

"I enjoy fishing as a hobby and am also lucky to have a job where I can go out on the water."

"My work with CapReef involves tagging fish and collecting details from fishermen about their trips to see how effective zoning is in the Capricorn area."

"Zoning helps protect plants and animals so future generations can fish and enjoy the Marine Park like I have."

Bill Sawynok
Recreational fishermen and coordinator of CapReef, Rockhampton

achieving sustainable fisheries

Sustainable recreational and commercial fishing is an important and reasonable use of the Marine Park.

Recreational fishing is a popular Queensland pastime and commercial fishing harvests about 24 000 tonnes of seafood each year.

Increasing national and global demand for fish resources means it is important to have a strategic approach to achieving ecological sustainability.

The Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (ODPI&F) is responsible for managing fishing in the Marine Park.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority works closely with the ODPI&F, as well as recreational and commercial fishing industry representatives, to minimise the impact of fishing on the Reef's ecosystem.

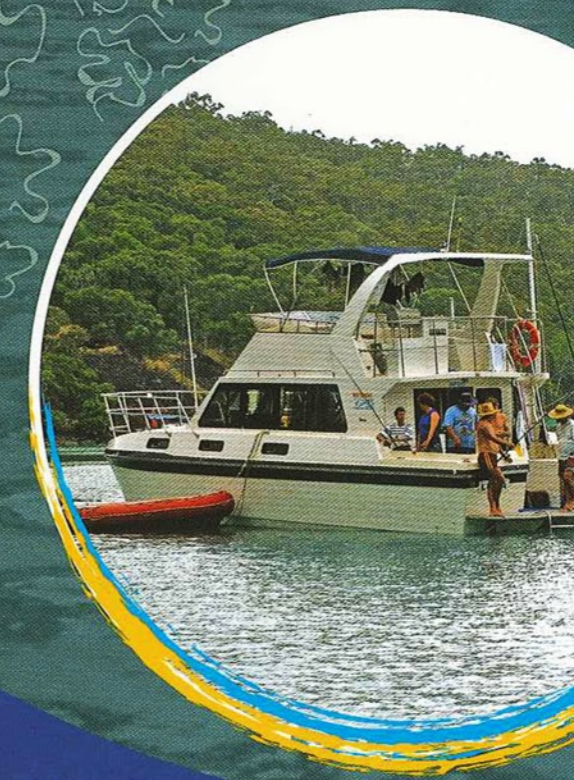
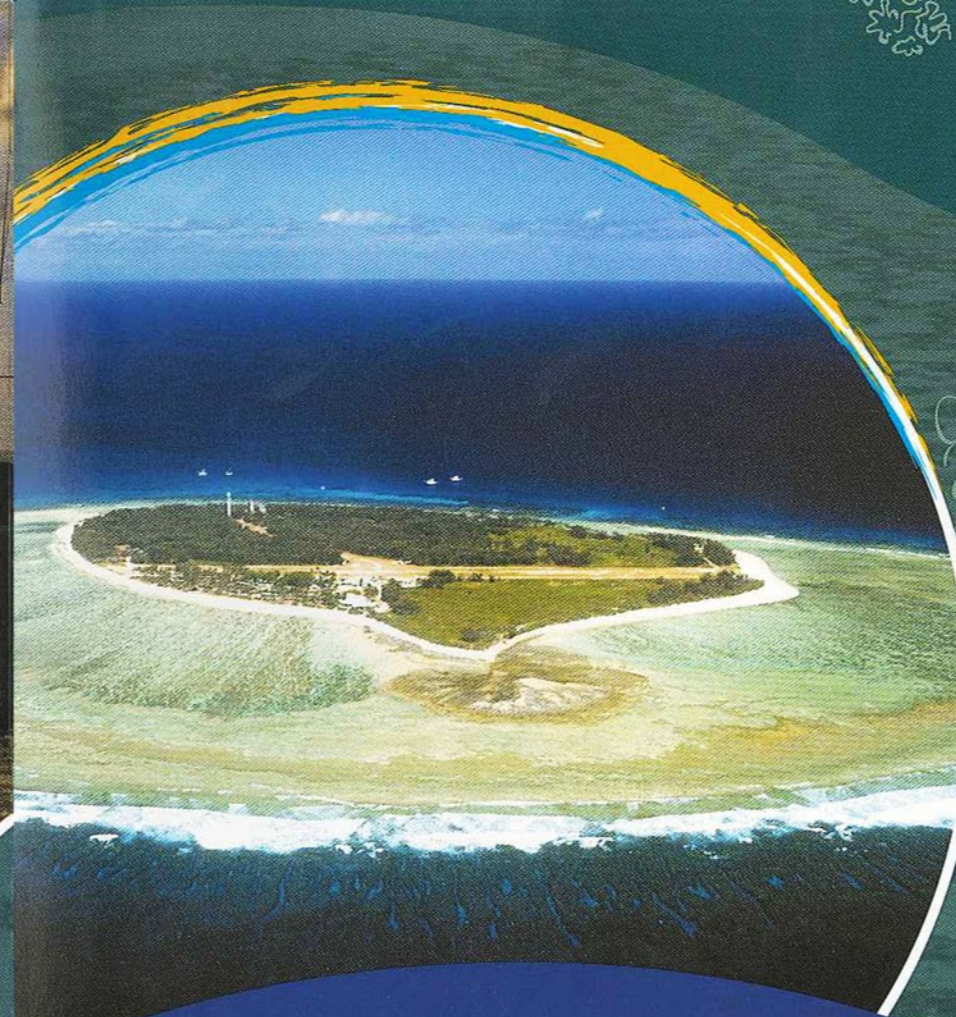
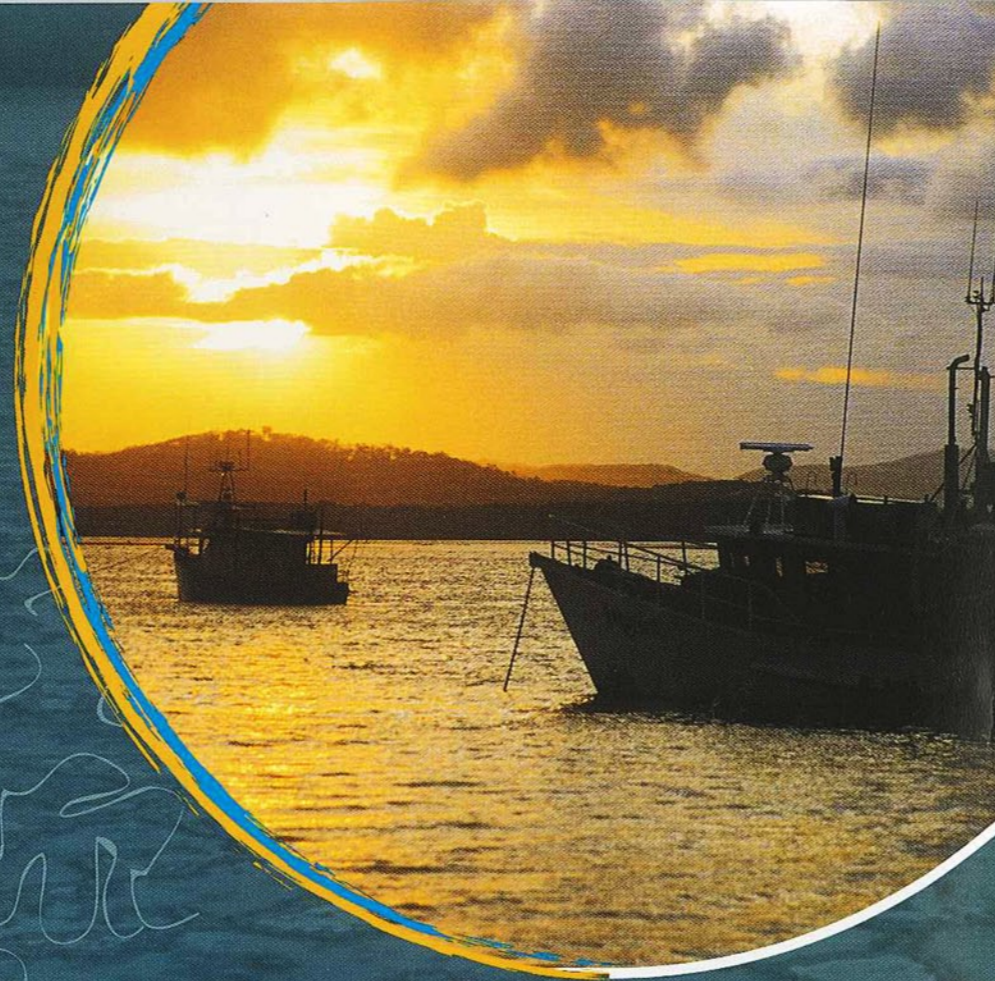
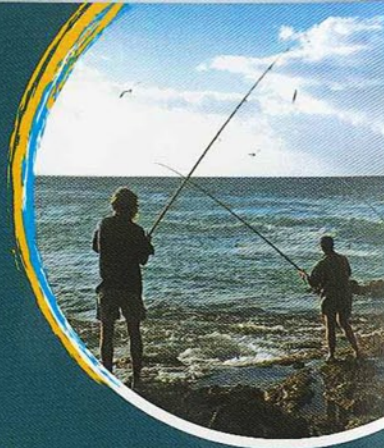
The ODPI&F regulations limit fishing effort through initiatives like seasonal closures, restrictions on fishing vessel size and limits on the numbers and size of fish that can be taken.

