



# Zoning, Plans of Management and Site Management Arrangements

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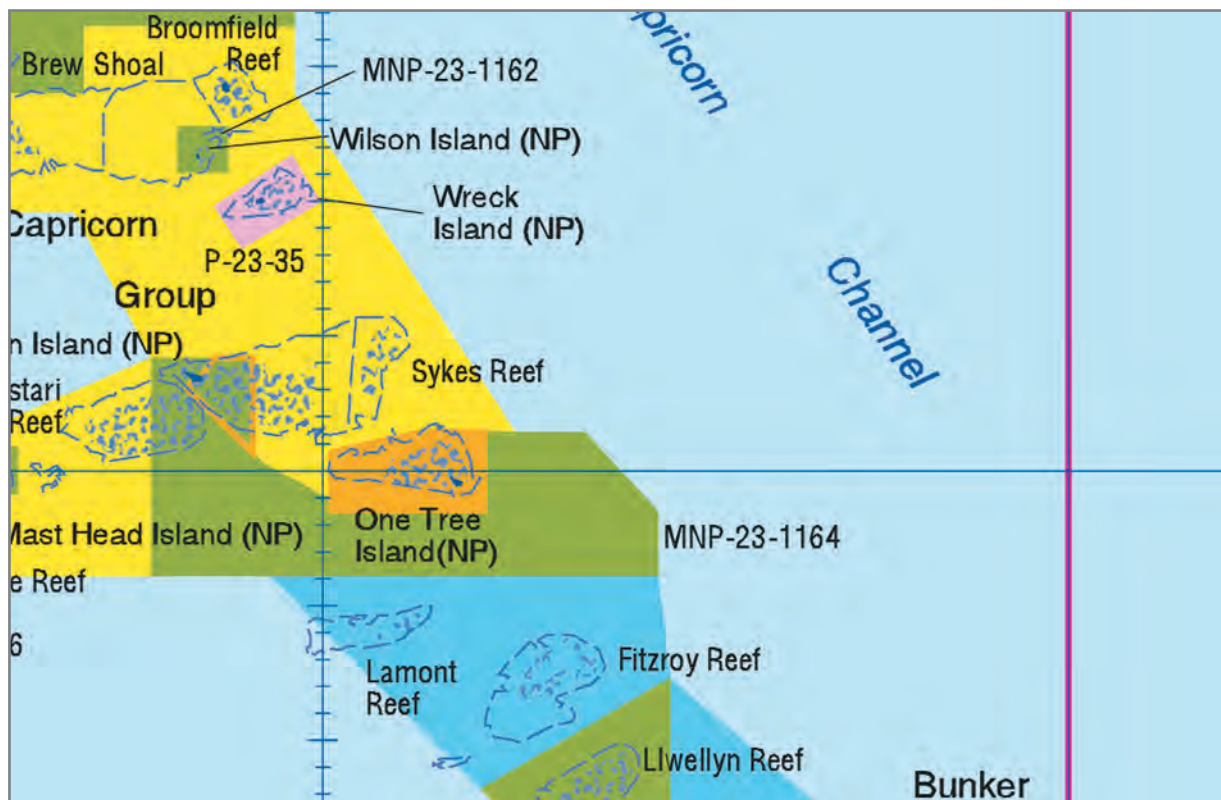
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) helps to keep the Great Barrier Reef great through planning, protection, good management and the encouragement of wise use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

*A 25 Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area* was developed in 1994 to provide vision and direction for managing the Great Barrier Reef. The Plan was developed with widespread community participation including Indigenous communities, government, conservationists, recreational users, scientists, industry groups and marine management authorities. The 25 Year Strategic Plan provides the strategic basis for planning and management of the Marine Park.

## Zoning Plans - Who can do what, and where can they do it?

Part of the GBRMPA's job is to work out what people can do in the Marine Park, and where they can do it. The GBRMPA manages this by zoning the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Marine Park Zoning Plan is similar to planning schemes prepared for local government areas except that it is prepared for the water. Zoning breaks the Marine Park up into zones, which specify the types of activities that can occur. Zoning allows the GBRMPA to protect special areas, areas that are threatened and areas representative of the plants and animals in the Marine Park by placing limits on the use of these areas. Zoning may also be used to separate activities that





A small section of the Mackay/Capricorn Management Area to illustrate the zone types and colours only. The entire map including legend and activities table is available from the Public Information Unit, The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

may conflict with each other, such as commercial fishing and tourism.

