

Technical Information Sheet #9

>> Representative Areas Program background and history

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The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is implementing the Representative Areas Program to help ensure better protection of the Marine Park's biodiversity. This will involve a review of the existing zoning throughout the Marine Park. This information sheet is part of a package of materials that help explain various technical elements of the Representative Areas Program and the zoning review.

New coastal areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

In January 1999, the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage announced that certain coastal areas previously excluded from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park would now be included. When the Marine Park was first declared in the late 1970s, these areas were excluded because of concerns about their potential for industrial or port developments, as well as a limited understanding of their ecological significance.

The addition of the new coastal areas to the Marine Park has occurred in a staged process, with areas being proclaimed as new Sections at different times (see Table and Map for more details).

The first series of additions to the Marine Park included areas with low human use, high natural values, and with limited coastal developments, infrastructure or modifications. The final series included more complex areas, with many adjacent to existing ports.

Under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, it is a statutory requirement that zoning plans be prepared for the new coastal areas as soon as practicable after their proclamation as sections of the Marine Park. This will be done in parallel with the Representative Areas Program. The GBRMPA's *Notice of Intent to Prepare a Zoning Plan* for the Representative Areas Program will ask for additional public input into the zoning and management of these areas.

Note that some small coastal areas (adjacent to ports and major urban centres) are still excluded from the Marine Park.

Until a new zoning plan is in effect, the new areas remain 'unzoned areas' of the Marine Park. Under Section 38F of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* there are certain activities prohibited in unzoned areas unless permission is granted by the GBRMPA. Examples include:

- building or constructing major structures;
- carrying out works such as reclamation and beach protection; and
- demolition or removal of structures.

For full details on prohibitions in unzoned areas, consult Section 38F of the *Act* or contact the GBRMPA. For more information about the legislation, go to:

www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/about_gbrmpa/legislation_regulations.html

Recreational and commercial fishing activities and general use of the Marine Park are still permitted in unzoned areas.

New Areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park		
Area	Section Name	Date of Gazette
Sharp Point to Sadd Point	Shadwell Section	2 August 2000
Captain Billy Landing	Heathlands Section	2 August 2000
Margaret Bay	Margaret Bay Section	2 August 2000
South of Cape Grenville	Indian Bay Section	2 August 2000
1st Stony Point	Fair Cape Section	2 August 2000
Portland Roads	Weymouth Section	13 December 2000
Bobardt Point	Night Island Section	2 August 2000

Port Stewart	Claremont Section	2 August 2000
Bathurst Head	Bathurst Head Section	13 December 2000
Barrow Point	Ninian Bay Section	2 August 2000
Cape Flattery	Cape Flattery Section	4 July 2001
Cooktown	Cooktown Section	22 December 2000
Daintree to Mourilyan	Wet Tropics Coast Section	4 July 2001
Clump Point	Clump Point Section	22 December 2000
Mission Beach	Mission Beach Section	2 August 2000
Lucinda Point to Bohle River	Halifax Bay Section	4 July 2001
Cleveland Bay	Cleveland Bay Section	4 July 2001
Burdekin	Burdekin Section	2 August 2000
Abbot Point	Edgecumbe Section	4 July 2001
Pioneer Bay	Airlie Beach	4 July 2001
Western Repulse Bay	Repulse Bay Section	2 August 2000
Mackay	Sandringham Section	4 July 2001
Broad Sound	Broad Sound Section	22 December 2000
Yeppoon Coast	Farnborough Section	4 July 2001
Keppel Bay	Keppel Bay Section	4 July 2001
Connor Bluff to North Point	Curtis Island Section	22 December 2000
South of Port Curtis	Boyne Section	4 July 2001
Bustard Head to Rocky Point	Bustard Bay Section	2 August 2000

Tidal lands and tidal waters within these new unzoned areas are **not** part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and may still be subject to existing Queensland zoning provisions and state legislation.

If you have any comments or suggestions about the zoning and management of the new coastal areas of the Marine Park, send them to the GBRMPA via either the Submissions Brochure or preferably by completing the Detailed Maps that are available from the GBRMPA.

For more information, please, contact:

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