To achieve conservation outcomes, such as protecting all plants and animals, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority also limits fishing in some areas through zoning.

Queensland fisheries management initiatives include the East Coast Trawl Management Plan, which involves a tradeable effort quota system.

The Coral Reef Finfish Fishery Management Plan includes a total allowable catch and closures during spawning.

By-catch reduction devices and turtle exclusion devices are also mandatory in all trawl nets.




Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

a precious resource

Australia has one of the most internationally-recognised natural icons on its doorstep – the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Covering 344 000km² and stretching 2300km along the north-eastern Australian coastline, it is the largest coral reef ecosystem in the world.

It is also a vital economic hub. The Marine Park is central to activities such as tourism, recreational boating and fishing, commercial fishing, diving, aquaculture, research and shipping.

Keeping it great

For more than thirty years, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has managed this multiple-use natural resource to ensure its long-term sustainability.

The Australian Government agency does this by balancing ecologically sustainable use, commercial realities and an overarching conservation objective.

On-ground activities such as education, research, monitoring, issuing permits, Plans of Management, zoning and implementing conservation policies help manage the area.

The agency works with tourism operators, schools, local government, fishermen, landholders and Traditional Owners to achieve a shared, community approach to caring for the Marine Park's social, economic and environmental qualities.

The agency also ensures its World Heritage obligations are met by balancing reasonable human use with maintaining the area's natural and cultural integrity.

Protecting the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park *a precious resource*



Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

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protecting marine life

The marine life of the Great Barrier Reef is diverse, sensitive and environmentally valuable, and needs protection to stay healthy and to thrive.

Zoning is an important tool used throughout the Marine Park to allow recreational and commercial activities to continue but with limitations that protect important habitats and species.

Zoning is like a town planning scheme – it defines what activities can occur in which locations.

