner training organisation resulted in more than \$100,000 in training cost savings. Subsequent increases in agency staffing requirements and associated accommodation pressures required training to be outsourced from May 2018. All first aid training is now outsourced to local businesses.

In 2017, the Agency partnered with a South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society doctor to offer in-house dive medicals. Annual dive medicals are a requirement of maintaining currency as an occupational diver. The partnership led to all dive register requirements being able to be met in-house for the first time. With the cessation of in-house first aid-related training, in-house medicals remain a significant time and cost saving measure.

Building on the operational benefits gained from a closer partnership with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, a similar relationship has been initiated with the Australian Institute of Marine Science. Ongoing knowledge sharing and discussions between agency dive officers have led to the institution of worksite management sharing procedures, and the reduction of duplicate documentation. These closer inter-relationships have been strengthened through ongoing cooperation and conformity of dive practices and procedures and have led to large efficiency gains and the simplification of inter-agency cooperation in field operations.

### STAFFING STATISTICS

The Authority had 202.58 employees as at 30 June 2018. Of these, 139.58 people were

employed at Australian Public Service levels 1–6; 59 were employed at executive level 1 or 2; and four were employed at senior executive service levels, including the Chief Executive Officer. More information is provided in the staffing overview table in Appendix B.

## WORKPLACE DIVERSITY

Workplace diversity data for the Authority's employees is in Appendix B. The Authority's workplace diversity program seeks to ensure:

- annual operating plans (section) and long-term strategic plans (corporate) acknowledge the diverse backgrounds of employees and their current and potential contribution to the Authority
- the suite of terms and employment conditions enshrined in the Authority's enterprise agreement is supported by agency policies and assists employees to balance their work, family, caring and lifestyle responsibilities and preferences
- the Australian Public Service values remain central to the Authority's culture.

## PROVIDING ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Authority's disability action plan includes applying the principle of reasonable adjustment to office access and accommodation. Ergonomic assessments are conducted, and equipment is provided, to suit the needs of the individual.

The Authority's main building in Townsville, which includes the field management office, conference room, meeting rooms and Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, are wheelchair accessible. The Rockhampton and Canberra offices are also wheelchair accessible.

The 2017–18 workplace diversity data identified that two per cent of employees have some form of disability.

## EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Enterprise Agreement 2018-2021* was introduced in March 2018.

Consistent with government policy, all non-senior executive service employees are covered by the enterprise agreement. The current agreement provides salaries to cover classifications ranging from an Australian Public Service level 1 to executive level 2, including a specific legal officer classification.

The salary range for non-senior executive service employees is \$41,108 for Australian Public Service level 1 to \$145,289 for executive level 2, including a specific legal officer classification.

Non-salary benefits provided to employees include:

- payment of one work-related professional association membership fee for ongoing employees, exempt from fringe benefits tax
- access to salary packaging of vehicles and superannuation for all ongoing employees, exempt from fringe benefits tax
- a healthy lifestyle allowance of \$150 per financial year to help meet the cost of activities or equipment that maintain health and fitness.

## SENIOR EXECUTIVE REMUNERATION

At 30 June 2018, all senior executive service employees were remunerated by way of section 24(1) determinations under the *Public Service Act 1999*. The average salary for employees covered by section 24(1) determination was \$211,252.

More information on senior executive remuneration is included in Part 5 of this report.

## PERFORMANCE PAY

The Authority does not operate a performance pay scheme.

## ASSET MANAGEMENT

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

- office fit-out
- Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium
- Commonwealth islands land and properties
- field management equipment
- information management systems and technology.

During the reporting period, work on the aquarium was funded and completed under the departmental capital budget. Work continued on the implementation of major information management systems and technology projects. Assets to facilitate the upcoming office relocation were purchased.

The agency has capital management plans in place for the aquarium, office fit-out, information management systems and technology, and field management equipment.

### PURCHASING

#### DELEGATIONS

The PGPA Act and Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rules confer powers and functions on the Accountable Authority that may be delegated. The Accountable Authority has, in writing, delegated certain powers and functions to officials. The delegate does not have the power to sub-delegate without a specific provision in legislation.

#### ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY INSTRUCTIONS

Accountable Authority instructions are the primary mechanism for an Accountable Authority to set out the processes to promote the proper use of Australian Government resources, including relevant money and property by officials in their agency.

The agency's Accountable Authority instructions comply with requirements of the PGPA Act and ensure compliance with Australian Government procurement guidelines.

### CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTS

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on contracts for consultancies. Information on the value of contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website, [tenders.gov.au](http://tenders.gov.au).

#### CONSULTANCIES

During 2017–18, 26 new consultancy contracts were entered into, involving total actual expenditure of \$2,166,089. In addition, 24 ongoing consultancy contracts were active during the reporting period, involving total actual expenditure of \$6,052,948.

Consultants are engaged when specialist expertise is not available within the agency or where an independent assessment is considered desirable. In 2017–18, this included marine research, organisational management advice, information systems management and technology services, the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program, services for the crown-of-thorns starfish management

program, the Marine Monitoring Program and development and implementation of Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements.

### COMPETITIVE TENDERING AND CONTRACTING

In accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules 2014, whole of government policies including the Indigenous Procurement Policy and the agency's purchasing guidelines — and depending on the estimated values of the tender — the selection and engagement of consultants may involve open tender, limited tender or, where appropriate, direct engagement of a recognised and pre-eminent expert.

#### EXEMPT CONTRACTS

During 2017–18, no contract was exempted by the Accountable Authority from publication in AusTender.

#### ACCESS BY AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

### PROCUREMENT INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

The agency supports small business participation in the Australian Government procurement market. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and small enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website.

The agency procurement practices support SMEs in ways that are consistent with paragraph 5.4 of the Commonwealth Procurement Rules, including consideration of SMEs capabilities and their commitment to Townsville and regional markets and through such practices as electronic systems or use of payment cards that facilitate on-time payment performance.

### GRANT PROGRAMS

Information on grants awarded by the agency during 2017–18 is available on the Authority's website at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au).

During 2017–18, the agency administered the following grants programs:

- Reef Guardian Research Grants
- Reef Guardian Stewardship and Community Grants.

# FINANCES

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Minister for the Environment

#### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2018:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as at 30 June 2018 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, which I have audited, comprise the following statements as at 30 June 2018 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement;
- Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income;
- Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities;
- Administered Reconciliation Schedule;
- Administered Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to the financial statements, comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

#### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Accountable Authority's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Accountable Authority of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the rules made under that Act. The Accountable Authority is also responsible for such internal control as the Accountable Authority determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Accountable Authority is responsible for assessing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether

the entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Accountable Authority is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

#### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office



Kristian Gage  
Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

3 September 2018

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

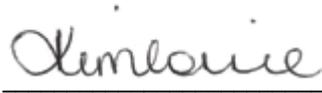
STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2018 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.



Russell Reichelt  
Accountable Authority  
3 September 2018



Kim Corrie  
Chief Financial Officer  
3 September 2018

**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
for the period ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000	Revised Budget \$'000
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>					
<b>Expenses</b>					
Employee benefits	1.1A	22,185	21,932	21,457	22,348
Suppliers	1.1B	31,343	23,038	29,902	33,640
Provision for Douglas Shoal	3.4A	-	33,681	-	-
Grants		268	1,129	210	1,324
Depreciation	3.2A	1,142	1,218	1,900	1,300
Losses from asset disposal	3.2A	1	13	-	-
Cost of goods sold		171	235	-	235
Payments to Queensland Government for Field Management Program	5.4	13,131	13,129	12,341	12,341
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>68,241</b>	<b>94,375</b>	<b>65,810</b>	<b>71,188</b>
<b>Own-source income</b>					
<b>Own-source revenue</b>					
Sale of goods and rendering of services	1.2A	2,832	2,953	2,970	3,020
Receipts from Queensland Government for Field Management Program	5.4	8,779	8,766	8,372	8,372
Grants received from Government	1.2B	20,459	17,362	16,965	20,265
Other revenue	1.2C	4,808	411	6,450	6,400
<b>Total own-source revenue</b>		<b>36,878</b>	<b>29,492</b>	<b>34,757</b>	<b>38,057</b>
<b>Gains</b>					
Douglas Shoal litigation settlement	3.4A	-	35,000	-	-
Reversal of make good provision		-	83	-	-
Provision for Douglas Shoal	3.4A	2,259	-	-	-
Other	1.2D	54	54	55	54
<b>Total gains</b>		<b>2,313</b>	<b>35,137</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Total own-source income</b>		<b>39,191</b>	<b>64,629</b>	<b>34,812</b>	<b>38,111</b>
<b>Net cost of services</b>		<b>(29,050)</b>	<b>(29,746)</b>	<b>(30,998)</b>	<b>(33,077)</b>
Revenue from Government	1.2E	39,689	32,178	36,018	38,697
<b>Total Revenue from Government</b>		<b>39,689</b>	<b>32,178</b>	<b>36,018</b>	<b>38,697</b>
<b>Surplus attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<b>10,639</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>5,620</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>					
<b>Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services</b>					
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		50	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<b>10,689</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>5,620</b>

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

Budget Variances Commentary	Affected line items and statement
<b>Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>Affected line items and statement</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Received \$3.494m (21%) more than budget in Government grants, consisting of; Crown of Thorns Starfish Control (COTS) \$2.700m, Capacity Building for Indigenous Rangers (CBIR) \$0.538m, Reef Resilience Mapping \$0.600m (RRM), and International Coral Reef Initiative Co-Chairing (ICRI) \$0.091m, less National Landcare Reef Integrated Marine Monitoring and Reporting \$0.435m, which was rephased into 2018-19.	Own-source-income - Grants received from Government
Received \$1.642m (25%) less than budget in other revenue, consisting of; <i>Shen Neng 1</i> litigation cost recovery payment \$1.500m (\$4.500m of the \$6.000m forecast was received), and Queensland Nickel (QNI) \$0.400m (litigation pending), offset by \$0.258m in other cost recovery payments.	Own-source income - Other revenue
<b>Gains</b>	
Discounted \$2.259m (100%) more than budget on the Douglas Shoal provision, due to a recalculation of the discount over 5 years with a wage price index (see note 3.4A).	Provision for Douglas Shoal
<b>Revenue from Government</b>	
Received \$3.671m (10%) more than budget in Government revenue, primarily from the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO), consisting of; COTS \$0.882m (MYEFO), Joint Field Management Program (JFMP) \$1.797m (MYEFO), and Special Appropriation \$0.992m (higher than anticipated tourism activity).	Revenue from Government
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to the Australian Government</b>	
Surplus was \$5.669m (113%) more than budget, consisting of underspends in; COTS \$2.477m, CBIR \$0.279m, Land Sea & Country Partnership \$0.217m, JFMP \$0.158m, ICRI \$0.091m, RRM \$0.030m, and other \$0.050m, along with the Douglas Shoal provision \$2.259m, Special Appropriation \$0.992m, Depreciation \$0.758m (\$1.142m against a forecast of \$1.900m), asset revaluation \$0.050m, less other revenue shortfall \$1.642m.	Total comprehensive income attributable to the Australian Government

**Statement of Financial Position**  
*as at 30 June 2018*

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000	Revised Budget \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	3.1A	36,104	35,741	36,713	35,741
Trade and other receivables	3.1B	23,603	12,934	14,803	19,334
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>59,707</b>	<b>48,675</b>	<b>51,516</b>	<b>55,075</b>
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>					
Buildings	3.2A	16,656	16,193	15,917	17,287
Leasehold improvements	3.2A	50	21	-	-
Plant and equipment	3.2A	3,252	2,872	3,340	2,747
Computer software	3.2A	2,101	2,282	2,148	2,332
Reef HQ shop inventory		58	114	73	114
Prepayments		487	529	290	529
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>22,604</b>	<b>22,011</b>	<b>21,768</b>	<b>23,009</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>82,311</b>	<b>70,686</b>	<b>73,284</b>	<b>78,084</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
<b>Payables</b>					
Suppliers		4,808	3,519	4,451	3,519
Other payables	3.3A	244	181	-	38
Permit bonds	3.3B	330	306	258	306
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>5,382</b>	<b>4,006</b>	<b>4,709</b>	<b>3,863</b>
<b>Provisions</b>					
Employee provisions	6.1A	8,529	7,878	6,133	6,535
Provision for Douglas Shoal remediation	3.4A	30,720	33,590	35,000	33,590
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>39,249</b>	<b>41,468</b>	<b>41,133</b>	<b>40,125</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>44,631</b>	<b>45,474</b>	<b>45,842</b>	<b>43,988</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>37,680</b>	<b>25,212</b>	<b>27,442</b>	<b>34,096</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>					
Contributed equity		26,163	24,384	26,162	26,162
Reserves		13,218	13,168	13,168	13,168
Accumulated deficit		(1,701)	(12,340)	(11,888)	(5,234)
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>37,680</b>	<b>25,212</b>	<b>27,442</b>	<b>34,096</b>

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

Budget Variances Commentary	Affected line items and statement
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>	
<b>Assets</b>	
Trade and other receivables \$8.800m (59%) more than budget, primarily due to the increase in unspent annual appropriations as per note 5.1.	Financial Assets - Trade and other receivables
Non-Financial Assets have been subject to a comprehensive revaluation in June 2018, see note 3.2A.	Non-Financial Assets - Buildings and Plant & equipment
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Employee provisions \$2.396m (39%) more than budget, primarily due to an additional provision that has been recognised for salary back payment, see note 6.1A.	Provisions - Employee provisions
Douglas Shoal provision \$4.280m (12%) less than budget, due to recalculation of the provision and the expenditure to date, as per note 3.4.	Provisions - Douglas Shoal remediation
<b>Equity</b>	
Recorded \$10.187m (86%) less than budget in accumulated deficit, primarily due to the \$4.568m additional retained earnings carried forward as per the Statement of Changes in Equity, and the \$5.669m in additional surplus in 2017-18 as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income.	Equity - Accumulated deficit

