

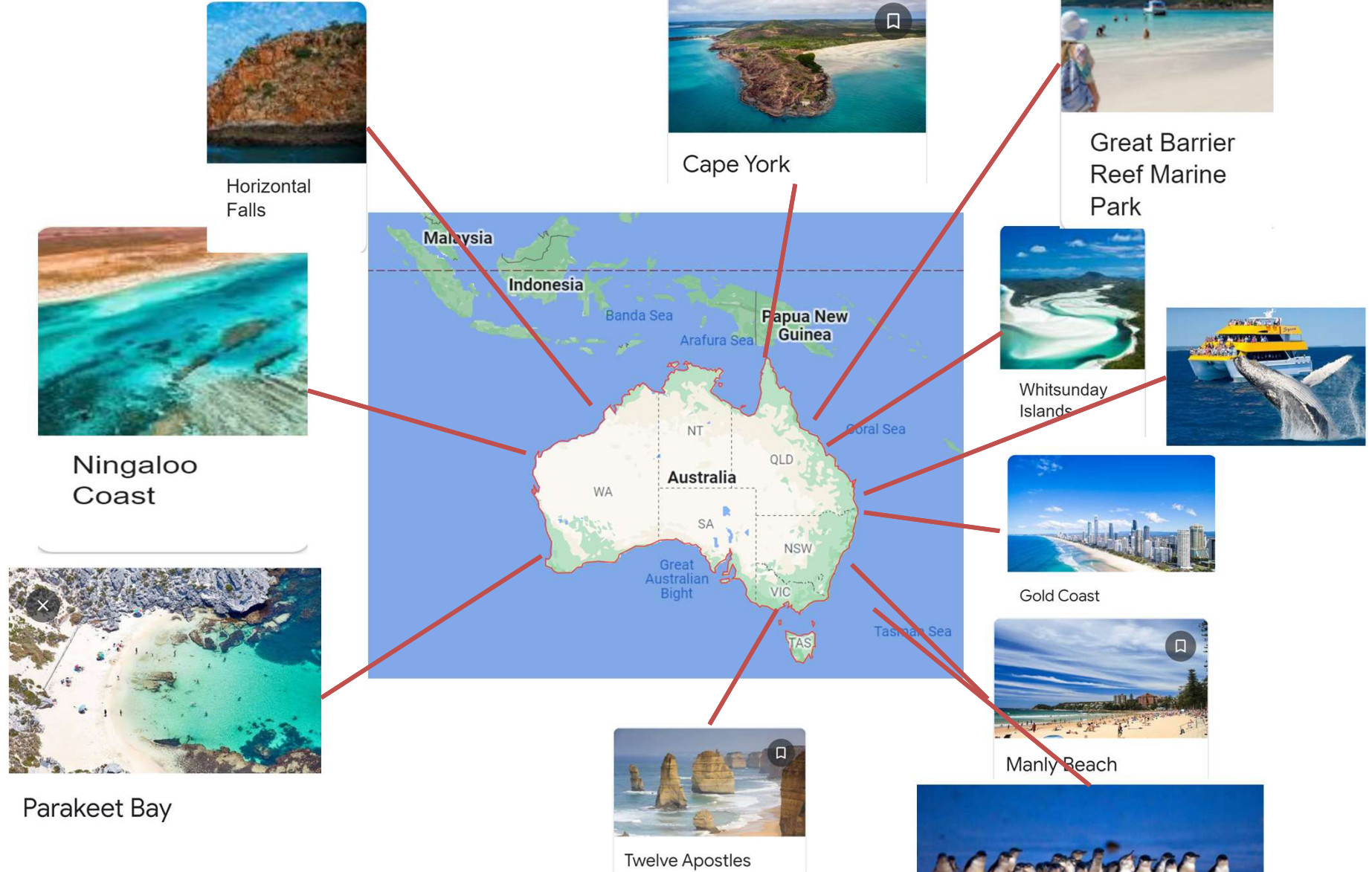
Marine Tourism in Australia

Professor Noel Scott



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Australia is a coastal destination



