



Conservation Council
OF THE SOUTH EAST REGION & CANBERRA



CONSERVATION COUNCIL

OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.



Tasmanian



Conservation



Trust inc.

Dr Diane Wright
Executive Policy Advisor
Department of Environment and Heritage
PO Box 787
CANBERRA 2601

30 September 2005

RE:Submission on GBRMP Act

Dear Dr Wright,

The Queensland Conservation Council (QCC), Conservation Council of Western Australia (CCWA), Conservation Council South-East Region and Canberra (CCSERAC) and the Tasmanian Conservation Trust (TCT) write to strongly support the recent changes in the zoning of the Great Barrier Reef.

We urge the government to maintain the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as a strong, independent statutory authority with full decision making powers capable of implementing major conservation initiatives into the future.

The GBRMP Authority should retain its independent Board and provide recommendations directly to the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

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The GBRMP Act needs to be strengthened in order to control damaging sediment, nutrient and chemical pollution entering the Great Barrier Reef from the land. The future health of the Great Barrier Reef depends on ensuring that GBRMPA has the power to control all damaging activities that affect the reef.

We believe that there should be increased funding for that the GBR can be protected for what it is worth. The GBR is worth over \$5.1 billion p/a through tourism. Please protect this precious asset by maintaining the GBRMPA.

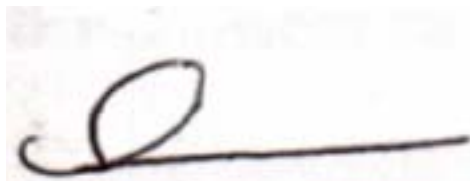
In making these statements, we urge you to consider the following key actions:

1. Development of legislation under the GBRMP Act to regulate land-sourced marine pollution from existing and new development within the GBR catchment, including such issues as:
 - Transforming farming practices that contribute to sediment, nutrient and other pollutant loads;
 - Ensuring all aquaculture is sustainable and has no net impact on water quality or ecosystem health;
 - Reducing the impact of discharges of industrial waste and sewage effluent; and
 - Managing stormwater
2. Support the maintenance of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as a strong statutory authority, based in the region, with full decision making powers capable of implementing comprehensive conservation initiatives. The GBRMP Authority should retain its independent board and provide recommendations directly to the Minister for Environment and Heritage.
3. Provide provisions to adequately resource indigenous communities to assist them to develop and implement Traditional Use Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRA) with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. A major component of these TUMRA's will be agreements to ensure a sustainable level of take by indigenous communities of dugong and turtle.
4. That the planning and management of the GBR Marine Park and GBR World Heritage Area as a whole under the GBRMP Act, regulations, zoning plans and plans of management be maintained but emphasis continues to be made by the GBRMP Authority of the need for integrated catchment planning and management in the coastal areas adjacent to the GBR.

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5. That the practice of seafloor trawling is recognised as an inappropriate activity within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and a commitment is made to its eventual phase-out.
6. Introduce regulations to make pilotage compulsory for the entire inner shipping route of the GBR Marine Park and introduce a dual-pilot system to ensure that one pilot is constantly at the helm in the inner route north of Cairns.
7. Introduce regulations to prohibit intensive sea-based aquaculture (involving the addition of feed) throughout the GBRMP and World Heritage Area.
8. Introduce legislation to extend the existing legislative ban on oil and gas exploration and drilling in the GBRMP eastwards to the boundary of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone.
9. Extend the eastern boundary of the GBRMP to include the Coral Sea reefs and surrounding waters. Major reef systems include: Osprey Reef, the already highly protected Lihou Reef (an existing National Nature Reserve), Marion Reef, Flinders Reef, the Willis Group, Coringa Islands and the Saumarez Reefs. The extended Park should include a comprehensive network of no-take zones to ensure the protection of the Coral Sea reefs.
10. We believe that there should be increased funding for that the GBR can be protected for what it is worth. The GBR is worth over \$5.1 billion p/a through tourism. Please protect this precious asset by maintaining the GBRMPA.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Toby Hutcheon', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Toby Hutcheon on behalf of QCC, CCWA, CCSERAC and TCT

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