



GREAT BARRIER REEF

MARINE PARK AUTHORITY



**Annual Report
1996–1997**

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1996–1997

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17 October 1997

Senator the Hon. Robert Hill
Minister for the Environment
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

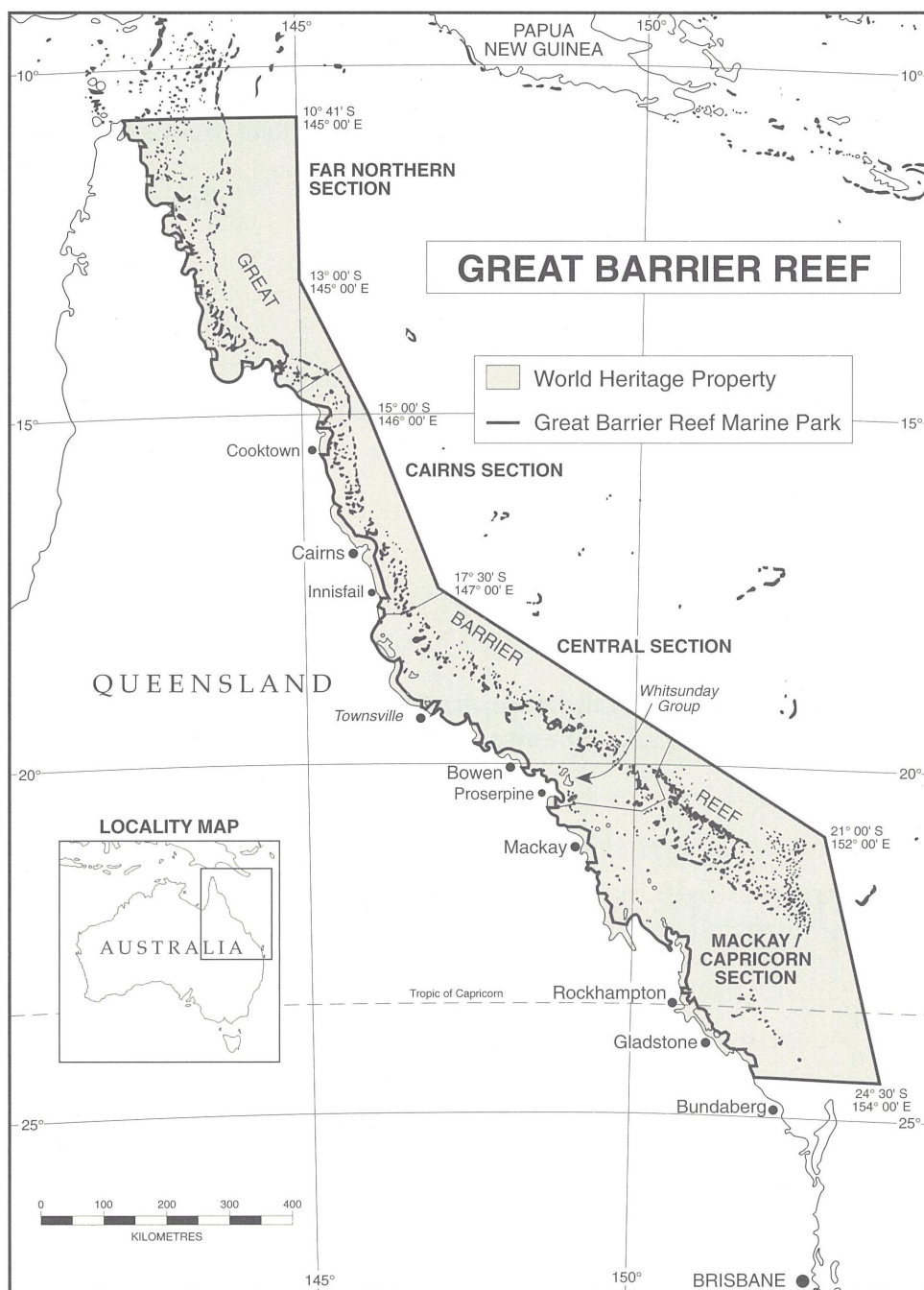
Dear Minister

In accordance with section 63 of the *Audit Act 1901*, I submit the Annual Report of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 1997.

Yours sincerely



Ian McPhail
Chairperson



BRA Q188 1994

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Property extends from the tip of Cape York to just north of Fraser Island, and from the low water mark on the Queensland coast to beyond the edge of the continental shelf. The World Heritage Property is 348 700 square kilometres in area and includes the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (93% of the World Heritage Property), Queensland waters not in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (2%), and islands (5%). It is important to note that not all the World Heritage Property is in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In some places the coastal boundary of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is several kilometres from the World Heritage boundary.

As specified in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, the Authority is responsible for the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Authority also acts on behalf of Environment Australia as the lead agency for Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Property issues.

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Report from the Chairperson

The year 1996–97 has been in every way a challenging year for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Extremely active, occasionally turbulent, never dull.

In the Authority's last Annual Report I outlined the adoption of an issues-based approach as a focus for policy development and operational management. These Key Issues are Conservation, Tourism and recreation, World Heritage status, Shipping and marine pollution, Coastal development and ports, Fishing, Water Quality, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relationships. For each key issue strategic directions were established and a performance analysis is made. In future reports performance analysis and risk management assessment will be more specifically defined. A management framework is being developed that will provide for a team approach to issues which will be overlaid in a matrix on the conventional process and functional structure of the organisation. For instance the planning and environmental management function is involved in a number of key issues, as both a service and a tool for the provision of outcomes. Generally speaking, this issues-based approach has been accepted by stakeholders as reflecting the contemporary tasks that face the Authority, while it is acknowledged that these issues and their emphasis will alter according to the demands of the day.

Very significant advances have been made in the management of commercial tourism use. Coming into this financial year the Authority had already initiated a radical reform of the permit system which had evolved in a time of low levels of use and small numbers of applicants, but which had become too cumbersome and slow for modern use levels. Applicants frequently had their private horror stories of problems with permit issues, and, although often applicants were not free of error themselves, it was the sheer complexity of the system that was at the seat of the problem. The Authority had established a permit reform process, while at the same time drawing on the experience of the industry through the establishment of a Tourism Advisory Group. Meanwhile the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council had initiated a review of tourism use management within the Marine Park and Mr Garry Sturgess, a former head of the NSW Premier's Department, was appointed independent chairman of a steering committee which involved both government and industry expertise to conduct this review. The Sturgess Report expressed confidence in the directions the Authority had already set in permit reform, and also with its shift in emphasis from management planning through conditions on permits to licences based on comprehensive and generic planning documents. The Cairns Area and Whitsundays Plans of Management under preparation at this time were seen to be key elements in this shift. The Sturgess Report went to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council meeting of 14 June 1997 and the Council endorsed its recommendations. As part of the Brown Review to be mentioned later, Mr Ken Baxter of KPMG, and also a former head of the Premier's Departments of Victoria and South Australia, provided additional advice on the process of reform that has given added impetus.

A second major activity this year followed strong scientific evidence pointing to a significant decline in the dugong population in the southern Great Barrier Reef. This led to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council deciding to establish a network of dugong sanctuaries, and other areas where modifications to

netting practice will be introduced to reduce risk to animals. In turn, the Council recognised that there should be no displacement of fishing effort, and that there were economic impacts, and therefore agreed on a set of principles for industry adjustment. I believe the outcome, negotiated with our Queensland government partners and the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation will be seen as a major stride in international marine mammal management. Certainly, Commonwealth and State ministers, led by Senator Robert Hill, took a very major decision in the interests of the long-term welfare of this species in the face of some hostile criticism and vigorous public debate.

During this year the Minister established an independent review of the Authority by Mr Ron Brown, of Ron Brown and Associates. The report of this review was made available to the Minister on the 14th March 1997 and has since been released to the public. Mr Brown in his critical review of the Authority, concluded that 'Despite the legal, jurisdictional, and multi-interest complexity in which the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority operates, it is generally able to discharge its responsibilities in a timely and effective manner.' He pointed to key areas associated with the permitting process and the Day-to-Day Management of the Marine Park that is conducted under a partnership arrangement with the Queensland Government as requiring particular attention. The changes to the permitting process are already under way, and in the next year I will report on the constructive and positive changes being introduced into Day-to-Day Management in partnership with the Queensland Department of Environment. Mr Brown recommended a reduction in outlays, particularly through changes at the executive level and the shedding or outsourcing of non-core activities.

Mr Brown investigated particular criticisms of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, argued by some to require too great a subvention from government. The Aquarium was found to be by far the most efficient performer of government funded institutions of its sort, but Mr Brown has recommended that a more

business-based advisory board be appointed. This is under discussion at this time.

The Australian National Audit Office also notified the Authority that it intended to conduct a compliance review of the Authority's activities. This review is now nearly completed and will form the basis of other adjustments to the management and accountability reporting of the Authority.

Under the Key Issue of World Heritage status the Authority contracted with Mr Bing Lucas and a group from James Cook University of North Queensland including Professor Helene Marsh to undertake a thorough review of the world heritage attributes of the Great Barrier Reef. The nomination document submitted in 1981 to UNESCO was a first for Australia, but is abbreviated by contemporary requirements. Given the intense interest in the values of the Great Barrier Reef, the Lucas Report, 'The Outstanding Universal Values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area', is a document of great importance and will be basic to informing the policy development processes of the Authority. It is also expected to make a significant contribution to the international debate on world heritage, and is a major addition to the literature.

All in all the Authority and its activities have been put under the microscope and thoroughly reviewed and, when added to a number of previous reviews of the organisation this constitutes a very fine mesh of external assessment. The outcome is that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is seen by the reviewers to be focused, fundamentally efficient and committed to its task of protecting the Great Barrier Reef. On the other hand, the Authority like all organisations must learn and grow, and each of the reviews has suggested constructive and positive changes. The Authority is actively introducing these.

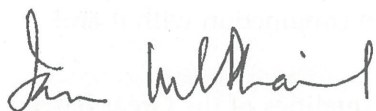
I would like to place on record my appreciation of

the very major contribution made by Ms Prue Keen and Ms Dianne Brien, Senior Directors who have left the Authority. Their services and commitment are gratefully acknowledged by us all. We also welcome Mr Richard Kenchington, a long time member of the staff of the Authority, and Mr John Tanzer, presently Chair of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority who have been appointed as Executive Directors.

The members of the Marine Park Authority, Professor Rhondda Jones, Mrs Evelyn Scott, and Mr Tom Tolhurst have all participated fully in the many major decisions that have been made this year. I am grateful to them for their diligence and constructive contribution. We welcome Mrs Scott as the first person appointed to represent the interests of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders.

In this challenging year, the Authority has re-affirmed its unique partnership with the Queensland government, and is grateful for the work of a host of volunteers, in the Aquarium and in our Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees. Also our close relationship with stakeholders, particularly the tourist and fishing industries have allowed constructive and positive work to be maintained while other debates have continued.

For the staff of the Authority the year has been one which has required them to face a level of external scrutiny that has been unusually intense. I am grateful to all of my colleagues who have demonstrated a complete commitment to the Great Barrier Reef, and who work so dedicatedly to achieve the goal of the protection and wise use of this extraordinary natural resource.



Ian McPhail
Chairperson

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is the principal adviser to the Commonwealth Government on the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Authority was established under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 as a commonwealth statutory authority.

During 1996–97, the Minister for the Environment, Senator the Hon. Robert Hill held portfolio responsibilities for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Specific functions of the Authority are defined in sections 7 and 7A of the Act. These include that the Authority perform its functions '... in accordance with any general directions given by the Minister not inconsistent with this Act'. No such directions were given to the Authority during the year.

GOAL AND AIMS

The Authority's goal is to provide for the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Authority's goal is inclusive, encompassing a wide range of opportunities. However, the Authority holds that conservation of the Great Barrier Reef is its primary obligation, and all other activities are dependent on this over-riding responsibility.

The Authority's aims are subordinate to the primary goal and must be read in conjunction with it and with each other.

- To protect the natural qualities of the Great Barrier Reef, while providing for reasonable use of the Reef Region.
- To involve the community meaningfully in the care and development of the Marine Park.

- To achieve competence and fairness in the care and development of the Marine Park through the conduct of research, and the deliberate acquisition, use and dissemination of relevant information from research and other sources.
- To provide for economic development consistent with meeting the goal and other aims of the Authority.
- To achieve integrated management of the Great Barrier Reef through active leadership and through constantly seeking improvements in coordinated management.
- To achieve management of the Marine Park primarily through the community's commitment to the protection of the Great Barrier Reef and its understanding and acceptance of the provisions of zoning, regulations and management practices.
- To provide recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional affiliations and rights in management of the Marine Park.
- To minimise costs of caring for and developing the Marine Park consistent with meeting the goal and other aims of the Authority.
- To minimise regulation of, and interference in, human activities, consistent with meeting the goal and other aims of the Authority.
- To achieve its goal and other aims by employing people of high calibre, assisting them to reach their full potential, providing a rewarding, useful and caring work environment, and encouraging them to pursue relevant training and development opportunities.
- To make the Authority's expertise available nationally and internationally.
- To adapt actively the Marine Park and the operations of the Authority to changing circumstances.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority consists of a full-time Chairperson and three part-time members. One of the part-time members is nominated by the Queensland Government. The Act provides for one of the part-time members to be appointed to represent the interests of the Aboriginal communities adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

As at 30 June 1997, the members of the Authority were Dr Ian McPhail, Professor Rhondda Jones, Mrs Evelyn Scott and Mr Tom Tolhurst. The member nominated by Queensland is Mr Tolhurst. Mrs Scott has been appointed to represent the interests of Aboriginal communities.

Dr Ian McPhail is full-time Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the Authority. Dr McPhail was appointed for a five-year term commencing on 20 December 1994. Professor Rhondda Jones is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor at James Cook University of North Queensland. Professor Jones' third three-year term commenced 27 February 1995. Mrs Evelyn Scott is Chairperson of the Cairns and Region Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission for Women. Mrs Scott was initially appointed to act as member for two twelve-week terms commencing 14 December 1996 and 22 March 1997 and then as member for a three-year term commencing 17 June 1997. Mr Tom Tolhurst is Director-General of the Queensland Department of Environment. Mr

Tolhurst was initially appointed to act as member for two twelve-week terms commencing 2 October 1996 and 24 December 1996 and then as member for a three-year term commencing 20 March 1997.

Right: Dr Ian McPhail, Chairperson, Mrs Evelyn Scott, member, Professor Rhondda Jones, member, and Mr Tom Tolhurst, Director-General of the Queensland Department of Environment



Persons appointed to act as Chairperson or member during the year are listed in Note 21 on 'Related Parties' in the Financial Statements.

During 1996-97 the Authority held six meetings.

Date	Location
12 July 1996	Townsville
9 October 1996	Brisbane
13 December 1996	Townsville
20 December 1996	Townsville
20 February 1997	Brisbane
11 April 1997	Townsville

OFFICES OF THE AUTHORITY

The Authority has its principal office in Townsville and a small office in Canberra. The location of the two offices enables the Authority to have its technical resources close to the Reef and also to carry out necessary liaison functions in Canberra.

Staff of the Townsville office, which includes the staff of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, numbered 140 (132 full-time equivalent) at 30 June 1997. There were 8 staff working from the Canberra office at 30 June 1997.

EXECUTIVE GROUP

The Executive Group of the Authority assists and advises the Chairperson in carrying out the functions of the Authority and provides a forum for discussing and coordinating programs, recommending priorities and direction, and reviewing program performance. At 30 June 1997 the Executive Group consisted of the Chairperson; two Executive Directors (one of whom exercised delegations as the

Executive Officer), Directors of External Services, Planning, Education/Information, Aquarium, Administration, Canberra office, Information Technology Services, Research and Monitoring, Review of the Environmental Management Charge and Park Management Policy, and the Managers of Media and Public Affairs and of the Impact Assessment Unit.

EXECUTIVE AND SECRETARIAT

The Executive Officer is Secretary to the Marine Park Authority. The staff of the Executive and the Secretariat provide executive support for the Chairperson and the Executive Officer, and secretariats for the Authority, the Executive Group and the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee. Executive and Secretariat staff facilitate communication between other staff and these committees.

SUBSIDIARIES

The Authority has no subsidiaries. However, certain functions are carried out in conjunction with other State and Commonwealth organisations including the Queensland Department of Environment, which has the responsibility for day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park subject to the Authority. Certain powers of the Authority have been delegated to positions in other organisations.

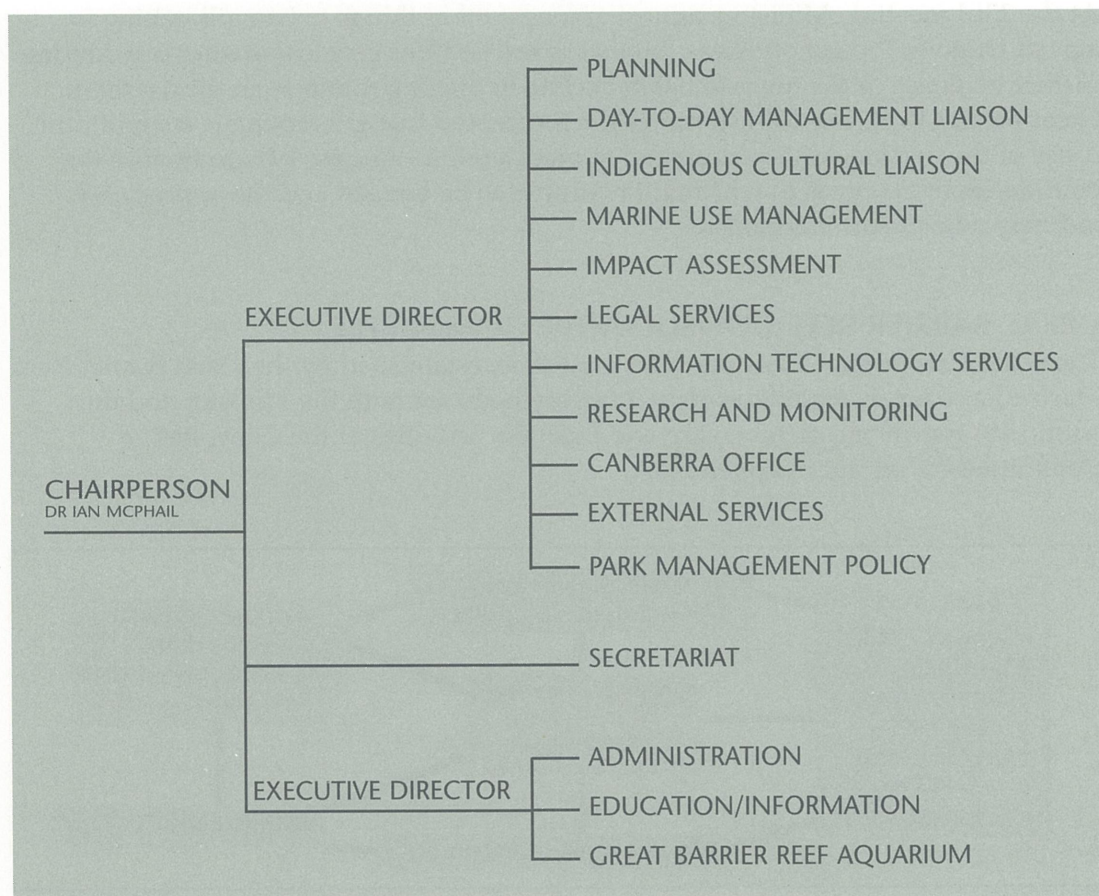


Figure 1. Operational structure at June 1997

GREAT BARRIER REEF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council was established under the Emerald Agreement in 1979 to coordinate policy on the Great Barrier Reef between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments at the Ministerial level. The Council comprises four Ministers, two from each government. The Ministerial Council is chaired by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Senator the Hon. Robert Hill and includes the Commonwealth Minister for Tourism and the Queensland Ministers for Environment and for Tourism.

The Ministerial Council met in Brisbane in 30 November 1996 (GBRMC 22) and in Cairns on 14 June 1997 (GBRMC 23).

At the 22nd meeting, Ministers considered a number of intergovernmental issues relating to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and in particular considered the decline in dugong numbers in the southern Great Barrier Reef. The Ministerial Council agreed to establish nine interim Dugong Protection Areas and asked the Authority in cooperation with the Queensland Department of Environment, the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries to report to Governments by 28 February 1997 on action necessary to ensure no further dugong mortality occurs as a result of commercial and recreational fishing practices in each of the Interim Dugong Protection Areas.

At the 23rd meeting, Ministers agreed amongst other things to ban gill netting in agreed Dugong Protection Areas. Ministers reached this conclusion after considering further evidence of the unsustainable decline in dugong numbers in the southern Great Barrier Reef. The Ministerial Council accepted that gill netting is a significant cause of the decline. Ministers agreed to meet again in August 1997 to finalise the boundaries of the areas in which gill netting is to be banned and the appropriate industry adjustment mechanism.

