

GREAT BARRIER REEF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT 2015

An agreement between:

- **The Commonwealth of Australia; and**
- **The State of Queensland**

relating to the protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef

Signed *for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by*

The Honourable Tony Abbott MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

Signed *for and on behalf of the State of
Queensland by*

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk
Premier of the State of Queensland

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
are the Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef area
and have a continuing connection to their land
and sea country

PREAMBLE

The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments have long demonstrated their commitment to working together collaboratively for the long-term protection and conservation of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, to ensure it is preserved as an important feature of the nation's and the world's heritage. The Emerald Agreement formalised this cooperative approach in 1979 and a series of collaborative arrangements has evolved over time. The *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009* was established to provide a contemporary framework for cooperation between the governments, recognising challenges that were not foreseen at the time of the 1979 Agreement. With the development of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan), the Commonwealth and Queensland governments agreed on a vision for the future and renewed their commitment to protecting the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area including its Outstanding Universal Value. This agreement establishes these arrangements, clearly articulating objectives, respective functions and accountabilities.

The Great Barrier Reef and its Outstanding Universal Value

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef ecosystem and an Australian and international icon. The diverse range of habitat types and extraordinary biodiversity make the Great Barrier Reef one of the richest, most complex natural systems on earth. The area has significant environmental as well as social, economic and cultural values and plays an important role in the local, regional and national economies.

The Great Barrier Reef comprises a complex network of bioregions that interconnect with the adjacent onshore coastal and catchment ecosystems. These transcend jurisdictional boundaries and encompass overlapping areas of responsibility. Moreover, many of the major pressures on the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem are from outside the marine environment and encompass social and economic considerations on the land.

The Great Barrier Reef was internationally recognised in 1981 as being of Outstanding Universal Value with its inscription on the World Heritage List, under the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention), as:

- containing superlative natural phenomena
- an outstanding example representing major stages of the earth's history, including significant landforms and physiographic features

- an outstanding example of significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution of marine and coastal ecosystems
- containing the most important natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including threatened species
- having integrity, including the fullest possible representation of marine ecological, physical and chemical processes
- having long-term protection and conservation in place

As a party to the World Heritage Convention, Australia has a duty to ensure the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area for current and future generations and must do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its resources (Article 4). The approach the Australian and Queensland governments are taking to the protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area will ensure that its Outstanding Universal Value is sustained or enhanced over time (*Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, paragraph 96).

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area covers an area of 348 000 square kilometres and is also included in the National Heritage List established under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Jurisdictional Framework

The Commonwealth is responsible for the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, established under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* within the Great Barrier Reef Region. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park extends over 2 300 kilometres along the Queensland coastline and covers approximately 344 400 square kilometres. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park generally extends over Queensland State coastal waters to the low-water mark, and, under the 1979 Offshore Constitutional Settlement, vesting of title and powers over these coastal waters is subject to the operation of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

Queensland is responsible for the management of the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park, covering approximately 63 000 square kilometres, which is established under the *Marine Parks Act 2004* (Qld). This is contiguous with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and covers the area between low and high water marks and many waters within the limits of the State of Queensland.

There are around 1050 islands and cays within the boundaries of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The majority of the islands fall within the jurisdiction of Queensland and almost half of these are national parks under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld). There are around 70 islands that are owned by the Commonwealth and form part of the Marine Park.

The Queensland Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park and the Queensland island national parks form part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Queensland and the Commonwealth both have responsibilities relating to fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (Cth) the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

Development and land use activities in coastal and water catchment areas adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area are an important influence on the World Heritage values of the Area.

The Queensland Government is responsible for natural resource management, land use planning and regulation of activities on the islands, coast and hinterland adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area including through the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, *Marine Parks Act 2004*, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*. The Commonwealth Government is responsible, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for regulating activities having or likely to have a significant impact on matters of ‘national environmental significance’ as defined by the Act, and on the environment within Commonwealth land and waters.

The Great Barrier Reef Region, as defined under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, has the same external dimensions as the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, including Queensland State coastal waters up to the low water mark, but excludes islands or parts of islands that form a part of Queensland and waters ‘within the limits’ of Queensland (Schedule A).

OBJECTIVES

The parties agree that the objective of this agreement is to ensure an integrated and collaborative approach by the Commonwealth and Queensland to the management of marine and land environments within and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, so as to:

- provide for the long-term protection and conservation of the environment of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, including its Outstanding Universal Value and its transmission in good condition to future generations
- allow ecologically sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem subject to the overarching objective of long-term protection and conservation
- provide for meeting Australia's international responsibilities for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area under the World Heritage Convention.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Commonwealth and Queensland reaffirm their ongoing commitment to:

- the vision of the Reef 2050 Plan, to ensure that the Great Barrier Reef continues to improve on its Outstanding Universal Value every decade between now and 2050 to be a natural wonder for each successive generation
- prohibit activities for the exploration and recovery of minerals or petroleum, and any drilling and mining within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, including for the purposes of depositing materials
- maintain complementarity and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of relevant Commonwealth and Queensland management arrangements, in particular: marine park legislation and associated regulations; zoning plans and plans of management; planning and development arrangements; environmental assessment and permit requirements; management of fishing activities
- prohibit the sea-based disposal of capital dredge material in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and in the balance of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area from port-related capital dredging
- ensure that decisions deliver a net benefit to the ecosystem
- continue a Commonwealth/Queensland Ministerial Forum to facilitate implementation and achievement of the objectives of this agreement
- continue a joint program of field management, with shared funding on a 50:50 basis, for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Queensland marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- continue joint action to halt and reverse the decline in quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef

- continue joint action to maximise the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef to climate change
- ensure the ongoing protection, restoration and management of key ecosystems critical to Reef health
- address significant threats to the health and biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, including pollution from the land and sea, the impacts of climate change, ecologically unsustainable fishing activities and other resource extraction activities
- periodically review the condition of the environment of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, including its Outstanding Universal Value and any need for further action
- ensure that Indigenous traditional cultural practices continue to be recognised in the conservation and management of the Great Barrier Reef.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Commonwealth and Queensland recognise the following guiding principles, and agree to apply them in implementing this agreement:

- A collaborative and cooperative approach is fundamental to the effective long-term protection, conservation and management of the Great Barrier Reef as this is beyond the power and remit of either jurisdiction
- The precautionary principle will be applied to protecting the environmental, World Heritage and National Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef including its Outstanding Universal Value
- The marine and land environments within and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area will be managed in an integrated manner consistent with ecosystem-based management and the principles of ecologically sustainable use
- Economic growth and the long-term health of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem are interconnected, and actions or changes in one can impact on the other and must be taken into account, in particular:
 - population growth and economic development increases the demand for resource and recreational use of the Great Barrier Reef
 - land-use activities in the catchment, and urban development can have adverse impacts on the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef

- regulation of activities that exploit marine resources, measures for protection of marine parks, or initiatives to reduce external pressures on the ecosystem can have regional and local social and economic effects, and improve the long term viability of the region
- Trends in the health, use of and risks to the environment of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, including its Outstanding Universal Value will be regularly monitored and reported to ensure decisions are soundly based
- Co-ordinated long-term monitoring and research and the collection and sharing of marine-based biological, physical, social and economic data is fundamental
- Regular, periodic review of the resources necessary for the long-term management of the marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area will be undertaken
- Initiatives should be delivered through a concerted response across all levels of government with shared funding arrangements for joint Commonwealth-State initiatives agreed on a case-by-case basis.