**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
for the period ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000	Revised Budget \$'000
<b>CONTRIBUTED EQUITY</b>					
<b>Opening balance</b>					
Balance carried forward from previous period		24,384	23,145	24,384	24,384
<b>Adjusted opening balance</b>		<b>24,384</b>	<b>23,145</b>	<b>24,384</b>	<b>24,384</b>
<b>Transactions with owners</b>					
<b>Contributions by owners</b>					
Equity injection - Appropriations		1,016	467	1,016	1,016
Departmental capital budget		763	772	762	762
<b>Total transactions with owners</b>		<b>1,779</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>1,778</b>
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>		<b>26,163</b>	<b>24,384</b>	<b>26,162</b>	<b>26,162</b>
<b>RETAINED EARNINGS</b>					
<b>Opening balance</b>					
Balance carried forward from previous period		(12,340)	(13,528)	(16,908)	(10,854)
Adjustment for errors	6.1A	-	(1,244)	-	-
<b>Adjusted opening balance</b>		<b>(12,340)</b>	<b>(14,772)</b>	<b>(16,908)</b>	<b>(10,854)</b>
<b>Comprehensive income</b>					
Surplus for the period		10,639	2,432	5,020	5,620
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>10,639</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>5,620</b>
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>		<b>(1,701)</b>	<b>(12,340)</b>	<b>(11,888)</b>	<b>(5,234)</b>
<b>ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE</b>					
<b>Opening balance</b>					
Balance carried forward from previous period		13,168	13,168	13,168	13,168
<b>Adjusted opening balance</b>		<b>13,168</b>	<b>13,168</b>	<b>13,168</b>	<b>13,168</b>
<b>Comprehensive income</b>					
Other comprehensive income		50	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>		<b>13,218</b>	<b>13,168</b>	<b>13,168</b>	<b>13,168</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>					
<b>Opening balance</b>					
Balance carried forward from previous period		25,212	22,785	20,644	26,698
Adjustment for errors	6.1A	-	(1,244)	-	-
<b>Adjusted opening balance</b>		<b>25,212</b>	<b>21,541</b>	<b>20,644</b>	<b>26,698</b>
<b>Comprehensive income</b>					
Surplus for the period		10,639	2,432	5,020	5,620
Other comprehensive income		50	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>10,689</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>5,620</b>
<b>Transactions with owners</b>					
<b>Contributions by owners</b>					
Equity injection - Appropriations		1,016	467	1,016	1,016
Departmental capital budget		763	772	762	762
<b>Total transactions with owners</b>		<b>1,779</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>1,778</b>
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>		<b>37,680</b>	<b>25,212</b>	<b>27,442</b>	<b>34,096</b>

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

**Accounting Policy**

*Equity Injections*

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

**Budget Variances Commentary**

**Statement of Changes in Equity**

**Retained earnings**

Brought forward \$4.568m (27%) more than budget in retained earnings, due primarily to the 2016-17 surplus of \$2.432m, and the prior period error of \$1.244m, occurring after the budget was published. Recorded \$1.244m (100%) more than budget for a prior period error which was only discovered in 2017-18.

**Comprehensive income**

As per Statement of Comprehensive Income Budget Variances Commentary.

**Affected line items and statement**

Balance carried forward from previous period

Retained Earnings - Adjustment for errors

Total comprehensive income

**Cash Flow Statement**  
for the period ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000	Revised Budget \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash received</b>					
Appropriations		29,524	29,683	30,138	32,297
Receipts from Government		20,459	17,368	16,445	20,265
Sale of goods and rendering of services		2,710	2,836	2,970	3,020
GST received from debtors		122	117	120	-
Receipts from Queensland Government for Field Management Program		8,779	8,766	8,372	8,372
Receipts from other		4,862	459	6,570	6,400
Douglas Shoal litigation settlement		-	35,000	-	-
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>66,456</b>	<b>94,229</b>	<b>64,615</b>	<b>70,354</b>
<b>Cash used</b>					
Grants		268	1,128	210	1,324
Employees		21,499	21,699	21,162	22,348
Suppliers		28,477	21,894	22,067	33,821
GST paid to suppliers		2,214	2,222	1,620	-
Transfer to the OPA		-	-	6,400	-
Other		-	-	295	-
Payments to Queensland Government for Field Management Program		13,631	13,129	12,341	12,341
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>66,089</b>	<b>60,072</b>	<b>64,095</b>	<b>69,834</b>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>		<b>367</b>	<b>34,157</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>520</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash used</b>					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		1,783	1,368	2,298	2,298
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>1,783</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>2,298</b>	<b>2,298</b>
<b>Net cash used by investing activities</b>		<b>(1,783)</b>	<b>(1,368)</b>	<b>(2,298)</b>	<b>(2,298)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash received</b>					
Contributed equity		1,779	1,239	1,778	1,778
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>1,779</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>1,778</b>
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>		<b>1,779</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>1,778</b>
<b>Net increase in cash held</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		363	34,028	-	-
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	3.1A	<b>35,741</b>	<b>1,713</b>	<b>36,713</b>	<b>35,741</b>

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

Budget Variances Commentary	Affected line items and statement
<b>Cash Flow Statement</b>	
<b>Cash Received</b>	
Received \$4.014m (24%) more than budget in Government grants, consisting of the grants disclosed in the Statement of Comprehensive Income Budget Variances Commentary, and \$0.520m from the Ensuring the Resilience of the Great Barrier Reef MOU that was to be expensed as capital.	Cash received - Receipts from Government
Received \$1.708m (26%) less than budget in other revenue, consisting of: <i>Shen Neng 1</i> litigation cost recovery payment \$1.500m (\$4.500m of the \$6.000m forecast was received), and Queensland Nickel (QNI) \$0.400m (litigation pending), offset by \$0.192m in other cost recovery payments.	Cash received - Receipts from other
<b>Cash used</b>	
Paid \$6.410m (29%) more than budget in suppliers, primarily due to the budgeted transfers to the OPA of \$6.400m being separated out in the original budget.	Cash used - Suppliers
Paid \$0.515m (22%) less than budget in capital acquisitions, due to delays in finalising and executing asset management plans.	Cash used - Purchase of property, plant and equipment

**Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2018*

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000	Revised Budget \$'000
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>					
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Revenue</b>					
<b>Non-taxation revenue</b>					
Environmental management charge	2.1A	11,992	12,147	11,000	11,000
Infringement notices	2.1A	272	127	80	80
Rent from island properties	2.1A	359	364	345	353
<b>Total non-taxation revenue</b>		<b>12,623</b>	<b>12,638</b>	<b>11,425</b>	<b>11,433</b>
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>12,623</b>	<b>12,638</b>	<b>11,425</b>	<b>11,433</b>
<b>Total income</b>		<b>12,623</b>	<b>12,638</b>	<b>11,425</b>	<b>11,433</b>
<b>Net contribution by services</b>		<b>12,623</b>	<b>12,638</b>	<b>11,425</b>	<b>11,433</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>					
<b>Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services</b>					
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		-	-	-	-
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>12,623</b>	<b>12,638</b>	<b>11,425</b>	<b>11,433</b>

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

Budget Variances Commentary	Affected line items and statement
<b>Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>	
Received \$0.992m (9%) more than budget in environmental management charge, due to the original budget reflecting a historical average rather than recent trend.	Environmental Management Charge
Received \$0.192m (240%) more than budget from infringement notices, due to increased focus on compliance.	Infringement Notices

**Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities**  
as at 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000	Revised Budget \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Receivables - Environmental management charge	4.1A	2,094	1,852	2,317	1,852
Receivables - Court ordered fines	4.1A	699	714	740	714
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>2,793</b>	<b>2,566</b>	<b>3,057</b>	<b>2,566</b>
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>					
Island properties	4.2A	4,121	4,086	3,982	4,086
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>4,121</b>	<b>4,086</b>	<b>3,982</b>	<b>4,086</b>
<b>Total assets administered on behalf of Government</b>		<b>6,914</b>	<b>6,652</b>	<b>7,039</b>	<b>6,652</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
<b>Payables</b>					
Environmental management charge payable to Commonwealth	4.3A	2,094	1,852	2,317	1,852
CDPP court ordered fines payable to Commonwealth	4.3A	699	714	740	714
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>2,793</b>	<b>2,566</b>	<b>3,057</b>	<b>2,566</b>
<b>Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government</b>		<b>2,793</b>	<b>2,566</b>	<b>3,057</b>	<b>2,566</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>4,121</b>	<b>4,086</b>	<b>3,982</b>	<b>4,086</b>

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

<b>Budget Variances Commentary</b>	
<b>Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities</b>	<b>Affected line items and statement</b>
<p><b>Assets</b></p> <p>Accrued receivables of \$0.223m (10%) less than budget in environmental management charge, due to the prior year estimate not reflecting the full tourism impact of Cyclone Debbie crossing the Whitsundays in April 2017.</p>	Receivables - Environmental Management Charge
<p><b>Liabilities</b></p> <p>Accrued payables of \$0.223m (10%) less than budget in environmental management charge, due to the prior year estimate not reflecting the full tourism impact of Cyclone Debbie crossing the Whitsundays in April 2017.</p>	Payables - Environmental Management Charge

**Administered Reconciliation Schedule**  
 for the period ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July</b>		<b>4,086</b>	3,982
<b>Net contribution by services</b>			
Income		12,623	12,638
<b>Transfers (to) the Australian Government:</b>			
Appropriation transfers to Official Public Account			
Transfers to OPA		(12,588)	(12,534)
Administered revaluations taken to reserves		-	-
<b>Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June</b>		<b>4,121</b>	4,086

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

**Accounting Policy**
**Administered Cash Transfers to and from the Official Public Account**

Revenue collected by the GBRMPA for use by the Government is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account (OPA) maintained by the Department of Finance. Conversely, cash is drawn from the OPA to make payments under Parliamentary appropriation on behalf of the Government. These transfers to and from the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by the GBRMPA on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the schedule of administered cash flows and in the administered reconciliation schedule.

**Administered Cash Flow Statement**

for the period ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000	Revised Budget \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Cash received</b>					
Rent from island properties		324	260	345	353
Infringement notices		272	127	80	80
Environmental management charge		11,992	12,147	11,000	11,000
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>12,588</b>	12,534	11,425	11,433
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>		<b>12,588</b>	12,534	11,425	11,433
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-	-	-
<b>Cash to Official Public Account</b>					
Environmental Management Charge		11,992	12,147	11,000	11,000
Other		596	387	425	433
		<b>12,588</b>	12,534	11,425	11,433
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b>-</b>	-	-	-

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

**Budget Variances Commentary**
**Administered Cash Flow Statement**
**Assets**
**Cash received and Cash to Official Public Account**

Received \$0.992m (9%) more than budget in environmental management charge, due to the original budget reflecting a historical average rather than recent trend.

Received \$0.192m (240%) more than budget from infringement notices, due to increased focus on compliance.

**Affected line items and statement**

Environmental Management Charge

Infringement Notices

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## Overview

### Objectives of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is an Australian Government controlled non-corporate entity. It is a not-for-profit entity. Under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the Authority is responsible for managing one of the world's premier natural resources - the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The GBRMPA and the Queensland Government jointly manage the Marine Park and this close collaboration is critically important for effectively managing such a large, diverse and complex marine area. The GBRMPA continues to work closely with other Australian Government entities, particularly the Department of the Environment and Energy and the Queensland Government to implement the Reef 2050 Plan.

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

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

The GBRMPA conducts the following administered activities on behalf of the Government:

- a) Collection of the Environmental Management Charge (EMC) and Infringements; and
- b) Management of Commonwealth Islands land, heritage buildings and lease revenue.

### Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- a) Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 (FRR) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2017; and
- b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – Reduced Disclosure Requirements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

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

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

### Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the GBRMPA has made the following judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

#### Douglas Shoal remediation provision

In 2016-17 the \$34.909m Douglas Shoal remediation provision was discounted over a 3 year period, with a flat rate of 2% based on CPI, for a resulting expensed discount of \$1.319m. In 2017-18 the project plan has considerably matured, as per note 3.4, and accordingly, the now \$34.298m Douglas Shoal remediation provision has been discounted over a 5 year period, with a weighted rate of up to 3.5% based on a standard wage price index, for a resulting expensed discount of \$3.578m. The difference \$2.259m has been recognised as a gain in 2017-18.

#### Adjustment to prior period

Legal advice received in April 2018 confirmed an underpayment for casual employees in Reef HQ resulting from a revised interpretation of certain clauses in the GBRMPA Enterprise Agreement. GBRMPA has recognised a liability to make salary back payments, in accordance with shift penalties, and in line with statutory limitations, for the period 1 May 2012 to 30 June 2018. Accordingly a prior period adjustment of \$1.244m has been recognised for the years 2011-12 through to 2015-16 in the retained earnings opening balance, and \$0.242m has been expensed through employee benefits in 2016-17. A further \$0.201 million has been expensed through employee benefits in 2017-18, bringing the total provision to \$1.687 million at 30 June 2018. This affects the prior period as follows:

	Post Adjustment 2017	Pre Adjustment 2017
Notes	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>		
Employee benefits	21,932	21,690
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>		
Employee provisions	7,878	6,392
<b>Statement of Changes in Equity</b>		
Retained earnings adjusted opening balance	(14,772)	(13,528)

## Overview (cont)

The provision is expected to be cleared in 2018-19 once the underpayment is resolved. Refer to note 6.1A

### Buildings, Plant and equipment

The value of buildings, plant and equipment has been taken to be fair value as determined by an independent valuer. No accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

### New Australian Accounting Standards

#### Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

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

All other new standards/revised standards/interpretations/amending standards that were issued prior to the signing of the financial statements and are applicable to the current and future reporting periods did not have a material effect, and are not expected to have a future material effect, on the GBRMPA's financial statements.