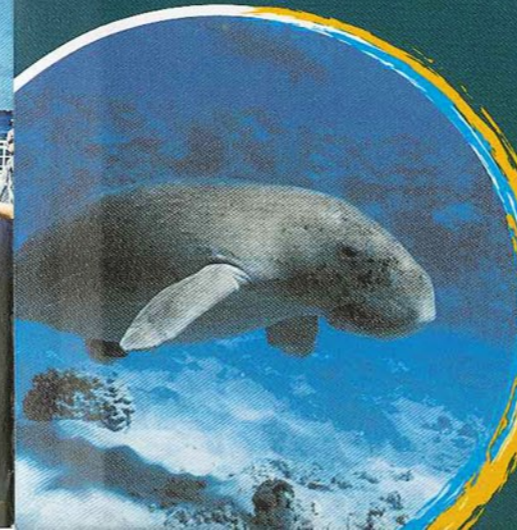
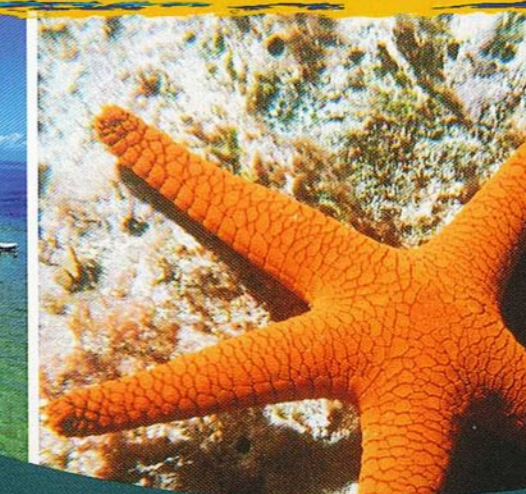
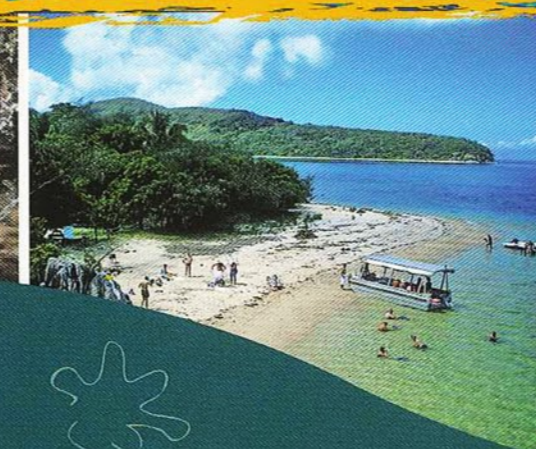
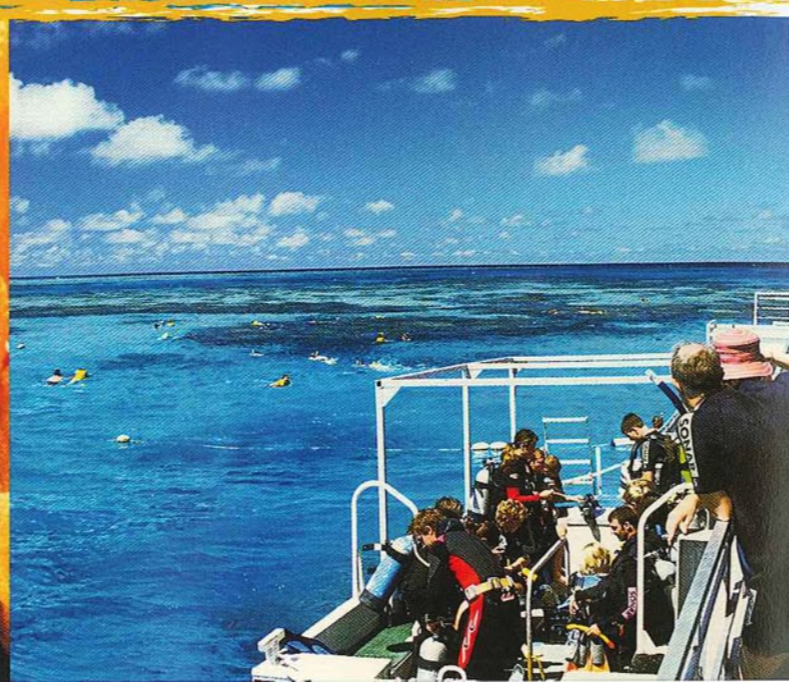
The current Zoning Plan came into effect in 2004, increasing highly-protected Green Zones from 4.5 per cent to over 33 per cent. No fishing or other extractive activities are allowed in Green Zones.

Zoning within the Marine Park allows for a reasonable range of commercial, tourism, recreational and scientific research activities.

The Zoning Plan has been widely acclaimed as setting an international benchmark for marine conservation.

Among the accolades for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has been the World Wildlife Fund's highest award, the Gift to the Earth.

There are many other initiatives that protect marine plants and animals such as 15 Dugong Protection Areas, guidelines for seabird nesting sites, and policies for marine turtles, whales, dolphins and other protected species.




Natural
Heritage
Trust
Helping Communities
Helping Australia
An Australian Government Initiative

This World Heritage-listed area is home to a diverse and unique range of plants, animals and habitats, including many protected species.

encouraging zoning compliance

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has responsibility for ensuring people understand and adhere to the Zoning Plan and regulations.

The agency runs education programmes to raise the awareness of residents and visitors about zoning and other rules, and provides easy-to-read Zoning Maps and guides.

The coordinates of all no-take zones are shown on the maps and can be identified with a GPS, plotted on a chart or loaded into electronic navigation aids.

The Australian and Queensland Governments work in partnership to enforce the regulations.