GREAT BARRIER REEF MINISTERIAL FORUM

The Ministerial Forum will consist of four members:

- The Commonwealth Minister responsible for administering the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*, who is the Chairperson
- One Commonwealth Minister appointed by the Prime Minister
- Two Queensland Ministers appointed by the Queensland Premier.

Ministers appointed to the Forum must have responsibility for matters relating to the environment and marine parks and may include ministers with responsibility for science, tourism and/or natural resource management.

Ministers responsible for mining may not be members of the Forum.

Role

The role of the Ministerial Forum is a strategic one, to facilitate and oversee the implementation and achievement of the objectives of this agreement. The Forum will:

- provide a forum for joint policy development and coordination in relation to issues affecting the protection, conservation, management and use of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem as encompassed by the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- further the collaboration and coordination of regulatory and management activities applying to the marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, in particular fishing and island management
- ensure an integrated, ecosystem-based approach to management of land and marine environments with a bearing on the management and protection of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, including actions to address:
 - the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef from the catchments
 - the impacts of climate change
 - the management and regulation of fishing activities
 - the impacts of changes in land use in the coastal and catchment areas
 - the impacts of extractive use of resources
 - the management of direct use
 - the management of cumulative pressures on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- periodically consider the condition of the environment of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, including its Outstanding Universal Value, and the long-term trends and risks based on the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report and the Reef Water Quality Report Cards
- ensure successful implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan, including consideration of the effectiveness of actions to achieve targets as part of an adaptive management approach
- periodically consider the allocation of resources required for field management of the marine parks and island national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan
- advise the Prime Minister and the Queensland Premier on the five-yearly Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report prepared under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*
- review periodically the operation of the agreement and the extent to which the objectives have been achieved
- undertake other functions as agreed by governments from time to time with respect to this agreement.

SCHEDULES TO THIS AGREEMENT

Schedules may be appended to this agreement from time to time, recording detailed commitments of governments directed at giving effect to this agreement. Commitments detailed in the schedules must be consistent with this agreement. The Ministerial Forum may add, remove and amend schedules to this agreement, with the exception of Schedule A.

Table of Schedules

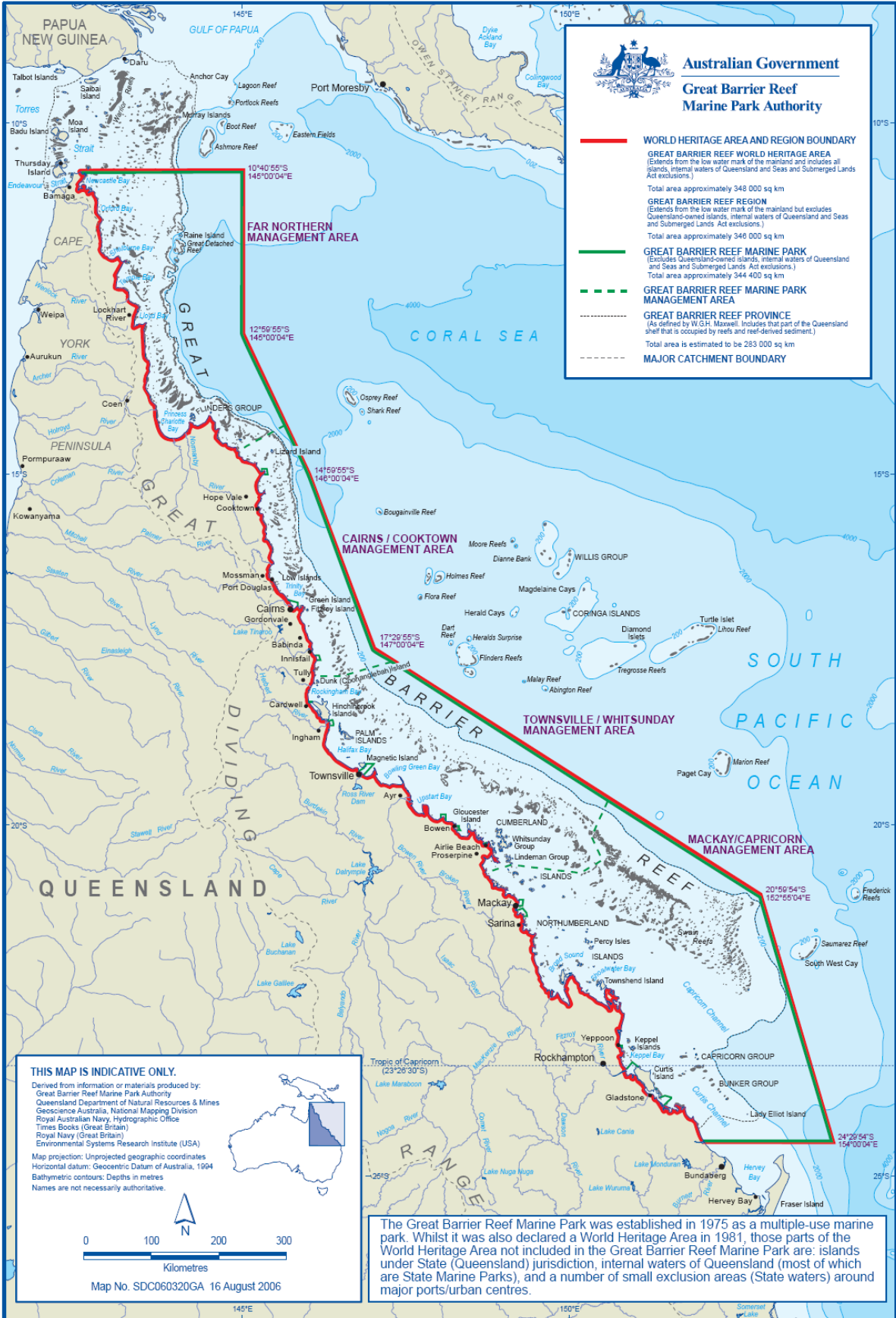
- A The Great Barrier Reef Region and World Heritage Area
- B Protocols for the Operation of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum
- C Joint Field Management Program for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Queensland national and marine parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- D Climate Change and the Great Barrier Reef
- E Fishing and Collection of Fisheries Resources in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- F Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017-2022
- G Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF WORLD HERITAGE AREA

