

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY
TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM GBRMPA-TM-6
AGE STRUCTURE OF THE FANTOME ISLAND FRINGING REEF

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SUMMARY

Radiocarbon age dating of three high recovery cores from the leeward fringing reef of Fantome Island (Palm Isles, Central Great Barrier Reef), indicate the reef began forming about 6,000 years BP. The reef has formed by progradation of a hard bottom, reef top unit over soft reef slope deposits. Progradation has averaged 1m/10 years over the past 5,000 years.

Management of such fringing reefs will need to focus on preserving the soft reef slope deposits (to prevent erosion and undercutting) as well as maintaining a favourable environment for coral growth.

Keywords: Great Barrier reef Marine Park Authority, Fantome Island reef, age structure, radiocarbon dating, fringing reefs, management.

Technical Memoranda are of a preliminary nature, representing the views of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

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