



Public Information Package prepared by Cairns Premier Reef and Island Tours Pty Ltd

ATTACHMENT A

**PUBLIC NOTICE PURSUANT TO REGULATION 88D OF THE
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK REGULATIONS 1983
AND REGULATION 15 OF THE MARINE PARKS REGULATION 2006**

Notice is hereby given that Cairns Premier Reef and Island Tours Pty Ltd (operating vessel "Ocean Freedom") has applied for permission under the Marine Tourism Contingency Plan provisions of the Cairns Area Plan of Management to relocate one of its permitted tourist operations from Upolu Cay Reef to Vlasoff Cay Reef (1st preference) or Michaelmas Cay Reef (2nd preference). The proposal includes the temporary installation and operation of a mooring if deemed necessary by Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) (or anchoring) – no vessels are to be left on site. The reasons for this application to relocate is due to the demise of Upolu Cay following cyclone Yasi making landing of guests on Upolu Cay only possible on days of low tide and calm days. Relocation to another Cay location may affect other cay and surrounding reef users, therefore public advertising of this application is required by GBRMPA and the Department of Environment and Resource Management for their assessment. Ocean Freedom will still continue to visit Upolu Cay Reef when at all possible during low tides/calm weather, but is requesting the use of another Cay/reef option on for a portion of its daily tour when Upolu Cay is inaccessible. The tourist operation comprises:

- Daily visits to a reef and cay using a 20 metre vessel – we will endeavour not to go on weekends / public holidays in weather conditions that appear suitable for local users / on days where they may be overlap we are prepared to fit in as best we can to respect other users – eg: go in morning between 9.30am – 11.30am . The Cay destination is only part of our day (1hr to maximum 3 hrs) – the rest being spent on Upolu Reef.
- Maximum passenger capacity of 75 (+ max 9 crew) at peak times of year – however more often between 40-50 pax (+ 6 crew).
- Cay Activities include relaxing on/swimming off Cay with approximately half of the maximum pax (e.g. 20 - 35) on the cay at any one time for approximately 30 minutes.
- In-water activities from the main vessel include swimming/snorkelling and SCUBA diving.
- Tender used to transfer pax from main vessel to Cay. No Glass Bottom Boat Tours to be done.
- Cay area visitation occurs generally between 9.15am – 12.00pm, but this is flexible and can vary from a minimum of 1 hr to a maximum of 3 hrs and can be done in afternoon if needed to fit in with any other cay users. The boat leaves the final destination by 3.15pm at the latest so would never be there after this time.
- The desired area for operations at Vlasoff Cay/Reef include the vessel sitting WNW about 350 m off the Cay
- The desired area for operations at Michaelmas Cay/Reef include north of Cay and anchoring (or mooring if requested by GBRPMA) in vicinity of north reef area.
- Where possible Upolu Cay and the surrounding waters will still be used when the weather and tide range permits
- Ocean Freedom respects there may be other users in the area and are well prepared to be flexible with Cay arrival and usage times to fit in with other users.

The temporary relocation is to be for a maximum period of 12 months.

Further details of this proposal are available from:

Cairns Premier Reef and Island Tours Pty Ltd
PO Box 358H
Edge Hill QLD 4870

(Perry Jones / Taryn Agius: 0408411118/0)

Persons who believe that the proposal may restrict their reasonable use of a part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and/or Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park are invited to lodge written comments on the proposal by 2nd May 2011. Comments should be forwarded by post to:

The Director
Environmental Assessment and Management
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
PO Box 1379
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

or by email to permits@gbmpa.gov.au and should refer to this notice. Information provided will not be regarded as confidential unless confidentiality is specifically requested. This information may also be provided to the Department of Environment and Resource Management.



Australian Government

**Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority**

This notice does not imply approval for the project. Due consideration will be given to public comments before the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Department of Environment and Resource Management make any decisions in relation to the application.