### Budgetary Reporting of Major Variances (AASB1055)

The Budget Variances Commentary provides a comparison between the original budget provided to Parliament in May 2017, Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2017-18 and the final financial outcome in the 2017-18 financial statements. The budget is not audited and does not reflect the revised budget provided as part of the 2018-19 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS). However, major changes in budget have been explained as part of the variance analysis where relevant.

Variances are considered to be 'major' where:

- (a) the variance between budget and actual is greater than +/-10% of the budget for the line items; and
- (b) the variance between budget and actual is greater than +/-2% of the relevant budget base.

The relevant budget bases are:

**Departmental**  
- Total Expenses

**Administered**  
- Total Income

Variance explanations will also be provided where there have been major changes to business activities that may not be numerically material but by nature may assist users in understanding underlying business changes that may have occurred since the original budget was released.

Where a revised budget has been presented to Parliament, the GBRMPA may include variance explanations of major variances between the revised budget and actual amounts where they are considered relevant to an assessment of the discharge of accountability and to an analysis of the performance of the GBRMPA.

### Taxation

The entity is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

### Reef HQ

The Reef HQ building was funded as a Commonwealth-State Bicentennial project, through the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Association Incorporated (the Association) on land leased from the Townsville Port Authority. Following the winding up of the Association in September 2001 the lease arrangement for the land is now between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Townsville Port Authority for \$1.

### Insurance

The GBRMPA is insured for risks through the Government's insurable managed fund Comcover. This includes insurance cover for the operation of Reef HQ aquarium. Workers compensation is insured through Comcare Australia.

### Events After the Reporting Period

#### **Departmental**

There was no subsequent event that had the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of the GBRMPA.

#### **Administered**

There was no subsequent event that had the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of the GBRMPA.

## Financial Performance

This section analyses the financial performance of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 2018.

### 1.1 Expenses

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>1.1A: Employee Benefits</b>			
Wages and salaries	6.1A	16,903	16,657
Superannuation			
Defined contribution plans		1,231	1,288
Defined benefit plans		1,708	1,740
Leave and other entitlements		2,201	2,127
Other employee benefits		126	104
Fringe benefit tax		16	16
<b>Total employee benefits</b>		<b>22,185</b>	<b>21,932</b>

#### Accounting Policy

Accounting policies for employee related expenses are contained in the People and relationships section.

### 1.1B: Suppliers

#### Goods and services supplied or rendered

Consultants		8,787	9,110
Contractors		11,549	3,072
Travel		1,754	1,703
IT Services		910	657
Utilities		638	665
Employment agency temporary staff		1,795	610
Aircraft and vessel charter costs		900	926
Telephone and communications		591	683
Legal fees		224	1,671
Reef HQ general expenses		746	801
External audit fees		54	54
Other general expenses		1,959	1,580
<b>Total goods and services supplied or rendered</b>		<b>29,907</b>	<b>21,532</b>

Goods supplied		724	803
Services rendered		29,183	20,729
<b>Total goods and services supplied or rendered</b>		<b>29,907</b>	<b>21,532</b>

#### Other Suppliers

##### Operating lease rentals in connection with

External Parties			
Minimum lease payments		1,328	1,273
Workers compensation premiums		108	233
<b>Total other suppliers</b>		<b>1,436</b>	<b>1,506</b>
<b>Total suppliers</b>		<b>31,343</b>	<b>23,038</b>

#### Leasing commitments

The GBRMPA in its capacity as lessee has seven (6) commercial property leases throughout Queensland. Under the WOAG procurement program, GBRMPA lease fleet vehicles and multi-function photocopiers.

#### Commitments for minimum lease payments in relation to non-cancellable operating leases are payable as follows:

Within 1 year		478	452
Between 1 to 5 years		212	202
More than 5 years		-	-
<b>Total operating lease commitments</b>		<b>690</b>	<b>654</b>

#### Accounting Policy

Leased assets are amortised over the period of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component and the interest expense. The commercial property leases include escalation of rent based on CPI, and those that are not on a month-to-month basis also have options to extend. Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight-line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

**1.2 Own-Source Revenue and Gains**

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>Own-Source Revenue</b>			
<b>1.2A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services</b>			
Sale of goods		352	383
Rendering of services		2,235	2,312
Permit assessment fees	5.2	245	258
<b>Total sale of goods and rendering of services</b>		<b>2,832</b>	<b>2,953</b>

**Accounting Policy**

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer; and/or
  - the entity retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
- Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts are reviewed at the end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

**1.2B: Grants received from Government**

Capacity Building for Indigenous Rangers <sup>1</sup>		538	-
Crown of Thorns Starfish Control <sup>2</sup>		7,000	4,300
Curtis Island Offsets Program <sup>2</sup>		1,588	319
Ensuring the Resilience of the Great Barrier Reef <sup>2</sup>		4,000	4,000
Field Management Programme Indexing <sup>2</sup>		-	194
International Coral Reef Initiative Co-Chairing <sup>3</sup>		91	-
Land & Sea Country Partnership <sup>2</sup>		2,000	2,000
Marine Monitoring Program <sup>2</sup>		2,450	2,550
National Landcare Reef Integrated Marine Monitoring and Reporting Program <sup>2</sup>		435	1,030
Reef Integrated Marine Monitoring and Reporting Program <sup>2</sup>		1,757	2,369
Reef Resilience Mapping <sup>2</sup>		600	-
Specialised Indigenous Ranger Program <sup>1</sup>		-	600
<b>Total grants received from Government</b>		<b>20,459</b>	<b>17,362</b>

- Funding received directly from Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Funding received directly from Department of the Environment and Energy
- Funding received directly from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**1.2C: Other Revenue**

Shen Neng 1 litigation cost recovery		4,500	-
Other revenue		303	397
Sale of assets		5	14
<b>Total other revenue</b>		<b>4,808</b>	<b>411</b>

**1.2D: Gains**

Resources received free of charge - external audit services		54	54
<b>Total gains</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>

**Accounting Policy****Resources Received Free of Charge**

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

**Sale of Assets**

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

**1.2E: Revenue from Government**

<b>Appropriations</b>			
Departmental appropriation		12,838	10,264
Departmental special appropriation		11,992	12,147
Field management program	5.4	14,859	9,767
<b>Total revenue from Government</b>		<b>39,689</b>	<b>32,178</b>

**Accounting Policy****Revenue from Government**

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

**Special Appropriation**

The GBRMPA, as agent for the Commonwealth, collects an Environmental Management Charge (EMC) from permit holders who collect on behalf of individual tourists and remit to the GBRMPA. Amounts collected are paid into the Official Public Account (OPA). The GBRMPA receives an equivalent amount via a special appropriation (*GBRMP Act s65A*) for its operations. Special appropriation is recognised when the GBRMPA has the right to receive the revenue and it can be reliably measured. This is deemed to occur when monies are received by the GBRMPA from permit holders.

## Income and Expenses Administered on Behalf of Government

This section analyses the activities that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority does not control but administers on behalf of the Government. Unless otherwise noted, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those applied for departmental reporting.

### 2.1 Administered - Income

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<b>2.1A Non-Taxation Revenue</b>			
Environmental management charge		11,992	12,147
Infringement notices		272	127
Rent from island properties		359	364
<b>Total non-taxation revenue</b>		<b>12,623</b>	<b>12,638</b>
<b>Rental income commitments</b>			
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, in its capacity as lessor, manages two leases on behalf of the Commonwealth.			
Dent Island 15 year lease to Hamilton West Pty Ltd expiring 31 January 2029 with an option to extend for 2 terms at 15 years each term.			
Lady Elliot Island 10 year lease to Reef Resort Management Pty Ltd expiring 30 November 2025 with an option to extend for another 10 years.			
<b>Commitments for rental income are receivable as follows:</b>			
Within 1 year		356	385
Between 1 to 5 years		1,445	1,593
More than 5 years		2,168	2,166
<b>Total rental income commitments receivable</b>		<b>3,969</b>	<b>4,144</b>

#### Accounting Policy

All administered revenues are revenues relating to ordinary activities performed by the GBRMPA on behalf of the Australian Government. As such, administered appropriations are not revenues of the GBRMPA as it oversees distribution or expenditure of the funds as directed.

The GBRMPA, as agent for the Commonwealth, collects an Environmental Management Charge (EMC) from permit holders who collect on behalf of individual tourists and remit to the GBRMPA. Other revenue received is from QLD Government State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) that administer the recovery of infringement debts. Revenue is also generated from rent that is charged under leases associated with the use of the land including a number of heritage listed lighthouse properties. All amounts collected are paid into the Official Public Account (OPA).

## Financial Position

This section analyses the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's assets used to conduct its operations and the operating liabilities incurred as a result. Employee related information is disclosed in the People and Relationships section.

### 3.1 Financial Assets

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>3.1A: Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>			
Field Management special account - cash at bank	5.4	34,304	34,909
Field Management special account - cash held in OPA	5.4	580	352
Cash on Hand or on deposit		1,220	480
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>36,104</b>	<b>35,741</b>

#### Accounting Policy

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes:

- cash on hand;
- cash held by outsiders; and
- bank accounts.

### 3.1B: Trade and Other Receivables

#### Goods and services receivables

Goods and services receivables		195	138
<b>Total goods and services receivables</b>		<b>195</b>	<b>138</b>

#### Appropriations receivable

Appropriations receivable	5.1B	22,700	12,512
<b>Total appropriations receivable</b>		<b>22,700</b>	<b>12,512</b>

#### Other Receivables

GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office (net)		695	282
Other		13	2
<b>Total other receivables</b>		<b>708</b>	<b>284</b>

<b>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</b>		<b>23,603</b>	<b>12,934</b>
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<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>		<b>23,603</b>	<b>12,934</b>
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Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2017: 30 days).

#### Accounting Policy

##### Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables, loans, and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'trade and other receivables'. Trade and other receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

##### Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

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

### 3.2 Non-Financial Assets

#### 3.2A: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment and Computer Software

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment and computer software 2018

	Buildings \$'000	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Plant & Equipment \$'000	Computer Software \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2017</b>					
Gross book value	16,903	410	3,944	5,328	26,585
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(710)	(389)	(1,072)	(3,046)	(5,217)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2017</b>	<b>16,193</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2,872</b>	<b>2,282</b>	<b>21,368</b>
<b>Additions</b>					
Purchase of internally developed	790	-	919	74	1,783
Revaluations and impairments recognised in depreciation and other comprehensive income	(973)	(360)	(1,597)	(3,301)	(6,231)
Transfers between classes	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(13)	-	(13)
Depreciation	(358)	-	(529)	(255)	(1,142)
Revaluation of depreciation	1,004	389	1,588	3,301	6,282
Depreciation disposals	-	-	12	-	12
<b>Net book value 30 June 2018</b>	<b>16,656</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>22,059</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2018 represented by</b>					
Gross book value	16,720	50	3,253	2,101	22,124
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(64)	-	(1)	-	(65)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2018</b>	<b>16,656</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>22,059</b>

Impairments recognised of Nil (2017: Nil) for property, plant and equipment.

#### Revaluations of non-financial assets

Following on from the comprehensive valuation in 2015, and desktop valuations in 2016 and 2017, Pickles Valuation Services (PVS) completed another comprehensive valuation in 2018. Due to the GBRMPA's ageing asset base, and extended utilisation of classes such as Plant and Equipment, and Computer Software, significant revaluations were made to asset values and total useful lives across all classes. As per this breakdown the overall write down has predominately been against accumulated depreciation, with the net effect a \$0.050m increase to the total Written Down Value (WDV), which has been added to the asset revaluation reserve. The next scheduled comprehensive revaluation of GBRMPA's assets is in 2020-21 by an independent valuer. All increments and decrements have been transferred to accumulated depreciation firstly, and then the asset revaluation reserve. No decrements were expensed (2017: Nil).

#### Contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment

As at 30 June 2018, the GBRMPA had contractual commitments for asset acquisitions of \$0.638m.

**3.2 Non-Financial Assets (cont)**

**Accounting Policy**

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.

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, 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 such as IT equipment).

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

Make Good

The GBRMPA currently has nil (2017: 1) agreements for the leasing of premises which have provisions requiring the entity to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease.

Revaluations

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

Revaluation adjustments were made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment was credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation surplus except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluations decrements for a class of assets were recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

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

Depreciation

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

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

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

	2018	2017
Buildings	5 - 50 years	5 - 50 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease Term	Lease term
Plant and equipment	3 to 20 years	3 to 20 years

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2018. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

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

### 3.2 Non-Financial Assets (cont)

#### Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

#### Computer software

These assets are carried at fair value as determined by an independent valuer. Computer software costing less than \$5,000, is expensed in the year of acquisition.

Computer software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of the GBRMPA's software is 3 to 10 years (2016-17: 3 to 10 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2018.

