

## 10 SUMMARY

As approximately 50% of the mainland coastline of the GBR Region lies within the GBRMP, potential sources of carbonate, silica and quartzose sands are of very limited extent. Indeed, the level of protection afforded to the GBRMP under the terms of its Act, places considerable pressure on adjoining areas, particularly as it is possible that the most environmentally sound sources of sand occur within the Park boundaries.

Coral sands of suitable characteristics do not occur in commercial quantities in the primary field survey areas along the GBR region coastline. However, alternative, but expensive, sources of supply may be obtainable from the coral dredging operations in Moreton Bay, or the coral cays of Flinders and Holmes Reefs 250 - 350 km north-east of Townsville. In addition, shell-grit from Hervey Bay or Broad Sound may be considered as a cheap alternative to coral sand.

Available silica sands are of unsuitable composition and size particle for use in beach renourishment or to improve beach amenity on Whitsunday island resort beaches.

Quartzose sands are available in both onshore and offshore locations. There is now, and will continue to be a major demand for this material. However, more detailed analyses are required to fully assess both the suitability of the borrow-sands to renourish each particular beach, and the ability of the source area to withstand the removal of the sand.