



Australian Government



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE
OF MARINE SCIENCE

TOWNSVILLE

DARWIN

PERTH

29 May 2007

Committee Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Amendment Bill 2007

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the provisions proposed in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Amendment Bill. The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) has over 30 years experience in conducting research on the Great Barrier Reef. More recently this has included investigating the impact of increased impact on the Reef's ecosystem caused by runoff (water quality) and rising sea surface temperature (coral bleaching).

Broadly speaking we support the Bill in that it recognises the critical role of the Authority in managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. One area of concern is the provision which establishes a timeframe of at least 7 years before zoning can be changed. This does not allow for an adaptive management approach that will be required as climate change impacts, and possible other impacts, cause increased stress on the ecosystem. A maximum period should be 5 years.

Overall the Bill is supported by AIMS especially the 5-yearly outlook report which is a positive step. We support this provision noting the importance of making the reporting and review process transparent and the need to ensure the report is a public document.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ian Poiner
Chief Executive Officer

Townsville address: PMB No 3,
Townsville MC, Qld 4810
Tel: (07) 4753 4444
Fax: (07) 4772 5852

Darwin address: PO Box No 40197,
Casuarina MC, NT 0811
Tel: (08) 8920 9240
Fax: (08) 8920 9222
www.aims.gov.au

Perth address: MO96, Botany Biology Building
University of WA, Crawley WA 6009
Tel: (08) 6488 4580
Fax: (08) 6488 4585