#### Inventory

Inventories held for sale are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Inventories acquired at no cost or nominal consideration are initially measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

### 3.3 Payables

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>3.3A: Other payables</b>			
Wages and salaries		178	123
Superannuation		-	20
Amounts owed to Commonwealth		66	38
<b>Total other payables</b>		<b>244</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>3.3B: Permit bonds</b>			
Cash Bonds held on behalf of permit holders		330	306
<b>Total permit bonds</b>		<b>330</b>	<b>306</b>

### 3.4 Provisions

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>3.4A Provision for Douglas Shoal Remediation</b>			
Balance carried forward from previous period		33,590	-
Payment for remediation		-	35,000
Expenses against provision		(611)	(91)
(Discounting) of provision		(2,259)	(1,319)
<b>Total provision</b>		<b>30,720</b>	<b>33,590</b>

On 3 April 2010, the Chinese owned bulk carrier, *Shen Neng 1*, grounded on Douglas Shoal within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Douglas Shoal is a reef shoal located 90 kilometres off the central coast of Queensland. The *Shen Neng 1* traversed a significant area of Douglas Shoal over 3-12 April 2010 before being re-floated. The damage to Douglas Shoal comprises both physical and contaminant damage. The grounding created large depressions of rubble across Douglas Shoal as well as leaving behind large concentrations of toxic anti-fouling paint, in particular tributyltin (TBT) (banned in Australia since 2008).

The Commonwealth of Australia, acting through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, commenced proceedings in March 2013 against the shipowner of the *Shen Neng 1*. The Commonwealth claimed damages for remediation of Douglas Shoal. The hearing was held in the Federal Court, however it was settled out of court for \$35,000,000 with payment made in October 2016.

In 2018-19 the provision has been recalculated using a revised 5 year project plan, and a weighted wage price index. This revision has meant a further \$2.259m in discount has been applied in addition to the \$1.319m in 2017-18. After this project review, the restoration of the Douglas Shoal is now planned to take 5 further years from 2018, however it is still dependent upon weather conditions and availability of contractors, staff and equipment. GBRMPA has established a project team, an initial project plan, and is planning to execute the tenders for contract management and environmental monitoring in 2018-19.

## Assets and Liabilities Administered on Behalf of the Government

This section analyses assets used to conduct operations and the operating liabilities incurred as a result the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority does not control but administers on behalf of the Government. Unless otherwise noted, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those applied for departmental reporting.

### 4.1 Administered - Financial Assets

Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>4.1A Fees and Fines Receivables</b>		
Receivables - Environmental management charge	2,094	1,852
Receivables - CDPP Court ordered fines	699	714
<b>Total fees and fines receivable</b>	<b>2,793</b>	<b>2,566</b>
<b>Receivables are aged as follows</b>		
Not Overdue	2,094	1,852
Overdue by more than 90 days	699	714
<b>Total receivables</b>	<b>2,793</b>	<b>2,566</b>

#### Accounting Policy

##### *Loans and receivables*

The GBRMPA, as agent for the Commonwealth, collects an Environmental Management Charge from permit holders who collect on behalf of individual tourists and remit to the GBRMPA. Amounts collected are paid into the Official Public Account. Fees and fines payable to the Commonwealth are administered by QLD Government State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER).

### 4.2 Administered - Non-Financial Assets

#### 4.2A: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment

##### Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment for 2018

	Island Properties \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2017</b>		
Gross book value	4,086	4,086
<b>Total as at 1 July 2017</b>	<b>4,086</b>	<b>4,086</b>
Additions	35	35
<b>Total as at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>4,121</b>
<b>Total as at 30 June 2018 represented by</b>		
Gross book value	4,121	4,121
<b>Total as at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>4,121</b>

No indications of impairment were found, and as heritage listed properties the Islands do not depreciate, or have any stated useful life. The Island properties are not expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

#### Revaluations of non-financial assets

In the current year, as part of a comprehensive valuation of GBRMPA assets by PVS, an assessment of fair value was undertaken remotely, as there were no changes from the comprehensive valuation in 2015, and subsequent desktop valuations in 2016 and 2017, that warranted site visitation. All increments and decrements are transferred to the asset revaluation surplus by asset class and included in the Administered Reconciliation Schedule. No increment/decrement was expensed (2017: Nil).

#### Accounting Policy

##### *Property, plant and equipment*

Administered property, plant and equipment include island properties valued at fair value. Lighthouse and other adjacent properties are heritage listed therefore no depreciation is recorded against the asset. The Island properties are valued in accordance with AASB116 by an independent valuer. Valuations are deemed to occur on 30 June of each year. From 1 July 2015, the islands are valued in accordance with their restricted use under lease agreements.

##### *Heritage and Cultural assets*

In accordance with AASB116, and as per Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (s. 341ZA) the Authority is required to have plans in place to comply with the Commonwealth Heritage management principles. Accordingly the Island properties are managed by Commonwealth project officer, and have resident caretakers for maintenance. Comprehensive valuations are conducted every 3 years, with the next one due in 2020-21, and desktop valuations are conducted in between. The GBRMPA Commonwealth Heritage Listed Places and Properties Heritage Strategy 2018-21, can be found at: <http://hdl.handle.net/11017/3369>.

**4.3 Administered - Payables**

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>4.3A: Suppliers</b>			
Environmental management charge payable to the Commonwealth		2,094	1,852
CDPP court ordered fines payable to the Commonwealth		<u>699</u>	<u>714</u>
<b>Total suppliers</b>		<u>2,793</u>	<u>2,566</u>

Settlement was usually made within 30 days (2017: 30 days)

**Accounting Policy***Liabilities*

The GBRMPA, as agent for the Commonwealth, collects an Environmental Management Charge from permit holders who collect on behalf of individual tourists and remit to the GBRMPA. Amounts collected are paid into the Official Public Account. Fees and fines payable to the Commonwealth are administered by QLD Government State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER).

This section identifies the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's funding structure.

## Funding

### 5.1 Appropriations

#### 5.1A: Annual Appropriations (Recoverable GST exclusive)

##### Annual Appropriations for 2018

	Annual <sup>1</sup> \$'000	Adjustments to <sup>2</sup> \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2018 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance <sup>3</sup> \$'000
<b>Departmental</b>					
Ordinary annual services	27,697	32,378	60,075	49,435	10,640
Capital Budget <sup>4</sup>	763	-	763	763	-
Other services					
Equity injections	1,016	-	1,016	500	516
<b>Total departmental</b>	<b>29,476</b>	<b>32,378</b>	<b>61,854</b>	<b>50,698</b>	<b>11,156</b>

#### Notes

- In 2017-2018, there were no appropriations that have been quarantined under section 51 of the PGPA Act.
- In 2017-2018, adjustments are for section 74 of the PGPA Act.
- In 2017-2018, unspent departmental appropriations, both ordinary and special, held in the OPA and in cash, have increased by \$10,640m (81%) due to; the *Shen Neng 1* litigation cost recovery payment, along with program underspends, and additional special appropriation, as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income Budget Variances Commentary. Separately, capital appropriations were underspent by \$0.516m in 2017-18, and together with the \$0.150m unspent capital in 2016-17, \$0.666m in capital is now in unspent annual appropriations.
- Departmental Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts. They form part of ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

#### 5.1A: Annual Appropriations (Recoverable GST exclusive)

##### Annual Appropriations for 2017

	Annual Appropriation <sup>1</sup> \$'000	Adjustments to Appropriation <sup>2</sup> \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2017 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance <sup>3</sup> \$'000
<b>Departmental</b>					
Ordinary annual services	20,031	29,492	49,523	47,522	2,001
Capital Budget <sup>4</sup>	772	-	772	772	-
Other services					
Equity injections	467	-	467	467	-
<b>Total departmental</b>	<b>21,270</b>	<b>29,492</b>	<b>50,762</b>	<b>48,761</b>	<b>2,001</b>

#### Notes

- In 2016-2017, there were no appropriations that have been quarantined under section 51 of the PGPA Act.
- In 2016-2017, adjustments are for section 74 of the PGPA Act.
- In 2016-2017, there were no material differences.
- Departmental Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts. They form part of ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

**5.1 Appropriations (cont)****5.1B: Unspent Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')**

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>Departmental</b>		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2015-16	-	5,545
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2016-17	-	4,230
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2016-17	-	150
Supply Act (No. 1) 2016-17	-	2,587
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2017-18	22,034	-
Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2017-18	666	-
Cash on Hand or on deposit	1,220	480
<b>Total departmental</b>	<b>23,920</b>	<b>12,992</b>

**5.1C: Special Appropriations Applied ('Recoverable GST exclusive')**

	Appropriation applied	
	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>Authority</b>		
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act s.65A, Departmental Unlimited Amount	11,992	12,147
Operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority		
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,992</b>	<b>12,147</b>

**5.2 Regulatory Charging Summary**

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>Expenses</b>		
Departmental	2,383	2,239
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>2,239</b>
<b>Amounts applied</b>		
Own source revenue	245	258
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>258</b>

**Cost recovered activities**

1. Managing the Permission System under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

The Cost Recovery Implementation Statement is available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/11017/3167>

**5.3 Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements**

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>Total comprehensive income less depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations</b>	<b>11,831</b>	<b>3,650</b>
Plus depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriation	(1,142)	(1,218)
<b>Total comprehensive income - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>10,689</b>	<b>2,432</b>

1. From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements, where revenue appropriation for depreciation/amortisation expenses ceased. Entities now receive a separate capital budget provided through equity appropriations. Capital budgets are to be appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.

#### 5.4 Field Management Special Account

The Special Account is used for the facilitation of payments for and on behalf of the GBRMPA and the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science.

Establishing Instrument: *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*; section 49

Purpose: *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*; section 51(2):

- a) the management, protection or maintenance of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area;
- b) purposes incidental to the management, protection or maintenance of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area;
- c) meeting the expenses of administering the account.

The guiding principles agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015* are:

- i) A collaborative and cooperative approach is fundamental to the effective long-term protection, conservation and management of the Great Barrier Reef as this is beyond the power and remit of either jurisdiction;
- ii) The precautionary principle will be applied to protecting the environmental, World Heritage and National Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef including its Outstanding Universal value;
- iii) The marine and land environments within and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area will be managed in an integrated manner consistent with ecosystem-based management and the principles of ecologically sustainable use;
- iv) Economic growth and the long-term health of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem are interconnected, and actions or changes in one can impact on the other and must be taken into account, in particular
  - population growth and economic development increases the demand for resource and recreational use of the Great Barrier Reef
  - land-use activities in the catchment, and urban development can have adverse impacts on the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef, and
  - regulation of activities that exploit marine resources, measures for protection of marine parks, or initiatives to reduce external pressures on the ecosystem can have regional and local social and economic effects, and improve the long term viability of the region
- v) Trends in the health, use of and risks to the environment of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, including its Outstanding Universal Value will be regularly monitored and reported to ensure decisions are soundly based;
- vi) Co-ordinated long-term monitoring and research and the collection and sharing of marine-based biological, physical, social and economic data is fundamental;
- vii) Regular, periodic review of the resources necessary for the long-term management of the marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area will be undertaken; and
- viii) Initiatives should be delivered through a concerted response across all levels of government with shared funding arrangements of joint Commonwealth-State initiatives agreed on a case-by-case basis.

	Great Barrier Reef Field Management Account	
	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>Departmental</b>		
<b>Balance brought forward from previous period</b>	35,261,377	1,224,214
<b>Increases</b>		
Payments received from Queensland Government	8,779,000	8,766,000
Government appropriation <sup>1</sup>	14,859,000	9,767,000
Contribution by Department of the Environment and Energy <sup>2</sup>	-	194,000
Receipts from external parties	127,995	90,225
Sale of assets	4,356	14,273
Curtis Islands Offsets revenue <sup>2</sup>	1,588,050	319,010
Douglas Shoal remediation settlement <sup>3</sup>	-	35,000,000
<b>Total increases</b>	<b>25,358,401</b>	<b>54,150,508</b>
<b>Available for payments</b>	<b>60,619,778</b>	<b>55,374,722</b>
<b>Decreases</b>		
Payments made to Queensland Government for Field Management Program	13,130,575	13,129,202
Further payments made to Queensland Government <sup>4</sup>	5,690,000	2,395,000
Payments made to employees and suppliers	4,517,178	4,385,285
Bank Fees	-	23
Capital expenditure	274,364	72,853
Curtis Islands Offset payments made to employees and suppliers <sup>3</sup>	1,519,007	39,972
Douglas Shoal remediation payments made to employees and suppliers <sup>3</sup>	604,672	91,010
<b>Total decreases</b>	<b>25,735,796</b>	<b>20,113,345</b>
<b>Total balance carried to the next period</b>	<b>34,883,982</b>	<b>35,261,377</b>
<b>Balance represented by:</b>		
<b>Cash held in the Official Public Account</b>	<b>579,663</b>	<b>352,161</b>
<b>Cash held in GBRMPA bank account</b>	<b>34,304,319</b>	<b>34,909,216</b>

#### Notes

1. Includes \$13.062m from Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2017-18, and \$1.797m from Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2017-18.
2. Included in note 1.2B: Grants received from Government.
3. The Curtis Islands Offsets program and the Douglas Shoal remediation project, also utilise the Field Management Special Account.
4. Additional payments were made to the QLD Government for the second Reef Ranger vessel (\$4.690m), and the Vessel Monitoring System (\$1.000m).

#### Accounting Policy

Except for expenditure on fixtures upon land owned by or under the direct control of the Commonwealth or the GBRMPA, payments to the Queensland Department of Environment and Science for the JFMP are fully expensed in the year of payment.

## People and relationships

This section describes a range of employment and post employment benefits provided to our people and our relationships with other key people.

### 6.1 Employee Provisions

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>6.1A: Employee Provisions</b>			
Salaries <sup>1</sup>		1,687	1,486
Leave		6,805	6,379
Other		37	13
<b>Total employee provisions</b>		<b>8,529</b>	<b>7,878</b>

1. Legal advice received in April 2018 confirmed an underpayment for casual employees in Reef HQ resulting from a revised interpretation of certain clauses in the GBRMPA Enterprise Agreement. GBRMPA has recognised a liability to make salary back payments, in accordance with shift penalties, and in line with statutory limitations, for the period 1 May 2012 to 30 June 2018. Accordingly, a prior period adjustment of \$1.244m has been recognised for the years 2011-12 through to 2015-16 in the retained earnings opening balance, and \$0.242m has been expensed through employee benefits in 2016-17. A further \$0.201m has been expensed through employee benefits in 2017-18, bringing the total provision to \$1.687m at 30 June 2018.

