



SHIRE OF HINCHINBROOK

“The *Natural* Place To Be”

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Your Ref:

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Enquiries: Mr. Alan Harvey (4776 4602.

30th September, 2005.

Dr. Diana Wright,
Executive Policy Advisor,
Department of the Environment & Heritage,
G.P.O. Box 787,
CANBERRA. ACT. 2601.

Dear Dr. Wright,

The Council notes that your Authority is in the process of reviewing the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act*, and has called for submissions which close today.

You will be aware that this Council and the Hinchinbrook community amongst others, actively participated in the Representative Area Program (RAP), which saw over 3,000 submissions lodged with your Authority.

There was subsequent community disquiet which primarily came about because reasonable community expectations for green zones were ignored, whereby the community felt disadvantaged by impositions contained in the final zoning plans.

We therefore require a full and open consultation process in reviewing the Act. It is vital that the views of the community are taken seriously and do not simply form part of a process.

Council further takes the opportunity to flag with your Authority the proposed Coolgaree Bay Sponge Farm ILUA, which from initial appraisal would indicate that there would or could be significant impost on recreational fishing and other pursuits currently in place around Palm Island.

An overlay comparison of the current zoning plan and the 21 x 20ha plots identified on the proposal plan diagram, may well have serious impacts on the current zoning, again to the detriment of recreational and other users. This community would be extremely concerned if such additional impositions were adopted on the waters around this Shire, and we want to be consulted at the very outset, not only on the review of the Act, but on this specific application.

This Council awaits further information from your Authority as the process rolls out, and we want to be kept informed of any proposals that might alter the status quo, and any that might be contemplated which could affect this area.

Please receive this as Council's initial response to the proposed Review.

Yours faithfully,

A.S. Harvey,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.