

FOREWORD

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest and most diverse coral reef ecosystem in the world. Most of the Great Barrier Reef region has been proclaimed as a Marine Park and inscribed on the World Heritage List in recognition of its global significance, and of the need to ensure its integrity for future generations.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is a multiple-use park, one where many different activities are managed to minimise conflicts between users and degradation of the environment.

Marinas are one such use for the Marine Park and adjacent areas. As with so many other activities, marinas have the potential to create environmental, economic and social conflicts - the challenge for resource managers is to ensure that proposed marinas do not have significant impacts on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is the key Commonwealth agency responsible for management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and has as its motto 'Ours to use wisely'. 'Wise use' is a resource management concept with many facets. A proposal must be seen to be socially desirable, safe, technically feasible and competent, economically viable and cognisant of ecological constraints before it could be deemed to show 'wise use' of our natural resources. With proper planning and implementation, marinas can be a 'wise use' of our coastal environment.

Experience has shown that there is a clear need for all parties involved in the planning, design, assessment and construction of marina developments to gain a thorough appreciation, prior to commencement, of the implications of embarking on a particular development. The need to do so is made all the more compelling due to the detailed, possibly time consuming procedures that may need to be followed to enable assessment of a proposal. These guidelines are a broad set of criteria designed to facilitate the planning and assessment of marinas. Strict adherence to these guidelines does not guarantee that approval will be forthcoming, but rather this document should be treated as a resource to provide generic guidance on matters that may help to minimise unnecessary environmental impacts arising from the construction and operation of marinas.

Judicious use of this document will assist a developer about to submit a marina proposal, and will facilitate an assessment of marina proposals by Authority staff. This document is therefore a planning and assessment tool, one which should lead more quickly to appropriate resource management decisions.



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