#### Accounting Policy

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

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

Other long term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligation are to be settled directly.

#### Leave

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

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

The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

#### Superannuation

The GBRMPA staff are members of the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

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

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

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

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

## 6.2: Key Management Personnel Remuneration

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of the entity, the Portfolio Minister, and any other relevant Government Minister. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has determined the following people are the internal Key Management Personnel during the reporting period:

### Board (*Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Act 1975*)

Dr. Russell Reichelt - Chairman - appointed under s10(2)  
 Ms Margie McKenzie - Member - appointed under s10(6B)  
 Ms Melissa George - Member - appointed under s10(6A)  
 Ms Emma Johnston - Member - appointed under s10(6)  
 Mr Dave Stewart - Member - appointed under s10(2-4)

### Executive Management Group (*Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*)

Dr. Russell Reichelt - Accountable Authority  
 Ms Margaret Johnson - General Manager Reef Strategy  
 Mr Bruce Elliot - General Manager Reef Engagement  
 Dr Simon Banks - General Manager Reef Protection  
 Ms Belinda Jago - A/General Manager Corporate Services  
 Ms Anne Leo - General Manager Corporate Services

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	1,356,120	1,186,466
Post-term employee benefits	185,576	170,511
Other long-term employee benefits	108,937	103,947
<b>Total key management personnel remuneration benefits</b>	<b>1,650,633</b>	<b>1,460,924</b>

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the above table are 10 individuals (2017: 9 individuals).

1. The above key management personnel remuneration is internal only, and excludes the remuneration and other benefits of the Portfolio Minister, and any other relevant Government Ministers. Ministerial remuneration and other benefits are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by the entity.

## 6.3 Related Party Disclosures

### Related party relationships

The GBRMPA is an Australian Government controlled entity.

Board members are appointed under section 10 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Board members and their related parties may hold positions in other entities that result in them having control or significant influence over the financial or operating policies of those entities.

Given the breadth of Government activities, related parties may transact with the Government sector in the same capacity as ordinary citizens. Such transactions include the payment or refund of Environmental Management Charge, receipt of Medicare rebate or Higher Education loans. These transactions have not been separately included in this note. Certain entities transacted with the GBRMPA in the reporting period. The terms and conditions of those transactions with key management personnel and their related parties were no more favourable than those available, or which might reasonably be expected to be available, on a similar transactions to non-related entities on an arm's length basis.

### Loans to Key Management Personnel or Key Management Personnel-Related Entities

In 2017-18, no loans were made to key management personnel or key management personnel-related entities (2016-17: Nil).

### Other Transactions with Key Management Personnel or Key Management Personnel-Related Entities

The GBRMPA has an ongoing contractual arrangement with the Reef Rainforest and Research Centre (RRRC) for Crown of Thorns Starfish control, with whom a related party to a key management personnel is part of the board as a non-executive Director. The GBRMPA has also previously received funding, reimbursements, and made contract payments to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), with whom a key management personnel is part of the Board of Directors. Lastly, the GBRMPA also received reimbursements, and made legal cost contribution (*Shen Neng 1*) to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), with whom a key management personnel is part of the Board of Directors.

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Reef Rainforest and Research Centre COTS contract payments	4,729,000	4,000,000
Great Barrier Reef Foundation funding and reimbursements	(3,044)	(202,173)
Great Barrier Reef Foundation contract payments	-	63,000
Australian Maritime Safety Authority reimbursements	(68,437)	-
Australian Maritime Safety Authority legal cost contribution	200,000	-
<b>Total transactions with key management personnel-related entities</b>	<b>4,857,519</b>	<b>3,860,827</b>

## Managing Uncertainties

This section analyses how the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority manages financial risks within its operating environment.

### 7.1A Contingent Assets and Liabilities

#### Contingent Assets

The GBRMPA has no Contingent Assets for the 2017-18 financial year (2016-17: Nil)

#### Contingent Liabilities

The GBRMPA has no Contingent Liabilities for the 2017-18 financial year (2016-17: Nil)

#### Unquantifiable Contingent Assets

The GBRMPA has no Unquantifiable Contingent Assets for the 2017-18 financial year (2016-17: 1)

#### Unquantifiable Contingent Liabilities

The GBRMPA has no Unquantifiable Contingent Liabilities for the 2017-18 financial year (2016-17: Nil)

#### Significant Remote Contingencies

The GBRMPA has no Significant Remote Contingencies for the 2017-18 financial year (2016-17: Nil)

### 7.1B Administered - Contingent Assets and Liabilities

#### Contingent Assets and Liabilities

The GBRMPA has no Contingent assets and Liabilities for the 2017-18 financial year (2016-17: Nil)

#### Accounting Policy

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

**7.2 Financial Instruments**

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>7.2A: Categories of Financial Instruments</b>		
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	36,104	35,741
<b>Loans and receivables</b>		
Receivables for goods and services	195	138
Other receivables	13	2
<b>Total loans and receivables</b>	<u>208</u>	<u>140</u>
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<u>36,312</u>	<u>35,881</u>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
<b>Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</b>		
Trade Creditors	1,799	3,519
Other	244	181
<b>Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</b>	<u>2,043</u>	<u>3,700</u>
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<u>2,043</u>	<u>3,700</u>

**Accounting Policy****Financial Assets**

The GBRMPA classifies its financial assets in the following category:

- a) cash and cash equivalents; and
- b) trade and other receivables.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

**Financial Assets**

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

**Financial Liabilities**

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

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

**7.3 Administered - Financial Instruments**

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>Notes</b>		
<b>7.3A: Categories of Financial Instruments</b>		
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
<b>Loans and receivables</b>		
Receivables - Environmental management charge	2,094	1,852
Receivables - CDPP Court ordered fines	699	714
Receivables - Rental Income	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,793</u>	<u>2,566</u>
<b>Carrying amount of financial assets</b>	<u>2,793</u>	<u>2,566</u>

## 7.4 Fair Value Measurements

### Accounting Policy

The GBRMPA deems transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy to have occurred at 30 June 2018.

### 7.4A: Fair Value Measurements

	Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period	
	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>Non-financial assets</b>		
Buildings - Level 3	16,656	16,193
Leasehold improvements - Level 3	50	21
Plant and equipment - Level 2	1,044	725
Plant and equipment - Level 3	2,208	2,147
Computer software - Level 3	2,101	2,282
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>	<b>22,059</b>	<b>21,368</b>
<b>Total fair value measurements of assets in the Statement of Financial Position</b>	<b>22,059</b>	<b>21,368</b>

1. The following valuation techniques were used:

Cost approach: based on the amount required to replace the service potential of an asset

Market approach: based on market transactions involving identical or similar assets or liabilities

The GBRMPA procured valuation services from Pickles Valuation Services (PVS) and relied on valuation models provided by PVS. An assessment of fair value was undertaken in 2018. PVS re-tests the valuation model every 12 months and has provided written assurance to the GBRMPA that the model developed is compliant with AASB 13.

## 7.5 Administered - Fair Value Measurements

### 7.5A: Administered Fair Value Measurements

	Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period	
	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>Non-financial assets</b>		
Land & Buildings - Level 3	3,511	3,476
Buildings - Level 2	610	610
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>4,086</b>
<b>Total fair value measurements of assets in the Statement of Financial Position</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>4,086</b>

1. The following valuation techniques were used:

Income approach: based on future amounts (e.g. cash flows or income and expenses) that are converted (discounted) to a single present value

Market approach: based on market transactions involving identical or similar assets or liabilities

The GBRMPA procured valuation services from Pickles Valuation Services (PVS) and relied on valuation models provided by PVS. An assessment of fair value was undertaken remotely in 2018, as there were no changes from the comprehensive valuation in 2015, and subsequent desktop valuations, that warranted site visitation. PVS re-tests the valuation model every 12 months and has provided written assurance to the GBRMPA that the model developed is compliant with AASB 13.



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## APPENDIX A: AGENCY RESOURCE STATEMENT AND RESOURCES FOR OUTCOMES

Table 11 shows the resource statement for 2017–18 for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The Authority's expenses and resources for Outcome 1 are listed in Table 12.

TABLE 11: AUTHORITY RESOURCE STATEMENT

RESOURCES	ACTUAL AVAILABLE APPROPRIATION FOR 2017 – 18 \$'000 (A)	PAYMENTS MADE 2017 – 18 \$'000 (B)	BALANCE REMAINING 2017 – 18 \$'000 (A) – (B)
<b>Ordinary annual services<sup>1</sup></b>			
Departmental appropriation <sup>2</sup>	67,830	44,426	23,404
<b>Total ordinary annual services (A)</b>	<b>67,830</b>	<b>44,426</b>	<b>23,404</b>
<b>Other services<sup>3</sup></b>			
<b>Departmental non-operating</b>			
Equity injections	1,016	500	516
<b>Total other services (B)</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>516</b>
<b>Total available annual appropriations and payments</b>	<b>68,846</b>	<b>44,926</b>	<b>23,920</b>
<b>Special appropriations</b>			
<b>Special appropriations limited by criteria/entitlement</b>			
Special appropriation <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975</i>	11,992	11,992	-
<b>Total special appropriations (C)</b>	<b>11,992</b>	<b>11,992</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Special accounts<sup>4</sup></b>			
Opening balance	35,261	957	34,304
Appropriation receipts <sup>5</sup>	14,859	14,627	232
Non-appropriation receipts to special accounts	10,500	10,152	348
<b>Total special account (D)</b>	<b>60,620</b>	<b>25,736</b>	<b>34,884</b>
<b>Total resourcing and payments</b>			
A+B+C+D	141,458	82,654	58,804
Less appropriations drawn from annual or special appropriations above and credited to special accounts	14,859	14,859	-
<b>Total net resourcing and payments for Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority</b>	<b>126,599</b>	<b>67,795</b>	<b>58,804</b>

- <sup>1</sup> Appropriation Bills (No.1 and 3) 2017–18. This also includes unspent prior year departmental appropriation and relevant S74 agency receipts.
- <sup>2</sup> Includes an amount of \$0.763 million in 2017–18 for the Departmental Capital Budget. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as ‘contributions by owners’.
- <sup>3</sup> Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2017-18
- <sup>4</sup> Does not include ‘Special Public Money’ held in accounts like Other Trust Monies accounts, Services for other government and non-agency Bodies accounts, or Services for Other Entities and Trust Monies Special accounts.
- <sup>5</sup> Appropriation receipts from Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority annual and special appropriations for 2017–18 included above.

**TABLE 12: EXPENSES AND RESOURCES FOR OUTCOME 1**

<b>OUTCOME 1: (The long term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef for all Australians and the international community, through the care and development of the Marine Park)</b>	<b>BUDGET<sup>1</sup> 2017–18 \$'000 (A)</b>	<b>ACTUAL EXPENSES 2017 – 18 \$'000 (B)</b>	<b>VARIATION 2017 – 18 \$'000 (A) – (B)</b>
<b>Program 1.1: (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)</b>			
<b>Departmental expenses</b>			
Departmental appropriation <sup>2</sup>	36,101	29,317	6,784
Special appropriations	11,000	11,992	-992
Special accounts	23,271	25,736	-2,465
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year	1,354	1,196	158
<b>Total for Program 1.1</b>	<b>71,726</b>	<b>68,241</b>	<b>3,485</b>
<b>Total expenses for Outcome 1</b>	<b>71,726</b>	<b>68,241</b>	<b>3,485</b>

	<b>BUDGET 2017–18</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2017–18</b>
<b>Average staffing level (number)</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>202.58</b>

<sup>1</sup> Full year budget, including any subsequent adjustment made to the 2017-18 Budget.

<sup>2</sup> Departmental appropriation combines ‘Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No.1 and 3)’ and ‘Revenue from independent sources (s74)’.

## APPENDIX B: STAFFING OVERVIEW

The following tables provide an overview of full-time and part-time, ongoing and non-ongoing employees at all classification levels (Table 13 and Table 14), and workplace diversity figures (Table 15), as at 30 June 2018.

TABLE 13: ONGOING EMPLOYEES AT 30 JUNE 2018

CLASSIFICATION	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	
APS1	1	0	1	0	<b>2</b>
APS2	7	4	1	0	<b>12</b>
APS3	13.58	1	3	0	<b>17.58</b>
APS4	12	1	7	1	<b>21</b>
APS5	15	2	6	1	<b>24</b>
APS6	19	10	25	0	<b>54</b>
EL1	18	7	16	0	<b>41</b>
EL2	8	0	7	0	<b>15</b>
SES1	1	0	2	0	<b>3</b>
CEO	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.58</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>189.58</b>

TABLE 14: NON-ONGOING EMPLOYEES AT 30 JUNE 2018

CLASSIFICATION	FEMALE		MALE		TOTAL
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	
APS1	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
APS2	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
APS3	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
APS4	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
APS5	4	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
APS6	2	0	1	0	<b>3</b>
EL1	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
EL2	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
SES1	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
CEO	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

APS = Australian Public Service; CEO = Chief Executive Officer; EL = Executive Level; SES = Senior Executive Service

As at 30 June 2018, the total number of employees was 202.58. The total number of employees in 2016–17 was 207, while the total number in 2015–16 was 208.

The Authority's main office is in Townsville, where 175.58 employees were based as at 30 June 2018. In addition, there were 13 employees in the Cairns office, three in Mackay, three in Rockhampton, two in Brisbane and six in Canberra.