As inscribed on the World Heritage List established by the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972*

The area the boundary of which:

- (a) commences at the point that, at low water, is the northernmost extremity of Cape York Peninsula Queensland;
- (b) runs thence easterly along the geodesic to the intersection of parallel of Latitude 10° 41' South with meridian of Longitude 145° 00' East;
- (c) runs thence southerly along that meridian to its intersection by the parallel of Latitude 13°00' South;
- (d) runs thence south-easterly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 15° 00' South Longitude 146° 00' East;
- (e) runs thence south-easterly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 17° 30' South Longitude 147° 00' East;
- (f) runs thence south-easterly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 21° 00' South Longitude 152° 55' East;
- (g) runs thence south-easterly along the geodesic to a point of Latitude 24° 30' South Longitude 154° 00' East;
- (h) runs thence westerly along the parallel of Latitude 24° 30' South to its intersection by the coastline of Queensland at low water; and
- (i) runs thence generally northerly along that coastline at low water to the point of commencement.



PROTOCOLS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MINISTERIAL FORUM

The *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015* made between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland provides for the ongoing operation of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum and sets out the purpose, role, functions and membership of the Forum.

These protocols deal with the operation of the Ministerial Forum and are consistent with the [Handbook for COAG Councils](#).

Operation of the Ministerial Forum

The Ministerial Forum must meet annually and may meet more often where there is a clearly demonstrated need. Otherwise, out-of-session arrangements should apply.

Meetings should generally be located in capital cities. However, the Ministerial Forum may choose to hold meetings in or adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area when field inspection may assist consideration of the matters to be discussed. Meetings may be held by video conference by agreement.

Where Ministers are unable to attend a meeting, they may, with the approval of the Ministerial Forum, nominate a representative to attend on their behalf, including with voting rights. The Ministerial Forum may co-opt other Ministers onto the Forum, with voting rights, in relation to particular issues. Other Ministers may also attend as observers, with the approval of the Ministerial Forum.

Wherever possible, the Chair will give at least six weeks notice of any meeting. The Chair will also invite agenda items at this time.

Final papers will be distributed to Ministers three weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. Additional papers will be considered by agreement.

The Forum may consider papers out-of-session. A record of these decisions will be maintained by the Secretariat. These decisions will be formally noted at the next full meeting of the Forum.

A quorum for a meeting of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum shall be one member from each of the Commonwealth and Queensland governments.

Decisions of the Ministerial Forum are made by unanimous agreement.

Reporting

The outcome of each meeting will comprise a Record of Decisions for the information of Ministers and officials. The Ministerial Forum may issue information statements/press releases, from time to time, which are authorised by the Forum and which summarise decisions.

The Ministerial Forum will report annually to the Prime Minister and the Premier of Queensland on the operation of the Ministerial Forum, with a substantive assessment on the

implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) every five years.

Documentation / Confidentiality

All documents prepared for the Ministerial Forum, including drafts, Working Group documents, agendas, papers, outcome documents and reports are to be treated as confidential and not made publicly available unless the Ministerial Forum decides otherwise for specific papers or disclosure is required by law.

Standing Committee of Officials

The Ministerial Forum will be supported by a Standing Committee comprising senior officials from the departments of members of the Ministerial Forum, as well as from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and other relevant government departments. The Standing Committee will be chaired by an official from the Department of the chair of Ministerial Forum.

Senior officials of other Commonwealth and Queensland departments and agencies may be co-opted onto the Standing Committee from time to time by agreement of Standing Committee members.

The role of the Standing Committee is to assist and advise the Forum in the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers, in particular to:

- identify and assess strategic matters requiring joint policy development or coordination, relating to the long-term protection and conservation of the environment of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, including its Outstanding Universal Value and provide advice to the Ministerial Forum on any actions required
- provide advice to the Ministerial Forum on the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report prepared under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*
- provide advice to the Ministerial Forum on Joint Field Management Program reports
- be responsible for advice to the Ministerial Forum on the implementation of agreed actions to halt and reverse the decline in quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef
- perform the functions of the intergovernmental operational committee outlined in the Reef 2050 Plan and provide an annual report to the Ministerial Forum on the implementation of the Plan
- implement decisions of the Ministerial Forum as are assigned to it by the Ministerial Forum
- track, and report to the Ministerial Forum on implementation of the Ministerial Forum's decisions
- provide advice every five years to the Ministerial Forum on the implementation of the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015*.

The Standing Committee will consider and provide direction to the Secretariat on the agenda and papers for the Ministerial Forum meetings. The Standing Committee will convene as required to perform its functions.

The Standing Committee may establish Working Groups as needed for particular tasks. Any Working Group will exist only for the period required to complete and report on clearly articulated matters.

Secretariat

The Secretariat for the Ministerial Forum and Standing Committee will be provided by the portfolio department of the Chair of the Ministerial Forum.

The Secretariat is responsible for supporting the Chair, the Ministerial Forum and Standing Committee by:

- arranging all matters relating to the business of the Ministerial Forum meetings, including venue, time, invitations, and associated activities
- coordinating the preparation and circulation of meeting agenda and papers
- maintaining records of decisions made by the Ministerial Forum
- maintaining copies of all agendas, papers, minutes, outcome documents and reports.

The Secretariat will liaise with and provide information to the COAG Secretariat as required on behalf of the Ministerial Forum. This includes provision of a record of decisions and an annual report. All correspondence for the Ministerial Forum and the Standing Committee should be directed to the Secretariat for the Ministerial Forum.

The Secretariat will also support the Standing Committee, including its functions as the intergovernmental operations committee, and any Working Groups that may from time to time be formed.