Australian beach culture



Reasons for travel to Australia



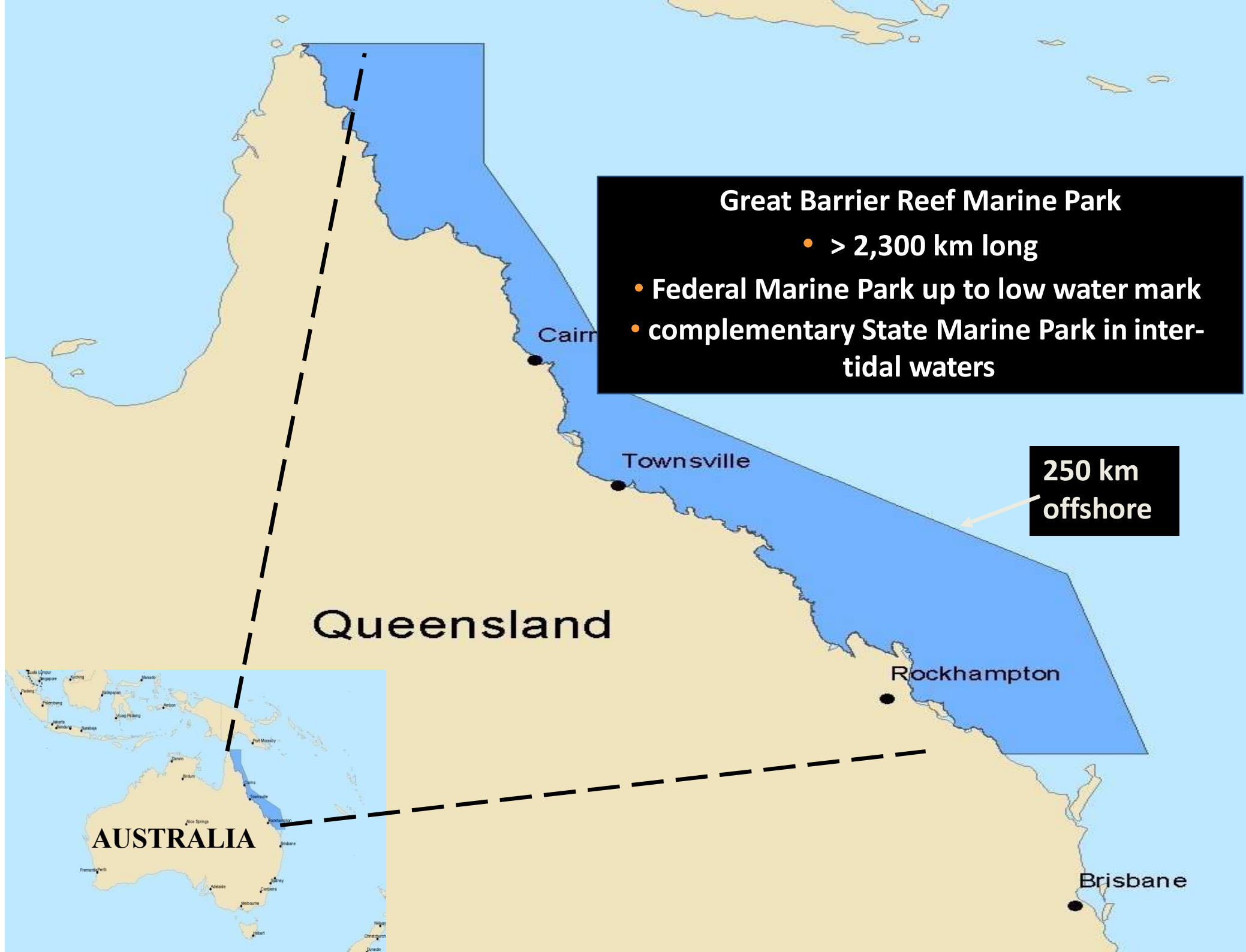
TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS

With aquatic and coastal attractions taking 6 of the top 10 rankings, it's as crystal clear as our water that people like our aquatic and coastal offering.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Australian beaches | 6 Rainforests / forests |
| 2 The Australian wildlife | 7 Australian coastal lifestyle |
| 3 The Great Barrier Reef | 8 Travelling to many places |
| 4 Unspoilt natural wilderness | 9 Island experiences |
| 5 Australian food and wine | 10 The major Australian cities |