GREAT BARRIER REEF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee, established by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, is an independent advisory body for both the Minister and the Authority. Functions, membership and business activities of the Consultative Committee are set out in appendix A.

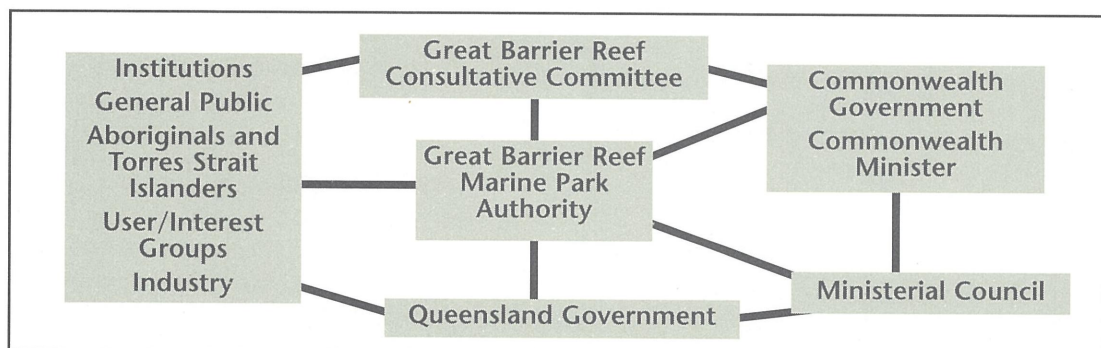


Figure 2. External relationships

World Heritage Area Marine Park and Great Barrier Reef Key Issues for the

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a World Heritage Area. It is the only natural area in the world to be listed as a World Heritage Area. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a World Heritage Area. It is the only natural area in the world to be listed as a World Heritage Area. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a World Heritage Area. It is the only natural area in the world to be listed as a World Heritage Area.

Key Issues for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area

Through developing the Vision, Principals for Management and Corporate Values, and with guidance from the 25 Year Strategic Plan, it has been possible to identify a series of issues which are crucial for the wellbeing of the Marine Park and World Heritage Area and for the management of use. These key issues are:

- Conservation
- Tourism and recreation
- World Heritage status
- Shipping and maritime pollution response
- Coastal development and ports
- Fishing
- Water quality
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relationships

DESCRIPTION

Ensuring the conservation of natural values of the Great Barrier Reef is the primary obligation of the Authority. Consequently, conservation is a high priority key issue. The three major directions are the protection of threatened species, the provision of a system of strictly protected representative areas, and improvement in the understanding of the effects of large-scale disturbances.

Threatened Species

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

For threatened mammals, turtles and seabirds, the Authority is one of the important agencies in identifying threats, and coordinating and facilitating conservation programs. However, success depends upon close working arrangements with other agencies and interest groups.

Measures for the protection of dugong and turtle populations require improvement, including constraints on commercial fishing and traditional hunting practices. It is also important that seabirds are better protected through more appropriate management of threatening activities. There is also an ongoing need to assess which species are 'potentially threatened' and develop management strategies as a precaution.

Specific targets included maintenance of a strong coordinated approach to the management of threatened species together with continued assessment of their status and management. In particular, dugong and turtle species were priority conservation tasks. An additional target was the development of

an approach for defining 'potentially threatened' species.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The Authority continued its comprehensive program to better protect the southern Great Barrier Reef dugong population. Two major reports on actions necessary for dugong recovery in the region were endorsed by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council. The proposed actions should be implemented following further consideration of the final proposals on boundaries for Dugong Protection Areas and compensation for fishers.

Another significant development was the completion of the Shoalwater Bay (Dugong) Plan of Management which was developed to protect dugong in this area. The management actions to be undertaken for the conservation of dugongs in the bay included a prohibition on mesh nets for fishing, a moratorium on indigenous hunting of dugongs, and restrictions on underwater detonation training by the Royal Australian Navy. The finalisation of this statutory plan followed extensive consultation with indigenous communities and other stakeholders and interest groups.

Other recent management actions to more effectively protect the dugong included realignment and enhancement of surveillance and enforcement patrols in key dugong areas. A moratorium on the use of explosives for Defence purposes in Dugong Protection Areas was negotiated for 1997, except in Shoalwater Bay (where the abovementioned management plan specifically controls such activities) and Triangular Island (under terms agreed with the Royal Australian Navy).

Recommendations were developed for

the protection of dugong in the northern Great Barrier Reef for inclusion in the revised Far Northern Section Zoning Plan.

Continued education and extension activities underpinned the improvement in dugong management. Considerable effort was focused on raising awareness of dugong conservation issues with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, recreational and commercial fishing groups, and the general public. A move to enlist the support of community groups in a dugong carcass reporting scheme was put on hold due to logistical difficulties experienced by the Queensland Department of Environment.

Extension work facilitated by the Indigenous Cultural Liaison Unit resulted in an agreement to voluntarily cease traditional dugong hunting in the Shoalwater Bay area. This initiative is spreading to other groups as a way of reducing the illegal take. Assistance was also provided in the formulation of community-based hunting permit programs.

Research detailing seagrass distribution in the two highest priority areas (Shoalwater Bay and Hinchinbrook) was completed. Results indicated that seagrasses in both areas were extensive and healthy. This critical habitat for the dugong will be better protected through both implementation of the proposed Dugong Protection Areas and development of the representative areas program. Strategies to minimise land-based impacts on seagrass communities were also identified.

The **turtle** conservation program concentrated on the development of proposals to address the incidence of turtle capture in trawl nets. Both the Queensland Fisheries Management

Authority and this Authority worked towards ensuring that appropriate management actions to protect turtles were included in the draft trawl management plan which is scheduled to be released for public comment in late 1997. Reduction of the effects of commercial fishing on turtle numbers will significantly enhance conservation efforts.

Scrutiny and management of **seabird** populations have continued to be coordinated through an inter-agency group with representatives from the Authority, the Queensland Department of Environment and the Environment Australia Biodiversity Group. Key outcomes of this cooperative work included finalisation of the Great Barrier Reef biogeographical atlas of seabird distribution and facilitation of a tight inter-agency integration of seabird monitoring and database networking. The publication and implementation of guidelines for managing human visitation to seabird islands will reduce the threat to bird populations from this popular recreational activity.

To better protect **whale** populations, the focus has been on developing guidelines to more effectively manage the developing whale watching industry. Initial guidelines have been developed with the Queensland Department of Environment, Environment Australia and scientists to manage a developing whale watching industry based around the seasonal migration of dwarf minke whales off the Ribbon Reefs. These guidelines were implemented through the Authority's permit system.

Guidelines for whale watching in the Whitsunday area, a region believed to be an important humpback whale calving and resting area, have been finalised jointly with the Queensland Department of Environment and stakeholders,

including tourism operators. These guidelines were applied through the joint Queensland Department of Environment and Authority permit system. They will also be drafted into the Plan of Management for the Whitsunday area.

As part of the process to define and identify '**potentially threatened**' species, an initial literature review was completed to review other species that may be, or become, under threat in the Great Barrier Reef. This literature review will form a basis for developing priorities for future programs.

Representative Areas

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Establishment of a comprehensive system of adequately sized and protected representative areas across the Marine Park will be significant in maintaining the biodiversity of the Marine Park. This system, along with other programs including ecologically sustainable use and protection of threatened species, are components of a comprehensive approach to protecting the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The ecologically representative areas would be managed in a manner that constrains human use and/or impacts, and would be free from structures and extractive uses.

Currently, about 5% of the Marine Park area is included in the strictly protected Preservation, Scientific Research or Marine National Park 'B' zones. Initial review suggests that reefal areas are reasonably well represented (18% of reefs are in strictly protected zoning) however, inshore and soft sediment habitats and communities are under-represented in these zones. The present system of strictly protected zones needs to be reviewed to ensure conservation of all of

the different habitats and communities of the Great Barrier Reef.

Specific targets included the development of a program to review the protected areas system, together with an improved understanding of the distribution of habitats and communities.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Working jointly with scientific advisers and key stakeholders, a review of the protected areas system has commenced. Initial scientific advice on the distribution of habitats and biological communities has been followed by further data collation. A number of interactive computer tools were evaluated to assist in the development of a bio-regional classification and it is anticipated that selection of the preferred system will be finalised shortly with the scientific working group.

The first stakeholder group meeting considered the scientific advice and agreed on a process for representative area selection. This process appropriately incorporates both biological and socioeconomic considerations. A second stakeholder workshop developed a detailed work program to enable the review to be completed over the next two years.

Crown-of-thorns Starfish and other Large-scale Perturbations

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Large-scale disturbances such as cyclones, coral bleaching events and outbreaks of both crown-of-thorns starfish and coral-feeding gastropods

have marked effects on the ecology of coral reefs. In particular, the crown-of-thorns starfish has been responsible for the most severe impacts documented on reefs worldwide.

Understanding the ecological role of these perturbations is crucial for the sustainable management of coral reef systems. Management actions in response to these phenomena need to be based on a sound understanding of both the causes and consequences of each event. Scientific research provides the only means of assessing the possible role of some human activities in affecting the frequency and/or intensity of the observed outbreak cycles of crown-of-thorns starfish and coral bleaching events.

Specific targets included an improved understanding of the causes and consequences of crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks and better knowledge on the effectiveness of targeted local-scale starfish control activities. As well, a high level of participation in program activities by both the Reef-based tourism industry and day-to-day managers was targeted.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The continuing program of reef surveys has identified another outbreak cycle of crown-of-thorns starfish in parts of the central Great Barrier Reef. Over the next few years, it is highly likely that a substantial number of reefs in this area will again be affected, the third time in the last 35 years. Outbreak effects on, in particular, slow-growing massive corals may hold the key to assessing a possible degradation of coral communities.

In contrast to previous outbreaks, this latest event has been detected during its early stages, providing some unique opportunities to improve the knowledge of the mechanism(s) implicated in the

origin of starfish outbreaks. Furthermore, ongoing analyses of crown-of-thorns starfish population age structures will greatly improve our understanding of both the geographic and temporal origin of the latest outbreak event.

The ability of fine-scale surveys of crown-of-thorns starfish to identify new incipient outbreaks, some two years prior to local starfish populations developing their full potential, has greatly improved the early warning capacity. Local tourism operations in the southern part of the Cairns Section were able to initiate local-scale control measures much earlier than has previously been possible. It is anticipated that these measures will result in significantly higher retention of live coral cover in affected areas.

The limited funding available for targeted research activities has prevented further progress in establishing the ultimate cause(s) of crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks. However, progress was made in developing a generally applicable strategy for the successful implementation of local-scale control measures using the Authority-approved starfish injection method. The control strategy project highlighted the need for intensive and regular local control effort at key sites in combination with additional surveys in adjacent areas.

Reef-based tourism operators in the Cairns and Port Douglas areas were trained in the conduct of local-scale control activities for crown-of-thorns starfish. Close liaison with the tourism industry has continued, with some 12 operators actively engaged in regular consultation and information exchange concerning their starfish control programs. Information gathered from such cooperation progresses the understanding of the effectiveness of local-scale controls.

A pro-active public information and extension strategy on the crown-of-thorns starfish issue was maintained in 1996–97. An updated brochure on the crown-of-thorns starfish was released, followed by major media coverage. Regular updates were targeted at the local tourism industry, staff of regional Queensland Department of Environment offices and members of Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees. All these measures have been successful in maintaining a timely, balanced and factual public discussion of the issue. They also promoted active participation in program activities such as the COTSWATCH reporting scheme and fine-scale surveys.

Tourism and recreation

DESCRIPTION

Tourism is the main commercial use of the Marine Park. Each year it contributes over one billion dollars to the Australian economy and brings over 1.5 million visitors to the area. Ensuring that the ecological impacts of tourism and recreation activities are effectively managed is a high priority for the Authority.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

As the tourism industry continues to expand, there is an increasing need for a more strategic approach to the management of tourism and recreation. It is important that the policies developed provide for both the conservation of natural and cultural values and an appropriate balance of opportunities for a variety of tourism, recreation and other uses.

Specific targets included ensuring that the tools used to manage tourism use are effective, reducing the impacts of tourism on natural and aesthetic values, and minimising the displacement effect of tourism use. Strong working relationships with the Marine Park tourism industry and greater appreciation of World Heritage Area values were also targeted.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

A major outcome for 1996–97 was the development of a strategic approach for the management of tourism. An internal review of tourism use initially evaluated the existing strategies and management tools. The resulting tourism use management strategy recommended specific approaches and mechanisms to better manage future Reef-wide tourism use. In particular, it addressed issues relating to reducing the individual and cumulative impacts of tourism use and minimising displacement effects on other users.

In early June an external Review of the Marine Tourism Industry in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (the Sturgess Report) strongly endorsed the proposed strategic approach. Jointly funded by the Office of National Tourism, the Review focused on identifying strategies for the management of an expanding marine tourism industry based on the ecologically sustainable use of the Reef. It examined a range of economic issues and the likely impacts of the proposed new planning and management regime on the tourism industry. The review report has been made available to interested stakeholder groups for comment and to increase understanding of the proposed new management approach.

The review recommendations,

subsequently endorsed by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council, were that the proposed system of tourism use management should proceed, with some changes in implementation detail. Further coordination with the Queensland Government was highlighted as essential to ensure that the parallel systems are complementary. The 1997–98 tourism program has subsequently been developed to implement the new tourism use management strategy.

Management plans for the high-use Cairns and Whitsunday areas neared completion. The final phase of public participation was delayed pending finalisation of the Sturgess Report. These two statutory management plans will provide a basis for more efficient permitting and effective management of tourism use in these areas.

Work continued on improving the effectiveness of the tools for managing tourism use. The broad principles of a simplified system of licences for commercial tourism use have been discussed with the tourism industry. The Authority's intentions with regard to determining an operator's eligibility for the standard permissions defined in the management plans for the Cairns and Whitsunday areas have been drafted for release for public comment with the management plans.

Policy in relation to site allocation was considered broadly by the Sturgess Report. It recommended that the fundamental allocative system should continue to be 'first come, first served'. However, it was recognised that this system may need to be varied in some instances, for example in locations where numerical limits have been applied and moratoria have been in place. Some further policy work has been undertaken on the most appropriate system of

allocating mooring and pontoon sites in such cases.

Integral to the more strategic approach to managing tourism use was developing partnerships with the Reef tourism industry. The Reef Tourism 2005 project is an initiative by marine tourism operators in the Cairns region to develop a strategic plan for the development of the industry in the area. The project involves tourism operators, the Authority, Queensland Department of Environment and the CRC Reef Research Centre. Staff participated in the Reef Tourism 2005 project with tourism operators in the Cairns Section. Close working relationships were established with key tourism industry experts through the establishment of the Tourism Advisory Group which provides feedback from an industry perspective on Reef-wide strategic issues.

Tourism operators in the Cairns and Whitsunday areas have been actively involved in the development of the relevant Plans of Management. In Cairns and Port Douglas, subcommittees of the Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees have been formed to help with this management planning. The marine tourism industry participated actively and widely in the review and policy development work undertaken during the year. Initial contacts were made with many marine tourism operators in the Great Barrier Reef Region as part of the commencement of Reef-wide tourism strategy planning.

The significant role played by the tourism industry in the presentation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area was explicitly recognised in the Authority's strategic approach to tourism use management. Subsequent endorsement of the strategy by the Sturgess Report and the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council has given

formal recognition of a presentation role for the tourism industry, an outcome providing an important means to increase tourist appreciation and understanding of the World Heritage Area.

Greater appreciation of World Heritage Area values will follow from the tourism operator training program which was implemented for the first time in 1996–97. Participation in the Reef Tourism 2005 project through action plans for education, training and codes of practice was an effective means to extend the existing operator training and education activities.

World Heritage status

DESCRIPTION

The Authority is the lead agency for Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area issues. Decision making and management practices need to ensure the protection of world heritage values. The Authority's role and responsibilities in relation to management of the World Heritage Area have recently been extended to management of areas outside the Marine Park, but inside or adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In recent years, there has been increasing emphasis on managing the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to maintain its ecological integrity and scenic values. At the same time, the need for a better understanding and definition of World Heritage Area attributes has become essential following broadening of the Authority's responsibilities and changes

to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act.

Specific targets were definition of World Heritage Area attributes and development of procedures for their consideration in decision making. An additional priority was the maintenance of a strong inter-agency approach to World Heritage Area management.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, in consultation with the Queensland Department of Environment and Environment Australia, has commissioned a consultancy to clarify the nature of World Heritage as it applies to the Great Barrier Reef, and its implications for management. Comments will be sought from the public on the consequent report 'The Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area' by Lucas et al.

Discussions have been initiated with the Environment portfolio to develop a brief to assess the cultural seascapes of the World Heritage Area. Such progress towards a better understanding of world heritage attributes is a prerequisite to their better protection, in particular through a representative areas system which is currently being developed as part of the conservation key issue.

Preliminary work began on a policy paper on World Heritage Area value and management. The recommendations of the recently completed consultancy report as well as public comments will contribute to the development of this paper. Recommendations from the 1996 House of Representatives Standing Committee for Environment, Recreation and the Arts report on management of Australian World Heritage will also be used.

In response to community concerns

relating to the appropriateness of manipulative research undertaken in the World Heritage Area, the Authority established the Research Ethics Committee in March 1997. Its role is to advise on whether the research proposed in permit applications constitutes a reasonable use of the Marine Park. The Committee is Townsville based and has an independent chair. Formation of this committee provided a mechanism for better consideration of research-related impacts on the World Heritage Area.

The broader nature of the issues raised in reef research led to initiation of a national policy formulation process to develop generic guidelines for research in protected areas. The Authority was also successful in securing the 1997–98 Fenner Conference on ‘ethics of manipulative research and management practices in World Heritage and other environmentally sensitive areas: policy and practice’ to be held in Canberra late in November 1997.

Following the publication of the proceedings of the State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Workshop the Authority has also developed a monitoring regime which will provide reports on an ongoing basis aimed at identifying any ecological changes within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Shipping and maritime pollution response

DESCRIPTION

The potential for adverse environmental impact on the Great Barrier Reef from

shipping and related activities is great. In particular, ship-sourced pollution (deliberate or inadvertent) and the introduction of exotic organisms (for example through ballast water) are two major risks.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The focus will be on improving preventative strategies whilst maintaining existing obligations to respond to pollution events such as oil spills. To maintain the prominence of the region as a sensitive marine environment and thereby reducing the pollution risk from shipping-related activities, liaison and coordination between agencies dealing with shipping in the Great Barrier Reef will be established and fostered.

Specific targets were maintenance of a strong inter-agency approach to the management of shipping and coordinated response mechanisms for pollution from shipping-related activities. An additional target was reduction of the pollution risk from shipping and shipping-related activities.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Improvements in preventative strategies were primarily determined by the recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait Shipping Study. Largely through the work of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Queensland Transport, the Mandatory Vessel Reporting System was implemented, and the Differential Global Positioning System coverage within Reef waters was increased.

Preventative management of ship-sourced sewage pollution was improved through the amendments to sewage discharge provisions. A risk assessment of shipping activities within the high-use Whitsunday area has commenced.

The Authority furthered its contingency planning for maritime pollution incidents through implementation of internal response procedures and communications plans, and better coordination of environmental and scientific activities. Conduct of oil spill response training workshops for personnel from relevant agencies, and input to oil spill response operator courses strengthened the integrated inter-agency and industry response capability. Active involvement by staff in external committees (refer to appendix F) supported target achievement.

REEFPLAN, a contingency plan for oil spill response, was implemented on several occasions throughout 1996–97. In particular, the grounding of MV *Peacock* on a reef in the Far Northern Section led to a significant deployment of pollution response equipment and personnel, involving direct Authority coordination of scientific and environmental response activities. Because there was no subsequent pollutant spillage, this incident represented an excellent training exercise for a major oil spill. Several shortcomings in the grounding response were identified and these have been subsequently addressed within the Authority's contingency planning process.

Research into reducing the environmental effects of oil spills through bioremediation produced promising results in laboratory and microcosm experiments. The techniques developed will soon be trialled in the field.

Coastal development and ports

DESCRIPTION

The land uses of coastal areas adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef are an important determinant on the health of the marine area. There are increasing coastal residential populations as well as major grazing and agricultural industries on land adjacent to the Reef. The high potential for impact from coastal development and ports renders crucial a strategic involvement in coastal land use management.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Land uses of particular concern are integrated resort developments, grazing, crop production involving large nutrient input, urban development, and impacts from the development and operations of ports and harbours. It is important that the Authority negotiates and works jointly with the Queensland Government and local governments to improve the processes for managing coastal developments and land use in order to minimise impacts on the World Heritage Area.

Specific targets included better understanding of the impacts of coastal development on the World Heritage Area and development of effective strategies to minimise those impacts. A coordinated approach to the development and operation of ports was also targeted.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

The Authority, in association with the Queensland Department of Environment and two local government associations,

was funded to undertake a scoping study to investigate the potential impacts on the World Heritage Area from coastal urban development as well as the current management practices. The project is in its final stage and will identify priority issues and strategic directions for future projects.