Secretariat contact details:

Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum Secretariat
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601
GBRMCsecretariat@environment.gov.au

**JOINT FIELD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR
THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AND
QUEENSLAND NATIONAL AND MARINE PARKS WITHIN
THE GREAT BARRIER REEF WORLD HERITAGE AREA**

An agreement between

The Commonwealth of Australia

and

The State of Queensland

PREAMBLE

The *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009* (the *Intergovernmental Agreement*) records the commitment of the Commonwealth and Queensland governments to the integrated and collaborative management of marine and land environments with the aim of maintaining ecological processes, biodiversity and functioning biological communities of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem and its transmission in good health to future generations.

As a key means of achieving this objective, the Intergovernmental Agreement provides for the continuance of a joint Commonwealth and Queensland government program of field management, with shared funding on a 50:50 basis, for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Queensland marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

This agreement sets out arrangements for the continued development, funding and administration of an ongoing Joint Field Management Program in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement and the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Cth), and for the delivery of the program by Queensland agencies, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) and other Commonwealth agencies.

The Authority is responsible for the administration of the joint funding provided by the parties under this agreement through the Great Barrier Reef Field Management Special Account (Special Account) established by the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

The co-operative approach to day-to-day management by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments has evolved through a series of agreements since 1979. This agreement updates these arrangements and in so doing replaces the:

- Basis of Agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments for Day-to-Day Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Capricornia Section, endorsed by the Ministerial Council for the Great Barrier Reef on 1 August 1980.
- The agreement relating to day-to-day management made between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as an additional party, on 10 May 1988 (generally referred to as the Main Agreement)
- The *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009* and its Schedule C
- Schedule C of the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015* which this agreement updates.

This agreement is not intended to create legal relations between the parties, with the exception of the Deed of Agreement made between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments and the Authority on 10 May 1988 at Attachment A to this Schedule. The parties agree that this Deed needs to be reviewed and undertake to do so within 12 months of the execution of this agreement.

1. Joint Field Management Program

The Commonwealth and Queensland governments agree to cooperatively plan, fund and deliver an integrated, strategically planned and co-ordinated program of field management of marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The Joint Field Management Program will relate only to activities and investments within or for the purposes of, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (including Commonwealth Islands), and Queensland marine and national parks (or parts thereof) that are within the Great Barrier

Reef World Heritage Area, unless otherwise agreed. This may include where activities overlap both World Heritage Area and adjacent state waters.

The Joint Field Management Program may cover annual operational expenses, salaries, maintenance and replacement of capital equipment, and minor capital investment required to implement the Program, as set out in the Field Management Business Strategy, associated plans and budgets.

The Commonwealth and Queensland governments agree to provide ongoing base funding (recurrent and capital) for this Joint Field Management Program shared on a 50:50 basis. The contributions by both parties under this agreement will be administered by the Authority through the Special Account established under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*.

The Joint Field Management Program operational activities will be delivered through the Authority, Queensland government agencies, and other Commonwealth agencies or providers. Joint oversight of the Program will be through the Field Management Strategy Group established for this purpose.

Each agency is responsible, separately to the Joint Field Management Program, for planning, policy development, administration and permit assessment activities related to its own legislation. Notwithstanding this, joint permit and planning activities may be covered by the Joint Field Management Program, as set out in Field Management Business Strategies, Annual Business Plan, associated plans and budgets.

The Joint Field Management Program will be directed at achieving the following outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Queensland marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area:

- Protection and conservation of the natural and cultural resources, including Outstanding Universal Value.
- Protection of key vulnerable species, their habitats and ecosystems.
- Effective compliance with relevant Commonwealth and Queensland laws related to protection and management of the environmental and cultural values, including through education and understanding.
- Effective permitting systems and associated operational policies under relevant Commonwealth and Queensland laws related to protection and management of the environmental and cultural values.
- Ecologically sustainable public use.
- Understanding and enjoyment of Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area natural and cultural resources and values by the public.
- Effective engagement of Traditional Owners in management.
- Increasing the effectiveness of the program and the efficient use of resources through the use of technology, analysis of data and the monitoring of trends, including for scientific, biological, recreational and commercial matters.
- Capacity to respond to environmental incidents, including through coordinated clean up and rehabilitation programs.

2. Field Management Strategy Group

The Field Management Strategy Group will be responsible for:

- oversight and implementation of the Joint Field Management Program;

- advising the Authority and the Queensland Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing on the operation of the Joint Field Management Program; and
- preparation of the five-year Field Management Business Strategy, associated plans and budgets.

The Field Management Strategy Group will be jointly chaired by a Senior Executive from the Authority and the Queensland Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing.

The Field Management Strategy Group will comprise relevant Senior Executives from the Authority, the Queensland Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing and the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet and as agreed by the joint Chairs, senior managers with direct responsibility for field management activities of marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The functions of the Field Management Strategy Group will be:

- developing the planning, budget, financial and performance reporting documents for the Joint Field Management Program, including:
 - the five year Field Management Business Strategy;
 - an Annual Business Plan including a budget; and
 - an Annual Report.
- monitoring and adjusting the delivery of the Joint Field Management Program as required to meet agreed priorities;
- undertaking a comprehensive review of the field management arrangements, delivery and performance of the program every five years;
- if requested, prepare a major capital investment plan for consideration by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum as part of the five-yearly periodic review of the program. This plan will include replacement or addition of large vessels and other high cost capital items;
- providing a forum to coordinate resolution of issues of significance to the Joint Field Management Program; and
- establishing working groups as required to support the implementation of this agreement and the administration and delivery of the Joint Field Management Program.

3. Field Management Business Strategy

The Field Management Business Strategy will cover a five-year rolling period and be directed at achieving the outcomes of the Joint Field Management Program specified in this agreement and will comprise the Joint Field Management Program priorities, high level strategies and outcomes for the whole of the five year period, a brief summary of forward budgets figures for the next five years, and performance indicators for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the Joint Field Management Program over this period.

4. Annual Business Plan

The Annual Business Plan will convey operational strategies, outputs and activities for the forthcoming year, details of the proposed expenditure, information on the agencies and operational units that will be responsible for delivering the Joint Field Management Program and the tasks assigned to each.

5. Approval of the Field Management Business Strategy and associated plans and budgets

The Field Management Business Strategy and Annual Business Plan provides the basis for the allocation and distribution of funds by the Authority and the Queensland Department of National Parks Sport and Racing under the Joint Field Management Program.

The Field Management Business Strategy and Annual Business Plans will be approved by the Chairperson¹ of the Authority and the Director-General of the Department of National Parks Sport and Racing.

