Tourism and others contributing to protected areas - the Great Barrier Reef

Andrew Skeat
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

- Multiple use marine protected area
- World Heritage Area
- Managed by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

How users contribute

- Environmental Management Charge
  - Introduced in 1993
  - Contribution to management by commercial users
  - Focussed on tourism
- Permit Application Assessment Fee
  - Cost recovery
- Some users pay other agencies
  - Commercial fishing

Who Pays EMC?

- Tourism operators
- Vessel charter
- Vending operations
- Mariculture
- Land-based sewage outfall
- Commercial fishing
- Private recreational use
- Shipping
- Research
What do they pay?

- Standard tourist program charge
  - $A 4.50/visitor per day
  - Some concessions
  - Increased over time
  - Indexed
- Other EMC fees based on
  - Facilities available
  - Nutrients discharged
- PAAF based on activity

How much do they contribute?

- $A 6.7 million from EMC in 2002-03
- 99.7% from tourism industry

How important is it?

- EMC provides ~ 20% of GBRMPA income

Key Features of EMC

- Permit transferability included
- Provides detailed visitor data
- Not earmarked for particular tasks
  - Except portion to research
- But... tourism industry concerned
  - Not all users pay
  - Non-financial contributions not recognised
Andrew Skeat
Executive Director
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Ph: (07) 4750 0700
Fax: (07) 4772 6093
a.skeat@gbrmpa.gov.au