Advice was provided on the Queensland Department of Environment's coastal landscapes project. The Authority is currently investigating funding options for the inclusion of a marine component.

The Authority continued to provide input into impact assessment processes for proposed developments in the coastal areas adjacent to the World Heritage Area. Such input aimed to minimise the impacts of ad hoc and uncoordinated development by providing standard terms of references to address land based marine pollutants such as sewage and stormwater run-off.

To better integrate development approval processes with the Queensland Government and local governments, the Authority has maintained links with existing regional management and planning strategies. Extension activities with local government have raised awareness of the impacts of coastal development and land use on Reef water quality, an important critical issue.

A cooperative regional planning process has begun with the Queensland Government for the Hinchinbrook region. When completed, the regional management plan will minimise the impacts on the World Heritage Area of coastal development. While the plan is being developed, interim management arrangements have been activated comprising a moratorium on new permits for activities that may conflict with the outcomes of the regional planning program.

A memorandum of understanding between the major port operators and the Authority has been ratified. This agreement will ensure that port development and associated improvement programs are conducted in an ecologically sustainable manner. Active involvement by staff in port technical advisory committees (refer to appendix F) supported target achievement.

All these programs which better protect the marine environment from land based activities have continued to contribute to Australia's international coastal and marine environmental obligations.

Fishing

DESCRIPTION

Fishing is an important and reasonable use of the Great Barrier Reef. Besides a valuable recreational fishery, the commercial fishing industry is worth about \$250 million annually. However, it is acknowledged that fishing can have significant ecological effects. The Authority is working towards achieving ecologically sustainable fishing in the Marine Park in conjunction with the Queensland government fisheries management agencies and the industry.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

With the increasing national and global demand for fish resources and an increasing population with more leisure time, a strategic approach to the management of commercial and recreational fishing needs to be developed. Fisheries management in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area should be consistent with World Heritage obligations as well as nature

conservation, and cultural, heritage and use values. It may be necessary to adopt additional measures to better protect significant habitats and species, and to manage 'new' fisheries.

Specific targets included a better understanding of fishing activities and their impacts on the World Heritage Area, and better enforcement of fishing controls. Protection of threatened species and critical habitats from the effects of fishing was also a priority.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Greater understanding of the impacts of trawling has followed from completion of a research project report on the environmental effects of prawn trawling in the Far Northern Section. Further research has begun to investigate the recovery dynamics of sea bottom communities at trawled sites previously examined in the abovementioned study. Despite the research effort, limited information on the impacts of trawling on the seagrass habitat remained a concern.

A CRC Reef Research Centre project on the impacts of line fishing on reef fish populations and communities has commenced. The Effects of Line Fishing Experiment required zoning amendments in three Sections of the Marine Park to make provision for fisheries experimental areas.

Fisheries research findings have been applied to support Marine Park management and further develop fisheries management policy. Research results from the Bramble Reef socioeconomic study on recreational fishing were used in the development of the Hinchinbrook management plan. They were also employed in the development of a socioeconomic survey to complement the Queensland Fisheries

Management Authority's recreational fishing logbook program.

Progress towards ecologically sustainable fishing and protection of spawning sites was primarily achieved by formalised input into fisheries management plans under development by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority. In particular, the Authority has been actively involved in the management planning process for the Tropical Coral Reef Fish Fisheries and the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery. Within the framework of developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relationships, effort has been focused on facilitating input of indigenous communities to the development of fisheries management strategies.

A better understanding of the spatial extent of fishing effort and catch within the Marine Park boundaries has been obtained by analysing the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority's commercial fishing logbook data. Such cooperative working relationships between the key agencies maximise the effectiveness of fisheries management in the World Heritage Area.

A draft strategy to address the environmental impacts of trawling has been developed, based on the results of the recently completed Effects of Trawling Project. Amongst other things, the draft strategy proposed targets and timelines for the reduction of bycatch and the implementation of bycatch reduction devices.

In support of conservation programs to better protect threatened species, the Authority promoted appropriate measures to reduce the effects of fishing on turtle and dugong numbers. Management actions to reduce turtle mortality in trawl nets were included in the draft trawl management plan being

prepared by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority.

As part of dugong conservation planning, strategies have been developed to arrest further reduction in dugong numbers through fishing activities. In respect of Dugong Protection Areas and site-specific management plans, the Authority has supported the reduction of mesh netting and cessation of indigenous hunting in these areas. Additional measures proposed included a greater enforcement effort to prevent illegal netting and the phasing out of bather-protection netting practices. Extension work with recreational fishing groups has resulted in a code of practice for recreational boating and the support of this interest group in the public debate over net bans.

More effective protection of critical habitats from the effects of fishing was furthered through commencement of the representative areas program, a priority undertaking within the key issue of conservation. Seagrass beds, one of these critical habitats, will be afforded greater protection through representative areas, as well as through conservation plans for the dugong.

Enforcement of fishing controls was improved by ensuring that the illegal fishing of Marine Park closed areas is considered a serious offence under fisheries regulations and relevant fisheries management plans. Greater penalties for offenders were also proposed. Better enforcement by the introduction of transponders on fishing vessels was strongly pursued in discussions with State Government departments and the commercial fleet.

Water quality

DESCRIPTION

Maintenance of water quality to ensure the health of the Great Barrier Reef's ecosystems is a high priority issue. Long-term degradation of water quality will lead to ecosystem change and loss. Major impacts on water quality come from the land as inputs of sediment and nutrients, as well as originating potentially from various marine activities such as shipping.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Through research and assessment of potential sources of pollution, the priority concerns have been identified as loss of sediments and nutrients from agricultural and urban lands, sewage discharges from urban lands and resort areas, sediment resuspension from dredging and dredge spoil dumping, and the potential for large scale oil spills in Great Barrier Reef waters. It is important that the Authority continues to contribute to policies and practices on these matters, especially the downstream impacts of agricultural practices.

More minor concerns include residues from antifouling on vessels, sewage discharges from vessels, pesticide residues from urban and agricultural use, and aquaculture farm discharges. Ballast water discharges are of unknown significance but may become a major issue.

An important specific target was greater understanding of the temporal and spatial variability of water quality in the World Heritage Area. Better water quality management was also targeted through sewage discharge regulation and reduction of sediment and nutrient inputs by promotion of integrated

catchment management and sustainable agricultural practices.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Analysis of data from the first three years of the long-term water quality monitoring program has shown that chlorophyll *a* concentrations (an indicator of eutrophication) are generally higher in inshore waters than in offshore waters. Further consideration of the data will enable refinement of the monitoring program and permit closer correlations to be drawn between land-use changes and Reef water quality. Over time, this program will help identify trends in regional water quality, providing essential information for future reporting of the state of the World Heritage Area.

Water quality data collected over the last 20 years in the Central Section of the Marine Park have been jointly summarised with the Australian Institute of Marine Science. The data analysed to date from this area provided no evidence for a long-term increase in chlorophyll *a* concentrations.

Monitoring of turbidity in major rivers discharging into the World Heritage Area has continued and complete wet season records were obtained for the Tully and Fitzroy rivers. Nutrient data were also collected for many rivers, and flood plume impingements on mid-shelf reefs were mapped and water quality samples collected. This data set will help quantify the impacts of terrestrial run-off of sediments and nutrients on Reef water quality, and provide a baseline for comparing future levels as land management practices evolve.

An assessment of litter concentrations and sources in the Far Northern Section revealed large volumes of plastic and glass litter on isolated sand cays. In contrast, quantities of rope and fishing

netting which could potentially entangle wildlife were found to be low.

Sediment and seagrass samples have been collected to assess organochlorine and heavy metal contamination in Dugong Protection Areas and other areas of the Marine Park and the greater Queensland coastline. The analysis results, expected to be available in the next six months, will identify whether the areas have been subject to water pollution.

Fieldwork in the recovery phase of the Enrichment of Nutrients on a Coral Reef Experiment (ENCORE) was completed. The most significant finding was the experimentally induced decline in reproductive capacity of corals after additions of relatively low levels of nutrients.

Reducing the impact of sewage discharge into reef and coastal waters was the subject of ongoing discussions with the Queensland Department of Environment. These negotiations aimed at achieving consistent guidelines for sewage effluent treatment and discharge into marine waters for the two organisations.

A key strategy in Reef water quality management was an effective extension program which provides a two-way flow of information on water quality issues between the Authority and stakeholders. A wide range of stakeholders has been identified, including local government, Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees, and rural and community groups on coastal catchment areas. The extension program also aided in the facilitation of workable strategies to reduce undesirable terrestrial inputs into the Reef region.

Extensive consultation has occurred with agricultural groups, particularly cane growers and graziers, about the potential impacts of agricultural activity on Reef

water quality. In the last few years, there has been a growing understanding by rural communities of sustainable agriculture. At a political and industry peak body level, there has also been a substantial commitment to sustainable agriculture.

The extension program has achieved an increasing awareness of the potential downstream effects of agricultural run-off. The issue has been widely promoted in the media, and through presentations to rural conferences, industry bodies and regional planning initiatives. The 1996 Environmental Audit of the sugar industry indicated the success of water quality extension. Producers in catchments that had been targeted by the program showed a greater awareness of the issue of downstream effects than those in non-targeted catchments.

In addition to face-to-face contact, a short video was produced to assist the 'waterwatch' water monitoring initiative, a community monitoring program supported by the Department of Primary Industries. Interested landowners collect scientifically valid data, with the analysis results being fed back to landholders who thus become aware of levels of soil and nutrient loss. In conjunction with the Australian Institute of Marine Science, a snapshot monitoring program was also developed for the Russell River catchment during the cyclone Justin floods.

The extension program promoted and supported community-based initiatives such as Landcare and Integrated Catchment Management which act to increase the awareness of sustainable agriculture at a grassroots level.

Adoption of new technology related to sustainable production has varied between agricultural enterprises. Where there is an obvious short-term financial benefit, adoption generally occurs, as is

the case of green cane trash blanket techniques which have been 90% adopted in the northern region.

More informed water quality extension will be partly dependent upon better scientific data on the impacts of terrestrial run-off on the World Heritage Area. Also, the assessments of catchment losses of sediment and nutrients need to better identify the relevant processes and localise the relevant sources in relation to land use. The development of acceptable community based strategies is constrained by the availability of information, both scientific and indigenous, supplied by relevant agencies. These identified information needs will help determine future directions for the water quality research and monitoring programs.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relationships

DESCRIPTION

There is a significant indigenous cultural relationship with the Marine Park, pre-dating non-indigenous involvement in the area. Contemporary indigenous peoples are attempting to retain their cultural association, values and use of the area in the face of increasing pressure from coastal development, commercial fishing, private recreational use and rapidly increasing tourism use.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Authority will explore and implement mechanisms for increasing the involvement of indigenous peoples in

the management of the Marine Park. It is important that evolving issues relating to Native Title and governance in the Great Barrier Reef region are dealt with effectively. In addition, the cultural and traditional values associated with the World Heritage Area need to be better identified and maintained.

Specific targets included equitable indigenous involvement in planning and management of the Marine Park, and maintenance of traditional subsistence activities within the bounds of ecological sustainability. A further target was greater community recognition of indigenous values of the World Heritage Area.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Through the activities of the Indigenous Cultural Liaison Unit, good working relationships with indigenous representative groups have been maintained and strengthened. The feedback from representative groups such as Land Councils and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission continued to be positive and productive. The effectiveness of the interaction with indigenous peoples was demonstrated by the frequent invitations received to participate in community workshops, programs and events such as community meetings on management program developments and Aboriginal land summits.

These sound working relationships have fostered greater indigenous involvement in day-to-day management. Communities in the Far Northern Section have undertaken surveillance activities, providing an effective reporting mechanism for any suspicious activities within the Marine Park.

As a result of the liaison, networking and

extension activities undertaken, there has been a good level of participation in Marine Park planning. Extensive consultation encouraged effective indigenous participation in planning initiatives, particularly for the Far Northern Section and Shoalwater Bay. From present indications, indigenous input will continue to increase based on the growing relationship between indigenous peoples and the Authority.

In addition to its primary role in developing indigenous relationships, the unit supported target achievement for other critical issues. Extensive extension work was undertaken to raise awareness by indigenous communities of dugong conservation needs in the southern Great Barrier Reef. It facilitated the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Authority and the Darumbal Noolar people of Rockhampton to cease dugong hunting activities in the Shoalwater Bay area. This agreement is the first voluntary cessation of traditional hunting of dugong and will help ensure the long-term viability of this threatened species.

Unit staff assisted in the formulation of community-based hunting permit programs. Such programs accommodate traditional activities while protecting natural values of the World Heritage Area.

A strategy has been developed to better identify cultural and heritage values and uses of the World Heritage Area.

Considerable effort in extension and education programs was focused on presenting indigenous values positively to the wider community. Initial discussions have been held with academic institutions and indigenous organisations on the development of a joint proposal on the economics of indigenous fishing and hunting in remote areas.

The Authority maintained its emphasis on cultural and traditional values by continuing the strategy of employing indigenous people at all levels. The first indigenous member of the Marine Park Authority was appointed for a three-year term. A new liaison officer position was also created and filled. As the knowledge and awareness of indigenous issues increased, the Authority recognised a greater need to address, accommodate and protect cultural and heritage values.

Corporate Operations

The following information is provided for the purpose of illustrating the application of the principles of corporate operations.

- 1. The company is a public corporation.
- 2. The company is a corporation.
- 3. The company is a corporation.
- 4. The company is a corporation.

Corporate Operations

The following issues are considered fundamental for the Authority, to enable it to effectively meet its responsibilities in management of the Great Barrier Reef.

- Park management tools
- Day-to-day management
- Information for management
- Education and partnerships
- Corporate resources management

Park management tools

DESCRIPTION

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is managed not only to ensure conservation of its natural and cultural values but also to allow a diversity of use opportunities. The basic management tools are park planning, permitting, impact assessment, monitoring and policy.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

As use of the Marine Park continues to increase, it is important that the management tools are improved to better manage use, especially in intensively used regions such as the offshore Cairns and Whitsunday areas. Evaluation of the effectiveness of park management strategies and tools will be an integral part of management.

An important specific target was the development of both strategic and tactical planning processes addressing long- and short-term issues relating to site-specific and Reef-wide problems. An integrated planning system which includes other relevant agencies and addresses needs associated with indigenous peoples was also a priority. Other targets included a better permit system and development of common policies for the management of impacts of similar activities.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

A number of statutory planning projects were undertaken in 1996–97 to address both long- and short-term issues. In support of conservation of the dugong, a plan of management was completed for

Shoalwater Bay. This plan was the first statutory plan completed under the recently introduced management planning provisions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act.

The Shoalwater Bay management plan introduced measures to protect this very important stock of dugong, including controls on Defence activities and a prohibition on hunting. The implementation of a memorandum of understanding with the traditionally affiliated Darumbal Noolar people resulted in a voluntary cessation of dugong hunting. This cooperative management approach has been promoted as a model for other indigenous communities. A ban on the carriage and use of fishing nets has led to the plan currently being contested by the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation in the Federal Court.

Legal drafting of statutory management plans for the intensively used offshore Cairns and Whitsunday areas nears completion, with release for final public comment anticipated in August 1997. Over 60% of tourism use in the Marine Park is concentrated in these two areas. Once finalised, the plans will provide a basis for significant improvement to permitting and management of the cumulative impacts of tourism and other activities in these high-use areas.

The zoning plans for the Cairns, Central and Mackay/Capricorn Sections of the Park were amended to make provision for fisheries experimental areas. The first designation of reefs under those amendments has now occurred facilitating a major experiment to determine the effects of line fishing on the Great Barrier Reef.

A draft revised zoning plan for the Far Northern Section was produced in conjunction with the Queensland

Department of Environment which is developing a zoning plan for the adjacent Cape York Peninsula estuaries and intertidal areas. The process has involved extensive consultation, with a very significant component investigating cooperative management arrangements with indigenous communities. After legal drafting, the plan will be released for final public comment during the latter half of 1997.

The cooperative planning effort begun with the Queensland Department of Environment for the Hinchinbrook region will minimise the impacts of coastal development and other commercial activities on the World Heritage Area. In August 1996, the Commonwealth and Queensland entered into a memorandum of understanding to ensure that any appropriate commercial development which is approved in the Hinchinbrook region is carried out in accordance with interim arrangements and final regional management plans. Interim management arrangements have been activated comprising a twelve-month moratorium on new permits for activities that may conflict with the outcomes of the regional planning program; and the reimposition of regulated boat speeds in the planning area.

The impacts of defence activities in the World Heritage Area were managed through ongoing liaison with the Department of Defence. The Authority responded to a number of routine policy and planning issues concerning such activities during the year. Considerable comment was provided upon environmental planning and monitoring for a major joint USA–Australian military exercise in the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area.

A more strategic approach to the Reef-wide management of tourism use impacts was introduced through the

development of the Principles of the Tourism Use Management Strategy. A simplified system of licences for commercial tourism use has been proposed to improve the effectiveness of the permitting process. The system will be used in the implementation of management plans for the Cairns and Whitsunday areas. These improvements in policy and permitting, together with the planning initiatives under way, will increase the Authority's capability to manage tourism use, a priority key issue.

The Brown Review and the Sturgess Report included a number of recommendations in respect of the joint Authority/ Department of Environment Marine Parks permit system.

The Authority has, as a priority, dedicated increased staff resources to resolving outstanding permit applications that were lodged in the period previous to July 1996. This 'permit backlog' has been reduced to the point where those applications remaining outstanding are dependent upon the finalisation of policy or planning activities.

An increase of 81% from 1995–96 in the number of applications to transfer permits for tourist programs has occurred in 1996–97.

In 1996–97 the Authority developed a strategy of electronic networking to allow Queensland Department of Environment regional staff access to appropriate permit and EMC information. Direct access to this information by the Department of Environment will assist in increasing efficiency of the permit assessment process and result in more timely assessment of applications.

The Authority granted 311 tourist program permits, a 9% decrease on the 1995–96 period. A total of 774 new Marine Parks permits were granted

which is a 9% increase on the number granted in the previous year.

Of these permissions, the Queensland Department of Environment granted a total of 107 permits for educational activities, collection of coral and aquarium fish and the installation of moorings not associated with tourist program activities.

While there has been an overall decrease in the total number of permits granted in the period, the complexity of permits

currently being sought has increased – in particular permits relating to tourist programs and traditional hunting.

Table 1. *Permits granted since 1993–94 for activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park*

Permit Type	Number Granted			
	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96	1996–97
Tourist programs	341	301	343	311
Inc. aircraft operations	22	5	13	14
Inc. cruiseship operations	-	9	4	6
Research programs	231	191	227	160
Education programs	59	45	66	44
Moorings	12	4	4	35
Collecting	117	81	127	60
Traditional hunting	103	32	23	57
Farming of marine resources	2	1	0	2
Sea dumping	1	0	2	0
Offshore structures	2	2	7	17
Removal of dangerous animals	-	2	13	14
Waste discharge	-	2	4	8
Tourist facilities	-	6	5	6
Other activities	18	27	16	40
Total permits granted	886	694	854	774

Day-to-day management

DESCRIPTION

Field management of the Marine Park is achieved through the development and implementation of day-to-day management programs. Ensuring that there is effective and efficient day-to-day management is a continuing priority for the Authority. The Queensland Department of Environment's Coastal Management Branch carries out many of the Authority's day-to-day management programs.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Effective delivery of day-to-day management relies increasingly on communication and coordination between the Authority and Queensland Department of Environment staff. As use of the Marine Park increases and management becomes more complex, there is a need to resolve with the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments the future funding arrangements for day-to-day management. Traditional day-to-day management activities such as surveillance and enforcement need to be maintained.

Specific targets were an adequate day-to-day management field and administrative presence, and implementation of an integrated planning, programming and reporting system which set clear directions for day-to-day management. A third target was an effective surveillance and law enforcement program.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Field presence targets were established in the Day-to-Day Management Annual Program. A target of 1458 vessel patrol days was set with 1589 being achieved across the three Regions. A target of 502 aerial surveillance hours was set with 488 achieved. Field activity was impacted by four cyclones from January to March. Enforcement activity in the Marine Park resulted in some 258 infringements detected with 77 prosecutions resulting; fines totalled \$27 635.

A significant achievement during the year was the implementation of a revised process for day-to-day management programming and reporting. The new process better addresses risk management requirements.

Another improvement was the implementation of the Day-to-Day Management Liaison Communication Strategy. This strategy addressed communication shortcomings between the Authority and the Department of Environment.

The grounding of the vessel *MV Peacock* in the Far Northern Section saw the largest response to a maritime incident within the Great Barrier Reef since 1970. The incident tested both coordinated response capability of the day-to-day management agencies and the Authority's contingency planning for oil spills. No pollutants were spilled as a result of either the grounding or the response.

During the grounding incident the Authority undertook interdepartmental coordination of scientific and environmental response activities. Some shortcomings in the response have subsequently been addressed thus improving the Authority's ability to respond to maritime pollution.