6. Annual Report

An Annual Report on the implementation of the Annual Business Plan will be provided to the Authority and the Queensland Department of National Parks Sport and Racing as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year and will include:

- reporting against the performance indicators set out in the Field Management Business Strategy and associated plans;
- a statement of expenditure and operational activities/inputs applied under the Joint Field Management Program for that year, with reference to the Annual Business Plan;
- an identification of capital expenditure and assets held;
- identification of any emerging issues that may require consideration in updating the Business Strategy; and
- any other requirements as set out in guidelines that have been developed for this purpose.

7. Annual Summary Report on the Joint Field Management Program

An Annual Summary Report on the implementation of this agreement will be prepared by the Authority in conjunction with the Queensland Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing and provided to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum. The report will include operational and capital expenditure and an assessment of performance in the delivery of the outcomes of the Joint Field Management Program.

8. Periodic Review Report

The Intergovernmental Agreement provides that a function of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum is to periodically consider the effective allocation of resources required for field management of the marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

¹ The Chairperson for the Authority is also the Chief Executive Officer for the purposes of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (Cth).

Every five years, or a shorter period if agreed, the Authority, in conjunction with the Queensland Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing, will provide a report and advice to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on the outcomes of the Field Management Program encompassing:

- the comprehensive review undertaken by the Field Management Strategy Group;
- an evaluation of performance of the Joint Field Management Program against the specified outcomes; and
- advice on the resources, investments and arrangements needed for effective and efficient field management of the marine and national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area for the following five years and in the longer term.

9. Delivery of the Joint Field Management Program

Field management operations under the Joint Field Management Program will be assigned to Commonwealth and Queensland agencies and other providers as determined by the Field Management Strategy Group, in accordance with the Field Management Business Strategy and Annual Business Plan.

Operations and investments undertaken pursuant to the Joint Field Management Program will be carried out in accordance with:

- this agreement and the relevant Field Management Business Strategy, Annual Business Plan, and their associated policies, intents and priorities;
- the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 (Cth)*, *Marine Parks Act 2004 (Qld)* and *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)*, *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (Cth)* and other relevant Commonwealth and State legislation; and
- management guidelines, business rules and other arrangements developed by the Field Management Strategy Group.

10. Base Funding

The parties agree to provide ongoing base funding (recurrent and capital) on a 50:50 basis, with the contribution considered as matching over a five year period.

The parties are separately responsible for appropriation by the Commonwealth and Queensland Parliaments of the base funding for the Joint Field Management Program as agreed under the Field Management Business Strategy, and will take reasonable steps to secure this funding.

The distribution of base funding in any given year is in accordance with the Annual Business Plan.

A periodic review of base funding will be considered by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on a five-yearly basis, or a shorter period if agreed by the Ministerial Forum. The parties may agree to vary base funding including through indexing to the consumer price index or other price parameter index agreed by the parties following this review.

Base funding may be subject to periodic supplementation, to address changing operational needs and provide for major capital investments such as vessel replacement or upgrade or construction of facilities.

11. Discretionary additional funding contributions

Either party may contribute funds to the Joint Field Management Program for a particular year or years in addition to its share of the agreed base operational and/or capital funding and these will be expended in accordance with the Field Management Business Strategy. This does not oblige the other party to match the additional funds.

Either party may undertake actions and make capital investments related to field management of marine and national parks within their jurisdiction separate to the Joint Field Management Program. Such additional activities and investments should seek to complement the Joint Field Management Program.

12. In-kind contributions

The Joint Field Management Program in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area will be supported through in-kind contributions from a range of Commonwealth and Queensland government agencies who undertake field management and compliance activities to address their own areas of responsibility. The planning and delivery of the Joint Field Management Program will be coordinated with those agencies to ensure the most cost efficient and effective delivery of services.

13. Revenue derived through the Joint Field Management Program

Revenues collected in accordance with the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and Regulations in the course of activities undertaken pursuant to the Joint Field Management Program will be paid to the Authority and do not form a part of Joint Field Management Program funds.

Revenues collected in accordance with the *Queensland Marine Parks Act 2004*, *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* in the course of activities undertaken pursuant to the Joint Field Management Program will be paid to the Queensland Government and do not form a part of Joint Field Management Program funds.

All other revenue derived from implementation of the Joint Field Management Program and the use or disposal of the assets and fixtures of the Joint Field Management Program will be treated in accordance with the Deed of Agreement between the parties at Attachment A to this schedule. This provides for the sharing of revenue derived from implementation of the Joint Field Management Program and the use or disposal of the assets and fixtures of the Joint Field Management Program.

14. Funds not spent in relevant Financial Year

Funds allocated to the Joint Field Management Program in a particular financial year that are not spent in that year must be made available for reallocation within the Joint Field Management Program and will be carried forward to the following financial year(s).

15. Administration of money and assets

The base funding contributions by both parties for the Joint Field Management Program will be credited to the Special Account established under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. The funds will be expended by the Authority in accordance with the agreed Field Management Annual Plan, which is an agreement made under paragraph 7(1)(cc) of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* for the purposes of Part VII, Division 1 of that Act.

These funds will be provided on an as-needs basis and credited to the Special Account as and when those funds are made available to the Authority.

The Joint Field Management Program funds will be deposited in a bank account established and managed by the Authority in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (Cth)*.

Assets and fixtures acquired or otherwise made available under the Joint Field Management Program will be managed in accordance with the Deed of Agreement at Attachment A to this Schedule.

16. Payments from the Special Account

Each agency or other provider receiving funding to perform functions under the Joint Field Management Program will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, service agreement or contract for the provision of those services and functions specifying:

- the outputs and activities to be delivered;
- the funding to be allocated;
- the resources, agencies and operational units responsible for performing specified activities; and
- the performance indicators for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the delivery of the outputs and activities identified.

Payments to instrumentalities and other providers performing functions and activities under the Joint Field Management Program will be made by the Authority on receipt of an invoice prepared in accordance with the terms of the service-level agreement, Memorandum of Understanding or contract for that agency or other provider.

All money paid directly or indirectly to an agency or other provider pursuant to this agreement must be expended in accordance with this agreement, the relevant Field Management Annual Plan and the relevant service-level agreement, Memorandum of Understanding or contract for that agency or other provider.

Unless otherwise agreed, any money paid to an agency or other provider pursuant to this agreement but not spent in the financial year for which it is provided must be made available to the Authority for reallocation by the Field Management Strategy Group in the following financial year.

17. Reporting and Audit

Commonwealth and Queensland government instrumentalities receiving payments under the Joint Field Management Program must maintain proper accounts and records of their transactions and affairs.

Expenditure of funds allocated and received by the Authority for the Joint Field Management Program will be reported by the Authority in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth).

The Queensland Government instrumentalities will prepare financial statements on monies received for submission to the Authority, through the Field Management Strategy Group, as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year.

