

PERMITS INFORMATION

September 2004

Special Tourism Permissions

Some Marine Parks tourism permits are 'special tourism permissions' because they allow you to conduct a tourism activity that has been capped or limited (refer box below).

If you hold one of these permits, there are some important management arrangements that you should be aware of. These have been introduced at the request of the tourism industry to provide more certainty to tourism operators and to discourage hoarding and speculation on special tourism permissions.

Making Use of Your Permission

You will retain first option on your special tourism permission providing you have made reasonable use of that permission (making sure that you apply for your next permit before your current one expires).

For all current special tourism permissions, reasonable use will be an average of 50 days use per year for each vessel or aircraft that is endorsed to undertake capped activities. The number of passengers carried will not be reviewed.

Reviewing Reasonable Use

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) will check whether you have undertaken reasonable use when you apply for your next permit.

The GBRMPA will make a separate decision about each endorsed vessel or aircraft. However, if you have more than one endorsed vessel or aircraft listed on a permit, you have the flexibility to spread the use of any of your endorsed vessels or aircraft across all your endorsed vessels or aircraft.

Use of ancillary vessels, such as glass bottom boats, semi-submersibles and dive tenders, will not be reviewed.

Special Tourism Permissions

A special tourism permission is one that allows a capped tourism activity and includes any one of the following:

- ✓ access to the Whitsundays or Hinchinbrook* Areas without a booking
- ✓ anchoring access to the Cairns Area without a booking
- ✓ cruise ship access to the Cairns or Hinchinbrook* Areas without a booking to the area
- ✓ access to a Sensitive Location without a booking in the Cairns or Hinchinbrook* Areas or access to a setting 5 area in the Whitsunday Area
- ✓ more than 50 days anchoring access per year to a Cairns Area Location
- ✓ larger group size than that provided for in the setting in all Areas
- ✓ larger vessel size than that provided for in a location in the Hinchinbrook* Area
- ✓ long range roving operations all Areas or bareboat operations in the Whitsunday or Hinchinbrook Areas
- ✓ the activities of whale watching in the Whitsunday or Cairns Area, and swimming-with-whales in the Cairns Area
- ✓ the activities of reef walking other than at Hardy Reef or Black Island Reef, and fishing in the Conservation Park zone in the Whitsunday Area
- ✓ the activity of motorised water sports in specified locations in the Hinchinbrook* Area.

* Only permits granted after adoption of the Hinchinbrook Plan of Management (15 April 2004) are special tourism permissions.



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Use will be reviewed over the entire term of the permit, except:

- If your permit has been transferred to you, you may request that only use since the transfer be reviewed.
- If your permit was issued before the policy was introduced (13 August 2003), you may request that only use since that date be reviewed.

Vessel and Bareboat Identification Numbers

If your endorsed vessels are operated with a Vessel or Bareboat Identification Number (VIN or BIN), the GBRMPA will consider the use made of each identification number listed on your permit.

Demonstrating Reasonable Use

To demonstrate use of your special tourism permission, you must have provided services to passengers in the Marine Park while operating under the permission. Accessing the Marine Park for other purposes (such as having a vessel permanently moored) will not be counted in a review of reasonable use.

You may include your total amount of use in the Marine Park, regardless of whether the use was in connection with a capped activity.

- Use of the Marine Park for any part of a day will demonstrate use on that day. Multiple visits on the one day demonstrate only one day's use.

Usually you will be able to demonstrate the amount you have used your special tourism permission by referring to Environmental Management Charge logbook data. You may include use within adjacent Queensland Marine Parks. Other forms of proof may be accepted.

- For beach hire operations, you will need to provide your own records or a statutory declaration as your EMC records will not demonstrate daily use. Use in a day of any piece of hire equipment will demonstrate one day's use.

Better Aligning Your Permit/s with the Policy

At any stage, you may ask for your permit or permits to be reconfigured in a way that provides a better outcome with regard to this policy. Permits will be reconfigured without reviewing use, providing that the replacement permit retains the earliest expiry date. No fee will be charged.

Changing Your Permit

If you want to change your operation or business plans, you may need to request changes to your permit. In assessing such a request, the GBRMPA will not review your use of the special tourism permission, providing you retain the existing expiry date.

Allocating New or Spare Special Tourism Permissions

Any new special tourism permissions or those that become available for re-allocation will be allocated through an expressions of interest process. The tourism opportunity will be publicly advertised and an application period nominated.

Further Information

For more information contact the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority:

Email: permitenquiry@gbmpa.gov.au Phone: (07) 4750 0700 Fax: (07) 4772 6093

General information on the GBRMPA policy on managing tourism permissions can be viewed at www.gbrmpa.gov.au



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