

GBRMPA Review Submission

The recent changes on the zoning of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the formation of the appropriate GBRMP Authority as an independent body with appropriate powers is vital to ensure the Marine Park survives in the future. To this extent the Authority must retain its independent board that reports directly to the Minister.

However in order that the Park does not suffer future degradation, it is important that further regulation is necessary to improve or modify farming practices to reduce pollution and sediment which could adversely affect the Reef organisms and to this end it is also important to control or eliminate the release of industrial effluent, sewage and storm water.

It is to be hoped that legislation will be introduced to prevent oil and gas exploration and drilling on the GBRMP eastern zone and that the eastern boundary of the park will be extended to include all major reef systems.

With regard to the use of the reef by indigenous communities they should be assisted to limit any take of dugong and turtle to ensure survival of these species.. Also the practice of sea floor trawling is incompatible with the maintenance of the Marine Park and should be discontinued

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