

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that GBRMPA continue working toward comprehensive aircraft management policy development for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and this study be used as partial justification for a more comprehensive baseline and monitoring study of aircraft and watercraft at Whitehaven Bay and in the Whitsunday Islands generally. Any future research should meet Australian Standards for sound measurement, thus, allowing results to be used for decision making with legal implications.

Prior to undertaking further research, it is advised that GBRMPA consider:

- Its expectations for the ROS settings throughout the Marine Park in terms of aircraft/watercraft activity and noise.
- Appropriate current and future levels of use at Whitehaven Beach particularly in light of the beach's designation as a sensitive site.
- The possibility of developing dose response curves.
- The need for ROS planning on a larger geographic scale than that at Whitehaven Bay.

As part of future research, it is advised that GBRMPA further investigate:

- Flight paths and takeoff positions which would result in the most acceptable impact within the ROS settings along Whitehaven Beach and in the Whitsunday Islands generally.
- Potential noise mitigation measures including distance (height) of the sound source from the listener, phasing in the use of quieter aircraft technology and the potential for developing fly neighbourly policies with local operators.