

BAREBOAT AND HIRE OPERATORS

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) released the Hinchinbrook Plan of Management 2004 (the Plan) on 15 April 2004. The Plan is designed to protect the outstanding natural values of the Hinchinbrook region and to provide for the long-term sustainable use of this world famous area.

The Plan applies only to Commonwealth waters, which do not include the Hinchinbrook Channel. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is currently finalising a complementary management plan that will cover waters within the State Marine Park such as the Hinchinbrook Channel and intertidal waters.

This Information Sheet provides an overview of the concepts and strategies contained in the Plan, relating to bareboat and hire operations and should be read in conjunction with the General Tour Operators Information Sheet and Hinchinbrook Maps Information Sheet. You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with the relevant aspects of the Plan that relate to your activities or style of operation. This may be done by referring to the Plan or one of the specific Information Sheets listed below:

- AIRCRAFT OPERATORS (RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL PILOTS)
- CRUISE SHIP OPERATORS
- BOUTIQUE CRUISE OPERATORS
- GENERAL TOUR OPERATORS
- PASSENGER TRANSPORT AND SUPPORT SERVICE OPERATORS
- GUIDED TOUR OPERATORS (vessels less than 6 metres)
- MOTORISED WATER SPORTS
- HINCHINBROOK MAPS

Bareboat operations

Bareboats are commercially registered live-aboard motorboats and sailing yachts greater than 6 metres in overall length that are available for hire without a skipper or crew. The number of bareboat operations in the Hinchinbrook Planning Area is capped at present levels. Bareboat permits may be transferred according to normal Authority transfer procedures. The Plan implements a number of strategies regarding bareboat operations in the Hinchinbrook Planning Area.

- Permitted bareboat operations will have all year access to the Hinchinbrook Planning Area and Sensitive Locations without the requirement to make a booking.
- The use of sail guides on board bareboats is encouraged.
- Bareboat permits for the Hinchinbrook Planning Area cannot be converted to any other crewed vessel permits.
- An accreditation and training program will be developed for bareboat operators in the Hinchinbrook Planning Area.
- Information on the presence of estuarine crocodiles within the Hinchinbrook Planning Area should be available on bareboats. Information may be obtained from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Customers are required to be briefed about management settings to comply with those settings
- The bareboat industry is encouraged to develop a code of conduct to minimise environmental and social impacts, and to foster best practice.

The Authority's Policy on Bareboat Operations in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park may be downloaded from the GBRMPA web site.



Hire operators

Hire operations may include the hiring of equipment (eg. snorkel gear and non-motorised craft such as kayaks, paddleboards or windsurfers) or motorised craft under 6 metres in length (e.g., dinghies, half-cabin, jet skis).

- A hire operation will have all year access to the Hinchinbrook Planning Area and Sensitive Locations without the requirement to make a booking.
- People hiring the equipment or craft may access the whole Planning Area.
- Hire operations (business transactions and storage of equipment and craft) may only be conducted from intensive use Locations or outside the Hinchinbrook Planning Area.
- Additional restrictions will apply to the use of jet-skis and high-speed vessels (any vessel travelling faster than 35 knots). Refer to the MOTORISED WATER SPORTS Information Sheet

Further Information

The Plan and Information Sheets can be downloaded free from the GBRMPA web site at www.gbrmpa.gov.au. Alternatively, you may obtain a copy of the Plan (\$10 charge will apply) or any Information Sheet (no charge) by contacting the GBRMPA or the Rainforest and Reef Information Centre in Cardwell (07 4066 8601).

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