

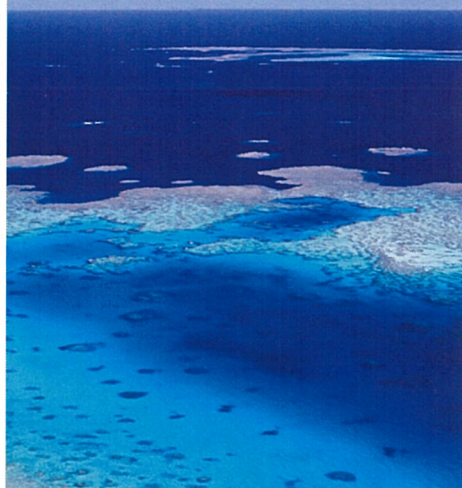


The Representative Areas Program

Protecting the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef

Key phases

To increase the protection of biodiversity in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, a systematic planning and consultative program was undertaken by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority from 1999 to 2003. This process, known as the Representative Areas Program, aimed to ensure protection of the different habitat types found within the Marine Park by increasing the extent of no-take areas through zoning.



Key achievements

- A new zoning network providing a framework for conservation and sustainable use for the entire Marine Park.
- Protected over 33 per cent (>115 000km²) of the Marine Park within the world's largest network of highly protected 'no-take' areas, representing all 70 bioregions.
- One of the most comprehensive processes of community involvement and participatory planning for any environmental issue in Australia's history, including over 31 500 public submissions.
- Wide recognition of the planning process and outcome as best practice, leading to various regional, national and international awards.



For more information on the Representative Areas Program visit:

www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/representative_areas_program