Information for management

DESCRIPTION

Having the best available information for decision making is essential to high quality, scientifically based management of the Marine Park. Research and monitoring programs need to focus on the key issues faced by the Authority.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Authority will pursue a strategic and coordinated approach to information acquisition, management, analysis, interpretation, dissemination and application. Such an approach needs to be supported by information technology services which are responsive to changing technologies and corporate priorities.

Specific targets included provision of quality scientific information and advice for Marine Park management, and ensuring that decision making is supported by the best available information. Information systems and services which meet organisational needs, efficiency gains from effective application of information technology, and cooperation with other organisations were additional targets.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

To better support informed decision making, socio-cultural and economic information needs were identified and prioritised for the CRC Reef Research Centre socioeconomic program. The status and relevance of the existing socio-cultural and economic databases have been reviewed. The Australian Bureau of Statistics census data were acquired and

translated using the ArcInfo software, in order to provide human use spatial information for the Great Barrier Reef tourism review (Sturgess Report) and for planning dugong protection.

The socio-cultural and economic program also commissioned a review of the role of public participation in the Authority's decision-making processes. The project is in its final stage and will help maximise the use of information originating from public involvement in the management of the Marine Park.

A series of regularly updated background briefing papers had been planned to support management of the key issues and Reef-wide planning initiatives. However, their production was put on hold due to delay in the release of the primary information source, the 'State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Workshop Report'. Also, the internal response to requests for technical input was poor. The recent release of the workshop proceeding and clearer strategic direction for the key issues of tourism and endangered species mean that such a collection of documents is now both feasible and desirable.

Targeted application of information technology and resources has made existing research and monitoring results more widely available. Access, at the appropriate level of security, has been provided via the World Wide Web to all major data sets and research report summaries for staff, other agencies and the general public.

Improved network efficiency has encouraged further use of the facility by clients and cooperating agencies. Links to particular information resources have been provided to the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the CRC Reef Research Centre, the Queensland

Department of Environment and ERIN. External dial-in access for staff has been upgraded to allow access while in the field and at other remote locations.

A broad, iterative planning process for a corporate information management plan was initiated. However, there were insufficient resources to produce a final product within the financial year, following a need to devote resources to higher priority areas.

A survey to determine the current level of information technology literacy of staff, together with other associated information, was conducted. Using this information as a base, a program was developed and implemented to improve the level of productivity from the application of information technology.

Benchmarking of information technology efficiency was undertaken and performance indicators were developed to establish comparisons of efficiency against other agencies. Costs incurred in the delivery of the Authority's information technology services were significantly lower than the average for the Australian Public Service in terms of total staff costs. In relative terms, the Authority was delivering these services at a cost 10% less than the Australian Public Service average. These evaluations will continue with the development of performance indicators for the use of information technology by other sections of the Authority.

Education and partnerships

DESCRIPTION

Having a community and Reef user-groups that understand the Great Barrier

Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area and support the protection of its natural and cultural values is essential to effective management. A strong corporate image and sound partnerships between management agencies and other relevant Government bodies, indigenous peoples and community organisations are also important in achieving the Authority's objectives. The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium presents and promotes understanding of the Reef and its management.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Sound partnerships and community support will be of particular importance in working together to achieve the objectives of the 25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. It is timely that the structure of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee and community based advisory committees be reviewed. As a result, their roles in Marine Park and World Heritage Area management may need to be modified or strengthened.

The transfer of the Authority's skills and knowledge to assist in the management of marine and coastal areas in Australia and overseas is an important contribution to Australia's conservation obligations. At the same time, such activities highlight the Authority's expertise, enhancing its national and international reputation. As more consultancies are undertaken, the demand for assistance will increase due to greater awareness of the Authority's capabilities.

The potential of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium as a reef interpretive and educational facility needs to be maximised. In particular, marketing effort will be targeted at regional residents, tourists travelling by road and

school students. An expanded program of market research will provide the focus for improvement of the visitor experience.

Specific targets included an increased understanding of Marine Park issues by the public and users, further development of partnerships with government and community organisations, and achievement of more stakeholder input into planning and management. The Authority also undertook to provide consulting services in coastal and marine management, and operate an effective public aquarium with high quality presentation of the Great Barrier Reef.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Extension programs in general have raised understanding and support of the World Heritage Area with Reef user-groups, and rural and community groups on coastal catchment areas. As well, they have kept the broader community informed of the Authority's programs. Specific extension programs have supported target achievement for the key issues of water quality, conservation, fishing and tourism.

The water quality extension program has achieved an increased awareness of the potential downstream effects of land runoff with stakeholders. It has solicited and noted stakeholders beliefs, and has continued to aid in the facilitation of workable strategies to reduce undesirable terrestrial inputs into the Reef region. Extensive consultation with agricultural groups has contributed to greater understanding of sustainable agriculture by rural communities. The program also promoted and supported Landcare and Integrated Catchment Management, community approaches to better management of natural resources.

In support of the conservation of the dugong, an enhanced extension effort has raised awareness of the plight of the dugong, particularly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and commercial fishing interests. Improved understanding of the need for dugong conservation measures resulted in a voluntary cessation of traditional dugong hunting in Shoalwater Bay. Work with recreational fishing groups has resulted in a voluntary code of practice for recreational boating in important dugong areas and its endorsement by the recreational fishing peak body. Further, this group has publicly supported bans on fishing nets as a significant means of reducing dugong mortality.

The dugong extension program also publicised the conservation initiatives and identified potential conflicts. A number of strategies including mail-outs, meetings and briefings were implemented to assist feedback into the dugong protection plan and to canvass stakeholders as to the implications of proposed closures. Despite the extension effort, the net bans introduced in the Shoalwater Bay management plan have remained contentious with commercial fishing interests.

Productive working relationships have been maintained with the Queensland Department of Environment through regular consultation and involvement in the development of its annual communication program for marine parks. The successful establishment of the water quality extension team from a variety of agencies in northern Queensland has allowed for easy coordination across departmental boundaries. This inter-agency cooperation is effective in that the common use of guiding principles and terminology allows for reinforcement of the extension message.

Ongoing consultation on a variety of issues with government bodies and other organisations has supported management of the key issues. For example, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and CSIRO were consulted on fisheries matters, James Cook University on tourism and endangered species issues, and Queensland Transport on codes of practice initiatives. Similar collaboration occurred with a variety of institutions on training initiatives.

Communication and coordination have continued with the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories for federal issues, particularly those relating to coasts, endangered species, world heritage and Law of the Sea. Local government contact occurred through the Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees and direct contact on relevant issues.

Community and industry involvement in the development and implementation of management strategies was achieved in a number of ways using both a cross-sectoral approach and direct communication. A variety of methods were used including the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee, cross-sectoral workshops, continuous ongoing liaison with peak groups, and joint projects between users and the Authority. These forums provided mechanisms for resolution of inter- and intra-group conflict on a variety of issues, ensuring involvement in and commitment to management outcomes.

Effective consultation with the marine tourism industry resulted in active and wide involvement in the policy formulation and management planning undertaken during the year. In particular, there was good industry participation in the Great Barrier Reef Tourism Review and the development of a more strategic

approach to managing Reef-wide tourism use. Greater appreciation of the World Heritage Area will follow from the implementation of the first tourist operator training program, supported by a range of educational and interpretive material.

Extension staff were members of all key issues and major planning groups, ensuring that extension and information planning were built into the planning phase of new programs. The development of internal training programs and a better client focus from within the extension and production units have raised the profile of education and information planning with other areas of the authority. Protocols have been developed for oil spill responses, media inquiries, consultation with and through Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees, and in dealing with certain client groups.

The **Great Barrier Reef Aquarium** has further consolidated its position as Australia's premier reef education centre through expansion and improvement of education and visitor services programs. The Aquarium won four 1997 Townsville North Queensland Tourism Awards including Significant Regional Attraction and General Tourism Services. The higher profile flowing from industry recognition helped promote both the facility and the Reef.

The Aquarium's education programs played a major role in raising awareness and knowledge of the Reef with formal education sector. One new school activity program was developed, taking the total to 18 curriculum-based programs. Activities were designed to complement school curricula while at the same time focusing on marine issues. The efficiency of delivery has been raised through solicited teacher involvement in program development. Regional school group

visits for the out-of-hours sleepover program increased 44% compared to the 1995–96 visitation. Two educational products were recognised nationally by design awards.

Two new exhibits were developed, one of which focuses on the crown-of-thorns starfish, an important concern within the conservation key issue. Introduction of the 'Dive with the Predators' activity has added another dimension to the visitor experience. Exhibit standard has improved with less down time for aquarium displays. Visitor satisfaction was well above average, rating at 8 on a scale of 10.

Volunteers again played a crucial role in Aquarium operations with the 20 000 annual service hours ensuring cost-effective delivery of programs. Joint management meetings between the Aquarium and the Volunteer Association have facilitated greater involvement of volunteers in a broader range of Aquarium operations. The staffing level remained static at 30 persons.

Considerable effort during 1996–97 was concentrated on improving marketing and financial management. Marketing activities were redirected towards identified segments with significant growth potential such as regional Queensland, free independent travellers, and tour group companies. The Aquarium made a significant contribution to promoting the north Queensland region, through cooperative campaigns and representations at trade and consumer shows (as well as regular sales calls to retail travel agents). Pre-selling of Aquarium admissions by accommodation houses has improved through an active sales-call program. Free publicity from media exposure was equivalent to \$160 000.

Revenue from venue hire was originally

set low, after a re-consideration of pricing policy. However, through active promotion in the conventions and meetings market, revenue was revised upward and doubled its result on the previous year.

Targeting local visitation through the membership program has proved successful with a 25% increase in membership. Five per cent of Townsville's population are now Aquarium members. The membership renewal rate for 1996–97 was maintained at 50% and there was an 18% increase in member visits.

The change from a common ticket-selling arrangement with adjacent attractions to exclusive selling of admission tickets at the Aquarium front desk has improved commercial performance. Assuming control of point-of-sale resulted in a higher conversion rate from single admission tickets to membership sales. Relocation of ticket sales from the Aquarium shop enabled greater focus on retail activities and contributed to a 21% increase in sales compared to the previous year.

Improved performance of revenue-generating programs provided non-admission revenue (excluding appropriation) equivalent to 58% of ticket sales. The budget for sponsorship income was revised to zero due to continuing uncertainty about the future of the Aquarium.

Ticketed visitation was 4.3% lower than the previous year and total visitation was marginally lower at 136 114. This is a significant operating result as visitor numbers and visitor nights to the northern region were down 7% in 1996. Cost recovery from self-generated revenue was similar to 1995–96 at 81%.

(Assuming total control of ticket-selling operations has resulted in the exclusion of all free-of-charge admissions from ticket sales figures for 1996–97. Consequently, 1995–96 figures for comparison have been adjusted to exclude any free-of-charge admissions.)

Improved financial management has maintained budget control. The budget was reviewed quarterly and expenditure adjusted to respond to unanticipated changes in revenue, in particular visitation. An increased cash surplus for the second year running has provided reserves for revenue improvement programs and permitted the establishment of a sinking fund for future capital refurbishment. A structure and systems audit confirmed the effectiveness of Aquarium maintenance programs and increased the life of the facility for depreciation purposes from 25 to 50 years, further improving overall financial performance.

The consulting activities undertaken through the **External Services Section** have made the Authority's expertise widely available in the Indo-Pacific region. The large number of both national and international consultancies commenced or completed demonstrated the success of the Authority in meeting the demand for assistance and advice in coastal and marine environmental management. New national and global environmental initiatives, together with greater market awareness of the available services have increased the number of inquiries for assistance.

Consultancy services in 1996–97 continued to focus on training and mentoring, including the development and delivery of a four-week and two three-month courses to groups from Thailand and Indonesia. An outcome of this focus has been the development of training materials that reflect

contemporary approaches to the management of marine environments, based on the evolving experience of Authority staff. Such an active program of training consultancies represented an efficient mechanism for the transfer of the Authority's skills and knowledge.

The numerous consultancies undertaken on the establishment and management of marine protected areas in the Asia-Pacific region have promoted the development of such systems. A project was also undertaken to translate training materials on marine protected areas management into Bahasa Indonesia. In Australia, technical assistance and project management have been provided for the Ocean Rescue 2000 program on a national system of marine protected areas.

In support of more global awareness of coral reef conservation, the Authority has established secretariat services for the International Coral Reef Initiative. Assistance was also provided for the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef campaign.

Consulting activities were undertaken on a cost-recovery basis. Business performance of the External Services Section appeared to have improved in 1996–97, although an accurate assessment will not be available until the new financial management system is fully operational. Staffing levels were maintained, with the one staff member who was injured during an overseas consultancy undertaking limited duties while undergoing rehabilitation.

Collaborative alliances with the INTROMARC and AMSAT consortia have been further consolidated, with strategic directions emerging that will allow the pursuit of niche opportunities within the international marketplace. The Brown Review of the Authority recommended establishment of a joint

consulting company with the Australian Institute of Marine Science and transfer of the section to that entity. Future activities will be determined by investigation of this recommendation in 1997–98.

Corporate resources management

DESCRIPTION

Ensuring that the Authority has appropriate resources and support to achieve its objectives is a continuing priority. Effective use of resources relies on integrated, flexible and efficient systems and practices for the management of human, physical and financial resources.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Emphasis will be placed on the provision of a flexible corporate structure that facilitates the achievement of corporate strategies, and the development and maintenance of a resource management framework which adds value. Also important is a commitment to the principles and practices which facilitate equity, workforce empowerment and continuous improvement and which provide a healthy and safe work environment. The Authority's sources of funding need to be reviewed and alternatives pursued.

Specific targets included a flexible organisational structure, a workplace culture based on equity, empowerment and continuous improvement, and a safe work environment. An additional target was the establishment of a resources management framework which

incorporates contemporary developments and requirements, adds value and enhances accountability.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

As a result of Government decisions relating to increasing the EMC and implementation of a new Tourist Visitor Charge, the Authority is moving to a position of increasing funding dependence on tourism activity in northern Queensland. Table 2 at page 44 depicts this changing relationship. Effective administration of increased user charges will require further development and implementation of recovery and enforcement systems.

Arising from recommendations of the Brown Review on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Authority, a restructure of the Executive was announced and recruitment action initiated. The Executive Officer and three Senior Director positions were deleted and replaced by two positions of Executive Director. After filling these positions, reorganisation of reporting structures will be implemented in consultation with staff.

Additionally the Authority decided to adopt a conservative staffing position. As a result, there was an increase in the number of temporary appointments.

Upgrading of the accounting and financial management information systems was completed, allowing use of 'commercial' accrual accounting systems incorporating monthly profit and loss and balance sheet reporting. In addition to section and unit reporting, provision was made for program budgeting and reporting based on the structure of the Corporate Plan. Separate ledgers were developed for the Authority, Aquarium

and External Services Section. Considerable rationalisation and simplification of accounting structures was also achieved.

Due to funding constraints, the introduction of a computerised human resource management system was deferred to the following year. This system will be interfaced with the financial management information system to further facilitate accrual accounting.

Resource management frameworks were reviewed in conjunction with the upgrade of the financial management information system. Considerable progress was made in aligning the budgeting and resource allocation processes. Net cost of service budget and reporting formats now differentiate between income and operating, staffing, project and capital expenditure, with specific detail provided in relation to each resource segment.

A number of other initiatives also helped develop more direct links between resource allocation, budgeting and accounting processes. Procedures for projecting staff costs were reviewed and made more easily accessible, and accurate systems were implemented. The proposed introduction of project management accounting will ensure alignment of the accounting systems and the Research and Monitoring Projects Database.

Depreciation policy was reviewed and consolidated. An engineering review of the Aquarium's structure and systems enabled a favourable reassessment of its useful life and therefore a significant reduction in the rate of depreciation.

Workforce skills and competencies were improved through commitment of significant funds to training and staff development opportunities. These

activities met individual development needs which were identified as part of performance and development planning and appraisal processes. Staff continued to participate in a major competency-based training program, the Certificate in Public Administration.

A review was completed and marketing undertaken of the Study Assistance Program to target priority organisational needs. This initiative will help maintain a human resource capability which is responsive to corporate requirements.

The Authority maintained its commitment to a participative work environment by involving staff and unions in structural reviews, performance improvement initiatives and Agency Agreement development. To improve the current consultative and communication mechanisms, Joint Consultative Committee arrangements were reviewed and meetings held quarterly. Regular staff meetings provided information in relation to the progress and outcome of major issues.

In line with the changing industrial relations framework, the Authority is preparing to negotiate a Certified Agreement in 1997-98. Further Industrial Democracy reporting information is at appendix G.

Focus was maintained on major EEO initiatives and outcomes through continued implementation of the Authority's EEO Plan for 1994-97. Further EEO reporting information is at appendix G.

The OH&S Committee continued to function well during the year, contributing significantly to achieving workplace safety objectives. There were no worker compensation claims submitted during 1996-97. Further OH&S reporting information is at appendix G.

Financial Report Summary

An overview of the Authority's financial operations during 1996-97 follows. However, as the format used is cash based the figures do not reconcile with the Financial Statements at appendix L which are presented in accrual format.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT OUTLAYS

These outlays comprise: From Appropriation Acts Nos 1 and 3, \$12 753 000 for the general operation of the Authority.

From Appropriation Acts Nos 2 and 4, \$3 847 000 for day-to-day management of the Marine Park and World Heritage

Area. These funds were combined with the Queensland Government contribution.

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT CHARGE APPROPRIATION

This is Special Appropriation of \$1 985 000. The enabling legislation for the Environment Management Charge on Tourist Operations requires that the money collected by the Authority be paid into the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund. It is then returned to the Authority via the Special Appropriation and was used to fund the Authority's primary contribution of \$875 000 to the Cooperative Research Centre for the Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef and tourism related research and extension activities.

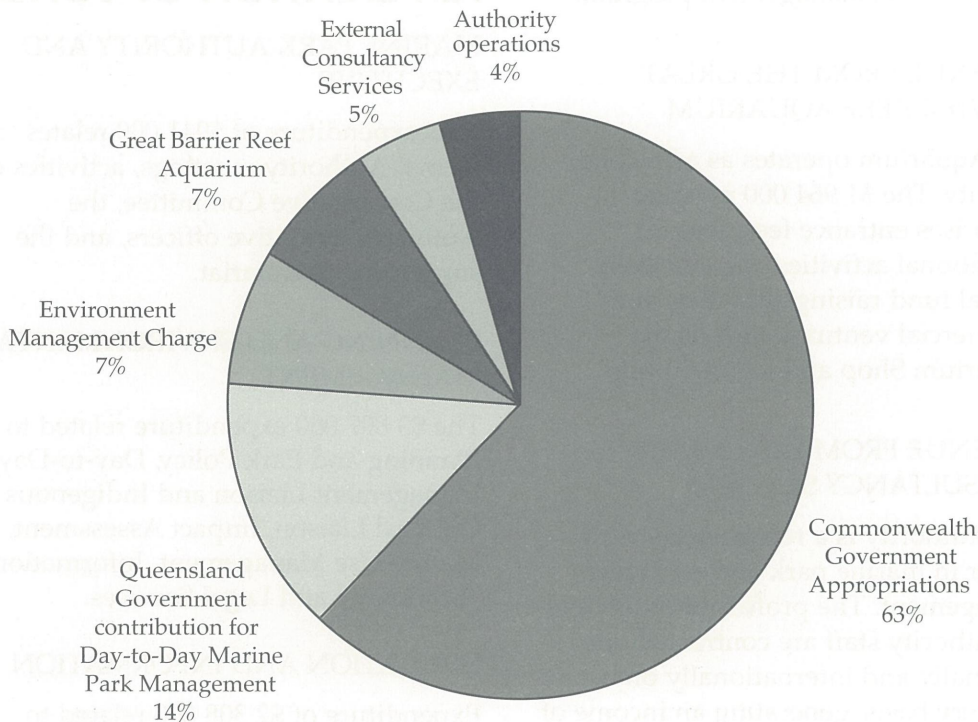


Figure 3. Source of funds

Table 2. Source of funds

	\$000's
Commonwealth Government Appropriations	16 600
Queensland Government contribution for	
Day-to-Day Marine Park Management	3 839
Environmental Management Charge	1 985
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	1 964
External Consultancy Services	1 229
Authority operations	1 195
Total	26 812

QUEENSLAND CONTRIBUTION TO DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

These funds totalling \$3 839 000 were 'matched' with those from Appropriation Act No. 2 and allocated to the Queensland Department of Environment for the implementation of an agreed Marine Parks management program.

REVENUE FROM THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AQUARIUM

The Aquarium operates as a Trading Activity. The \$1 964 000 revenue comprises entrance fees, fees for educational activities, income from special fund raising activities, and commercial ventures such as the Aquarium Shop and venue hiring.

REVENUE FROM EXTERNAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Authority is a recognised world leader in marine park and coral reef management. The professional services of Authority staff are contracted out nationally and internationally on a cost recovery basis, generating an income of \$1 229 000.

REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS

Projects funded by other organisations, grants, Permit Assessment Fees, sale of publications and other income totals \$1 195 000.

APPLICATION OF FUNDS

MARINE PARK AUTHORITY AND EXECUTIVE

This expenditure of \$941 000 relates to formal Authority meetings, activities of the Consultative Committee, the Authority executive officers, and the supporting Secretariat.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The \$3 807 000 expenditure related to Planning and Park Policy, Day-to-Day Management Liaison and Indigenous Cultural Liaison, Impact Assessment, Marine Use Management, Information Technology and Legal Services.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

Expenditure of \$2 308 000 related to Extension, Library, Production, Public Affairs and Information Support services.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

This core activity of the Authority cost \$3 795 000. In its role as a research broker the Authority contracts out research projects costing \$669 000 to the CRC Reef Research Centre, and also engages the Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University and individual researchers.

ADMINISTRATION

The expenditure of \$644 000 was for services relating to Finance and Accounting, Human Resource Management and Office Services.

CORPORATE OVERHEADS

The Authority aggregates major expenditure relating to property operations, communications, plant and equipment, insurance, OH&S,

recruitment and general support. This outlay of \$1 702 000 is distributable across the Authority.

GREAT BARRIER REEF AQUARIUM

In addition to the income generated by the Aquarium an annual government appropriation of \$500 000 enabled a total expenditure of \$2 344 000.

EXTERNAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The External Services Section operates as a Trading Activity and the \$1 188 000 expenditure represents the cost of its operation. The Authority is reimbursed when other Authority staff are assigned to projects.

DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT

The \$7 873 000 is funded from the contributions of the Commonwealth and

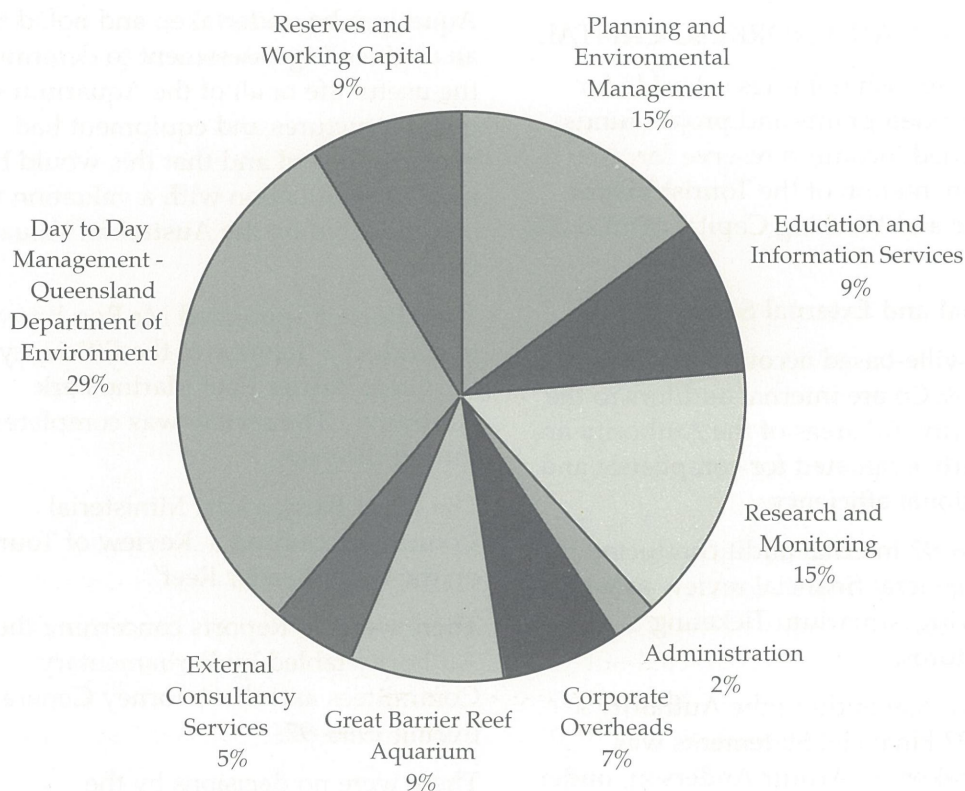


Figure 4. Application of funds

Table 3. Application of funds

	\$000's
Planning and Environmental Management	3 807
Education and Information Services	2 308
Research and Monitoring	3 795
Administration	644
Corporate Overheads	1 702
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	2 344
External Consultancy Services	1 188
Day to Day Management – Queensland Department of Environment	7 873
Reserves and Working Capital	2 210
Total	25 871

Queensland Governments. Variations relating to cash flow and project timing will be reconciled and adjusting payments made early next financial year.

RESERVES AND WORKING CAPITAL

These are cash holdings set aside for unexpended grants and project funds, un-earned income, a reserve for implementation of the Tourist Visitor Charge and Working Capital of \$500 000.

Internal and External Scrutiny

Townsville-based accountancy firm, C E Smith & Co are internal auditors to the Authority. All areas of the Authority are regularly evaluated for compliance and operational efficiency.

In 1996–97 internal audit conducted the usual general financial review as well as reviewing Aquarium Ticketing procedures.

The external audit of the Authority's 1996–97 Financial Statements was undertaken by Arthur Anderson, under contract to the Australian National Audit Office.

Audit Report No 19, 1996–97, which was tabled in the House of Representatives on 9 December 1996 recommended that a valuation of the land and buildings associated with the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium be undertaken and noted that an engineering assessment to determine the useful life of all of the Aquarium's major structures and equipment had been completed and that this would be used in conjunction with a valuation to be conducted by the Australian Valuation Office.

The Minister appointed Mr Ron Brown to conduct a 'Review of the Efficiency of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority'. The review was completed during the year.

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council announced a 'Review of Tourism on the Great Barrier Reef'.

There were no Reports concerning the Authority tabled by Parliamentary Committees and the Attorney General during 1996–97.

There were no decisions by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal or

Table 4. Financial and staffing resources summary

	Actual 1995-96 \$000's	Actual 1996-97 \$000's
BUDGETARY (CASH) BASIS		
Operational & Program Expenditure		
Authority Operations	15 143	14 384
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	2 321	2 344
Day-to-day Management	8 613	7 873
Total Gross Expenditure	26 077	24 601
less Revenue	8 692	8 226
variation in cash on hand	(799)	2 210
Total Appropriations	16 586	18 585
less adjustments	1 500	1 985
Total Outlays	15 086	16 600
ACCRUAL BASIS		
Net Cost of Service Delivery	18 088	17 283
Revenues from Commonwealth Government	17 280	18 740
Surplus/(Deficit) of net cost of services over revenues from Government	(808)	1 485
Total Assets	9 647	14 937
Total Liabilities	4 269	5 020
Total Equity	5 378	9 917
STAFFING full-time equivalent at 30 June 1997		
Staff FTE (including Aquarium)	148.78	140.5

comments by the Ombudsman relating to any decisions of the Authority in 1996-97. One permit decision of the Authority was appealed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and has yet to be determined by that tribunal.

Notes to table 4:

The Authority's Financial Statements, included at appendix L, are prepared on an accrual accounting basis. Payments to the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund of receipts collected from the environmental management charge have been excluded from the cash based figures. The Special Appropriation is included as Appropriation but excluded from Outlays. Reasons for variations between cash and accrual based figures include the inclusion of unfunded charges in the Operating Statement, the accrual of revenue and expense items and expenditure on assets being capitalised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Table 5. *Payments to the Queensland Department of Environment for day-to-day management, by Regions*

	1996-97	1997-98 (estimated)
	\$	\$
Central Office		
Salaries & Operating	679 133	680 000
Post Initial Capital	14 825	5 000
Central Coast Region		
Salaries & Operating	1 699 064	1 742 000
Post Initial Capital	285 000	335 000
Northern Region		
Salaries & Operating	2 307 315	2 472 000
Post Initial Capital	431 999	250 000
Far Northern Region		
Salaries & Operating	2 305 663	2 356 000
Post Initial Capital	150 001	165 000
All Regions		
Salaries & Operating	6 991 175	7 250 000
Post Initial Capital	881 825	755 000
TOTAL	7 873 000	8 005 000

Table 6. *Cost sharing for day-to-day management*

	1996-97	1997-98 (estimated)
	\$	\$
Queensland		
Salaries, Wages & Operating	3 495 587	3 625 000
Post Initial Capital	440 913	377 500
Total	3 936 500	4 002 500
Commonwealth		
Salaries, Wages & Operating	3 495 587	3 625 000
Post Initial Capital	440 913	377 500
Total	3 936 500	4 002 500
TOTAL	7 873 000	8 005 000

Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee

The Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee was established by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975. Its purpose is to advise the Government on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The Committee is a statutory body with a representative membership of 12 members, including representatives of the Government, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Committee is chaired by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage. The Committee's terms of reference are set out in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975. The Committee's main functions are to advise the Government on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and to monitor the progress of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in carrying out its functions. The Committee also has the power to make recommendations to the Government on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Agreement on 13 August 1996

The Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee agreed the following terms of reference on 13 August 1996:

1. To advise the Government on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
2. To monitor the progress of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in carrying out its functions.
3. To make recommendations to the Government on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
4. To advise the Government on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
5. To monitor the progress of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in carrying out its functions.
6. To make recommendations to the Government on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
7. To advise the Government on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
8. To monitor the progress of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in carrying out its functions.
9. To make recommendations to the Government on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
10. To advise the Government on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
11. To monitor the progress of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in carrying out its functions.
12. To make recommendations to the Government on the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee

The Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee was established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* as an independent advisory body for both the Authority and the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the environment. Specific functions are defined in section 21 of the Act.

The Consultative Committee represents a wide cross-section of interests in the Great Barrier Reef (from both the public and private sectors) including tourism, fishing, science, conservation, local government and Aboriginal communities. It consists of members appointed by the Minister for a three-year term and a member of the Authority appointed by the Authority for an indefinite term. Appointments made by the Minister took effect on 16 August 1993 and concluded on 15 August 1996. Dr Ian McPhail, the Authority's appointee, commenced as member on 22 February 1995. On 25 January 1996, the Minister appointed Mrs Irene Butterworth and Ms Penny Figgis to fill vacancies created by the mid-term departures of Mr Greg McLean and Mr Adrian Jeffreys. The terms of office of Mrs Butterworth and Ms Figgis concluded on 15 August 1996 also. No appointments have been made by the Minister during 1996–97.

Membership as at 15 August 1996

Professor Helene Marsh (Chairperson)	James Cook University of North Queensland
Mr Harry Bonanno	Canegrowers
Councillor Ann Bunnell	Council of the City of Townsville
Mr Mike Burgess	Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators
Mrs Irene Butterworth	Giru Dala Council of Elders Aboriginal Corporation
Ms Sally Driml	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Ms Penny Figgis	Australian Conservation Foundation
Mr Tony Fontes	Dive Australia
Mr Denis Griffith	Sunfish
Mr Eddie Hegerl	Australian Marine Conservation Society and Queensland Conservation Council
Dr Anne Hoggett	Lizard Island Research Station
Mr Ted Loveday	Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation
Dr Ian McPhail	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Mr David Mazitelli	Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Tourism
Mr Peter Neville	Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry
Mr Peter O'Clery	National Centre for Studies in Travel and Tourism and Australian Tourism Research Institute
Mr Dave Perkins	Queensland Department of Environment

Business Activities

Administrative assistance for the Committee is coordinated by staff of the Authority's secretariat in Townsville. During 1996–97, the Consultative Committee met once, on 25 and 26 July 1996 in Townsville.

Meetings of the Committee are supported by staff of the Authority and indirectly by staff of the Queensland Department of Environment. During 1996–97, two other persons attended meetings of the Committee to provide professional and expert advice, at no cost to the Committee. These persons were affiliated with James Cook University of North Queensland.

Under arrangements established in 1993–94, the Committee may advise, through the Authority, the Queensland Minister for Environment and the Cooperative Research Centre for Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef.

In 1996–97, the Consultative Committee provided advice on matters which included:

- the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area,
- resourcing for management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park,
- artificial reefs,
- dugongs and turtles,
- the MARPOL Convention and sewage disposal, and
- the Committee's statutory functions.

The Committee has prepared a short paper on its role. This paper, and summary documents of the Committee's meetings, are available on request from the secretariat.

Appendix B Authority Senior Management

Townsville Office

Dr Ian McPhail	Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer
Ms Dianne Brien	Senior Director
Ms Prue Keen	Senior Director
Mr Ian Burston	Director, Education/Information
Mr Martin Jones	Director, Aquarium
Mr Peter McGinnity	Director, Planning
Dr Zena Dinesen	Director, Park Management Policy
Mr Jon Brodie	Director, Research and Monitoring
Mr Simon Woodley	Director, External Services
Mr Norman Austin	Director, Administration

Canberra Office

Mr Richard Kenchington	Senior Director, External Services
Mr Colin Trinder	Director, Canberra Office

An entire publication list is available from the Authority. This list contains those publications produced during 1996–97 as well as current management publications.

Workshop Series (ISSN 0156-5842)

22. *Cyclone Sadie Flood Plumes in the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon : Composition and Consequences : proceedings of a workshop held in Townsville, Queensland, Australia, 10 November 1994, at the Australian Institute of Marine Science, 1997*, ed. A. Steven, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23014 5

23. *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Workshop : proceedings of a technical workshop held in Townsville, Queensland, Australia, 27–29 November 1995, 1997*, eds D. Wachenfeld, J. Oliver and K. Davis, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23026 9

Research Publication Series (ISSN 1037-1508)

40. *Historical Nutrient Usage in Coastal Queensland River Catchments Adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : March 1993, 1996*, J. S. Pulsford, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23011 0

41. *The Status of the Dugong in the Southern Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, 1996*, H. Marsh, P. Corkeron, I. Lawler, J. Lanyon & A. Preen, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23015 3

42. *Standard Operational Procedure : Video-monitoring of Sessile Benthic Communities, 1996*, D. Wachenfeld, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23016 1 (photocopies only / not printed)

Commonwealth Coastal Action Program Report Series

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Trace Metals in Sediments, Indicator Organisms and Traditional Seafoods of the Torres Strait, 1996, W. Gladstone, Commonwealth Coastal Action Program Report Series 5a, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 25478 8

Heavy Metals in Commercial Prawn and Crayfish Species in Torres Strait, 1997, E. Evans-Illidge, Commonwealth Coastal Action Program Report Series 5b, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 26442 2

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The Great Barrier Reef, Science, Use and Management : a National Conference : proceedings, 1997, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23023 4 (vol. 1), ISBN 0 642 23024 2 (vol. 2), ISBN 0 642 23022 6 (set)

Guidelines for Managing Visitation to Seabird Breeding Islands, 1997, WBM Oceanics Australia and G. Claridge, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23029 3

Independent Review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority : Report submitted to Hon. Sen. Robert Hill, Minister for the Environment, 1997, Ron Brown & Associates Pty Ltd, GBRMPA, Townsville.

The Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, 1997, P. H. C. Lucas, T. Webb, P. S. Valentine and H. Marsh, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23028 5

Review of the Marine Tourism Industry in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, 1997, Tourism Review Steering Committee, [Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority], [Townsville].

The State of the Marine Environment Report for Australia : Technical Annex 3 : State and Territory Issues, [1996], eds L. P. Zann & D. C. Sutton, GBRMPA for the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, Ocean Rescue 2000 Program, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23012 9

State of the Marine Environment Report for Australia : Technical Summary, [1996], comp. L. P. Zann, GBRMPA for the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, Ocean Rescue 2000 Program, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 17398 2

Aquarium Publications

Coralines : Magazine of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium (ISSN 1037-0684), vol. 1(1) – 6(3), 1991–96

Coralines : Aquarium Supporters' Magazine (ISSN 1037-0684), issue 1 – , 1997

Education Programs

Creature Feature Years 3–7, 1997, Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.
ISBN 0 642 12037 4

Table Manners Years 3–7, 1997, Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.
ISBN 0 642 12046 3

Aquarium Brochures

Experience the Aquarium after dark, 1997, Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.

Experience the Living Classroom, [1997], Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.

Great Barrier Reef Aquarium : Yours to enjoy 364 days of the year..., [1996], Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.

Predator Dives, Townsville: the ultimate dive, [1996], Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.

Volunteering at the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, [1997], Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.

Welcome to the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, [1997], Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Townsville.

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Crown-of-thorns starfish on the Great Barrier Reef : the facts : update March '97, 1997, CRC Reef Research Centre/GBRMPA, Townsville.

Crown-of-thorns starfish survey, 1997, GBRMPA, Townsville.

The Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area : Summary, [1997], GBRMPA, Townsville.

The Torres Strait Baseline Study : What does it all mean?, [1996], GBRMPA, Townsville.

What's that Slick?, 1996, GBRMPA, Townsville. (Reprint)

Serial Publications

Annual Report (ISSN 0155-8072), 1976–77 –

Bulletin (ISSN 0725-0886/0705-8764)

48. *Marine Park Zones at Magnetic Island*, November 1996

Corporate Plan (ISSN 1039-8538), 1992–1997 –

Great Barrier Reef Reference File : Issues, Facts, Figures, Brief 1 –, 1993 –

Heritage and Environment [CD-ROM] 1995 –, Informit, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Melbourne.

Ocean Rescue 2000 Sea Notes (ISSN 1324-6887), 1994 – 1996

[1.] *Seagrass*

[2.] *Ballast water*

3. *Marine protected areas*

Replaced by *Shorelines* (ISSN 1327-6697), 1996 –

Nutrients and sediments no. 5, ISBN 0 642 23018 8

Seagrass no. 6, ISBN 642 23019 6

Ballast water no. 7, ISBN 0 642 23020 X

Marine protected areas no. 8, ISBN 0 642 23021 8

Ocean Rescue 2000 Update (ISSN 1320-0828), April 1993 – April 1996

Reef Connections : a Newsletter for the Reef Based Tourist Industry, no. 1 –, 1993 –

REEF Current Awareness Bulletin Annual (ISSN 0813-7897), 1983 –

Reef Notes (ISSN 0814-9453), 1985 –, GBRMPA, Townsville.

Coral Cays, Revised as *Reefs, cays and islands* 1996

Dugongs, Revised 1996

Sharks, Revised as *Sharks and Rays* 1996

Shells, Revised as *Shells and Molluscs* 1996

The Annual Coral Spawning Event on the Great Barrier, Revised 1996

The Coral Polyp, Revised 1996

The Great Barrier Reef, Revised 1996

Whales, Revised as *Whales and Dolphins* 1996

Reef Research : Newsletter of the Research and Monitoring Section (ISSN 1037-0692), vol. 1(1) –, 1991 –

Sea Country, no. 1 –, 1995 –

Audiovisual Productions

Deckhand : a Video Magazine for Queensland Commercial Fishermen (video recording) Edition 1 –, 1989/90 –

Marine Protected Areas : Special Places (video recording, 45 minutes) 1995, GBRMPA [for the Ocean Rescue 2000 Program], Townsville.

Saltwater People (television documentary, 54 minutes) 1996, GBRMPA, Townsville.

Management Information

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Amendments for the Cairns, Central and Mackay/Capricorn Sections Explained, 1996, GBRMPA, Townsville

Shoalwater Bay (Dugong) Plan of Management, 1996, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23017 X

Shoalwater Bay (Dugong) Plan of Management, 1997, GBRMPA, Townsville. ISBN 0 642 23035 0

All current zoning plans, as statutory publications, are listed below.

Far Northern Section

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : Far Northern Section Zoning Plan, 1985, GBRMPA, Townsville.
ISBN 0 642 52433 5

Cairns Section

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : Cairns Section Zoning Plan, 1992, GBRMPA, Townsville.
ISBN 0 642 12019 6

Central Section

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : Central Section Zoning Plan, 1987, GBRMPA, Townsville.
ISBN 0 642 52553 6

Mackay/Capricorn Section

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park : Mackay/Capricorn Section Zoning Plan, 1987, GBRMPA, Townsville.
ISBN 0 642 12008 0

Freedom of Information

Documents available for purchase (including bulk-purchase) through selected outlets

Nomination of the Great Barrier Reef by the Commonwealth of Australia for inclusion in the World Heritage List, GBRMPA, 1981

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 and Regulations

Companion Map to Great Barrier Reef

Maps of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Research reports and workshop proceedings

Various information brochures, books, posters and audiovisual productions

Documents available free of charge for single copies from the Authority's Townsville office

Annual Report

Corporate Plan

Strategic Plan

Environmental Management Charge information booklets

Zoning Plans and Zoning Plan Introductory Guides

Selected maps of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Media releases and communiques

Newsletters e.g. *Reef Research, Sea Country*

Information brochures, bulletins and leaflets

Facilities for access

The Townsville office holds most of the documents relating to the Authority, its Office and the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee. It is possible to arrange access to documents, available under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, through either the Canberra or Townsville office (see addresses below), or at the State FOI Information Access Office. Staff are available to provide assistance in relation to any aspect of FOI requests.

