



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority

## Day-to-day management

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### Protecting the Reef

Many different people and industries use the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, including indigenous people, fishers, the shipping industry and tourists. Reasonable and responsible use is important for the future of the Reef, and therefore an important part of the management of the Marine Park and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), along with other state and federal authorities, look after the day-to-day activities in the Marine Park. This includes protecting and monitoring resources in the Marine Park,

providing visitors with education and information, and managing surveillance and enforcement activities.

### Day-to-day Management Program

The Day-to-Day Management Program is delivered through QPWS rangers and conservation staff (called Marine Park Officers), who guide and monitor routine activities and daily operations in the Marine Park. They're also involved in enforcing Marine Park rules, by issuing on-the-spot fines, taking court action for infringements of rules (such as no fishing in 'green' zones) or initiating action to suspend and revoke permits for breaches

of a permit condition. Marine Park Officers participate in the following management programs:

#### Resource protection programs

- Assess and approve permits for certain activities, like camping, research and tourist operations; *and*
- Protect natural resources by installing public moorings and 'no anchor' markers, to reduce anchor damage to coral reefs.

#### Visitor education and services

- Provide formal and informal advice to Marine Park users on a range of topics;
- Educate users about sustainable use of the Marine Park; *and*
- Provide facilities such as signs, camping grounds, day-use facilities and walking tracks, to protect the Park's resources.

#### Resource assessment and monitoring

- Measure the condition of natural values and evaluate management practices;
- Assess threats to values of the World Heritage Area;
- Identify sites for special management; *and*
- Monitor the attitudes and experiences of visitors.

our great barrier reef  
let's keep it great





### Surveillance and enforcement

- Operate daily vessel patrols; *and*
- Work with Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, Queensland Water Police, Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Coastwatch to monitor and enforce regulations.

### The powers of Marine Park Inspectors

While education and support services are the best way to encourage users to comply with Marine Park rules, enforcement action or prosecution is sometimes necessary. Marine Park Inspectors are appointed by the GBRMPA and have the power to:

- Stop or search a vessel or aircraft;
- Order a person from the Marine Park;
- Seize any vessel, aircraft or article the inspector reasonably believes to have been used or involved in an offence, or order it to be delivered to another place for seizure;
- Obtain a search warrant, and the power to enter and search premises outside the Marine Park with such a



warrant, or with the owner's permission; *and*

- Give general direction to ensure compliance with the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

All federal police officers, and some Queensland Water Police Officers, are appointed Inspectors and have the additional power to arrest someone.

### What activities are enforcement priorities?

High-priority activities are those that cause, or are likely to cause, large-scale habitat or environmental damage, or where species are threatened, or where the natural resources of the Marine Park have been or will be severely depleted. Examples include illegal trawling, line fishing and Dugong Protection Areas.

Medium-priority activities are offences where significant environmental damage has occurred or may occur, or where financial reward or gain from an offence may exist, or where significant management principles are disregarded.

Low-priority activities are minor or technical offences, or where environmental damage is not likely to occur.



### For Further Information

Visit the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's website:  
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