The *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003* is the primary planning instrument for the conservation and management of the Marine Park. It also provides for a range of recreational, commercial and research opportunities and for the continuation of traditional activities. The Zoning Plan was developed through the Representative Areas Programme, where community

members, interest groups, Indigenous communities, relevant industry groups and other management agencies participated in formal consultative processes to make sure the Plan took into account everyone's specific needs and issues.

The Plan provides increased protection for the plants and animals of the Marine Park by protecting examples of each of the major habitats found in the Marine Park within a network of Marine National Parks (green) Zones.

The Plan also provides:

- Zoning for 28 new coastal sections added to the Marine Park between 2000 and 2001
- Development of a single Zoning Plan for the entire Marine Park
- A coordinate-based zoning system that will assist public understanding and compliance.

The Zoning Plan defines a range of activities that may be undertaken, can be undertaken



with permission, or are prohibited in each zone. The Plan has seven zone types and three designated area management categories that are applied to address management objectives in particular areas. These zone types and the colours used to illustrate them on zoning maps are, from least to most restrictive:

- General Use (light blue)
- Habitat Protection (dark blue)
- Conservation Park (yellow)
- Buffer (olive green)
- Marine National Park (green)
- Scientific Research (orange)
- Preservation (pink).

The designated areas include:

- Shipping Areas

- Special Management Areas
- Fisheries Experimental Areas.

The zoning maps and introductory guides are available from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority or for more information visit

[www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)

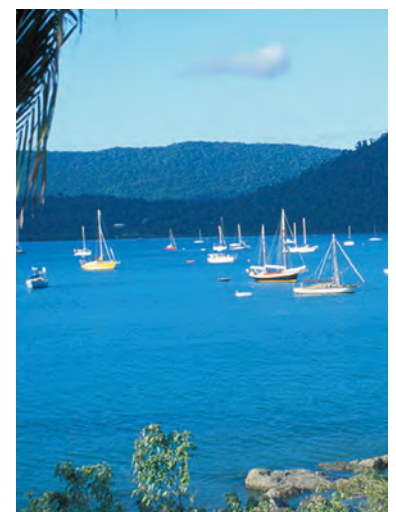
### **Plans of management—managing special areas of the Marine Park**

Plans of management complement zoning by addressing issues specific to the area, the species or the ecological community in greater detail than can be provided for in the Zoning Plan.

The preparation of the plan takes into consideration the natural, cultural, scientific values and use of the area.

The objectives of plans of management are to:

- implement strategies for certain areas of the Marine Park to reduce or eliminate threats to nature, conservation values, cultural and heritage values or scientific values
- ensure the recovery and continued protection and conservation of species and ecological communities
- manage activities within areas of the Marine Park based on sustainable use
- provide a management framework for potentially conflicting uses within a particular area of the Marine Park
- manage a particular area of the Marine Park in partnership with community groups
- enable people using the



Marine Park to participate in a range of recreational opportunities.

Plans of management are developed in consultation with communities and users of the area.

Consultation is undertaken by inviting all stakeholders to provide information and comments on any issues relevant to the area before a plan is prepared. Stakeholders are again given an opportunity to comment once the draft plan has been prepared. In light of comments made, the GBRMPA amends the plan accordingly.

### **What areas of the Marine Park have a Plan of management?**

Plans of management are in place for:

- The Cairns Area, to manage impacts associated with high-density marine tourism
- The Whitsundays, to manage the impacts of high-density tourism and provide a variety of natural experiences
- Shoalwater Bay, to protect and conserve the resident dugong population
- The Hinchinbrook region, to allow for a variety of low key tourism opportunities,

whilst ensuring the nature conservation values of the area are maintained.

For more information or to view the plans visit

**[www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)**

### **Site management arrangements**

Site management arrangements are localised plans for use of a particular site. They concentrate on specific use issues and impacts at a site. They are developed in consultation with

community members, interest groups and other management agencies.

Site management arrangements identify significant values of a specific site and determine the appropriate balance of private and public access opportunities consistent with the values of the site.

For more information or to view Site Management Arrangements visit

**[www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au)**



#### **For further information**

**Visit the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's websites:**

[www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au) or [www.reefED.edu.au](http://www.reefED.edu.au)

**Send an email:** [info@gbrmpa.gov.au](mailto:info@gbrmpa.gov.au)

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