



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

POSITION STATEMENT

**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Position Statement on Management of
Memorials within the Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park**



Position Statement

Management of Memorials within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

December 2007

Our goal is to provide for the long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef through the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Throughout Australia, memorials and plaques are used to honour individuals or groups for their contributions and involvement in certain aspects of the community or environment, and in memory of deceased persons with strong connections to or long-standing involvement in a location or area.

This Position Statement provides a framework and guidance for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to consider the installation of memorials in the Marine Park.

Memorials within the Marine Park

Memorials within the Marine Park usually include the placement of a metal plaque or a statue at a location significant to the person or group to be remembered or honoured.

The installation of a structure, including memorials or plaques, in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park requires the written permission of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003*.

Managing memorials

An application to erect a memorial may be approved where the proposal:

- Is unobtrusive and of a form appropriate to the local setting and
- Is a reminder of a person who, or a group or organisation which made a major contribution to conserving the area or its wildlife or
- Reflects cultural associations with the area by individuals or groups or
- Marks a significant event in the Great Barrier Reef's history and
- Includes the consents of all relevant parties.

Methods to assess the support of the proposed memorial may include consultation with next of kin, native title holders and other concerned individuals, and, where relevant, may also include public advertising.

Where the memorial or plaque is proposed for an approved burial site or in memory of a deceased person, the application will normally only be approved if:

- The deceased has a strong, long-standing involvement with conserving the marine environment or its wildlife or
- The deceased was an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander with a traditional or long-standing affiliation with the area.

Future applications

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* requires that a person has written permission for the placement of memorial or plaques. A Permit Application Assessment Fee, bond and insurance requirements may apply.

The application should address and include:

- The purpose of erecting the memorial or placing the plaque such as to recall bequests, donations, community contributions and long service to marine conservation to commemorate significant events in area history, or to mark a burial
- The exact location proposed
- A description, drawing and/or diagram of the proposal including materials, dimensions and colours
- Any text, photograph or artwork to be included
- Proposals for maintenance including costs
- Any practical alternative.

Further information on making an application for permission and the application form is available from www.gbrmpa.gov.au or by phoning (07) 4750 0700.

Applications should to be directed to:

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Attention: Permits
PO Box 1379
Townsville QLD 4810

Fax: (07) 4772 5289

Further references

For the *Operational Policy – Memorials and Plaques* developed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for State managed areas visit <http://www.epa.qld.gov.au>