



Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

Mr Peter Dowling MP
Chair
Health and Community Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Sub# 63



Your ref: 11.1.9

Dear Mr Dowling

Thank you for your letter of 20 November 2012 and the opportunity for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) to submit comments on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012.

A number of the Queensland protected areas to which the Bill relates are within or adjoin the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. There is a long standing arrangement to manage activities in the World Heritage Area in a complementary manner whilst recognising the independent jurisdictional responsibilities of both the Australian and Queensland governments. This approach aims to achieve consistent and clear uses of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Commonwealth), the adjacent Queensland Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park and the island protected areas managed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. A joint permitting arrangement is currently in place as part of this arrangement for State and Commonwealth marine park areas.

Officers from the GBRMPA recently attended a briefing on the Bill in Brisbane from officers within the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. A key aspect of that meeting was to ensure that the joint Commonwealth / State permitting arrangements for the Marine Parks are considered as part of this process. This is particularly important given the proposal to review permit requirements under Marine Parks regulations and zoning plans to improve consistency with the management of adjacent QPWS lands.

The GBRMPA would like to highlight the benefits in continuing to work with the Queensland Government to achieve practical management across these differing jurisdictions. This is facilitated by the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009*, including the establishment of a joint Field Management Program focused on field management of the World Heritage Area collectively.

We note that the committee plans to hold a public hearing on the Bill in 2013 and would be happy to provide more information if required. Given the importance of the joint permitting arrangements, and that activities on island protected areas rely heavily on use of the adjacent Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, we ask that you consider these matters when passing and implementing the Bill.

Yours sincerely

Jon Day
Acting General Manager
Marine Park Management

19 December 2012