Members of the public may make inquiries on FOI matters and inspect documents to which access has been granted at either office. Business hours, Monday to Friday, are 8.30 a.m. – 4.50 p.m. Formal requests for access to documents must be directed to the offices listed in the following section.

Information about facilities for access by disabled persons can be obtained by contacting the FOI Officer at the Townsville office.

The following facilities for access are maintained at the Townsville office:

- computer printer • microfiche reader • film and slide projectors
- video and audio tape recorders • photocopy machine • reading areas.

FOI procedures and initial contact points

Inquiries may be made in writing, by telephone or in person at the official FOI access points listed below. It is also suggested that inquirers give a telephone number.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

2-68 Flinders Street
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
Telephone (07) 4750 0700

PO Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
Facsimile (07) 4772 6093

or

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

1st Floor Matrix House
25 Moore Street
TURNER ACT 2612
Telephone (02) 6247 0211

GPO Box 791
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Facsimile (02) 6247 5761

If any difficulty arises in the identification of 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 applicants, documents will be made available by mail to the address specified by the applicant or at the official FOI access points.

The authorised decision makers under the Act for the Authority and the Consultative Committee, with official addresses for the lodging of requests, are:

The Executive Officer
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
PO Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

The Secretary
Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee
PO Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Appendix D Staff Papers Published or Presented in 1996-97

Copies of the following papers are available from the Librarian, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Benzaken, D. 1995, 'Social impact assessment in environmental decision making processes', *Northern Radius*, 2(3), pp. 9-13.

Benzaken, D. 1997, 'Values do matter : managing cultural and social diversity leads to better protection' [abstract], in *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Workshop : proceedings of a technical workshop held in Townsville, Queensland, Australia, 27-29 November 1995*, eds D. Wachenfeld, J. Oliver and K. Davis, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, (Workshop Series, no. 23), pp. 469-470.

Benzaken, D. and Aston, J. 1997, 'Monitoring activities in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, challenges and opportunities', in *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Workshop : proceedings of a technical workshop held in Townsville, Queensland, Australia, 27-29 November 1995*, eds D. Wachenfeld, J. Oliver and K. Davis, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, (Workshop Series, no. 23), pp. 452-468.

Benzaken, D., Smith, G. and Williams, R. 1997, 'A long way together : the recognition of indigenous interests in the management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area', in *State of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Workshop : proceedings of a technical workshop held in Townsville, Queensland, Australia, 27-29 November 1995*, eds D. Wachenfeld, J. Oliver and K. Davis, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, (Workshop Series, no. 23), pp. 471-495.

Brien, D. 1996, World heritage values and presentation requirements, paper presented to Marine Tourism Marketing Workshop, Cairns, Australia, 20 November 1996, sponsored by Reef Tourism 2005.

Brien, D. 1996, Ecotourism, environmental management and education, paper presented to Ecotourism and Marine Life : 2nd Annual Conference of the Marine Teachers Association of Queensland, Mackay, Australia, 6 July 1996.

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Cansfield-Smith, T. 1996, The 25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area : a model for strategic planning in the Wadden Sea area?, paper presented to Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium, Norderney, Germany, 6 November 1996.

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- Engelhardt, U. and Lassig, B. 1997, 'A review of the possible causes and consequences of outbreaks of the crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) on the Great Barrier Reef : an Australian perspective', in *The Great Barrier Reef : science, use and management, a national conference : proceedings*, Volume 1, CRC Reef Research Centre and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Townsville, pp. 243-259.
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Trinder, C. 1996, Protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal environments, paper presented to Royal Australian Navy Maritime Studies Course at HMAS *Cresswell*, Jervis Bay, Australia, 4 September 1996, sponsored by the Royal Australian Navy.

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Williams, R. 1996, 'Who's listening and who's learning? Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge of turtle and dugong in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park regions', in *Ecopolitics IX Conference papers and resolutions : Northern Territory University, Darwin, 1–3 September 1995*, eds R. Sultan et al., Northern Land Council, Casuarina, pp. 113–117.

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Appendix E Advisory Committees

Full membership lists of these advisory committees are available from the Authority.

Committees comprise representatives of relevant agencies and user groups as agreed to by those organisations and/or the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Crown-of-thorns Starfish Research Committee (COTSREC)

Advisory Committee on Research into the Effects of Fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Region

Monitoring Advisory Committee

Water Quality Technical Advisory Panel

Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Advisory Board

Socio-cultural and Economic Advisory Committee

Tourism Advisory Group

Dugong Protection Areas Advisory Group (formerly Dugong Review Group)

Turtle Review Group

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Management Coordinating Committee

Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees

Cooktown Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Douglas Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Cairns Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Mission Beach Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Hinchinbrook Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Townsville Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Whitsunday Coastal Advisory Committee
Mackay Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Capricornia Fisheries Advisory Committee
Gladstone Region Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Bundaberg & the Coral Isles Marine Park Advisory Committee

Appendix F Representation on External Committees

ANZECC Working Group on Waste Management from Shipping – Jamie Storrie
Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research Advisory Committee – Jon Brodie
Australian Committee for IUCN (The World Conservation Union) – Ian McPhail, Dianne Brien
Australian Committee for IUCN (The World Conservation Union) Marine Subcommittee – Joan Phillips
Australian Institute of Maritime Law Advisory Committee – Stephen Sparkes
Australian Public Service Regional Directors Group – Dianne Brien, Norman Austin
Bioremediation Research Project Steering Committee – Jamie Storrie
Bramble Reef Advisory Committee – Mark Simmons, John Robertson
Coastwatch Operations and Program Advisory Committee – Colin Trinder
Coastwatch Regional Operations and Program Advisory Committee – Nicole Walsh
Commonwealth Inter-departmental Committee (IDC) (Cape York Peninsula Land Use Strategy) – Joan Phillips
CRC for Sustainable Sugar Production Advisory Committee – Jon Brodie
Downstream Effects of Agricultural Practices Committee – Jon Brodie
Environment Executive, Environment Australia – Ian McPhail
Hinchinbrook Regional Coastal Management Plan Management Committee – Prue Keen
International Coral Reef Initiative committees – Richard Kenchington, John Baldwin, Chris Bleakley
INTROMARC Management Committee – Richard Kenchington, Simon Woodley

IUCN Commission on Education and Communication Steering Committee – Dianne Brien

JCU/AIMS/GBRMPA Liaison Committee – Ian McPhail

Marine Study for Torres Strait Environment and Resource Strategy (MaSTERS) – Jim Muldoon

Monitoring Advisory Committee (AIMS, GBRMPA) – Jamie Oliver

National Chemical Spill Contingency Plan Working Group – Jamie Storrie

National Oil Spill Response Team – Jamie Storrie

National Plan Advisory Committee – Greg Smith, Jamie Storrie

National Plan Coastal Resource Atlas Working Group – Jamie Storrie

National Plan Training Working Group – Jamie Storrie

National Taskforce on Marine Protected Areas – Jim Muldoon

Ocean Rescue 2000 Marine Protected Area Technical Advisory Committee – Jim Muldoon

Oceans Policy Inter-departmental Committee – Ian McPhail

Queensland Aquaculture Development Advisory Committee – Jan Forbes

Queensland Fisheries Policy Council – Ian McPhail

Queensland Fisheries Policy Council Working Group on Biodiversity – Joan Phillips

Queensland Integrated Catchment Management Coordinating Committee – Prue Keen, Jon Brodie

Queensland National Plan Oil Pollution Committee – Prue Keen, Greg Smith, Jamie Storrie

Queensland State of the Environment Report: Marine, Coastal and Estuarine Environments Sectoral Working Group – Jamie Oliver

Raine Island Scientific Advisory Committee – Jamie Oliver

Reefmac – John Robertson

Reef Tourism 2005 Steering Committee – Prue Keen, Ian McPhail

Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committees – several staff

Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area Environment Management Advisory Committee – Tony Stokes

Steering Committee on Information, Education and Advertising (DEST) – Dianne Brien

Torres Strait Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee – Simon Woodley, Jon Brodie, John Robertson

Torres Strait Joint Advisory Committee – Jon Brodie

Tourism Review Steering Committee – Ian McPhail

Townsville Enterprise Limited Tourism Advisory Committee – Loretta Saunders

Townsville Port Technical Advisory Committee – Jenny Baer

Trawlmac – Peter McGinnity

Staffing Overview

Table 7. *Staff of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority at 30 June 1997*

Classification	Permanent			Temporary			All			Total FTE
	Male		Female	Male		Female	Male		Female	
	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T	F/T	
SES 1	1		1		2		1		1	2.00
ASO 1	2		1	1	4			7	2	6.72
ASO 2			9	3	12		1	1		11.75
ASO 3	4		10	1	15	1		1	5	15.54
ASO 4	1		5		6			1		6.00
ASO 5	9		9	1	19		1		9	19.88
ASO 6	10		4	2	16		2	10		17.62
SOC	14		2		16			14	2	16.00
SOB	6			1	7			6		6.80
SOA	1				1			1		1.00
GSO	9		1		10	2		2	11	12.00
ITO 2	1		1		2			1	1	2.00
SITOB	1				1			1		1.00
PO 1	2		1		3		5	2	7	9.20
PO 2	4				4				4	4.00
SPOC	1		1		2			1	1	2.00
SPOB	1				1			1		1.00
Public Affairs Officer	1				1			1		1.00
TO1						1		1		1.00
TO2	1		2		3			1	2	3.00
TO3	1				1			1		1.00
Totals	70	47	9	126	4	8	10	22	74	140.51

Notes to table 7:

ASO Administrative Service Officer
GSO General Service Officer
ITO Information Technology Officer
PO Professional Officer

SES Senior Executive
SITO Senior Information Technology Officer
SO Senior Officer
SPO Senior Professional Officer
TO Technical Officer

Performance Based Pay

No payments were made under Performance Based Pay arrangements during 1996–97.

Performance Based Pay for Senior Officers was included in Agency Productivity Pay from 3 April 1995 under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Agency Bargaining Agreement 1994/5* which was approved by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission on 26 June 1995.

Staff Training

During 1996–97, \$45 986 was spent on course fees and travel costs in providing training and development activities to Authority staff.

Industrial Democracy

The Authority recognises the vast contribution made by its dedicated staff to all areas of its operations, by providing a participative work environment which enables all staff to contribute to

program development and decision making processes, within the statutory framework of the decision-making responsibilities and powers of the Authority.

The involvement and commitment of staff to decision-making processes:

- allows staff to fully apply their skills and experience, and
- provides all staff with the opportunity to influence decisions which affect the quality of their working lives,

which results in enhanced organisational productivity.

Significant Industrial Democracy outcomes achieved during the year were:

- three meetings of the Authority/Public Sector Union Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)
- staff contributions to a major review of the Authority's operations
- JCC endorsement of a policy to address the staffing consequences of a reduction in running costs
- exchange of information on:
 - changes to Authority funding arrangements
 - external review recommendations
 - structural changes flowing from external review recommendations
- agreement on a framework for negotiation of a new Agency Agreement

Occupational Health and Safety

Significant Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) outcomes during the year were:

- 3 meetings of the OH&S Committee were held
- no workers compensation claims were submitted

Issues considered and actioned by the OH&S Committee included:

- establishing procedures for appropriate documentation and dissemination of OH&S Committee meeting outcomes
- review of Building Emergency Procedures developed by Fire Warden Committee
- reviewing the appropriateness of building security and alarm systems
- comments provided to Comcare for submission to the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, Worksafe Australia, on the Draft National Standard and National Code of Practice for Occupational Diving
- defining issues for inclusion in renegotiation of office accommodation leases

Staff participated in a number of OH&S training activities during the year including:

- Fire Safety and Emergency Procedures
- First Aid
- Emergency Resuscitation
- SCUBA Safety
- Shipboard Safety

During the year the Authority provided its staff with an Employee Assistance Program delivered by Employee Assistance Service North Queensland. This important OH&S initiative provides staff and their families with access to counselling and advice on a wide range of issues, both work-related and non work-related, as a contribution to improving the quality of working life for Authority staff. This initiative continues to play an important role in the low incidence of worker compensation claim submission by Authority staff.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The Authority's Chairman and Senior Director, Education and Aquarium are the senior executives responsible for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and the Human Resources Manager undertakes the role of EEO Coordinator.

Major EEO outcomes achieved during the year were:

- the recruitment of an additional dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer to an identified position which greatly enhanced the capacity of the Authority to provide meaningful opportunities for the involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- maintaining the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Authority's staff at 5%.
- continuation of the use of Carers Leave, 48/52 Leave Without Pay arrangements, and enhanced Flexitime provisions to enable staff to more effectively balance family and work responsibilities.

Table 8. Representation of EEO Groups within Salary Levels at 30 June 1997

SALARY	TOTAL NO. OF STAFF		WOMEN	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD	STAFF WITH EEO DATA
Below \$26 457 (includes ASO 1)	23	17	74%	1 4%	1 4%	21 91%	4 17%	0 0%	23
\$26 458 to \$30 042 (includes ASO 2)	26	15	58%	1 4%	1 4%	23 92%	0 0%	1 4%	25
\$30 043 to \$33 304 (includes ASO 3)	25	14	56%	0 0%	2 8%	22 92%	0 0%	0 0%	24
\$33 305 to \$37 341 (includes ASO 4)	10 60%	6	10%	1 10%	1 80%	8 10%	1 0%	0	10
\$37 342 to \$40 675 (includes ASO 5)	23	12	52%	0 0%	2 9%	20 91%	2 9%	1 5%	22
\$40 676 to \$47 591 (includes ASO 6)	21	9	43%	2 10%	1 5%	17 85%	1 5%	0 0%	20
\$47 592 to \$55 170 (includes SOC)	18	4	22%	1 6%	2 11%	15 83%	0 0%	2 11%	18
\$55 171 to \$68 497 (includes SOB-A)	10	1	10%	0 0%	0 0%	10 100%	0 0%	0 0%	10
Above \$68 498 (includes SES)	3	1	33%	0 0%	0 0%	3 100%	0 0%	1 33%	3
TOTALS	159	79 50%		6 4%	10 6%	139 90%	8 5%	5 3%	155

- increased access to permanent part-time employment from 3.75% of staff at 30 June 1996 to 6% of staff at 30 June 1997, which reflects the increased level of access to permanent part-time employment by women returning to work after periods of maternity leave.
- increased use of Study Bank by EEO Group members.
- increased access for staff to timely and comprehensive employment conditions information via electronic communication.

During 1996–97 the Authority continued to pursue its objective of having target group representation in its staffing reflect the representation of those groups in the population of the Great Barrier Reef region of the Queensland coast. Representation of EEO Target Groups within the Authority's staffing is generally comparable to that of the APS as a whole and exceeds APS averages in the representation of:

- women in total staff numbers, and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Equal Employment Opportunity data for the Authority's staff are provided in tables 8 to 11.

Table 9. Representation of EEO Groups within Occupational Groups as at 30 June 1997

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	TOTAL NO. OF STAFF	WOMEN	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD	STAFF WITH EEO DATA
SES	3	1 33%	0 0%	0 0%	3 100%	0 0%	1 33%	3
ASO & related	124	65 52%	6 5%	8 7%	107 88%	7 6%	3 2%	121
GSO & related	12	1 8%	0 0%	0 0%	11 100	0 0%	0 0%	11
Professional	14	10 71%	0 0%	1 7%	13 93%	0 0%	1 7%	14
Technical	6	2 33%	0 0%	1 17%	5 83%	1 17%	0 0%	6
TOTALS	159	79 50%	6 4%	10 6%	139 90%	8 5%	5 3%	155

Notes to tables 8 and 9:

Percentage for women based on total staff; percentages for other groups based on staff with available EEO data.

Data retrieved from GBRMPA EEO database.

Table 10. Representation of EEO Groups within the Australian Public Service

	TOTAL NO. OF STAFF	WOMEN	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD
TOTALS	120 614	57 381 48%	6 271 5%	11 706 10%	74 720 62%	2 470 2%	5 489 5%

SOURCE: APS Staffing Statistics Report 1996

Table 11. Representation of EEO Groups within the Population of the Great Barrier Reef region

	TOTAL POPULATION	WOMEN	NESB1	NESB2	ESB	ATSI	PWD
TOTALS	960 160	472 870 49%	45 783 5%	50 120 5%	864 257 90%	52 558 5%	73 200 8%

SOURCE: Australian Bureau of Statistics from 1996 Census data

Notes to tables 8 to 11:

NESB1	Non-English Speaking Background, first generation
NESB2	Non-English Speaking Background, second generation
ESB	English Speaking Background
ATSI	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
PWD	People with a Disability

Consultancy Services

External consultants are engaged to gain access to specialist technical, professional, research and management expertise in relation to specific tasks, where circumstances require that Authority resources be augmented or that work be carried out independently. It is the Authority's policy to carry out the bulk of its required research using external research organisations rather than develop its own research capability. Research consultants are chosen with the assistance of a formal Consultant's Register.

Details of consultants engaged in 1996–97 are available from the Authority. The total number of consultancies under engagement was 192 at a total cost of \$2 003 430.

Summary of Resources

The following table reconciles appropriations and program elements for the Authority.

Table 12. Summary table of resources

Reconciliation of programs and appropriation elements for 1996–97 \$('000)						
Program	Approp Bills Nos 1 & 3	+ Approp Bills Nos 2 & 4	+ Special Approps	= Total Approps	– Adjustments (1)	= Program Outlays
1.	11 902	0	1 985	13 887	1 985	11 902
2.	851	0	0	851	0	851
3.	0	3 847	0	3 847	0	3 847
TOTAL	12 753	3 847	1 985	18 585	1 985	16 600

Notes to table 12:

(1) Revenue collected through the Environmental Management Charge is regarded as an adjustment to derive outlays.

Program 1. Branch Operations

Program 2. Great Barrier Reef Aquarium

Program 3. Day-to-day Management

Appendix H Advertising

Agency/organisation	Nature of advertising	Amount \$
TMP Worldwide Pty Ltd	Classified advertising e.g. public notices	17 675.21
TMP Worldwide Pty Ltd	Job vacancies	24 952.47
North Queensland Newspaper Company Ltd	Job vacancies	1 800.35
3M Australian Posters	Outdoor Advertising	1 400.00

TMP Worldwide is an agency for non-campaign print advertising.

AAT	Administrative Appeals Tribunal
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
AMSAT	Australian Marine Science and Technology Ltd
APS	Australian Public Service
ASO	Administrative Service Officer
CPSU	Community and Public Sector Union
CRC Reef Research Centre (or CRC Reef)	Cooperative Research Centre for Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DDM	Day-to-day Management
DEST	Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EMC	Environmental Management Charge
ENCORE	Enrichment of Nutrients on a Coral Reef Experiment
FOI	Freedom of Information
FTE	full-time equivalent
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GBRMC	Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
INTROMARC	International Tropical Marine Resource Centre
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
JCC	Joint Consultative Committee
JCU	James Cook University of North Queensland
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
QDoE	Queensland Department of Environment
QDPI	Queensland Department of Primary Industries
QFMA	Queensland Fisheries Management Authority
REEFPLAN	contingency plan for oil spill response in the Great Barrier Reef
RMRAC	Regional Marine Resources Advisory Committee
SES	Senior Executive Service
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

This annual report has been prepared using the *Guidelines for the Content, Preparation and Presentation of Annual Reports by Statutory Authorities* (Senate Hansard, 11 November 1982) and the *Requirements for Departmental Annual Reports* approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts under subsection 25(7) of the *Public Service Act 1922* on 17 March 1994 which were updated in April 1997.

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Appendix K Contact Officer for Further Information

For further information about the Authority contact:

Director

Education/Information Section

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

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TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Telephone (07) 4750 0700

Facsimile (07) 4772 6093

e-mail registry@gbrmpa.gov.au

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 1997

In our opinion, the attached financial statements present fairly the information required by the Minister for Finance's Guidelines for Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Authority.