The financial statements must be in a form approved by the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The Queensland Government must submit the financial statements to the Queensland Auditor-General for certification having regard to the Australian Audit Standards and the requirements of this agreement.

18. Dispute resolution

Disputes arising in the implementation of this agreement and the Field Management Business Strategy should, as far as practicable, be determined by the Field Management Strategy Group, with decisions affirmed by the Authority Chairman and the Director-General, Queensland Department of National Parks Sport and Racing, or by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum as appropriate.

19. Review, Amendment and Revocation of this Agreement

This agreement may be amended at any time by resolution of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.

Either party may terminate this agreement by notice in writing to the other party. Unless otherwise agreed, termination does not take effect until one year after notification is received.

DEED OF AGREEMENT

between

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

and

THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND

and

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF
MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

K. M. O'Shea,
Crown Solicitor,
State Law Building,
George & Ann Streets,
BRISBANE

J014-09K

DEED OF AGREEMENT made

this day of one thousand nine hundred and eighty eight

BETWEEN

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA ("the Commonwealth") of the first part, THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND ("the State") of the second part AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY ("the Authority") of the third part.

WHEREAS

- A. Section 30 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* ("the Act") provides that there shall be a Marine Park consisting of such areas in the Great Barrier Reef region as are, for the time being, declared under Section 31 of the Act to be parts of that Marine Park,
- B. The Authority was established by the Act with responsibility for management of the Marine Park;
- C. The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of the State of Queensland and the Authority have separately to This Deed of Agreement entered into arrangements ("the arrangements") for the day to day management of the Marine Park and related areas and for the use of places outside the Marine Park for a purpose relating to the Marine Park which are set out in a document entitled "Basis of Agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments for Day-to-Day Management Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Capricornia Section" endorsed by parties on 1 August 1980 and an Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia, the State of Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority relating to the management of the Marine Park and executed on even date.
- D. The parties hereto desire to make provision for the use and disposal of moveable and immovable property acquired or otherwise made available for the purposes of giving effect to the arrangements.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows:

- 1.

SCHEDULE C

- (1) When this Deed of Agreement provides for an instrumentality of the State to do or to refrain from doing any act or thing, the State shall take all measures that are necessary to cause that instrumentality to do or refrain from doing that act or thing.
- (2) For the purposes of this Agreement, a matter or thing shall be taken to have been funded by a party if that party funded the matter or thing directly, or if the matter or thing was funded by an expenditure from the Day to Day Management Account utilising funds provided to that Account by that party specifically for the purpose of funding that matter or thing.
- (3) The value of a fixture shall be determined by subtracting from the market value of the improved land at the relevant time the market value of the land at that time valued as vacant land. In the absence of agreement, market value shall be determined by a valuer nominated by the President of the Queensland Division of the Australian Institute of Valuers, acting as an expert and not as an arbitrator.
- (4) This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law for the time being in force in the State of Queensland.

2.

- (1) Fixtures upon land owned or under the direct control of the State or an instrumentality of the State, the erection or enhancement of which was funded partly or wholly by the Commonwealth or the Authority for the purposes of the arrangements, shall be used and managed for such purposes to the extent provided for in such arrangements. Provided reasonable notice is given to the State, or to the instrumentality having direct control of any such fixture, any officer, employee or contractor of the Commonwealth or of the Authority shall be permitted to inspect any part of any such fixture at all reasonable times.
- (2) The State instrumentality or the State through the State instrumentality shall arrange to routinely maintain such fixtures, subject to the provision of funds from the Day to Day Management Account.
- (3) Should the State or instrumentality dispose of, or cease to make available for the purposes of the arrangements, land on which any such fixture is situated then (subject always to any agreement to the contrary) the State shall deposit in the Day to Day Management Account to be credited against the Commonwealth's liability pursuant to the arrangements to contribute to that Account, that fraction of the value of the fixture as at the date of disposal or cessation as is equal to the fraction which, as at the date of

the completion of the erection or enhancement, the Commonwealth's contribution to the funding thereof constituted of the value of the fixture as enhanced or erected.

3.

- (1) Fixtures upon land owned or under the direct control of the Commonwealth or of the Authority, the erection or enhancement of which was funded partly or wholly by the State for the purposes of the arrangements, shall be used and managed for such purposes to the extent provided for in such arrangements. Providing reasonable notice is given to the Commonwealth or to the Authority as the case may require, any officer, employee or contractor of the State or of an instrumentality of the State shall be permitted to inspect any part of any such fixture at all reasonable times.
- (2) The Commonwealth or the Authority as the case requires shall arrange through the State or State instrumentality to routinely maintain such fixtures subject to the provision of funds from the Day to Day Management Account.
- (3) Should the Commonwealth or the Authority dispose of, or cease to make available for the purposes of the arrangements, land on which any such fixture is situated then (subject always to any agreement to the contrary) the Commonwealth or the Authority as the case requires shall pay directly to the State that fraction of the value of the fixture as at the date of disposal or cessation as is equal to the fraction which, as at the date of the completion of the erection or enhancement, the State's contribution to the funding thereof constituted of the value of the fixture as erected or enhanced.

4. Moveables funded pursuant to the arrangements shall, subject to the provision of funds from the Day to Day Management Account, be used, managed and administered by the State for the purposes of and in accordance with such arrangements, and in accordance with the further requirements of clause 5 hereof. Where any such moveable is disposed of the amount realized on disposal shall be deposited in the Day to Day Management Account, with half of each amount being credited against the Commonwealth's liability pursuant to the arrangements to contribute to that Account, and the other half of such amount being credited against the State's liability pursuant to the arrangements contribute to that Account.

5. Forthwith upon the termination of the arrangements, then in the absence of any agreement between the Commonwealth and the State which provides to the contrary in which case the terms of that agreement shall prevail:

- (a) The provisions of clauses 2(3) and 3(3) hereof shall no longer apply and accordingly fixtures which immediately prior to the termination of the arrangements were available for use for the purposes of the arrangements may subject to the operation of paragraph (b) be utilised exclusively for the purposes of the State (in the case of fixtures referred to in clause 2(1) or exclusively for the purposes of the Commonwealth or the Authority as the case may be (in the case of fixtures referred to in clause 3(1) without any payment or deposit being required to be made by the State to or in respect of the Commonwealth or the Authority, or by the Commonwealth or the Authority to the State;
- (b) If the 20th anniversary of the date of completion of a fixture or of an enhancement to a fixture (provided that enhancement increased the capacity of the fixture by 50% or more) has not been reached at the termination of the arrangements then the State, or the Commonwealth or the Authority as the case may be, shall continue to make the fixture available to the Commonwealth or the Authority as the case may be, or to the State, for the purposes for which and to the extent to which it was being utilised immediately prior to the termination of the arrangements, until the first to occur of:
 - (i) the said 20th anniversary; or
 - (ii) the end of the useful life of the fixture.