<https://www.tourism.australia.com/en/about/our-campaigns/aquatic-and-coastal.html>







What do visitors see – The Great Barrier Reef

- **Three types of reef experience**
 - Visit a coral island
 - Visit a reef pontoon
 - Diving







Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

We are the **lead managers** of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

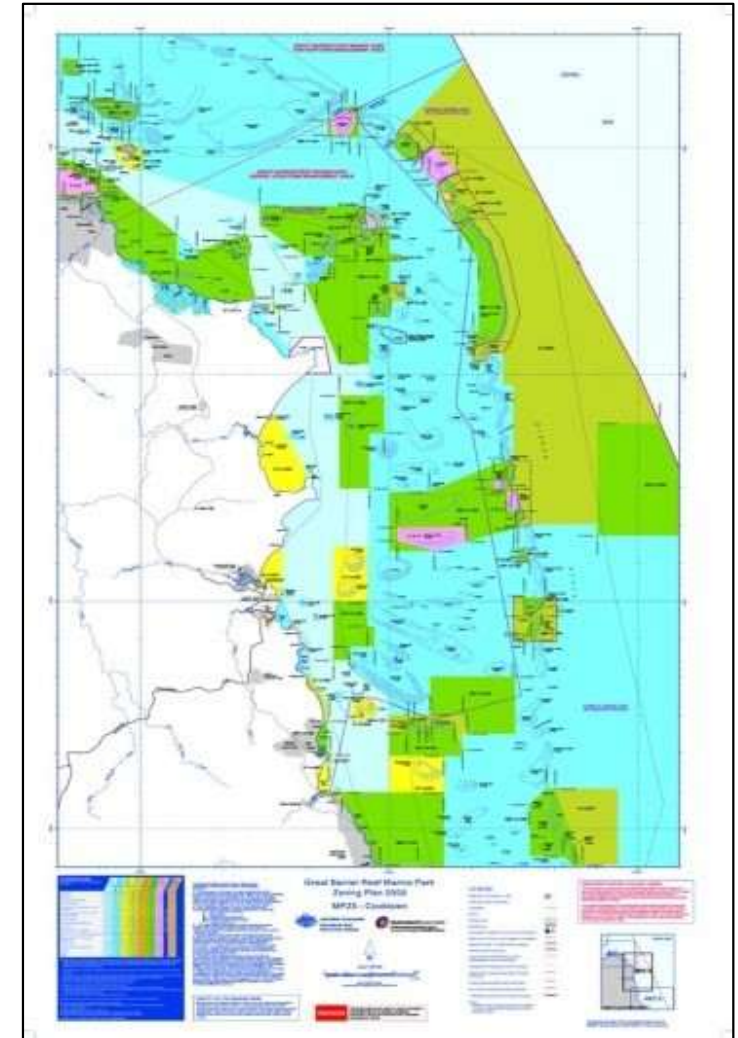
Our purpose is to ensure the **long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment** of the Great Barrier Reef for all Australians and the international community through the care and development of the Marine Park.



Management is underpinned by a strong legislative base.



- Act and Regulations
- Zoning Plan
- Plans of Management
- Permits
- Policies and Guidelines
- Responsible Reef Practices
- Engagement



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Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan -2004



ACTIVITIES GUIDE

(see relevant Zoning Plans and Regulations for details)

| | General Use Zone | Habitat Protection Zone | Conservation Park Zone | Buffer Zone | Scientific Research Zone 2 | Marine National Park Zone | Preservation Zone |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Aquaculture | Permit | Permit | Permit ¹ | X | X | X | X |
| Bait netting | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | X | X | X | X |
| Boating, diving, photography | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ² | ✓ | X |
| Crabbing (trapping) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ³ | X | X | X | X |
| Harvest fishing for aquarium fish, coral and beachworm | Permit | Permit | Permit ¹ | X | X | X | X |
| Harvest fishing for sea cucumber, trochus, tropical rock lobster | Permit | Permit | X | X | X | X | X |
| Limited collecting | ✓ ⁴ | ✓ ⁴ | ✓ ⁴ | X | X | X | X |
| Limited spearfishing (snorkel only) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ¹ | X | X | X | X |
| Line fishing | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ⁶ | X | X | X | X |
| Netting (other than bait netting) | ✓ | ✓ | X | X | X | X | X |
| Research (other than limited impact research) | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit |
| Shipping (other than in a designated shipping area) | ✓ | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | X |
| Tourism programme | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | Permit | X |
| Traditional use of marine resources | ✓ ⁷ | ✓ ⁷ | ✓ ⁷ | ✓ ⁷ | ✓ ⁷ | ✓ ⁷ | X |
| Trawling | ✓ | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Trolling | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ⁵ | ✓ ^{5,8} | X | X | X |