They are involved in regular vessel and aircraft patrols to detect illegal activities, including fishing in no-take zones, pollution and shipping offences.

Tourism operators and the general public are also encouraged to report any illegal incidents they witness in the Marine Park through monitoring programmes like Eyes and Ears.

improving water quality

Good water quality is important to maintaining a healthy and diverse coral reef ecosystem.

Rivers, drains and other waterways connect land-based activities in the home, workplace and farm to the ocean.

There are 26 major catchments flowing into the Marine Park.

The Australian and Queensland Governments are committed to improving water quality through the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

It focuses on working with landholders and local government to decrease nutrients, sediments and other pollutants being discharged from catchments into the Great Barrier Reef.

Landholders are taking an active role in helping look after the quality of water entering the Marine Park by implementing best practice on their properties.

Householders are also encouraged to care for their local catchment by disposing of litter appropriately, recycling, reducing the use of plastic bags, and wise water usage such as washing their car on the lawn.

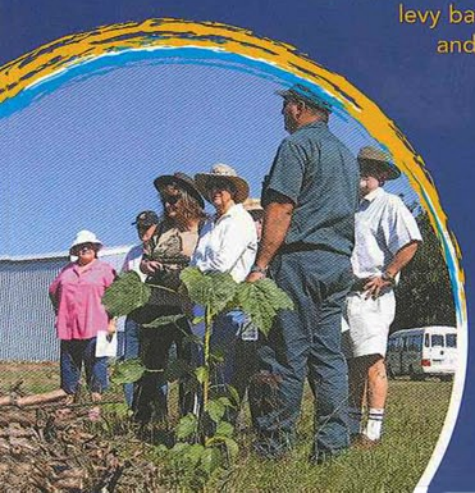
"We take the environment very seriously and have a deep desire to make a positive contribution through long-term sustainable changes."

"We've created an artificial wetland and revegetated riparian areas on our farm."

"There's also water retention structures, levy banks, grassed waterways, and two sediment retention structures."

"These provide a natural water filtration system and enhance the riverine habitat for platypus, turtles and birdlife."

Lawrence and Josie Bugeja
Cane farmers, Mackay



supporting Indigenous culture

There are currently more than 70 Traditional Owner groups (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people) with cultural connections to sea country along the Marine Park.

The relationship centres on story-telling, ceremonies, fishing, hunting and trading activities.

Traditional Owners work in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to achieve the sustainable use of marine resources while maintaining their strong cultural connections to the Reef.

One of the ways this is achieved is through Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements.

They form the basis for collaboration between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland Government and Traditional Owner groups on sea country use.

responding to climate change

Changes to the Great Barrier Reef climate are already impacting on plants and animals.

Climate change will have a wide variety of potentially serious impacts on the Reef, including coral bleaching caused by hotter summer temperatures, sea level rise, increased severity of cyclones and acidification of sea water.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is taking significant action to enhance the outlook for the Reef in the face of this threat.

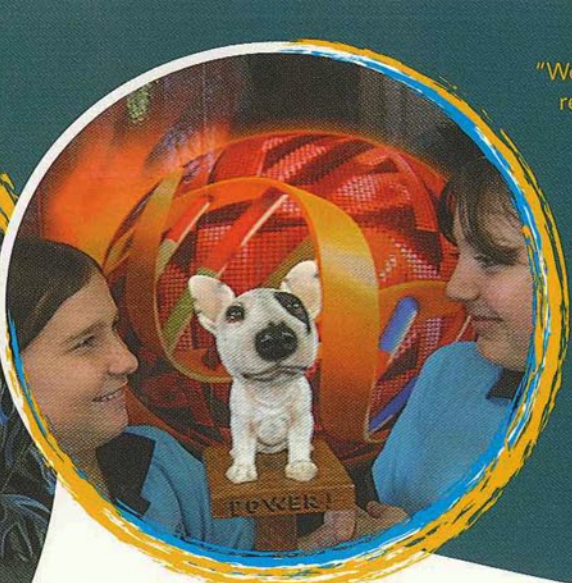
It includes initiatives to improve the Reef's health and thereby its resilience, scientific research to underpin management strategies and helping coastal communities and industries that rely on the Reef, such as tourism, to anticipate and adapt to changes.

"My sea country gives me a sense of peace and serenity that I can't find anywhere else."