**TABLE 15: WORKPLACE DIVERSITY FIGURES AT 30 JUNE 2018**

CLASSIFICATION	TOTAL	WOMEN		ATSI		NESB		NESB1		NESB2		PWD	
		NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
APS1	<b>2</b>	1	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS2	<b>12</b>	11	92	0	0	1	8	1	8	1	8	0	0
APS3	<b>18.58</b>	15.58	84	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS4	<b>22</b>	14	64	1	5	2	9	3	14	2	9	0	0
APS5	<b>28</b>	21	75	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS6	<b>57</b>	31	54	5	9	1	2	2	4	1	2	1	2
EL1	<b>43</b>	27	63	2	5	2	5	5	12	3	7	3	7
EL2	<b>16</b>	9	56	1	6	1	6	2	13	1	6	0	0
SES1	<b>3</b>	1	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CEO	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>202.58</b>	<b>130.58</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

APS = Australian Public Service; ATSI = Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; CEO = Chief Executive Officer; EL = Executive Level; NESB = Non-English speaking background; NESB1 = Non-English speaking background, second generation (mother); NESB2 = Non-English speaking background, second generation (father); No. = number; PWD = People with a disability; SES = Senior Executive Service



Dent Island lighthouse, Whitsundays © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

### APPENDIX C: ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

During 2017–18, the Authority conducted the advertising campaigns summarised in Table 16. Further information on those advertising campaigns is available at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au) and in the reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the Department of Finance. Those reports are available on the Department of Finance's website.

#### RECREATIONAL FISHING PROJECT — ZONING EDUCATION

The Authority conducted three separate campaigns to target recreational fishers poaching from green (Marine National Park) zones. The first campaign carried over from 2016–17 and was in the Cairns region in July 2017, the next was in the Townsville region over Christmas, and the third campaign was in the Gladstone region over Easter.

Advertising was run across local radio stations and newspapers, *Fish and Boat Magazine*, weather website Seabreeze, social media and two billboards.

Additionally, a zoning awareness advertisement was placed in the 2017–18 edition of the *Queensland Recreational Boating and Fishing Guide*, produced by the Queensland Government.

#### LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT

With the three-year term of all 12 committees ending 30 June 2018, a series of advertisements was placed in regional newspapers along the Reef catchment to encourage prospective members to apply. Posts on social media were also boosted in areas requiring more nominations.

#### WHITSUNDAYS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Public notices to promote the finalisation of the Whitsundays Plan of Management amendments were placed in the *Courier Mail*, *Whitsunday Times*, *Bowen Independent* and *Mackay Daily Mercury*. These notices advised tourism and recreational users that the amended Whitsundays Plan of Management was now in place.

#### SPECIAL TOURISM PERMISSIONS

The Authority advertised expressions of interest for 11 special permissions available under the Whitsundays Plan of Management. The public notices appeared in the *Courier Mail*, *Ayr Advocate*, *Bowen Independent*, *Mackay Daily Mercury*, *Whitsunday Times* and the *Cairns Post*.

#### REEF HQ GREAT BARRIER REEF AQUARIUM MARKETING

A range of advertising was undertaken to promote the Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, the national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef. This included mainstream and social media promotions, email newsletters, and exposure in tourism guides / magazines.



The Reef is home to six of the world's seven marine turtle species © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA), photographer: M. Simmons

TABLE 16: MEDIA AND ADVERTISING ORGANISATIONS USED IN 2017–18

ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN	MEDIA ORGANISATION(S)	AMOUNT 2017 – 18	AMOUNT 2016 – 17
Zoning education	Dentsu Mitchell	\$45,220.25	\$9146
Local Marine Advisory Committee membership	Dentsu Mitchell	\$4800.53	\$0
Whitsundays Plan of Management	Dentsu Mitchell	\$8378.61	\$3632.21
Communications and Regional Engagement – general	Facebook	\$995.01	\$210.61
Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium marketing	Dentsu Mitchell	\$30,588	\$40,234
Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium marketing	Townsville Enterprise	\$2818	\$0
Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium marketing	Southern Cross Austereo	\$550	\$1001
Drive the Great Barrier Reef map and itinerary guide 2017	GSDM Marketing Design Digital	\$0	\$1995
Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Turtle Hospital marketing	Dentsu Mitchell	\$0	\$4659
Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Turtle Hospital marketing	Townsville and Magnetic Island Guide	\$960	\$0
Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Turtle Hospital marketing	Southern Cross Austereo – Blue Planet 2 Campaign	\$2,450	\$0
Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium marketing	Sensis	\$1,221	\$0
Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium marketing	Facebook	\$2,914	\$0
Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium marketing	Tripping Magazine	\$1,400	\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$102,295.40</b>	<b>\$60,877.82</b>

## APPENDIX D: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) provides the community with the right of access to documents held by Australian Government agencies.

This right of access is limited only by certain exceptions and exemptions, which are contained in the FOI Act. Under the FOI Act, an application must:

1. be made in writing
2. state that the request is an application for the purposes of the FOI Act
3. provide enough information about the document(s) for a responsible officer of the agency to identify it (them)
4. provide an address in Australia at which notices under the FOI Act may be sent to the applicant.

Freedom of information requests should be sent to:

The FOI Officer  
C/- Legal Services  
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
PO Box 1379  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810  
Australia

Alternatively, they can be lodged via email to [FOI@gbrmpa.gov.au](mailto:FOI@gbrmpa.gov.au).

Freedom of information requests can also be delivered to the agency's Townsville office at 280 Flinders Street, Townsville, Queensland.

Applicants may be charged for:

- time spent searching for and retrieving relevant documents
- decision-making time
- photocopying
- postage.

If the Authority decides an applicant is liable to pay a charge for processing a request, the applicant is notified of the preliminary assessment of the fee and has the opportunity to contend that the fee should not be imposed, or should be reduced.

If any difficulty arises in identifying a document or in providing access in the form requested, an officer of the Authority will contact the applicant with a view to resolving the difficulty. In consultation with the applicant, documents will be made available by mail to the address

specified by the applicant or at the official freedom of information access point.

The authorised decision-makers in respect of a request made under the FOI Act for the Authority are the Chairman, the general managers, the director legal services and the senior legal officers.

Documents released under the FOI Act are listed in the agency's disclosure log, located at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au/home/freedom-of-information-requests/foi](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/home/freedom-of-information-requests/foi). This does not include those documents excepted under section 11C of the FOI Act.

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OPERATIONS

During the 2017–18 financial year, the agency received 16 requests for access to documents under the FOI Act, of these:

- two applications were granted full access
- four applications were granted partial access
- five applications were withdrawn
- three applications were refused on the grounds that documents did not exist
- two applications were still underway as at 30 June 2018.

An application for review by the Information Commissioner lodged in the 2016–17 financial year remains in progress.

## APPENDIX E: ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

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

The following is a summary of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's 2017–18 activities in accordance with section 516A of the EPBC Act.

### 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 (section 516A(6)(a)):

- administering and enforcing the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Marine Park Act), which explicitly recognises these principles
- working with the Department of the Environment and Energy, other agencies and stakeholders to promote ecologically sustainable development focused on:
  - ensuring the long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef for all Australians and the international community through the control, care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
  - providing policy advice to the Environment Minister to ensure the Authority's environment policies are mutually supportive.

During 2017–18, the Authority played a lead role in delivering the *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050 Plan) together with the Australian and Queensland governments and other key partners. This plan provides the overarching strategy for managing the Great Barrier Reef.

Major progress was made toward developing the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program as one of the Authority's most significant actions under the Reef 2050 Plan. The program's purpose is to evaluate whether management actions are on track to meet the targets, objectives and outcomes set out in the Reef 2050 Plan.

The range of activities presented in the Performance chapter of this annual report include activities that integrate environmental, social, and economic considerations. In addition, the day-to-day business of the agency — ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef — is achieved by managing the Zoning Plan, which was introduced on 1 July 2004 in consultation with stakeholders, communities and agencies.

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

- making decisions under the Marine Park Act
- releasing publications on climate change and the Great Barrier Reef
- making information readily available on the agency's external website
- working with the Australian and Queensland governments to progress implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan for the Great Barrier Reef.

The following agency 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 through:
  - encouraging integrated coastal management and improve knowledge on the role that coastal ecosystems play in the health of the Great Barrier Reef

- continuing to address the remaining impacts of fishing and illegal fishing and poaching
- improving the quality and extent of information on the Great Barrier Reef's water quality
- continuing the implementation of the Marine Monitoring Program — a component of the Paddock to Reef program under the Reef Plan
- contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in marine ecosystems, including through continued implementation of the Representative Areas program
- protecting the world heritage values of Australia's Great Barrier Reef through:
  - regulation, including the consideration of proposed actions predominantly in, or adjacent to, the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area
  - communication, education and engagement, including the active promotion of the World Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef.
- working in partnership with stakeholder groups, directly or through programs, including:
  - the Reef Guardian programs, primarily focused on schools, local government (councils) and fishers
  - the Traditional Owners, by developing sustainable traditional use of marine resources practices
  - the advisory groups, which assist in the management of particular issues in Marine Park locations and operational programs.
- working in partnership with Great Barrier Reef businesses and industry to improve their acceptance and valuation of environmental and social costs and benefits. Activities in 2017–18 included:
  - maintaining the Eye on the Reef – Sightings Network, a reef monitoring and assessment program that enables anyone who visits the Great Barrier Reef to contribute to its long-term protection by collecting valuable information about reef health, marine animals and incidents
  - training tourism industry staff to monitor and record the health of the Reef at their high value tourism sites
  - targeted consultation on offsets that provide a net environmental benefit.

**HOW THE OUTCOMES SPECIFIED IN A RELEVANT APPROPRIATIONS ACT CONTRIBUTE TO ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SECTION 516A(6)(B))**

The outcome for the Authority is:

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

This outcome is explicit in providing for ecologically sustainable use of the Marine Park and is achieved through the delivery of three objectives:

- to protect and restore the Great Barrier Reef's ecosystem health, resilience and biodiversity
- to safeguard the Reef's heritage
- to ensure use of the Marine Park is ecologically sustainable and benefits current and future generations.

A comprehensive assessment of work undertaken under these three objectives during 2017–18 is provided in the Performance chapter of this annual report.

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

- maintaining an accreditation program focused on high standard tourism operations

## EFFECT OF THE ORGANISATION'S ACTIVITIES ON THE ENVIRONMENT (SECTION 516A(6)(C))

The Authority is responsible for managing one of the world's premier natural resources through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The agency manages the Marine Park as a multiple-use area, and permits such uses as are ecologically sustainable, and as are allowed by legislation.

In conjunction with its partners, the Authority maintained compliance and enforcement activities during 2017–18, with funding provided by both the Australian and Queensland governments for field management.

The Authority worked with the community, local councils, volunteer Local Marine Advisory Committees and Reef Guardian schools to undertake rubbish removal from sensitive sites, reduce dumping, and encourage positive environmental behaviour.

## 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.

Reef HQ Aquarium continues to deliver in the area of energy efficiency and minimising environmental impacts. Sustainability is a key component of value for money procurement decisions and includes reducing energy consumption through the use of energy efficient building materials, installation of more efficient lighting, pumps and other equipment.

Inspiring behavioural change to reduce waste and increase environmental awareness has been achieved in a number of ways, including:

- engaging staff and visitors in reducing peak energy demand through internal temperature control adjustment, keeping doors closed and switching off lights
- using recyclable and biodegradable containers in the café and retail areas, e.g. bamboo straws and serving bowls
- showcasing sustainable material choices as part of talks and tours.

The investment in renewable energy that began with the installation of a 153 kilowatt peak photovoltaic system in 2011–12, and an additional 44 kilowatts in early 2013–14,

was fully repaid in 2017. Reef HQ Aquarium's consumption has remained 50 per cent less than the 2005–06 baseline (when energy saving retrofit began), this year reaching a total ongoing reduction of 52 per cent. A small-scale pilot of wind generated energy was also implemented during 2017–18.

In the reporting period, the aquarium's solar power station produced 317 megawatt hours. During the year Reef HQ Aquarium reduced its overall consumption and continued to achieve a total offset of energy in excess of 21 per cent. This was a notable achievement considering the largest solar inverter was offline for a number of months.

Other measures in place in the last year include:

- using the building management system to redirect and manage energy consumption
- using waste handling systems to reduce the volume of recycling going to landfill
- using an automated office lighting system in the main Townsville building to reduce energy consumption
- maintaining the triple-tier Ecotourism Australia's ECO Certification of Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium for Advanced Ecotourism, Climate Action Business and Respecting our Culture — the aquarium is one of only 15 organisations nationwide to achieve this
- choosing environmentally sustainable materials for Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium exhibits
- taking Australian Greenhouse Office specifications on fuel consumption targets into account when making vehicle leasing decisions
- using hybrid energy vehicles for fleet use, and using only ethanol-inclusive fuels (E10) in those vehicles
- undertaking pest control using methods designed to minimise environmental impact
- using energy efficient multi-function devices (photocopiers, printers, scanners) and programming them for duplex printing to reduce paper usage
- sending photocopier toner cartridges, disused desktop phones and disused mobile phones for recycling

- collecting fluorescent tubes, batteries and cardboard waste for recycling
- actively encouraging staff to recycle office paper and cardboard, which is collected by a local recycling company
- recycling packaging and envelopes
- printing corporate publications on recycled paper, if feasible
- providing documents electronically where possible to reduce paper use
- using recycled toilet paper and hand towels in toilets, and using dual-flush toilets as a water conservation measure.

### MECHANISMS FOR REVIEWING AND INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE MEASURES (SECTION 516A(6)(E))

Close analysis of energy performance helps the Authority determine how it can most effectively adopt the minimum energy performance measures to meet its needs and the Australian Government's targets.

