

RE: Review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act

As my husband was involved in boating to the Great Barrier Reef prior to the creation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act in 1975, and until 1989, I would like to comment on how effective we have found the Authority in the many years since its formation.

Although we haven't always agreed with the decisions of GBRMPA we do realise that they must oversee the whole area of the Park not only for all Australians but also for the whole world and to make a decision to please everyone is impossible.

I think it is the responsibility of the Authority to preserve the Marine Park in the best possible condition for future generations whilst still allowing access to most of the area, to the general public today. My personal view is that we should have had more Pink or No Go Zones, but then I am not aware of what is needed to preserve these areas.

When I have had need to contact the Marine Park Authority I have found the staff to be most helpful and courteous and their advice is to the point and helpful. This is surely an indication that the present system is working? I think it is essential that the Authority is maintained in its present format. There is such easy access for the general public and the Headquarters in Townsville is central to the whole of the Great Barrier Reef.

I would not like to see the Authority centralised in Canberra as under the present conditions the various sections of GBRMPA are in contact with the people using the Marine Park and they have the understanding to continue to protect this valuable resource for the future.

I am not in a position to compare the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and do not know if it could be upgraded to complement or work in harmony with the *EPBC Act*. In my dealing with the D & E people who administer the EPBC Act I have found that they are lacking in the personal interest that I have found with the GBRMPA people, I guess this is because they are so far removed from the people on the ground here in North Queensland. Thank you for the chance to comment.

Yours faithfully



Brenda Harvey