"My country, the Dreaming stories and language give me my sense of identity."

"It is who I am; how I am related to country."

Walter Palm Island
Manbarra Traditional Owner,
Palm Island



working with communities

Many Queenslanders are lucky enough to live or work close to the Marine Park and play an important role in the future of the marine environment.

Regional offices of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are located along the coast to foster important partnerships with communities.

Residents are also given the opportunity to be involved in the care of the Marine Park through Local Marine Advisory Committees.

Committee members represent various interests and sectors, including tourism, fishing, farming, business and conservation.

"We put up signs and slogans around the school to remind everyone to turn off lights and computers."

"There's a competition between classes that monitors energy efficiency every day."

"In the first six months, our energy use went down and we saved \$1700."

Ashlyn Fabiani Year 7
Wonga Beach State School,
a Reef Guardian School in Port Douglas



working with ports

Queensland's busy maritime ports are located adjacent to the Marine Park. It is important the marine environment is protected as ports expand their infrastructure.

Marine managers work closely with port authorities to mitigate environmental issues while ensuring operational needs, such as safe navigation and berth access, are met.

Shipping contributes about \$16 billion to the Australian economy each year, with about 6000 ship movements occurring in the Marine Park annually.

Navigation routes through the Great Barrier Reef have been well surveyed and clearly marked by a system of navigation lights.

Additionally, a shipping vessel tracking system, oil spill response plan and compulsory pilotage for large vessels protects the marine environment.

Ships may access designated shipping areas and the General Use (Light Blue) Zone without a permit, but accessing all other areas requires a permit.

Using good research

Using the best available social, environmental and economic information for decision-making ensures high quality, scientifically-based management of the Marine Park.

Major programmes that monitor the effectiveness of management initiatives include tracking environmental changes from the Zoning Plan and assessing the impact on fish populations.

Most scientific information needs are met through outsourcing to marine research agencies like the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility.

The community and tourism industry also assist through the compliance monitoring initiative, Eyes and Ears, and the coral bleaching monitoring programme, BleachWatch.

encouraging responsible tourism

Tourism and recreation is a significant use of the Marine Park, with the outstanding natural feature attracting 1.9 million visitors each year.

Reef tourism contributes around \$5.1 billion to the Australian economy and generates over 63 000 jobs in regional communities.

There are more than 800 permitted tourism operators in the Marine Park, offering everything from day tours to scenic flights.

The future well-being of the Marine Park and the tourism industry are closely linked.

A healthy Marine Park tourism industry will always need a healthy Great Barrier Reef to present to its visitors.

This drives on-ground activities to protect the Reef and provide a world-class tourism experience.

