



The Research Director
Economic Development Committee
Parliament House, George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000



28/307

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission to the inquiry into developing Queensland's rural and regional communities through grey nomad tourism

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is the Australian Government agency responsible for the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, a World Heritage Area along the east coast of Queensland from Bundaberg to the tip of Cape York (see attached map). Our outcome is the long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef for all Australians and the international community, through the care and development of the Marine Park.

Many of the grey nomads that visit Queensland spend time in the coastal areas adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef and use the Marine Park for recreation, especially swimming, boating and fishing. Anecdotal reports suggest that the Great Barrier Reef and the opportunities it provides are an important drawcard for many grey nomads.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has an objective to deliver ecologically sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef, and seeks to ensure a range of recreation opportunities throughout the Marine Park. Because grey nomads are occasional visitors travelling from outside the region, their understanding of the Marine Park, the opportunities available, the management arrangements in place and the best practices they can adopt while visiting may be limited. Therefore, improved information and education, including through visitor centres and information sources well beyond the boundaries of the Great Barrier Reef, may be one way to inform grey nomads about the Marine Park and encourage best practice use of this internationally significant area. The coordinated marketing and promotion activities contemplated in the Inquiry's Issues Paper No. 3 could include information and guidance about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, how special it is and how to use it responsibly.

It is likely that these types of issues will be also important in relation to adjacent Queensland protected areas such as the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park and National Park islands.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Skeat
General Manager
Marine Park Management

31 MAY 2010