In considering lease arrangements for future office accommodation, the Authority has taken into account a range of efficiency options, including seeking to achieve a minimum of 4.5 star NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) rating.

A strategic activity for 2018–19 will be developing a contemporary environmental management system as part of the property portfolio. This will incorporate any Authority position statements, legal and best practice approaches to continue energy efficiencies.



*Schooling batfish, Lady Elliot Island © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA), photographer: M. Simmons*

## APPENDIX F: PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS BY AGENCY STAFF

### PUBLICATIONS

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## APPENDIX G: QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT FINANCIALS



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Director-General of Department of Environment and Science

**Report on the audit of the financial report****Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying special purpose financial report of the Great Barrier Reef Joint Field Management Program.

In my opinion, the financial report:

- a) gives a true and fair view of the entity's statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2018, and its financial performance for the year then ended
- b) complies with the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015* and the financial reporting framework described in Note A1-3.

The financial report comprises the statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2018, the statement of income and expenses for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including summaries of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the management certificate.

**Basis for opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with the *Auditor-General of Queensland Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report.

I am independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code and the *Auditor-General of Queensland Auditing Standards*.

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

**Emphasis of matter – basis of accounting**

I draw attention to Note A1-3 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting responsibilities of Department of Environment and Science under the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## Responsibilities of the entity for the financial report

The department is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015* and the financial reporting framework described in Note A1-3, and for such internal control as the department determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In fulfilling this responsibility, the department determined that the basis of preparation described in Note A1-3 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015*.

The department is also responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the entity.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the entity's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. I base my conclusions on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.



- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the department regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Welsh'.

24 September 2018

John Welsh  
as delegate of the Auditor-General

Queensland Audit Office  
Brisbane

Department of Environment and Science  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**  
**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT**

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**for the year ended 30 June 2018**

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Department of Environment and Science  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
 SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT  
 Statement of Income and Expenses  
 for the year ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	B1-1	663	363
Commonwealth grants		18,321	14,419
Other revenue	B1-2	190	414
<i>Total revenue</i>		19,174	15,196
Gain on sale/revaluation of assets		75	36
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>		19,249	15,232
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>			
Employee expenses	B2-1	8,566	8,182
Supplies and services	B2-2	5,207	4,807
Depreciation and amortisation		1,233	1,219
Other expenses	B2-3	25	56
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		15,031	14,264
<b>Net surplus (deficit)</b>		4,218	968

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial reports.*

Department of Environment and Science  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
 SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT  
 Statement of Assets and Liabilities  
 as at 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank		3,567	1,189
Receivables	C1	272	354
<b>Total current assets</b>		3,839	1,543
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	C2	14,149	10,784
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		14,149	10,784
<b>Total assets</b>		17,988	12,327
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables		60	85
Accrued employee benefits	C3	352	321
<b>Total liabilities</b>		412	406
<b>Net assets</b>		17,576	11,921

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial reports.*

Department of Environment and Science  
GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
Notes to and forming part of the Special Purpose Financial Report  
for the year ended 30 June 2018

SECTION 1  
ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND THIS FINANCIAL REPORT

## A1 BASIS OF FINANCIAL REPORT PREPARATION

### A1-1 GENERAL INFORMATION

This special purpose financial report covers the Joint Field Management Program for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area for the financial year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is an Australian Government Statutory Authority that manages the contributions for this program.

On release of the Public Service Departmental Arrangements Notice (No. 3) dated 12 December 2017, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority was transferred from the former Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing to the Department of Environment and Science.

The head office of business is:

Department of Environment and Science  
Level 32  
1 William St  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

The principal place of business:

Joint Field Management Program for  
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services  
280 Flinders Street  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

For information in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority financial report please call (07) 3330 5838, email [info@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@des.qld.gov.au) or visit the authority's website at <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au>.

### A1-2 PURPOSE AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Through the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015* the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments have agreed to co-operatively plan, fund and deliver an integrated, strategically planned, and co-ordinated program of field management of marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Department of Environment and Science  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
 Notes to and forming part of the Special Purpose Financial Report  
 for the year ended 30 June 2018

## A1 BASIS OF FINANCIAL REPORT PREPARATION (continued)

### A1-2 PURPOSE AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES (continued)

The Joint Field Management Program (the Program) will be directed at achieving the following outcomes:

- Protection and conservation of the natural and cultural resources, including Outstanding Universal Values;
- Protection of key vulnerable species, their habitats and ecosystems;
- Effective compliance with relevant Commonwealth and Queensland laws related to protection and management of the environmental and cultural values, including through education and understanding;
- Effective permitting systems and associated operational policies under relevant Commonwealth and Queensland laws related to protection and management of the environmental and cultural values;
- Ecologically sustainable public use;
- Understanding and enjoyment of Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area natural and cultural resources and values by the public;
- Effective engagement of Traditional Owners in management;
- Increasing the effectiveness of the program and the efficient use of resources through the use of technology, analysis of data and the monitoring of trends, including for scientific, biological, recreational and commercial matters; and
- Capacity to respond to environmental incidents, including through coordinated clean up and rehabilitation programs.

Pursuant to the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015*, the Commonwealth and Queensland governments agree to provide ongoing base funding (recurrent and capital) for this Joint Field Management Program shared on a 50:50 basis. The contributions by both parties will be administered by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

The Authority then provides a grant to the Department to deliver its components of the Joint Field Management Program. To the extent that the Department does not spend the grant in the financial year to which it is allocated, the monies are to be reallocated in the next financial year by the Joint Field Management Program Strategy Group.

### A1-3 COMPLIANCE WITH PRESCRIBED REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Environment and Science (the Department), a not-for-profit entity, has prepared this special purpose financial report in accordance with the Treasurer's determination whereby compliance with certain provisions of the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009* issued under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* was exempt. This report has been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with the relevant Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations including relevant disclosure requirements of the prescribed accounting standards. It is assessed that as there are limited intended users of this report, the format and content is appropriate to meet the information needs of the specific users.

Department of Environment and Science  
GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
Notes to and forming part of the Special Purpose Financial Report  
for the year ended 30 June 2018

## A1 BASIS OF FINANCIAL REPORT PREPARATION (continued)

### A1-3 COMPLIANCE WITH PRESCRIBED REQUIREMENTS (continued)

#### **Cash**

The cash balance represents the cash receipts not spent as at 30 June 2018. This amount forms part of the Program's cash balance.

#### **Receivables**

Trade debtors are recognised at the amounts due at the time of sale or service delivery. Settlement of these amounts is required within 14-30 days from invoice date. The collectability of receivables is assessed periodically with provision being made for impairment. All known bad debts were written-off as at 30 June.

#### **Payables**

Trade creditors are recognised upon receipt of the goods or services ordered and are measured at the nominal amount. Amounts owing are unsecured and are generally settled on 30-day terms.

### A1-4 PRESENTATION

#### **Currency and Rounding**

Amounts included in the financial report is in Australian dollars and rounded to the nearest \$1,000 or, where that amount is \$500 or less, to zero, unless disclosure of the full amount is specifically required.

#### **Comparatives**

Comparative information reflects the audited 2016-17 financial report.

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

### A1-5 AUTHORISATION OF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR ISSUE

The financial report is authorised for issue by the Acting Executive Director, Great Barrier Reef, Marine, Coastal and Islands and the Chief Finance Officer at the date of signing the Management Certificate.

### A1-6 THE REPORTING PROGRAM

The financial report includes the value of all revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities of the program, managed by the Department on behalf of the Queensland Government.

Department of Environment and Science  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
 Notes to and forming part of the Special Purpose Financial Report  
 for the year ended 30 June 2018

**SECTION 2**  
**NOTES ABOUT OUR FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

**B1 REVENUE**

**B1-1 USER CHARGES AND FEES**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Rent received	22	24
Operating lease rental income	641	339
	<u>663</u>	<u>363</u>

**B1-2 OTHER REVENUE**

	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
General recoveries	140	5
Insurance recoveries	42	399
Sundry revenue	8	10
	<u>190</u>	<u>414</u>

Department of Environment and Science  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
 Notes to and forming part of the Special Purpose Financial Report  
 for the year ended 30 June 2018

## B2 EXPENSES

### B2-1 EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b><i>Employee benefits</i></b>		
Salaries and wages	6,656	6,383
Employer superannuation contributions	840	810
Annual leave levy expense	710	673
Long service leave levy expense	142	141
<b><i>Employee related expenses</i></b>		
Workers compensation expense	139	82
Other employee expenses	79	93
	<u>8,566</u>	<u>8,182</u>

#### **Employee Benefits**

Employer superannuation contributions, annual leave levies and long service leave levies are regarded as employee benefits.

Workers' compensation insurance is a consequence of employing employees and is not counted in an employee's total remuneration package. Whilst this is not an employee benefit it is however recognised separately as an employee related expense. The Department pays a premium to WorkCover Queensland in respect of its obligations for employee compensation.

#### **Wages, Salaries and Sick Leave**

Wages and salaries due but unpaid at reporting date are recognised as liabilities at the current undiscounted salary rates expected to be wholly settled within the next 12 months. Prior history indicates that on average, sick leave taken each reporting period is less than the entitlement accrued which is expected to continue in future. Accordingly, no liability for unused sick leave entitlements is recognised. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised for this leave as it is taken.

Department of Environment and Science  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
 Notes to and forming part of the Special Purpose Financial Report  
 for the year ended 30 June 2018

## B2 EXPENSES (continued)

### B2-1 EMPLOYEE EXPENSES (continued)

#### Annual Leave and Long Service Leave

Under the Queensland Government's Annual Leave Central (ALCS) and Long Service Leave (LSL) Schemes, levies are made on the department to cover the cost of employees' annual leave (including leave loading and on-costs) and LSL. The levies are recognised as expense in the period in which they are payable. Amounts paid to employees for annual leave and LSL are claimed from the schemes quarterly in arrears. No provisions for annual leave and LSL are recognised in the department's financial statements as the liabilities are held on a whole-of-government basis and reported in those financial statements.

#### Superannuation

Employer superannuation contributions are paid to QSuper, the superannuation scheme for Queensland Government employees, at rates determined by the Treasurer on the advice of the State Actuary. Contributions are expensed in the period in which they are paid or payable. The department's obligation is limited to its contribution to QSuper.

### B2-2 SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Computer expenses	17	12
Corporate support expense	1,185	790
Electricity and gas	61	85
Materials	104	223
Minor plant and equipment	173	149
Motor vehicle expenses	1,006	734
Office accommodation	172	111
Payments to contractors	492	575
Repairs and maintenance	868	1,240
Telephones	132	114
Travel	803	697
Other supplies and services	194	77
	5,207	4,807

Department of Environment and Science  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
 Notes to and forming part of the Special Purpose Financial Report  
 for the year ended 30 June 2018

B2 EXPENSES (continued)

B2-3 OTHER EXPENSES

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Bank and statutory fees	2	1
Special payments:		
Ex-gratia payments	-	1
Sundry expenses	23	54
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<u>25</u>	<u>56</u>

Department of Environment and Science  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
 Notes to and forming part of the Special Purpose Financial Report  
 for the year ended 30 June 2018

**SECTION 3**  
**NOTES ABOUT OUR FINANCIAL POSITION**

**C1 RECEIVABLES**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Trade debtors	31	54
GST receivable	46	82
Annual leave claims receivable	156	121
Long service leave claims receivable	39	9
Sundry receivable	-	88
	<u>272</u>	<u>354</u>

**C2 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Buildings: at fair value		
Gross	4,406	3,813
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,207)</u>	<u>(1,970)</u>
	2,199	1,843
Heritage and Cultural Assets: at fair value		
Gross	16	17
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(3)</u>	<u>(3)</u>
	13	14
Plant and equipment: at cost		
Gross	13,479	13,027
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(5,546)</u>	<u>(5,067)</u>
	7,933	7,960
Infrastructure: at fair value		
Gross	2,032	674
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(436)</u>	<u>(386)</u>
	1,596	288
Capital works in progress: at cost	2,408	679
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>14,149</u></u>	<u><u>10,784</u></u>

Department of Environment and Science  
**GREAT BARRIER REEF JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**  
 Notes to and forming part of the Special Purpose Financial Report  
 for the year ended 30 June 2018

## C2 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

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

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

Items with lesser value are expensed in the year of acquisition. Property, plant and equipment acquisitions were \$3.247m (FY 2017: \$1.229m).

Building and infrastructure assets are comprehensively valued using a rolling revaluation program. The valuation is at fair value and is undertaken independently by the State Valuation Service, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

Plant and equipment is valued at cost in accordance with Queensland Treasury's non-current asset policies for the Queensland Public Sector.

The non-current physical assets (excluding motor vehicles) are insured through the Queensland Government Insurance Fund. Motor vehicles are insured through commercial insurers.

## C3 ACCRUED EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Annual leave levy payable	185	156
Salary and wages payable	129	126
Long service leave levy payable	38	39
	<u>352</u>	<u>321</u>

## Department of Environment and Science

### In relation to the Joint Field Management Program for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

#### Management Certificate

for the year ended 30 June 2018

These special purpose financial reports have been prepared pursuant to:

- the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015* between the Commonwealth and the Queensland Government;
- the *Memorandum of Understanding for Provision of Field Management Services for The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Queensland Marine and National Parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (2017-18)* (dated 12 February 2018);
- the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; and
- the decisions of the Field Management Strategy Group outlined in the *Field Management Annual Business Plan 2017-18* (dated 8 January 2018).

