



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

Area statement for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park - August 2004

(Document current as of February 2023)

These are the GBRMPA official area statements for the Marine Park.

Notes for Use:

This area statement is the most accurate that we can present to date, however there are a number of factors (below) that must be considered when quoting figures from it.

- All areas have been estimated from the most recent data sets held in the GBRMPA geospatial data library (GDL).
- Where we have specific advice confirming their status, internal waters (e.g. Hinchinbrook Channel) are not part of the Marine Park and have been excluded from calculations.
- The Mean Low Water Mark is not accurately mapped in the region, and all areas are calculated from the coastline as defined in the GBRMPA GDL.
- All calculations were performed on the GDA94 datum, GRS80 spheroid in an Albers Equal Area projection.
- Estimated areas are believed to be accurate to 1% of the zone area (for example if the zoned area is 90,000 km², this is accurate to ±900km²,
OR
to within 1 km², whichever is the greater.
- The commonwealth islands zone is less accurately estimated than other zones. This is due to uncertainty regarding the location and boundaries of Commonwealth islands.
- The estimated total area of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is 344,400 km². This is less than previous estimates, by about 0.3%, due to improved knowledge of State Islands, and more accurate mapping of the boundaries of the Marine Park. This estimate may change in future. The true boundaries of the Marine Park are not changed by the Zoning Plan.
- Any queries regarding these figures or the context for their use should be directed to the GIS Manager (gis@gbbrmpa.gov.au).

Total Area of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area: **348 000 km²**

Total Area of the Great Barrier Reef Region⁴: **Approx. 346 000 km²**

Total Area of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: **344 400 km²**

Total Number of reefs within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: **Approx. 2900**

Total Areas of individual Management Areas within the GBRMP.

Management Area	Area (km ²)	Area (hectares)	% of GBRMP
Far Northern	85700	8570000	25
Cairns/Cooktown	37000	3700000	11
Townsville/Whitsunday	76930	7693000	22
Mackay/Capricorn	144770	14477000	42
Total	344400	34440000	100

Total Area of zone types within the GBRMP.

Zone Type	Equivalent IUCN Category ¹	Area (km ²)	Area (hectares)	% of GBRMP
Preservation	IA	710	71000	<1
Marine National Park	II	114530	11453000	33
Scientific Research	IA	155	15500	<1
Buffer	IV	9880	988000	3
Conservation Park	IV	5160	516000	1
Habitat Protection	VI	97250	9725000	28
General Use	VI	116530	11653000	34
Commonwealth Islands ²	II	185	18500	<1
Total		344400	34440000	100

¹ The zones in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park do not equate directly with the various IUCN Protected Area Categories. The most compatible IUCN category is shown against each zone type.

² The Great Barrier Reef Region does not include State islands, Queensland internal waters or Seas and Submerged Lands Act exclusions. These features are not sufficiently well mapped to give a definitive value for the Region

Total Area of IUCN categories within the GBRMP

IUCN Category	Area (km ²)	Area (hectares)	% of GBRMP
IA	865	86500	< 1
II Excluding Commonwealth Islands	114530	11453000	33
II Commonwealth Islands	185	18500	< 1
IV	15040	1504000	4
VI	213780	21378000	62
Total	344400	34440000	100