

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the workshop was to examine the necessity and feasibility of establishing a response capability, particularly a scientific response capability for hazardous chemical spills in the Great Barrier Reef Region.

In meeting this objective, a framework was considered covering the following points:

- . identification of hazardous chemicals and risks;
- . decisions to respond; and
- . organising the response.

A more detailed coverage is given below.

1. What are the nature and relative magnitudes of the major potential hazardous chemical spills in the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem in terms of:

- . materials, source, fate and effects;
- . risk estimation, sensitivity mapping;
- . prediction of outcome; and
- . cost of spills.

2. Response to hazardous chemical spill situations:

Two basic elements of response are relevant

- (i) Immediate environmental protection response (role of National Plan)

- . oil;
- . other chemicals;
- . criteria for response; and
- . type of response.

- (ii) Utilising such situations to enhance knowledge basic to the protection of the Great Barrier Reef:

- . criteria for response; and
- . type of response.

3. Organisation of response

Four principal elements of organisation should be addressed:

- . who should organise;
- . what should be organised;
- . how it should be organised; and
- . costs.

4. Establishment of working groups to consider future action for 1 to 3

This may require:

- . definition of terms of reference of such (a) group(s); and
- . nomination of leader and members of group(s).