

# CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY AND WORLD HERITAGE REEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

25 February 2000 – Townsville

## SUMMARY DOCUMENT

A summary document is prepared after each meeting of the Reef Advisory Committee to inform other advisory committees serving the Authority, and persons generally (including the public) of business of the RAC. The documents forms part of the records of the meeting and so its content is limited to matters raised in the meeting, and, where necessary, background details given to the meeting. Any inquiries should be referred to the Authority's Secretariat, or to the appropriate member.

### GROUND RULES

A set of 'ground rules' for meetings was agreed by the Committee covering issues including respect, confidentiality, agenda, teleconferencing, minutes, media statements, vested or pecuniary interests and conflict. The ground rules were distributed to each member as part of the minutes of the meeting.

### LINKAGES

The Committee discussed the need for a close working relationship with the Authority as well as with other advisory bodies, including the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee and the other Reef Advisory Committees (RACs), to ensure overlap is minimised and co-ordination is maximised. This will be undertaken primarily by the RAC Chair and the Director Conservation, Biodiversity and World Heritage (CB&WH) Critical Issue Group. Feedback will also be provided from the

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) on how advice provided by the CB&WH RAC will be utilised by the GBRMPA.

### CB&WH CRITICAL ISSUE GROUP STRATEGIC WORK PROGRAM

Members noted the current 1999/2000 program for the CB&WH Group and commented on the level of resourcing allocated to the program. The Committee was concerned about the achievability of the program; however it is seeking more information before providing further advice.

### THREATENED SPECIES CONSERVATION

Members discussed the implications of the Yanner Decision on native title rights to traditional hunting and the potential effect on the Hopevale project.

The Committee also considered the need to be selective about the species of conservation interest on which the Authority is concentrating its limited resources. The Committee has offered to provide advice on the criteria that could be used to determine priorities for species conservation. CB&WH staff will develop a list of species which may require conservation action for discussion and advice at the next meeting.

### **REPRESENTATIVE AREAS PROGRAM (RAP)**

The Committee discussed the need for a clear set of objectives and principles for determining representative areas, and methodologies used – including decision rules for determining candidate areas. Other issues which arose in the discussion about the representative areas program were:

- The use of targets for ensuring adequate representativeness;
- Fuzzy boundary issues;
- Consideration of adjacent land use;
- Consideration of traditional and cultural values;
- Communication strategies;
- The relationship between the recently reviewed Far Northern Section Zoning Plan and the Representative Areas Program; and
- The relationship between the proposed coastal inclusions in the Marine Park and the Representative Areas Program.

Also discussed was the need for adequate time for stakeholder groups to respond to proposals about representative areas and any consequential rezoning, because of the reef-wide nature of the process.

### **DRAFT QUEENSLAND EAST COAST TRAWL FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (QECTMP)**

Following a presentation by the Director Fisheries Critical Issue Group, regarding RAP and trawl negotiations, the Committee discussed the need for a transparent strategy to ensure that the objectives and strategies for both QECTMP and RAP are clearly identified and if necessary, linked. This linkage would ensure that closures under QECTMP do not preclude appropriate biodiversity protection under RAP.

### **CANDIDATE AREAS AND RAP**

Given the current proposal to have a first draft of preliminary Candidate Areas by late-June (and commence the first Statutory phase; i.e., the ‘Notice of Intent to prepare a Zoning Plan’), it was agreed the CB&WH RAC should meet in April 2000 to provide advice on principles and objectives for deciding candidate areas.

The Committee recommended that a workshop on draft candidate areas be held in early June with additional groups. Representatives of the Fisheries RAC, Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee, the Analytical Working Group, the Social-Economic-Cultural Steering Committee, and Local Marine Advisory Committees were suggested.