

## FOREWORD

The Great Barrier Reef is valuable to Australia as an economic and recreational resource and is of global ecological significance. This is **recognised** with the inscription of the Great Barrier Reef Region on the World Heritage List and the declaration of the Great Barrier Reef as a marine park under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The intensity of shipping within the Great Barrier Reef presents a very real threat to the Reef from oil spills. In response to this threat the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Communication have developed REEFPLAN, the marine pollution contingency plan for the Great Barrier Reef Region. As of 1 January 1991 the role of the Department of Transport and Communication under **REEFPLAN** has been taken over by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Under **REEFPLAN** the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority holds the positions of Scientific Support Coordinator and Media Liaison Officer. The role of Scientific Support Coordinator gives the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority responsibility for coordinating support and advice regarding scientific and environmental matters in the event of an oil spill. The role of the Media Liaison Officer is to provide a single coordinated contact point between the media and the response team.

As part of its role as Scientific Support Coordinator, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority organises workshops to share and exchange information with other oil spill response groups. The Workshop on Oiled **Seabird** Cleaning and Rehabilitation was held on 26 February 1991 in response to a perceived need for an oiled **seabird** contingency plan for the Great Barrier Reef Region.

This report is a summary of the proceedings from the Oiled **Seabird** Cleaning and Rehabilitation Workshop, the first in Queensland to address this issue. It is hoped that more workshops will be held in the future.