Recurrent costs for the operation and essential maintenance of the fixture will be shared in proportion to the number of employees of each of them the State, the Commonwealth and the Authority continuing to utilise the fixture;

- (c) all moveables referred to in Clause 4 shall be disposed of with the State retaining half of the proceeds and paying the other half to the Commonwealth.

6. The following further requirements shall apply in relation to moveables referred to in clause 4 hereof:

- (1) All such moveables shall be administered in accordance with the same standard Queensland Government procedures as are applicable to moveables of the same nature purchased and used purely for State purposes including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, procedures with respect to:
 - (i) purchasing and disposal;

- (ii) use of the moveables for other than official purposes;
 - (iii) registration of and third party insurance in respect of vehicles and vessels;
 - (iv) maintenance.
- (2) The State shall annually furnish to the Authority a report listing all such moveables and the respective locations thereof and detailing acquisitions and disposals or losses occurring since the preceding report relating to such moveables.
7. Nothing in this Agreement shall be taken to prevent the parties hereto from time to time agreeing that:
- (a) particular moveables or immoveables, although not funded pursuant to the arrangements, shall to such extent as shall be agreed upon be used for the purposes of the arrangements; or
 - (b) particular moveables or immoveables, although funded pursuant to the arrangements, shall to such extent as shall be agreed upon be used for the particular purposes of either party or an instrumentality thereof.
8. The State shall keep proper accounts and records of the transactions and affairs of the State and prepare financial statements for submission to both the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, through the appropriate Ministers as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year. The statements shall be in a form approved by the Minister for Finance of the Commonwealth.
9. Before furnishing the financial statements the State shall submit them to the Auditor-General of Queensland for certification that they are in agreement with the accounts and records of the State. Such certificate shall be in a form agreed upon by the Auditor-General of Queensland.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Deed of Agreement as at the date first written above.

SIGNED and DELIVERED by GRAHAM
FREDERICK RICHARDSON, The Minister
of State for the Arts, Sport, The
Environment, Tourism and
Territories for and on behalf of
THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
in the presence of

SIGNED and DELIVERED by GEOFFREY
HUGH MUNTZ, Minister for Environment,
Conservation and Tourism of Queensland
for and on behalf of the Crown in
Right of the State of Queensland
in the presence of

THE COMMON SEAL of THE GREAT
BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK
AUTHORITY was hereunto affixed
by authority of the Authority
in the presence of

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Preamble

The Australian and the Queensland governments have committed, under the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015*, to work collaboratively to ensure the long-term protection and conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area ecosystem, to ensure it is preserved as an important feature of the nation's and the world's heritage.

In 2009 and again in 2014, the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report* identified climate change as the single largest threat to the Great Barrier Reef Region. There is already evidence of climate associated impacts such as increased coral bleaching from higher water temperatures and lower rates of coral growth from ocean acidification. In addition, the reef faces threats from projected long-term changes in drought, flood, storm and rainfall intensity. These events have a range of implications for reef health, including elevated risks of sedimentation, algal blooms, storm damage and crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks.

Two major factors will determine the overall extent of the impacts of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef Region – the rate and extent of human-induced climate change, and the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area ecosystem to climate change.

Reducing carbon-emissions is primarily a matter for international and national action and is critical to securing the long term health of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Australia is committed to reducing its emissions to five per cent below 2000 levels by 2020. This will be delivered through the Emissions Reduction Fund, which creates positive incentives to cut emissions, including through land sector activities, cleaning up power stations, capturing landfill gas and energy efficiency. At the state level, the Queensland Government will contribute to carbon emission reduction efforts by enhanced practical regulatory controls on the clearing of remnant and high value regrowth vegetation and boosting support for the take-up of renewable energy technology.

Increasing resilience can be directly influenced by management actions of the two governments by reducing direct and indirect threats to the Reef. The *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2017* outlines how GBRMPA, in collaboration with industry, science and community partners, will work to improve the resilience of the Reef so it is better able to cope with stress and reduce the impacts of climate

change. A shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the three tiers of government, the private sector and the community will be crucial to the success of these resilience initiatives.

Guiding Principles

1. The Australian and Queensland governments share a commitment to maximising the capacity of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area ecosystem to withstand and adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly through actions to increase its resilience.
2. Recognising their interrelated responsibilities, the two governments will adopt a collaborative and cooperative approach to activities directed at increasing the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, including through implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan.
3. Collaboration will occur in the context of broader strategies of the two governments, as well as nationally coordinated action to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change.

Operative

In collaboration with local governments, the private sector and the community and building on existing initiatives, the two governments will give priority to the following areas:

1. *Research to inform and support management and policy*

The governments will support targeted and coordinated research on the implications of climate change for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area so as to inform the development, implementation and adaptation of policy and management responses.

2. *Increasing resilience and capacity of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area ecosystem to adapt to the impacts of climate change*

The governments will support efforts to increase the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area ecosystem and its component species and communities, particularly through effective management of non-climate change related threats and pressures such as water pollution, inappropriate coastal development and over-fishing.

3. *Incorporating climate change considerations in policy, programs and management*

The governments will integrate consideration of climate change impacts into the development and implementation of policies, programs, management and regulation related to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

4. *Monitoring climate change impacts and adapting approaches over time*

The governments will incorporate consideration of climate change impacts into monitoring, reporting and evaluation frameworks relevant to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and will adapt policy and management approaches over time in response to new information.

5. *Supporting industries and communities in responding to the threat of climate change*

The governments will seek to facilitate effective responses by industries and communities reliant on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area through means such as providing information about impacts and risks, and ensuring policy and regulatory settings support mitigation actions and adaptation by businesses and individuals.

6. *Engaging in and influencing international and regional activities that support and inform local objectives and actions*

The governments, particularly the Australian Government, given its lead responsibility for international engagement, will support and inform local action through engagement in international and regional initiatives that serve to deepen understanding of issues and options for the role of marine and coastal ecosystems in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum will consider a report on the implementation of this schedule annually.

FISHING AND COLLECTION OF FISHERIES RESOURCES IN THE GREAT BARRIER REEF WORLD HERITAGE AREA

Preamble

The Australian and the Queensland Government have committed, under the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2015* (the Intergovernmental Agreement), to work collaboratively to provide for the long-term protection and conservation of the environment of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, including its Outstanding Universal Value.