RHONDDA JONES
Member



IAN McPHAIL
Chairperson

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 1997

NET COST OF SERVICES	Notes	1997 \$	1996 \$
Operating expenses			
Research and Monitoring		4,062,280	3,929,925
Planning and Environmental Management		4,387,603	4,654,299
Education/Information		2,719,127	2,359,592
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	4(a)	2,036,295	1,957,117
External Services		1,190,939	1,563,045
Corporate Management and Services	5	1,977,195	1,871,079
Unfunded charges	6, 4(a)	790,864	1,035,360
Superannuation contributions	1(i)	-	667,622
Payments to Queensland Government for day-to-day management	2(a),(b)	7,873,000	8,613,446
Total operating expenses	7, 8	<u>25,037,303</u>	<u>26,651,485</u>
Operating revenues from independent sources			
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management	2(a),(c)	3,838,500	3,953,000
Interest		212,372	260,713
Net gain on disposal of non-current assets		1,325	-
From industry for monitoring and baseline studies		119,828	30,260
Profit from aquarium shop trading	4(b)	229,566	171,471
Other aquarium revenues	4(a),(b)	1,414,122	1,440,777
Other miscellaneous revenues	3(b)	<u>2,311,360</u>	<u>2,706,991</u>
Total operating revenues from independent sources		<u>8,127,073</u>	<u>8,563,212</u>
Net cost of services (before abnormal items)		<u>16,910,230</u>	<u>18,088,273</u>
Abnormal items	1(b)	<u>372,532</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cost of services		<u>17,282,762</u>	<u>18,088,273</u>
REVENUES FROM COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT			
Revenues from government			
Parliamentary appropriations from the Commonwealth	3(a)	18,740,448	16,612,451
Liabilities assumed by government	1(i)	-	667,622
Total revenues from Commonwealth Government		<u>18,740,448</u>	<u>17,280,073</u>
Surplus or (deficit) of net cost of services over revenues from government		<u>1,457,686</u>	<u>(808,200)</u>
Accumulated deficits at beginning of reporting period		(4,101,921)	(3,293,721)
Aggregate of amounts transferred to reserves		(500,000)	-
Accumulated deficits at end of reporting period		<u>(3,144,235)</u>	<u>(4,101,921)</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 30 June 1997

	Notes	1997 \$	1996 \$
DEBT			
Advances from Department of Finance	9(a)	1,197,276	1,345,946
Leases	9(b)	9,863	13,713
Total debt		<u>1,207,139</u>	<u>1,359,659</u>
PROVISIONS AND PAYABLES			
Employees	10(a)	2,127,076	1,767,088
Suppliers	10(b)	905,338	686,793
Other		780,248	455,121
Total provisions and payables		<u>3,812,662</u>	<u>2,909,002</u>
Total liabilities		<u>5,019,801</u>	<u>4,268,661</u>
EQUITY			
Capital	13	1,103,988	1,103,988
Reserves	13	8,376,043	8,376,043
Special Purpose Reserves	13	500,000	-
Asset Revaluation Reserve	13	3,081,052	-
Accumulated deficits	13	(3,144,235)	(4,101,921)
Total equity		<u>9,916,848</u>	<u>5,378,110</u>
Total liabilities and equity		<u>14,936,649</u>	<u>9,646,771</u>
FINANCIAL ASSETS			
Cash	11	3,903,039	1,750,690
Receivables	12	1,059,559	681,898
Other		326,247	29,783
Total financial assets		<u>5,288,845</u>	<u>2,462,371</u>
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS			
Land and buildings	16	8,384,563	5,501,590
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	16	1,146,950	1,586,726
Inventories		116,291	96,084
Total non-financial assets		<u>9,647,804</u>	<u>7,184,400</u>
Total assets		<u>14,936,649</u>	<u>9,646,771</u>
Total current liabilities		2,919,461	2,282,231
Total non-current liabilities		2,100,340	1,986,430
Total current assets		5,405,136	2,558,455
Total non-current assets		9,531,513	7,088,316

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 June 1997

	Notes	1997 \$	1996 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received:			
Parliamentary appropriations		18,585,000	16,586,000
Projects funded by the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories (DEST)		770,055	1,055,376
Permit assessment fees		125,880	184,047
Interest		208,745	266,817
Aquarium admission fees		1,253,124	1,214,916
Payments from Queensland Government for day-to-day management		3,838,500	3,953,000
Environmental Management Charge (EMC)		1,915,161	1,526,172
Other		<u>1,881,211</u>	<u>1,910,173</u>
Total cash received:		28,577,676	26,696,501
Cash used:			
Salaries		(6,504,423)	(6,556,034)
Suppliers		(9,810,146)	(10,312,348)
Payments to Consolidated Revenue Fund (EMC)		(2,050,000)	(1,500,000)
Payments to Queensland Government For day-to-day management		<u>(7,873,000)</u>	<u>(8,613,446)</u>
Total cash used:		(26,237,569)	(26,981,828)
Net cash from operating activities	20(b)	<u>2,340,107</u>	<u>(285,327)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received:			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		1,325	2,679
Cash used:			
Payments for purchase of plant and equipment		<u>(189,083)</u>	<u>(491,341)</u>
Net cash from investing activities		<u>(187,758)</u>	<u>(488,662)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		2,152,349	(773,989)
Cash at beginning of reporting period		<u>1,750,690</u>	<u>2,524,679</u>
Cash at end of reporting period	11	<u>3,903,039</u>	<u>1,750,690</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS AS AT 30 June 1997

BY TYPE	Notes	1997 \$	1996 \$
CAPITAL COMMITMENTS			
Plant and equipment		60,400	28,855
Total capital commitments		<u>60,400</u>	<u>28,855</u>
OTHER COMMITMENTS			
Operating leases		351,117	995,598
Other commitments		356,052	699,156
Total other commitments		<u>707,169</u>	<u>1,694,754</u>
Total commitments payable		<u>767,569</u>	<u>1,723,609</u>
BY MATURITY			
Within one year		453,897	1,282,449
In the second year		144,388	140,617
Within a three to five year period		169,284	300,543
Total commitments		<u>767,569</u>	<u>1,723,609</u>

The Authority sub-leases the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium building from the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Association Incorporated for a nominal amount payable if demanded.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES
AS AT 30 June 1997

	1997 \$	1996 \$
CONTINGENT LOSSES		
Nil	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
CONTINGENT GAINS		
Nil	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

SCHEDULE OF UNQUANTIFIABLE CONTINGENCIES

At 30 June 1997, the Authority had a legal claim against it and there is a possibility that costs could be awarded against the Authority.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of the accounts.

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are a general purpose financial report. They have been prepared in accordance with:

- Guidelines titled 'Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities', issued by the Minister for Finance in July 1997 (the 'Guidelines') which require that the financial statements are prepared
 - in compliance with Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Guidance Releases issued by the Australian Accounting Research Foundation, and
 - having regard to Statements of Accounting Concepts, and
- the Consensus Views of the Urgent Issues Group.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets which, as noted, are at valuation. No allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or on the financial position.

(b) Property, plant and equipment

Capitalisation occurs on all items which cost more than \$5,000. This represents a policy change from past years when the capitalisation threshold was \$1,500.

The effect of this change in policy is reflected in the abnormal item in the Operating Statement. The \$5,000 threshold was selected because it facilitates efficient asset management and recording without materially affecting asset values recognised.

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium building was funded as a Commonwealth-State Bicentennial project, through the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Association Incorporated. The Aquarium is sub-leased by the Authority from the Association for a period of 75 years. Under the terms of the sub-lease agreement the Authority is responsible for the replacement of the Aquarium building as necessary and for all expenses and revenue in relation to its operation. Consequently, the value of the Aquarium building has been taken up as an asset in the Authority's accounts and is being depreciated over the estimated useful life of the building. The original estimated useful life of the building was assessed as 25 years. During the 1996-97 financial year the estimated useful life of the building was reviewed by an independent engineering consultant and was reassessed by the Authority as being 50 years. The depreciation charge for the 1996-97 financial year reflects this reassessment of the useful life of the building. The effect of this change was to decrease the depreciation expense by \$238,000.

From 1996-97 onwards, the Guidelines require that property, plant and equipment be progressively revalued in accordance with the 'deprival' method of valuation (as set out in the 'Guidelines on Accounting Policy for Valuation of Assets of Government Trading Enterprises') by 1 July 1999 and thereafter be revalued progressively on that basis every three years.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

The Authority is implementing its progressive revaluations as follows (changes in accounting policy from 1995-96 are indicated):

- buildings have been revalued as at 30 June 1997 by an independent valuer and the outcome of the valuation has been recognised as at that date. The buildings will continue to be revalued over successive three year periods thereafter. (Previous policy was to carry these assets on the basis of the value recognised on acquisition.);
- leasehold improvements will be initially revalued progressively over the financial years 1997-98 and 1998-99, and thereafter over successive three year periods. (Previous policy was to carry these assets on the basis of the value recognised on acquisition.);
- aquarium plant and equipment have been revalued as at 30 June 1997 by an independent valuer and the outcome of the valuation has been recognised as at that date. Other plant and equipment will be initially revalued progressively over the financial years 1997-98 and 1998-99. All plant and equipment thereafter will continue to be revalued over successive three year periods. (Previous policy was to carry these assets on the basis of the value recognised on acquisition.)

Assets in each class acquired after the commencement of the progressive revaluation cycle will be reported on the basis of the value initially recognised on acquisition for the duration of the progressive revaluation then in progress. The financial effect of the move to progressive revaluations is that the carrying amounts of assets will reflect current values and that depreciation charges will reflect the current cost of the service potential consumed in each period.

The application of the deprival method by the Authority values its assets at their depreciated replacement cost. Any assets which would not be replaced or are surplus to requirements are valued at net realisable value; at 30 June 1997 there were no assets in this situation.

The carrying amounts of non-current assets of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority have been reviewed to determine whether they are in excess of their recoverable amounts. In assessing recoverable amounts, the relevant cash flows have not been discounted to their present value.

Non-current assets are depreciated by the straight line method over their estimated useful lives.

(c) Advances to Consultants

Under the terms of certain contracts with consultants, payments are made in advance and recorded as an expense in the year of payment. Physical assets purchased by the consultant, which under the terms of the contract become the property of the Authority from the date of acquisition are not capitalised until after completion of the contract. Such assets are capitalised by the Authority at that time at their written down value and depreciated over their remaining useful life.

(d) Day-to-day Management Advances

Except for expenditure on fixtures upon land owned by or under the direct control of the Commonwealth or the Authority, advances to the Queensland Department of Environment for day-to-day management are fully expensed in the year of payment (refer to Note 2 for details of the day-to-day management items).

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

(e) Inventories

Goods for resale have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is determined as the latest purchase price plus inwards transport costs.

(f) Provision for Employee Entitlements

The provision for employee entitlements encompasses annual leave, leave fares 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 by employees is less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The provision for leave fares reflects the value of leave fare entitlements of all employees at 30 June 1997 and is recognised at its nominal value.

The provision for annual leave reflects the value of total annual leave entitlements of all employees at 30 June 1997 and is recognised at its nominal value.

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 1997. In determining the present value of the liability, attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

(g) Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases which effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of leased assets and operating leases under which the lessor effectively retains all such risks and benefits.

Where a non-current asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at the present value of minimum lease payments at the inception of the lease and a liability for lease payments recognised at the same amount. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component and the interest expense. Leased assets are amortised over the period of the lease.

Operating leases are not capitalised and payments are charged to the Operating Statement in the period in which they are incurred.

(h) Bad and doubtful debts

Bad debts are written off to expense during the year in which they are identified, to the extent they have not previously been provided for. A provision is raised for doubtful debts based on a review of all outstanding receivables at year end.

(i) Superannuation Liabilities Assumed by Government

Employer superannuation contributions (other than the productivity component) had not previously been payable by the Authority but were funded by the Commonwealth when required. The notional value of employer contributions for the 1995-96 year is shown as an operating expense in the Operating Statement and an equal amount is recorded as 'Liabilities assumed by government' (Revenue) in the Operating Statement. Employer superannuation contributions became payable from 1 July 1996 and for the 1996-97 year are included as part of operating expenses in the Operating Statement.

(j) Reserves

This item represents that portion of equity attributable to the original funding provided by grants and donations used for the construction and fit-out of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium building.

(k) Special Purpose Reserves

An amount of \$500,000 has been set aside as a reserve for working capital for 1997-98.

(l) Taxation

The Authority is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax.

(m) Comparative figures

Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation in these financial statements.

(n) Changes in accounting policies

Changes in accounting policy have been identified in this Note under their appropriate headings.

2. DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

(a) Principles agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments relating to the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park provide for:

- the Queensland Department of Environment (QDoE) to carry out the day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, subject to the Authority in accordance with intergovernmental agreements
- the Commonwealth to fund 100% of an initial capital works program (in the first three years or so) required to establish management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park on a sound basis; other capital costs (i.e. the post-initial program) of day-to-day management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to be shared equally between the two Governments
- the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments to meet in equal shares the recurrent costs for day-to-day management in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (which may include Queensland national parks or Queensland marine parks, the use or management of which would or might affect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park)

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

- moveable property funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used and administered by Queensland; proceeds from the sale of any such moveable property are paid into the day-to-day management account to offset Commonwealth/Queensland contributions on a 50:50 basis
- fixed assets funded pursuant to the arrangements to be used by Queensland and administered by the Government (or the Authority) which owns or controls the land on which the fixture is located
- expenditure on day-to-day management to be in accordance with an annually agreed program, and
- the Authority to administer funds provided by the Commonwealth and Queensland for these purposes.

(b) Expenditure

Expenditure on day-to-day management for 1996-97 was \$7,873,000 (1995-96 \$8,613,446).

(c) Revenue received from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and from other sources:

	1997	1996
Commonwealth Government appropriation:	\$	\$
(i) Recurrent and Post Initial Capital Programs	3,847,000	3,779,000
(ii) Initial Capital Works	-	-
Queensland Government contribution:	3,838,500	3,953,000
From other sources	160,087	197,545
	<u>7,845,587</u>	<u>7,929,545</u>

(d) The receipt and expenditure of day-to-day management cash resources is reconciled as follows:

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Cash at bank 1 July	197,950	881,851
Plus Revenue	7,845,587	7,929,545
Less Expenditure	<u>7,873,000</u>	<u>8,613,446</u>
Cash at bank 30 June	<u>170,537</u>	<u>197,950</u>

(e) Financial statements for day-to-day management which have been prepared by QDoE and audited by the Queensland Auditor-General are at Note 24.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

3. REVENUE

- (a) The operations of the Authority are largely dependent upon the appropriation of moneys by the Commonwealth Parliament. Commonwealth parliamentary appropriations comprised the following:

	1997 \$	1996 \$
Operational	11,902,000	10,567,000
Special Appropriation	2,140,448	1,526,451
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium	851,000	740,000
Commonwealth contribution to day-to-day management: refer Note 2(c)	3,847,000	3,779,000
	<u>18,740,448</u>	<u>16,612,451</u>

Special Appropriation: On 30 July 1993 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority introduced an Environmental Management Charge (EMC) with the objective of recovering part of the increasing management, research and education costs associated with a marked increase in use of the Marine Park. Amounts collected by the Authority, as agent for the Commonwealth, are paid into Consolidated Revenue and then paid back to the Authority via Special Appropriation. The amount shown above represents actual amounts received via Special Appropriation plus an accrual for amounts applicable to the financial year ended 30 June 1997 but received after that date and due to be paid to the Authority as Special Appropriation.

- (b) Other miscellaneous revenues:

	1997 \$	1996 \$
Implementation of DEST funded programs	312,245	371,000
External Services section revenue - DEST funded	140,935	423,842
External Services section revenue - Other	860,153	587,873
Sale of Authority education and information materials	60,426	74,210
Permit assessment fees	125,880	184,047
Payments from QDoE: refer Note 2(a)		
for - sale of moveables	3,691	33,257
- other receipts	76,684	26,702
Revenue from other miscellaneous sources	731,346	1,006,060
	<u>2,311,360</u>	<u>2,706,991</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

4. GREAT BARRIER REEF AQUARIUM REVENUE AND EXPENSES

(a) Operating Statement - Aquarium operations

NET COST OF SERVICES	1997	1996
Operating expenses	\$	\$
Curatorial Operations	684,262	577,205
Interpretative Facilities	597,301	506,397
Marketing/Promotions	120,896	128,130
Shop Management and Services	105,125	86,529
Corporate Services		
- property services	284,811	279,786
- general services and administration	140,945	239,136
Interest	98,051	113,733
Bad and doubtful debts	4,904	9,500
Loss on sale of non-current assets	-	16,701
Total operating expenses	<u>2,036,295</u>	<u>1,957,117</u>
Unfunded charges		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment: refer Note 1(b)	224,451	462,870
Staff provisions	15,888	20,885
Total unfunded charges	<u>240,339</u>	<u>483,755</u>
Total Aquarium expenses	<u>2,276,634</u>	<u>2,440,872</u>
	1997	1996
Operating revenues	\$	\$
Admission fees	1,227,042	1,211,919
Donations and sponsorships	5,522	9,373
Membership program	73,724	76,074
Interest	15,979	19,279
Research and consultancy contracts	30,956	50,967
Other revenue	76,878	92,444
Gross profit from shop trading: refer Note 4(b)	229,566	171,471
Total operating revenues	<u>1,659,667</u>	<u>1,631,527</u>
Net cost of Aquarium operations	<u>(616,967)</u>	<u>(809,345)</u>
Revenue from Commonwealth Government		
Parliamentary Appropriations	851,000	740,000
Result from Aquarium operations	<u>234,033</u>	<u>(69,345)</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

(b) Aquarium shop trading results	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Shop Sales	511,427	435,065
Less: Cost of goods sold		
Opening Stock	96,084	81,608
Purchases	302,068	278,070
Less: Closing Stock	116,291	96,084
	<u>281,861</u>	<u>263,594</u>
Gross profit from shop trading	<u>229,566</u>	<u>171,471</u>

5. CORPORATE MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES

Corporate management and services comprised the following:

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Expenses of the Authority	397,617	247,545
Expenses of the Great Barrier		
Reef Consultative Committee	14,519	44,965
Executive and Secretariat	329,135	426,679
Canberra office	356,376	351,488
Administration	879,548	800,402
	<u>1,977,195</u>	<u>1,871,079</u>

The item 'Expenses of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee' includes sitting fees paid to part-time members in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination. In 1996-97 payments totalled \$4,694 (1995-96, \$13,400). The item 'Administration' includes the following:

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Bad and doubtful debts	310	506
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets	-	11,894
Auditor's remuneration		
- auditing the accounts of the Authority	33,000	42,000
(no other services were provided)		

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

6. UNFUNDED CHARGES

The aggregate amount of unfunded charges of the Authority including those of the Aquarium disclosed at Note 4 was:

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment: refer Note 1(b)	454,406	952,883
Staff leave entitlements	336,458	82,477
	<u>790,864</u>	<u>1,035,360</u>

7. TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES – FINANCE LEASES

Included in total operating expenses are the following charges relating to property, plant and equipment purchased under finance leases:

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Amortisation	3,962	3,962
Finance charges	1,606	2,086
	<u>5,568</u>	<u>6,048</u>

8. TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES – SALARIES AND WAGES COSTS

Included in total operating expenses are the following salaries and wages costs:

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium		
- Operations	893,156	889,266
- Aquarium Shop	88,727	79,407
Other Authority Operations	5,546,070	5,336,957
	<u>6,527,953</u>	<u>6,305,630</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

9. DEBT

(a) Advances from Department of Finance

	30 June 1997	30 June 1996
	\$	\$
Current		
Advances from Dept of Finance and accrued interest: refer Note 15	244,455	246,721
Non-current		
Advances from Dept of Finance and accrued interest: refer Note 15	952,821	1,099,225
	<u>1,197,276</u>	<u>1,345,946</u>

Advances from Dept of Finance as at 30 June are due as follows:

Payable:

Within one year	244,455	246,721
In the second year	165,654	146,404
Within a three to five year period	569,948	532,612
More than five years	217,219	420,209
	<u>1,197,276</u>	<u>1,345,946</u>

(b) Finance leases

	30 June 1997	30 June 1996
Current	4,397	3,850
Non-current	5,466	9,863
	<u>9,863</u>	<u>13,713</u>

Finance lease liabilities at the reporting date and related finance charges are payable as follows:

	30 June 1997	30 June 1996
	\$	\$
Within one year	5,455	5,455
In the second year	5,455	5,455
Within a three to five year period	448	5,903
Minimum lease payments	11,358	16,813
Less: Future finance charges	1,495	3,100
Lease liabilities	<u>9,863</u>	<u>13,713</u>

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

10. PROVISIONS AND PAYABLES

(a) Employees

	30 June 1997	30 June 1996
Current liabilities	\$	\$
Accrued salaries and wages	78,111	54,581
Provision for long service leave	27,000	40,000
Provision for annual leave	806,554	720,795
Provision for leave fares	73,358	74,370
	<u>985,023</u>	<u>889,746</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Provision for long service leave	1,142,053	877,342
	<u>1,142,053</u>	<u>877,342</u>
Total Provisions and payables – Employees	<u>2,127,076</u>	<u>1,767,088</u>

(b) Suppliers

Trade Creditors	905,338	686,793
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11. CASH

Cash held at 30 June comprised the following:	30 June 1997	30 June 1996
	\$	\$
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Account	392,160	138,091
Day-to-day Management Account	170,537	197,950
Cash on hand	43,250	17,236
Authority Operations Account:	1997	
Working Capital	500,000	
Tourist Visitor Charge Implementation	600,000	
External Services Unearned Income	647,681	
Appropriation Reserve	336,767	
Other identified commitments	<u>1,212,644</u>	
Total: Authority Operations Account	<u>3,297,092</u>	<u>1,397,413</u>
	<u>3,903,039</u>	<u>1,750,690</u>

The balance held in the Authority Operations account is presented in the manner shown in order to identify the specific purposes of cash reserves held by the Authority.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

12. RECEIVABLES

Receivables at 30 June were:	30 June 1997	30 June 1996
	\$	\$
Trade Debtors	405,826	356,930
Amounts receivable from the Commonwealth	659,233	334,968
Total Receivables	1,065,059	691,898
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	5,500	10,000
	1,059,559	681,898
Receivables which are overdue:		
- less than 30 days	77,405	125,474
- 30 to 60 days	70,290	19,449
- more than 60 days	49,376	29,047
	197,071	173,970

13. EQUITY

Item:	Capital	Accumul- ated Results	Special Pur- pose Reserves	Asset Revalu- ation Reserve	Other Reserves	Total Reserves	TOTAL EQUITY
Balance 1 July 1996	1,103,988	(4,101,921)	-	-	8,376,043	8,376,043	5,378,110
Surplus/(Deficit	-	1,457,686	-	-	-	-	1,457,686
Net revaluation increases	-	-	-	3,081,052	-	3,081,052	3,081,052
Transfers to/(from) reserves	-	(500,000)	500,000	-	-	500,000	-
Balance 30 June 1997	1,103,988	(3,144,235)	500,000	3,081,052	8,376,043	11,957,095	9,916,848

The revaluation increase in the asset revaluation reserve comprises:

	1997
Revaluation increment – buildings	3,032,159
Revaluation increment – plant & equipment	48,893
	3,081,052

14. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Authority is not aware of any material events that have occurred subsequent to balance date.

15. REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES FROM DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

The Department of Finance has determined that funds appropriated for the purposes of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium are repayable advances. The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium has received two such advances:

- \$450,000 in 1986–87 for establishment costs; and
- \$1,000,000 in 1989–90.

The advances are being repaid in the form of instalments deducted from Authority appropriation and made up from Great Barrier Reef Aquarium revenue. Interest on the outstanding principal is charged at the long-term bond rate and has been capitalised.

Scheduled repayments in respect of the establishment costs advance were made in 1988–89 and in 1989–90. Repayments for the remaining balance of the establishment costs advance together with the other advance in 1989–90 were consolidated and scheduled to be repaid over a period of ten years. The repayment to the Department of Finance due in the 1992–93 financial year was satisfied by a reduction of Authority appropriation. The Department of Finance agreed to defer the repayment due in the 1993–94 financial year and the term of repayment was extended. The instalment of \$231,433 due in the 1994–95 financial year was waived by the Department of Finance and was recorded as an abnormal item in the Operating Statement.

Scheduled repayments were made in the 1995–96 and the 1996–97 financial years.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

16. NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

	1997 \$	1996 \$
(a) Land and buildings		
Buildings – at 30 June 1997 valuation	10,157,760	-
Accumulated depreciation	2,032,345	-
	<u>8,125,415</u>	
Buildings – at cost	-	8,387,302
Accumulated depreciation	-	3,194,338
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,192,964</u>
Improvements to leasehold property – at cost	408,566	446,827
Accumulated depreciation	149,418	138,201
	<u>259,148</u>	<u>308,626</u>
Total Land and Buildings	<u>8,384,563</u>	<u>5,501,590</u>
(b) Plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment – at 30 June 1997 valuation	943,210	-
Accumulated depreciation	280,283	-
	<u>662,927</u>	<u>-</u>
Plant and equipment – at cost	1,755,499	3,891,749
Accumulated depreciation	1,279,729	2,317,238
	<u>475,770</u>	<u>1,574,511</u>
Plant and equipment under finance lease	19,808	53,204
Accumulated amortisation	11,555	40,989
	<u>8,253</u>	<u>12,215</u>
Total Plant and Equipment	<u>1,146,950</u>	<u>1,586,726</u>

The revaluation of the Aquarium building and associated infrastructure as at 30 June 1997 was completed by an independent valuer M.A.Becker FVLE (Val). A revaluation increment of \$3,081,052 was transferred to the asset revaluation reserve.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

(c) Analysis of Property, Plant and Equipment

TABLE A

Movement summary 1996-97 for all assets irrespective of valuation basis

Item:	Buildings \$	Leasehold improvements, other plant & equipment \$	Total \$
Gross value as at 1 July 1996	8,387,302	4,391,780	12,779,082
Additions	26,960	162,123	189,083
Adjustment for revaluations	1,743,498	(62,223)	1,681,275
Disposals	-	(140,702)	(140,702)
Other movements	-	(1,223,895)	(1,223,895)
Gross value as at 30 June 1997	10,157,760	3,127,083	13,284,843
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation as at 1 July 1996	3,194,338	2,496,428	5,690,766
Depreciation/ Amortisation charge for assets held 1 July 1996	126,436	314,771	441,207
Depreciation/ Amortisation charge for additions	234	12,965	13,199
Adjustment for revaluations	(1,288,663)	(111,114)	(1,399,777)
Adjustment for disposals	-	(140,702)	(140,702)
Adjustment for other movements	-	(851,363)	(851,363)
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation as at 30 June 1997	2,032,345	1,720,985	3,753,330
Net book value as at 30 June 1997	8,125,415	1,406,098	9,531,513
Net book value as at 1 July 1996	5,192,964	1,895,352	7,088,316

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

TABLE B

Summary of balances of assets at valuation as at 30 June 1997

Item:	Buildings \$	Other plant & equipment \$	Total \$
As at 30 June 1997			
Gross value	10,157,760	943,210	11,100,970
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	2,032,345	280,283	2,312,628
Other movements	-	-	-
Net book value	8,125,415	662,927	8,788,342

TABLE C

Summary of balances of assets held under finance leases as at 30 June 1997

Item:	Buildings \$	Other plant & equipment \$	Total \$
As at 30 June 1997			
Gross value	-	19,808	19,808
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	-	11,555	11,555
Net book value	-	8,253	8,253
As at 30 June 1996			
Gross value	-	53,204	53,204
Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortisation	-	40,989	40,989
Net book value	-	12,215	12,215

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

17. CASH BONDS

Cash Bonds are held in lieu of bank guarantees.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 1997

	1997 \$
Cash at bank 1 July 1996	137,700
RECEIPTS	
Cash Bonds in lieu of bank guarantee	57,900
Interest	8,827
	<u>204,427</u>
PAYMENTS	
Return of Cash Bonds and accrued interest	-
Cash at bank 30 June 1997	<u>204,427</u>

18. CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THE ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Co-operative Research Centre for the Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Great Barrier Reef (CRC Reef) was established to work with industry and environmental managers in addressing strategic and tactical issues so that opportunities for use of the Great Barrier Reef Region may be maximised, consistent with ecologically sustainable development.

As at 30 June, the Authority's commitment to the CRC Reef, in cash contributions, 'in kind' contributions and amounts payable from EMC collections was:

	Cash	In Kind	EMC	1997 \$	1996 \$
Within one year	665,000	250,000	945,000	1,860,000	1,790,000
In the second year	665,000	250,000	1,020,000	1,935,000	1,860,000
Within a three to five year period	665,000	250,000	1,102,000	2,017,000	3,952,000
	<u>1,995,000</u>	<u>750,000</u>	<u>3,067,000</u>	<u>5,812,000</u>	<u>7,602,000</u>

19. INSURANCE

The Authority has a policy of self-insurance for its general operations but has commercial insurance cover for the operation of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium.

20. NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, the Authority considers cash to include cash on hand and in banks. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows has been reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and is shown at Note 11.

(b) Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities to Net Cost of Services.

	1997 \$	1996 \$
Net Cost of Services	(17,282,762)	(18,088,273)
Revenues from the Commonwealth	18,740,448	17,280,073
Operating result	1,457,686	(808,200)
Abnormal Items	372,532	-
Depreciation	454,406	952,883
Bad debts and provision for doubtful debts	5,214	10,006
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of non-current assets	(1,325)	28,595
(Increase) /Decrease in Receivables	(377,661)	(137,727)
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	(20,207)	(14,476)
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Assets	(296,464)	9,528
Increase/(Decrease) in Employee Liabilities	359,988	(125,338)
Increase/(Decrease) in Suppliers	218,545	(424,119)
Increase/(Decrease) in Other Liabilities	171,243	232,885
Increase/(Decrease) in Lease Liabilities	(3,850)	(9,364)
Net cash provided/(used) by operating activities	2,340,107	(285,327)

(c) Non-Cash Financing and Investing Activities

The repayments to the Department of Finance for the advances detailed at Note 16 are satisfied by instalments deducted from Authority appropriation. The repayments do not affect cash flows but do effect the other liabilities item in the statement of assets and liabilities. This effect is reflected in the reconciliation above.

21. RELATED PARTIES

(a) Authority Members

The members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority during the financial year were:

Dr Ian McPhail (full-time Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer);

Professor Rhondda Jones (part-time member);

Mrs Evelyn Scott (part-time member) commencing 17 June 1997;

Mr Tom Tolhurst (part-time member) commencing 20 March 1997.

(b) Acting Member and Acting Chairperson appointments

Mrs Evelyn Scott acted as Member for two twelve-week terms commencing 14 December 1996 and 22 March 1997.

Mr Tom Tolhurst acted as Member for two twelve-week terms commencing 2 October 1996 and 24 December 1996.

Professor Rhondda Jones acted as Chairperson during a period of absence by Dr McPhail from 13 June 1996 to 10 July 1996.

Mr Richard Kenchington acted as Chairperson during a period of absence by Dr Ian McPhail from 3 December 1996 to 9 December 1996.

(c) Remuneration

Information on remuneration of Authority Members is disclosed at Note 22.

(d) Authority Members' interest in contracts

On the basis of statements declared by members in accordance with s. 16A of the Act, no Authority member has received or become entitled to receive a benefit, other than a benefit included in the aggregate of remuneration received or due and receivable shown at Note 22 by reason of a contract made by the Authority member or with a firm of which the Authority member is a member or with a company in which the Authority member has a substantial interest.

22. REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVES

(a) Remuneration – Members of the Authority

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Remuneration received, or due and receivable, directly or indirectly, by members of the Authority:	163,902	148,340

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

The number of members of the Authority whose remuneration from the Authority was within the specified bands are as follows:

	1997	1996
\$Nil – \$10,000	2	1
\$10,000 – \$20,000	1	1
\$130,000 – \$140,000	1	1

(b) Remuneration – Senior Executives of the Authority

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Income received, or due and receivable, by Senior Executives:	350,682	109,585

The number of executive officers of the Authority whose total fixed remuneration received, or due and receivable, directly or indirectly, from the Authority, fell within each band of income after \$100,000 is:

	1997	1996
\$100,000 – \$110,000	1	1
\$110,000 – \$120,000	1	-
\$130,000 – \$140,000	1	-

23. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Authority has its principal office located in Townsville, north Queensland and also has a small office in Canberra. This arrangement enables the Authority to have its principal technical resources close to the Reef and also to carry out important liaison functions in Canberra.

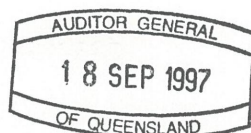
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

24.

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

OPERATING STATEMENT for the year ended 30 June 1997	Notes	1997 \$
Operating Expenses		
Employee expenses		4,276,721
Supplies and services		2,781,300
Depreciation	2	772,872
Transfers to GBRMPA		31,494
Loss on sale of plant & equipment		15,722
Total operating expenses		<u>7,878,109</u>
Operating Revenues		
Funding from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		3,936,500
Other		32,819
Total operating revenues		<u>3,969,319</u>
NET COST OF SERVICES	8	<u>3,908,790</u>
Revenues from Government		
Appropriations from State Government		3,936,500
Total revenues from Government		<u>3,936,500</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets		<u>27,710</u>



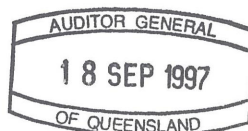
The above operating statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 1997	Notes	1997 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	3	284,039
Receivables	4	6,093
Other	5	1,092,354
Total Current Assets		<u>1,382,486</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	<u>4,136,368</u>
Total Non-current Assets		<u>4,136,368</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>5,518,854</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	7	<u>147,997</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>147,997</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>147,997</u>
NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		<u>5,370,857</u>
EQUITY		
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	9	5,357,799
Reserves		
- Assets Revaluation Reserve		13,058
Total Equity		<u>5,370,857</u>

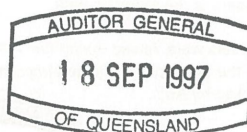


The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS for the year ended 30 June 1997	Notes	1997 \$	1996 \$
CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Inflows:</i>			
Payments from Commonwealth Government for day-to-day management		3,936,500	4,402,446
Other		32,819	0
<i>Outflows:</i>			
Grants and subsidies		0	0
Employee costs		(4,276,721)	(3,866,653)
Supplies and services		(2,751,746)	(2,754,033)
Transfers to GBRMPA		(31,455)	(59,960)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	8	<u>(3,090,603)</u>	<u>(2,278,200)</u>
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Inflows:</i>			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		3,889	59,800
<i>Outflows:</i>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(644,209)	(2,128,740)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>(640,320)</u>	<u>(2,068,940)</u>
CASHFLOWS FROM GOVERNMENT			
<i>Inflows:</i>			
Appropriations		3,936,500	4,211,000
<i>Outflows:</i>			
Payments to Treasury		(6,093)	0
Net cash provided by Government		<u>3,930,407</u>	<u>4,211,000</u>
Net Increase (decrease) in cash held		199,484	(136,140)
Cash at the beginning of the period		84,555	220,695
Cash at end of period	3	<u>284,039</u>	<u>84,555</u>



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

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 1997

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 1997

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

This is the first financial year in which the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park have been prepared on an accrual basis. They have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards outlined in the *"Guidelines for Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities"* as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

The transitional arrangements permitted under Clause 1 of the *Guidelines* have been adopted on the basis that full compliance for the period ending 30 June 1997 is not practicable.

Except where stated the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Adjustments required to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities as at the beginning of the financial year have been made against the accumulated surplus as shown in Note 9.

Comparative amounts have not been disclosed except in the Statement of Cash Flows because the financial statements for the preceding financial year were prepared on a different basis and it has been impracticable to reconstruct them.

(b) Carryover Transfer to the Queensland Treasury Department

The balance of unspent funds held by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park at 30 June 1997, was transferred to the Queensland Treasury Department in accordance with the Department's standard accounting practice and procedures. As at 1 July 1997 the amount transferred was refunded to the Department of Environment. The unspent funds are treated as cash in the financial statements.

(c) Appropriations

Appropriations are recognised as revenues in the reporting period when received.

(d) Acquisitions of Assets

The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisitions of assets controlled by the Department. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

(e) Property, Plant and Equipment

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, in excess of \$1,000 are capitalised in the year of acquisition. All other such assets with a cost, or other value, less than \$1,000 are expensed with the exception of software.

(f) Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment

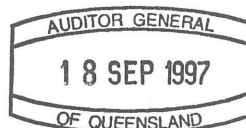
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment is calculated on a straight line basis so as to write off the cost (or other value) of each depreciable asset, less its estimated residual value, progressively over its estimated useful life.

(g) Revaluations of Non-Current Physical Assets

Non-current physical assets having an estimated value greater than the revaluation threshold of \$250,000 and an estimated useful life of three years or more are required to be revalued. A comprehensive revaluation of non-current physical assets is performed at five year intervals with annual indexation between the full revaluations.

Non-current physical assets are valued on the "deprival" basis. Under this concept, assets are valued at an amount that represents the entire loss that might be expected to be incurred if the department was deprived of the future economic benefits of these assets at the reporting date.

Buildings and Infrastructure assets were valued during the 1995-96 financial year by registered valuers. The index applied to the 1996-97 year is the Seasonally Adjusted Implicit Price Deflator Covering Gross Fixed Capital Expenditure - General Government, as supplied by ABS.



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 1997

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

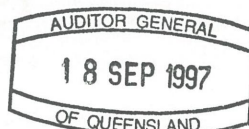
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 1997

(h) Employee Entitlements

Officers of the Department of Environment provide a service to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and consequently the Department of Environment is the responsible entity for all employee entitlements. In recognition of this service the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park contributes to the salary and related costs of the officers but does not incur any liabilities with regards to employee entitlements.

	1997 \$
2. Depreciation Expense	
Depreciation expense for the financial year was charged in respect of:	
Plant and equipment	605,931
Buildings & infrastructure	166,941
	<u>772,872</u>
3. Cash	
Unexpended funds carried over at end of period held by Treasury	284,000
Monies yet to be remitted to Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	39
	<u>284,039</u>
4. Current Assets - Receivables	
Sundry amounts due from Treasury	<u>6,093</u>
5. Other Current Assets	
Advances to other departments in respect of vessels	973,950
Prepayments	118,404
	<u>1,092,354</u>
6. Non-Current Assets - Property, Plant and Equipment	
<i>Buildings & Infrastructure:</i>	
- At cost	857,863
- less accumulated depreciation	301,753
	<u>556,110</u>
- At independent valuation	775,861
- less accumulated depreciation	129,042
	<u>646,819</u>
<i>Work in Progress</i>	
- At cost	<u>794,547</u>
<i>Plant and Equipment:</i>	
- At cost	4,978,030
- less accumulated depreciation	2,839,138
	<u>2,138,892</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>4,136,368</u>



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 1997

7. Current Liabilities - Creditors

Trade creditors	147,958
Amount due to Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	39
	<u>147,997</u>

8. Reconciliation of Net Cost of Services to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities

Net Cost of Services 3,908,790

Non-cash items:

Depreciation	(772,872)
Profit/(loss) on sale or disposal of non-current assets	(15,722)

Change in assets and liabilities:

Increase/(decrease) in other assets	118,404
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	(147,997)

Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities 3,090,603

9. Accumulated Surplus

Accumulated surplus at 1 July 1996 is represented by:

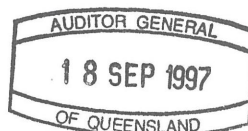
Property, Plant & Equipment	8,258,500
Accumulated depreciation	(2,575,941)
Cash - unexpended funds held by Treasury	84,555
Revaluation decrement	(489,168)
Asset adjustments	52,143
	<u>5,330,089</u>

Operating result for the year ended 30 June 1997 27,710

Accumulated surplus at 30 June 1997 5,357,799

10. Commitments

Material capital expenditure commitments contracted for but not brought to account 0



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

CERTIFICATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
In relation to the operations of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

The foregoing financial statements have been prepared as required by the relevant Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. We certify that -

- (a) the statements together with the other information and notes to and forming part thereof are in agreement with the accounts of the Queensland Department of Environment ; and
- (b) the receipt and expenditure of monies and the control and management of assets were in accordance with the approved programs and in accordance with the aforementioned agreements and previous agreements executed between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments with regard to day to day management; and
- (c) in our opinion -
 - (i) the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
 - (ii) statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the transactions and cash flows of the Department of Environment in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the period 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, and of the financial position as at 30 June 1997.



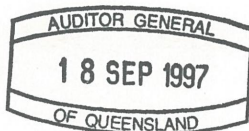
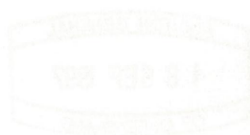
H McLOUGHLIN
Executive Manager (Financial Services)

Date: 12/9/97



T TOLHURST
Director-General

Date: 17.9.97



GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 1997

CERTIFICATE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

Scope

I have audited the financial statements comprising the Operating Statement, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Notes to and forming part of the financial statements and certificates given by the Director-General and person responsible for financial administration of the Queensland Department of Environment - Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the year ended 30 June 1997.

The Director-General of the Department of Environment is responsible for the preparation and the form of presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. I have audited the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them.


The audit has been conducted in accordance with *QAO Auditing Standards*. Audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with prescribed accounting standards and other prescribed requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the entity's financial position, the results of its operations and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this certificate has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In terms of the Agreements dated 10 May 1988 between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority relating to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority relating to the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park I have examined the financial statements for 1996-1997 of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and certify that -

- (a) I have received all the information and explanations which I have required;
- (b) the foregoing financial statements are in conformity with the prescribed accounting standards and are in agreement with the accounts and records of the Queensland Department of Environment; and
- (c) in my opinion -
 - (i) the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
 - (ii) the statements have been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view of the transactions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the period 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, and of the financial position as at 30 June 1997.


B M ROLLASON
Auditor-General



Independent Audit Report

To the Minister for the Environment

Scope

I have audited the financial statements of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for the year ended 30 June 1997. The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by Authority members;
- Operating Statement;
- Statement of Assets and Liabilities;
- Statement of Cash Flows;
- Schedule of Commitments;
- Schedule of Contingencies; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements.

The members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information contained therein. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you, the Minister for the Environment.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards, to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Authority's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In accordance with section 55 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Act 1975*, I now report that the statements are in agreement with the accounts and records of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and in my opinion:

- (i) the statements are based on proper accounts and records;
- (ii) the statements present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 1997 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended;
- (iii) the receipt, expenditure and investment of moneys, and the acquisition and disposal of assets, by the Authority during the year have been in accordance with the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Act 1975*; and
- (iv) the statements are in accordance with the *Guidelines for Financial Statements of Commonwealth Authorities*.

Australian National Audit Office



Colin McPherson
Executive Director

for the Auditor-General

Canberra

13 October 1997

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