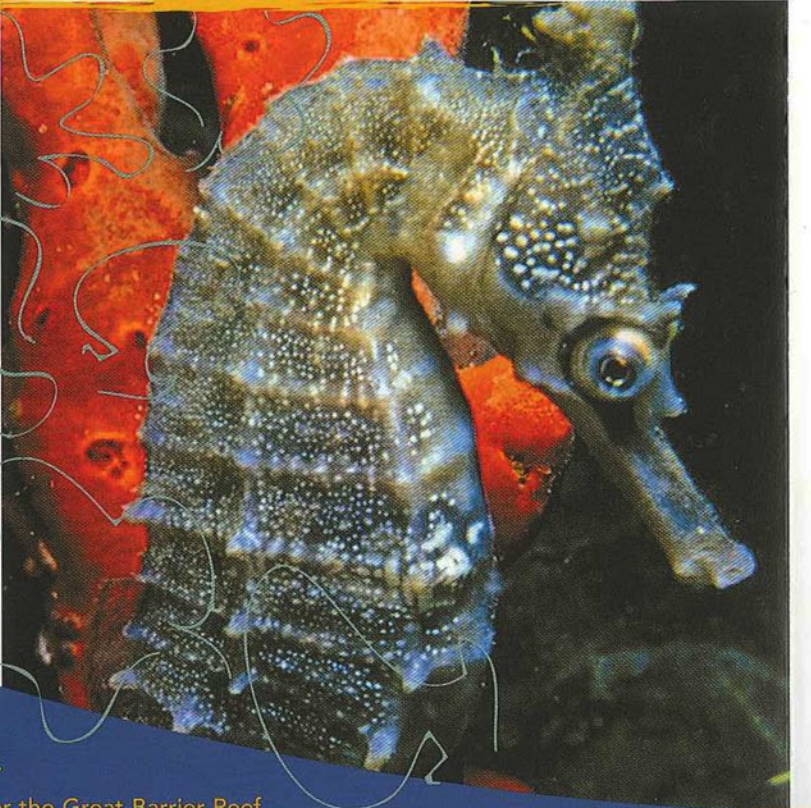
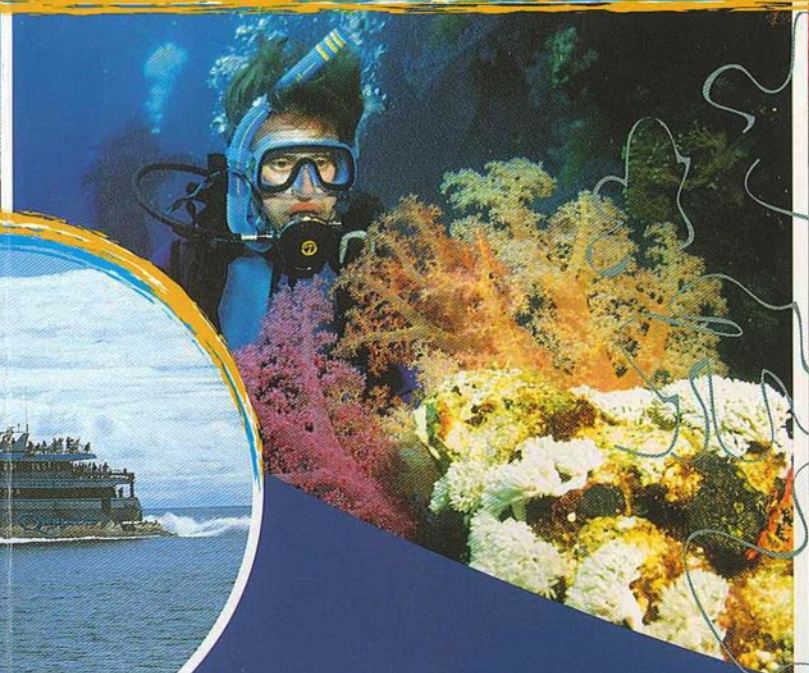
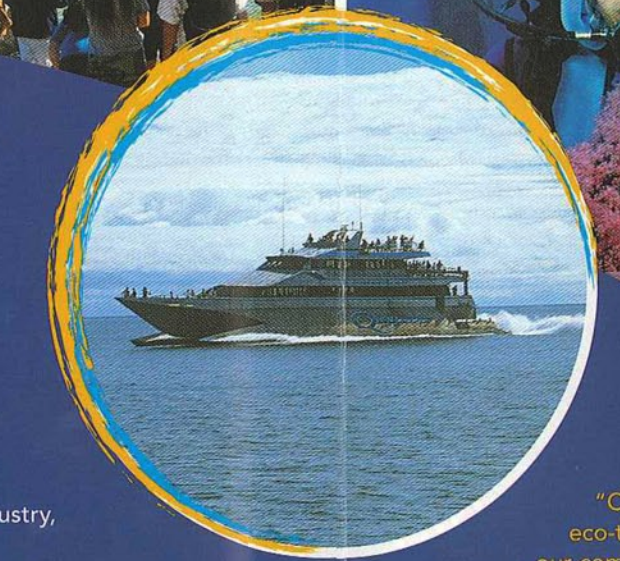
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has a robust and consultative partnership with the tourism industry, which encourages and rewards high standards.

A rigorous permit and planning system is also applied to ensure tourism is well-managed and sustainable.

For high use areas such as Cairns and Whitsundays dedicated Plans of Management apply to all activities, especially in environmentally sensitive locations.

Visitors taken to the Marine Park on a commercial tourism vessel also pay an Environmental Management Charge.

This contributes approximately \$8.2 million to important research, education and management initiatives on the Great Barrier Reef.



"Our company's advanced eco-tourism certification reinforces our commitment to protecting the marine environment."

"It informs our customers that we're dedicated to looking after the Great Barrier Reef."

"We do this through everything from adopting best environmental practices across the company to being mindful of the environment when operating our vessels."

Tony Baker
Quicksilver, Cairns