



**Australian Government**

**Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority**

Mr Trevor Ruthenberg MP  
Chair  
Health and Community Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Mr Ruthenberg

Thank you for the invitation to provide a written submission on the Recreation Areas Management and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014.

For more than 30 years the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) has worked in partnership with the Queensland Government, through the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, to issue joint marine parks permits for activities being undertaken in the Commonwealth Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Queensland Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park. This strong partnership has only been made possible through the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement and complementary legislation. The Authority looks forward to continuing to work with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to further strengthen our joint arrangements and explore options to reduce regulatory burden through the further integration of permits.

The Authority is supportive of the amendments to the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* that will provide for the granting of a single permit for commercial activities operating across recreation areas within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. These changes will further support the Great Barrier Reef's growing Tourism Industry by streamlining the current regulatory requirements and, when combined with the recent amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, will allow tourism operators who offer activities within the Green Island Recreation Area to apply for a single permit for their operations. Additionally these tourism operators will benefit from longer term permits and the ability to transfer permits; giving them greater functionality, certainty and transparency.

We respectfully decline the opportunity to comment on the amendments to *Forestry Act 1959*.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Russell Reichelt.

29.10.2014

Russell Reichelt  
Chairman