The Australian Government and the Queensland Government recognise that:

- Fishing and the collection of fisheries resources is important socially and economically to Queensland and is a long established and legitimate use of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
- Both governments have interrelated policy, management and regulatory roles and responsibilities related to fishing and collection of fisheries resources in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The differing roles and responsibilities are underpinned by a shared objective of long term protection and ecologically sustainable use of the biodiversity and natural resources of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
- The Great Barrier Reef ecosystem is being impacted by a range of land and marine based activities that, if not appropriately managed, may reduce the health and resilience of the Reef.

It is in the interests of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area ecosystem and the optimal use of fisheries resources that both governments work collaboratively and encourage best practice (including innovation over time) relating to the management of fishing and the collection of fisheries resources, including aquaculture, in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The purpose of this Schedule to the Intergovernmental Agreement is to provide a framework for both governments to:

- provide clarity about each government's objectives, principles and approaches to the management of fisheries resources within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area;
- achieve efficient and effective delivery of shared objectives related to the management of fisheries resources within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area; and
- promote simplicity and streamlining of regulatory and management arrangements, and minimise duplication and inconsistencies.

Recognition

1. This Schedule recognises:

- (a) Australia's international responsibilities for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area under the World Heritage Convention;
- (b) The Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements between the Australian Government and the State of Queensland in relation to the fishing and the collection of fisheries resources off the east coast of Queensland, as published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* number S44 on 8 February 1995 and the *Queensland Government Gazette* number 23 on 10 February 1995;
- (c) The Intergovernmental Agreement, which provides a framework for the Australian and Queensland governments to work together to ensure an integrated and collaborative approach to management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area;
- (d) The role of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum in coordinating policies concerning the long term protection and ecologically sustainable use of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the role of the Standing Council on Primary Industries in relation to fisheries and aquaculture in Australia;
- (e) The objects and provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth), as administered by the Australian Government;
- (f) The objects and provisions of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Cth) as administered by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;
- (g) The objectives and provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (Cth) relating to Commonwealth fish resources within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area , as administered by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority;
- (h) The objects and provisions of the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld) as administered by the Queensland Government; and
- (i) The objects and provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld), *Marine Parks Act 2004* (Qld), *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) and the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* (Qld) as administered by the Queensland Government.

Guiding Principles

2. Both governments will apply the guiding principles established in the Intergovernmental Agreement to fishing and collection of fisheries resources in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Operative

3. Both governments acknowledge their different but interrelated roles and responsibilities related to fishing and the collection of fisheries resources in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area:
 - (a) The Australian Government, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth), is responsible for leading and coordinating required actions to meet Australia's responsibilities as a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, including ensuring the World Heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area are maintained and transmitted to future generations.
 - (b) The Australian Government, under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Cth) is responsible for the long term protection and conservation of the environment, biodiversity and heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Region in accordance with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Use as defined by that Act, including allowing for and the regulating the use of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in ways consistent with ecosystem-based management and the principles of ecologically sustainable use within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
 - (c) The Australian Government, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth), is responsible for regulating impacts on matters of National Environmental Significance and interactions with species listed under the Act. Under the Act, the Australian Government is also responsible for regulating the export of fish and fisheries resources including assessment against the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries Edition 2 (2007)*.
 - (d) The Australian Government, under an Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangement, and the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (Cth), is responsible for regulating commercial take of tuna and tuna-like species within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
 - (e) The Queensland Government, under an Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangement and the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld) is responsible for the management of

fishing, fisheries habitats and collection of fisheries resources in and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (with the exception of some commercially caught species listed in (d)). The Queensland Government is responsible for ensuring this is done in accordance with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development as defined by that Act.

- (f) The Queensland Government, under the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld), *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (Qld), *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld), *Marine Park Act 2004* (Qld) and the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* (Qld) is responsible for management of aquaculture activities. Where aquaculture activities will affect Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Cth) may also apply. Where aquaculture activities are likely to significantly impact upon the values of the World and National Heritage Area, or the environment of the Marine Park, approval is required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).
 - (g) The Queensland Government, under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) and the *Marine Parks Act 2004* (Qld), is responsible for the protection of the biodiversity values of the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park and islands within Queensland jurisdiction (including island National Parks).
 - (h) All the Queensland and Australian Government agencies listed in this Schedule are responsible for providing appropriate protection to species which are afforded protection under legislation they are responsible for administering, in particular the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld), *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld), *Marine Parks Act 2004* (Qld), *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) and *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Cth).
4. Both governments agree to work together in discharging their respective roles and responsibilities, and will apply the following guidelines in developing and implementing management arrangements relevant to fishing and the collection of fisheries resources, including aquaculture, in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area:
- (a) Duplication of management arrangements and assessment and permitting processes that relate to fishing and the collection of fisheries resources should be avoided through collaboration and where appropriate through the principle of mutual recognition.

SCHEDULE E

- (b) Policy and management proposals formulated by either government that may impact management arrangements already in place should be identified and discussed by relevant agencies at the earliest possible stage, with a view to achieving resolution in bilateral discussion through consultation between all agencies and other relevant stakeholders.
- (c) The interests and impacts of all legitimate uses and user groups should be considered in the management of all activities in the World Heritage Area, including fishing.
- (d) Both governments will work with stakeholders and the community to encourage innovation and develop and implement best practice standards as they evolve for fishing and the collection of fisheries resources.
- (e) Fishing activities should minimise detrimental impacts on the broader ecosystem and the species and ecological communities within it. Risk analysis, appropriate to the scale of the fishing activities and its potential impacts, should be conducted into the susceptibility of relevant ecosystem components, and appropriate management actions established for various components, according to the level of risk.
- (f) Management of fishing activities should be supported by reliable information appropriate to the scale of fishing activities and its potential impacts. Both governments will collaborate and use their best endeavours to acquire and share information relevant to fishing and the collection of fisheries resources in the World Heritage Area.
- (g) Management must be supported by an effective enforcement and education regime.

Coordination

5. Parties subject to this Schedule will meet as necessary and report to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on the implementation of the Schedule.

REEF 2050 WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2017-2022

A pdf version of **Schedule F**, the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017-2022 is available: <https://www.reefplan.qld.gov.au/about/assets/reef-2050-water-quality-improvement-plan-2017-22.pdf>

SCHEDULE G

REEF 2050 LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2018

A Word and pdf version of **Schedule G**, the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan 2018 is available: <https://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/publications/reef-2050-long-term-sustainability-plan-2018>