

## **PASSENGER TRANSPORT AND SUPPORT SERVICE OPERATIONS**

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 a brief overview of the concepts and strategies contained in the Plan, relating to passenger transport and support service operations. 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
- BAREBOAT AND HIRE OPERATORS
- PASSENGER TRANSPORT AND SUPPORT SERVICE OPERATORS
- GUIDED TOUR OPERATORS (vessels less than 6 metres)
- MOTORISED WATER SPORTS
- HINCHINBROOK MAPS

### ***Passenger transport operations***

A passenger transport operation is an operation conducted to ferry passengers to a destination, for example camper drop-offs or transfers to resorts. The Plan implements a number of strategies regarding passenger transport operations in the Hinchinbrook Planning Area.

- A passenger transport operation will be permitted to have all year access to the Hinchinbrook Planning Area and Sensitive Locations without the requirement to make a booking.
- A passenger transport operation is to be conducted using the transit lanes or otherwise the most direct reasonable routes.
- A passenger transport operation must not stop en route except to:
  - drop-off or pick-up passengers; or
  - in the case of an emergency.
- A passenger transport operation will be required to comply with the setting limits (i.e. group and vessel size) in designated Locations, except at the Cape Richards Location where the group size limit can be exceeded.
- Transfer passengers should not be included in group size limits
  - For example, a permitted operator with 17 people on board, could access a low use location (group size max – 15) providing at least 2 of the passengers were 'transfer passengers' such as hikers being dropped off.



The definition for **transfer passenger** as found in the GBRMP Regulations is as follows:

A person who:

- a) is transported into the Marine Park and disembarked at a place contiguous to, or at a wharf or jetty within or partly within, the Marine Park by a person who holds a permit for a tourist program; and
- b) is transported by the most direct reasonable route; and
- c) does not:
  - I. during the course of travel in the Marine Park — engage in any tourist activity provided by the permit holder; and
  - II. at the disembarkation destination, for at least 2 hours after disembarkation — engage in any tourist activity provided by the permit holder under that permit.

Commercial access to National Parks adjacent to the Planning Area (eg Hinchinbrook Island National Park) requires a Commercial Activity Permit from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Hikers and campers are also required to obtain a permit before using a National Park.

### **Support service operations**

Support service vessels offer services to other vessels, such as delivering spare parts or equipment, landing torn sails for repair, medivac support and assisting in pollution control.

- Support service operations will be permitted to operate all year to the Hinchinbrook Planning Area and Sensitive Locations without having to obtain a booking.
- Support service operations will be subject to setting limits (i.e. group and vessel size) in designated Locations.
- A support service operator should ensure that the vessel:
  - does not remain associated with the vessel or aircraft being serviced for longer than is necessary to provide the service;
  - is used only to offer services (not including, for example, the sale of food and drink) that are essential to the continued safe and effective operation of the vessel or aircraft being serviced;
  - is not used to transport tourists.

### **Further Information**

The Plan and Information Sheets can be downloaded free from the GBRMPA web site at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://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).

### **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**

2-68 Flinders Street  
PO Box 1379  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810  
Phone: (07) 4750 0700  
Fax: (07) 4772 6093

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



Australian Government  
Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority

*let's keep it great*