Reef tourism



The reef tourism industry offers a wide range of tourism experiences including cruise ships, live-aboard dive vessels, day trips to large pontoons, fishing charters and kayaking tours.



Our Strategy

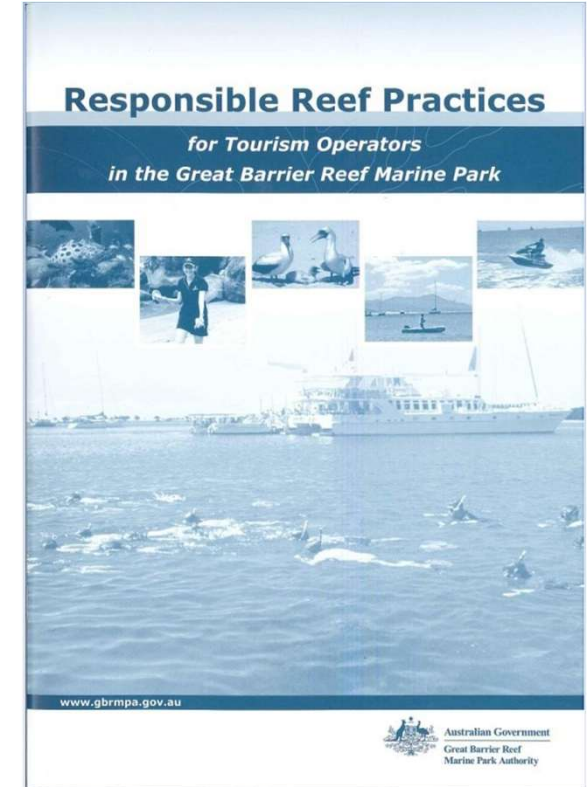
✓ Ecologically sustainable tourism use



✓ A productive, open and adaptive partnership with tourism industry



Working with industry



- Policies
- Site planning
- Responsible Reef Practices
- Consultation and engagement
- Partnership programs



High Standard Operators



"I am committed to raising the standards of the charter boat industry in the Whitsundays.

I believe that it is incredibly important that we don't lose sight of the fact that we need to care for this environment if it is to be here for future generations to enjoy."



Greg Lambert, Kiana Sail and Dive, Whitsundays



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Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators (AMPTO)

- Site stewardship
- Eco Certified
- Environmental Interpretation
- Industry Research



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Coral Growing

- Provided some of the seed funding for the project
- Providing ongoing lobbying support
- Important to our future

Crown of Thorns Starfish COTS

- Funding of \$5 million per year
- Keeping the tourism sites clean of COTS
- Doing some aggregation control
- Assisting researchers
- Capacity building
- 700,000 culled
- New one shot injection



TAXES

- Environment Management Charge EMC
\$6.50 per person - \$13 million
- \$1.5 million per year in Port Departure fees
- \$836 million in taxes and government charges
- Over \$30 million per year in marketing

Health of the GBR

- Poor
- Main Causes
 - Cyclonic Damage
 - COTS
 - Coral Bleaching/Climate Change
- Water Quality
- World Heritage Listing
- Industry Actions



Coral Cover

- 35 to 50% is good to very good
- Large sections off Cairns at 15%
- Some sections above 40%
- Inshore and fringing reefs are almost dead
- 300 species of coral
- Small increase in coral cover over the last 5 years



Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

Great Barrier Reef **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan** (2012-2017)



Professor Noel Scott
Australia
nscott1@usc.edu.au