In accordance with these agreements, we certify that in our opinion:

- a) the prescribed requirements for establishing and keeping the accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
- b) the reports have been drawn up to present a true and fair view, in accordance with prescribed accounting standards, of the transactions of the Department of Environment and Science in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Joint Field Management Program for the year ended 30 June 2018 and of the financial position of the program at the end of period; and
- c) financial assistance received has been expended in accordance with the purposes for which it was given in the financial year.



**Lynda Delaforce**  
Chief Finance Officer  
Department of Environment and Science

Date: 21.9.18



**Damien Head**  
Acting Executive Director  
Great Barrier Reef, Marine, Coastal and Islands  
Department of Environment and Science

Date: 21.9.18

**APPENDIX H: AMENDMENTS TO PREVIOUS ANNUAL REPORT**

The following erratum was identified in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Annual Report 2016–17*.

Page 134 – Appendix B: Staffing overview

The gender columns in table 17 ongoing and non-ongoing employee information (full-time and part-time employment figures) were mislabelled.

The ‘Male’ column contained the figures reflecting the statistics of female employees and the ‘Female’ column contained the figures reflecting the statistics of male employees.

The column total of female full-time ongoing employees was reported as 96. The actual total is 94.

**The correct information is as follows:**

**A. ONGOING EMPLOYEES**

CLASSIFICATION	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	
APS1	1	0	1	0	<b>2</b>
APS2	2	0	9	4	<b>15</b>
APS3	3	0	11	1	<b>17</b>
APS4	8	1	15	2	<b>26</b>
APS5	7	1	13	2	<b>23</b>
APS6	25	1	21	8	<b>55</b>
EL1	16	0	16	7	<b>39</b>
EL2	6	0	7	0	<b>13</b>
SES1	2	0	1	0	<b>3</b>
CEO	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>193</b>

**B. NON-ONGOING EMPLOYEES**

CLASSIFICATION	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	
APS1	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
APS2	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
APS3	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
APS4	2	0	2	0	<b>4</b>
APS5	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
APS6	1	0	3	1	<b>5</b>
EL1	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
EL2	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
SES1	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
CEO	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>

APS = Australian Public Service; CEO = Chief Executive Officer; EL = Executive Level; SES = Senior Executive Service

# ACRONYMS AND INDEX



### ACRONYMS

AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
AIN	Aircraft identification number
APS	Australian Public Service
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
ATSIMS	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in marine science
BIN	Bareboat identification number
C.A.R.E.	Conserve. Act. Rehabilitate. Educate.
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EIS	Environmental impact statement
EL	Executive level
EMC	Environmental management charge
EMP	Environmental management plan
ENA	Equipment notification approval
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
ESS	Environmental site supervision
FLEC	Future leaders eco challenge
FMCU	Field Management Compliance Unit
FNA	Facility notification approval
FNQ	Far north Queensland
FOI	Freedom on information
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GST	Goods and services tax
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IMPAC	International Marine Protected Areas Congress
MNA	Mooring notification approval
MPA	Marine Park Authority
NESB	Non-English speaking background
PER	Public environment report
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>
PIP	Public information package
PWD	People with a disability
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
RIMReP	Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program
SES	Senior Executive Service
SME	Small and medium enterprises
SOW	Schedule of works
STA	Science and Technology Australia
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TUMRA	Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement
VIN	Vessel identification number
VNA	Vessel notification approval

## GLOSSARY

### Appropriation

Public funds appropriated for a specific purpose.

### Biodiversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part.

### Ecosystem resilience

The capacity of an ecosystem to recover from disturbance or withstand ongoing pressures.

### Environmental management charge

A charge associated with some commercial activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, including tourism operations, non-tourist charter operations, and facilities. The activities are undertaken with permission granted by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

### Matters of national environmental significance

Defined under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as listed threatened species and ecological communities, migratory species protected under international agreements, Ramsar wetlands of international importance, the Commonwealth marine environment, world heritage properties, National Heritage places, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and nuclear actions. Any action that will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance requires approval from the Australian Environment Minister.

### Outstanding universal value

Under the World Heritage Convention a property is considered to have outstanding universal value if it is of 'cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all 'humanity'.

### Photovoltaic

A potential sources of electric current under the influence of light or similar radiation.

### Plan of management

A plan prepared for intensively used, or particularly vulnerable, groups of island and reefs and for the protection of vulnerable species or ecological communities.

### Portfolio budget statement

A statement to inform Senators, Members of Parliament and the public of the proposed allocation of resources to government outcomes by agencies within the portfolio.

### Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement

A formal agreement that describes how a Traditional Owner group works in partnership with the Australian and Queensland governments to manage traditional use activities on their sea country.

LIST OF REQUIREMENTS

PART OF REPORT (PGPA RULE REFERENCE)	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE/S
Letter of transmittal [17AD(g)]	A copy of the letter of transmittal signed and dated by accountable authority on date final text approved, with statement that the report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the Act and any enabling legislation that specifies additional requirements in relation to the annual report. 17AI	Mandatory	iii
Aids to access [17AD(h)]	Table of contents. 17AJ(a)	Mandatory	v
	Alphabetical index. 17AJ(b)	Mandatory	153-164
	Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms. 17AJ(c)	Mandatory	144-145
	List of requirements. 17AJ(d)	Mandatory	146-152
	Details of contact officer. 17AJ(e)	Mandatory	ii
	Entity’s website address. 17AJ(f)	Mandatory	ii
	Electronic address of report. 17AJ(g)	Mandatory	ii
Review by accountable authority [17AD(a)]	A review by the accountable authority of the entity.	Mandatory	3-8
Overview of the entity [17AD(b)]	A description of the role and functions of the entity. 17AE(1)(a)(i)	Mandatory	10
	A description of the organisational structure of the entity. 17AE(1)(a)(ii)	Mandatory	12
	A description of the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity. 17AE(1)(a)(iii)	Mandatory	21, 29, 44, 59
	A description of the purposes of the entity as included in corporate plan. 17AE(1)(a)(iv)	Mandatory	10
	An outline of the structure of the portfolio of the entity. 17AE(1)(b)	Portfolio departments – mandatory	1-2, 19
	Where the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity differ from any Portfolio Budget Statement, Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement or other portfolio estimates statement that was prepared for the entity for the period, include details of variation and reasons for change. 17AE(2)	If applicable, Mandatory	NA

## REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ENTITY 17AD(C)

PART OF REPORT (PGPA RULE REFERENCE)	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE/S
Annual performance statements 17AD(c)(i); 16F	Annual performance statement in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the Rule.	Mandatory	19-64
Report on Financial Performance 17AD(c)(ii)	A discussion and analysis of the entity's financial performance. 17AF(1)(a)	Mandatory	13-14 79-110
	A table summarising the total resources and total payments of the entity. 17AF(1)(b)	Mandatory	112-113
	If there may be significant changes in the financial results during or after the previous or current reporting period, information on those changes, including: the cause of any operating loss of the entity; how the entity has responded to the loss and the actions that have been taken in relation to the loss; and any matter or circumstances that it can reasonably be anticipated will have a significant impact on the entity's future operation or financial results. 17AF(2)	If applicable, Mandatory.	8, 13-14



Close-up image of a humphead maori wrasse © Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)

MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY 17AD(D)

PART OF REPORT (PGPA RULE REFERENCE)	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE/S
Corporate Governance	Information on compliance with section 10 (fraud systems). 17AG(2)(a)	Mandatory	72
	A certification by accountable authority that fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans have been prepared. 17AG(2)(b)(i)	Mandatory	72
	A certification by accountable authority that appropriate mechanisms for preventing, detecting incidents of, investigating or otherwise dealing with, and recording or reporting fraud that meet the specific needs of the entity are in place. 17AG(2)(b)(ii)	Mandatory	72
	A certification by accountable authority that all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud relating to the entity. 17AG(2)(b)(iii)	Mandatory	72
	An outline of structures and processes in place for the entity to implement principles and objectives of corporate governance. 17AG(2)(c)	Mandatory	72
	A statement of significant issues reported to Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non-compliance with Finance law and action taken to remedy non-compliance. 17AG(2)(d) – (e)	If applicable, Mandatory	N/A
External Scrutiny	Information on the most significant developments in external scrutiny and the entity's response to the scrutiny. 17AG(3)	Mandatory	74
	Information on judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Australian Information Commissioner that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity. 17AG(3)(a)	If applicable, Mandatory	74
	Information on any reports on operations of the entity by the Auditor-General (other than report under section 43 of the Act), a Parliamentary Committee, or the Commonwealth Ombudsman. 17AG(3)(b)	If applicable, Mandatory	74-75
	Information on any capability reviews on the entity that were released during the period. 17AG(3)(c)	If applicable, Mandatory	N/A

PART OF REPORT (PGPA RULE REFERENCE)	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE/S
Management of Human Resources	An assessment of the entity's effectiveness in managing and developing employees to achieve entity objectives. 17AG(4)(a)	Mandatory	75-77
	Statistics on the entity's APS employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis; including the following [17AG(4)(b)]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics on staffing classification level;</li> <li>• Statistics on full-time employees;</li> <li>• Statistics on part-time employees;</li> <li>• Statistics on gender;</li> <li>• Statistics on staff location;</li> <li>• Statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous.</li> </ul>	Mandatory	114-115
	Information on any enterprise agreements, individual flexibility arrangements, Australian workplace agreements, common law contracts and determinations under subsection 24(1) of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> . 17AG(4)(c)	Mandatory	77
	Information on the number of SES and non-SES employees covered by agreements etc identified in paragraph 17AG(4)(c). 17AG(4)(c)(i)	Mandatory	114-115
	The salary ranges available for APS employees by classification level. 17AG(4)(c)(ii)	Mandatory	77
	A description of non-salary benefits provided to employees. 17AG(4)(c)(iii)	Mandatory	77
	Information on the number of employees at each classification level who received performance pay. 17AG(4)(d)(i)	If applicable, Mandatory	N/A
	Information on aggregate amounts of performance pay at each classification level. 17AG(4)(d)(ii)	If applicable, Mandatory	N/A
	Information on the average amount of performance payment, and range of such payments, at each classification level. 17AG(4)(d)(iii)	If applicable, Mandatory	N/A
	Information on aggregate amount of performance payments. 17AG(4)(d)(iv)	If applicable, Mandatory	N/A

PART OF REPORT (PGPA RULE REFERENCE)	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE/S
Assets Management	An assessment of effectiveness of assets management where asset management is a significant part of the entity's activities. 17AG(5)	If applicable, Mandatory	77
Purchasing	An assessment of entity performance against the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. 17AG(6)	Mandatory	78
Consultants	A summary statement detailing the number of new contracts engaging consultants entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on all new consultancy contracts entered into during the period (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting year on the ongoing consultancy contracts (inclusive of GST). 17AG(7)(a)	Mandatory	78
	A statement that "During [reporting period], [specified number] new consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]. In addition, [specified number] ongoing consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]". 17AG(7)(b)	Mandatory	78
	A summary of the policies and procedures for selecting and engaging consultants and the main categories of purposes for which consultants were selected and engaged. 17AG(7)(c)	Mandatory	78
	A statement that "Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on contracts for consultancies. Information on the value of contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website." 17AG(7)(d)	Mandatory	78

PART OF REPORT (PGPA RULE REFERENCE)	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE/S
Australian National Audit Office Access Clauses	If an entity entered into a contract with a value of more than \$100 000 (inclusive of GST) and the contract did not provide the Auditor-General with access to the contractor's premises, the report must include the name of the contractor, purpose and value of the contract, and the reason why a clause allowing access was not included in the contract. 17AG(8)	If applicable, Mandatory	78
Exempt contracts	If an entity entered into a contract or there is a standing offer with a value greater than \$10 000 (inclusive of GST) which has been exempted from being published in AusTender because it would disclose exempt matters under the FOI Act, the annual report must include a statement that the contract or standing offer has been exempted, and the value of the contract or standing offer, to the extent that doing so does not disclose the exempt matters. 17AG(9)	If applicable, Mandatory	78
Small business	A statement that “[Name of entity] supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance’s website.” 17AG(10)(a)	Mandatory	78
	An outline of the ways in which the procurement practices of the entity support small and medium enterprises. 17AG(10)(b)	Mandatory	78
	If the entity is considered by the Department administered by the Finance Minister as material in nature—a statement that “[Name of entity] recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on the Treasury’s website.” 17AG(10)(c)	If applicable, Mandatory	78

PART OF REPORT (PGPA RULE REFERENCE)	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE/S
Financial Statements	Inclusion of the annual financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the Act. 17AD(e)	Mandatory	79-110
<b>Other Mandatory Information 17AD(f)</b>	If the entity conducted advertising campaigns, a statement that <i>“During [reporting period], the [name of entity] conducted the following advertising campaigns: [name of advertising campaigns undertaken]. Further information on those advertising campaigns is available at [address of entity’s website] and in the reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the Department of Finance. Those reports are available on the Department of Finance’s website.”</i> 17AH(1)(a)(i)	If applicable, Mandatory	116-117
	If the entity did not conduct advertising campaigns, a statement to that effect. 17AH(1)(a)(ii)	If applicable, Mandatory	N/A
	A statement that <i>“Information on grants awarded to [name of entity] during [reporting period] is available at [address of entity’s website].”</i> 17AH(1)(b)	If applicable, Mandatory	78
	Outline of mechanisms of disability reporting, including reference to website for further information. 17AH(1)(c)	Mandatory	77
	Website reference to where the entity’s Information Publication Scheme statement pursuant to Part II of FOI Act can be found. 17AH(1)(d)	Mandatory	118
	Correction of material errors in previous annual report .17AH(1)(e)	If applicable, Mandatory	142
	Information required by other legislation. 17AH(2)	Mandatory	119-122

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