

20th December 2005

Dr Diana Wright
Executive Policy Advisor
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Dr Wright,

At the December Board Meeting of the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, I was requested to write to you and ask for an opportunity for a small delegation of our Board Members, namely our Deputy Chair, Executive Director and myself, to meet with your Review Team so that we can place before you information we feel is vital to your deliberations.

As the marine tourism industry provides the principle activity for tourism within the GBR catchment, which employs more than 63,000 people and is worth in excess \$5.8 billion annually, we feel that our needs and opinions should be given considerable weight.

This request for an additional hearing is the direct result of the report to our Board by our Executive Director and me, on our submission and first meeting with your team. After significant discussion, we feel it is essential that we meet with your team to discuss additional points not made during our first meeting.

Our delegation will travel to Canberra to meet with you at your earliest convenience as we see the possible outcomes of your Review as the most significant short term threat to our ecologically sustainable operations.

AMPTO and the GBRMPA have established a world's best practice partnership and management arrangement for a protected area and anything that could destroy this relationship and once again force us into the confrontational arrangements that existed prior to the appointment of Virginia Chadwick will be opposed by our whole industry.

Yours truly,



David Hutchen
Chair