

-- WISH LIST --

HINCHINBROOK ISLAND

There are many good things in the present Plan. **These need to be supported if they are to remain in the Plan.** Here's a wish list, much of which is already included in the plan - but weakened by modifiers or exceptions:

Cape Richards and resort lease area:

- transfer road and esplanade to national park, as called for in the present Plan.
- Resume or buy back resort special lease and rehabilitate the area. Remove the sewage treatment area and disintegrating buildings; fill the shallow dam; retain one good building for parks research activities only.
- Update the anachronistic and inappropriate resort lease conditions.
- Remove exotic plants from resort lease area.
- No expansion of resort lease area or present accommodation numbers. Its current operating capacity is far below its permitted capacity and, ASH believes, is creating long term ecological changes in that area.

1. NO new resorts.

2. NO development at Freshwater Creek.

3. **REDUCE visitation** at The Haven (Scraggy Point). If increased levels of rehabilitation are required visitation levels should be reduced.

4. **NO fishing**, commercial or recreational, especially gill-netting, within this national park, its freshwater and salt streams and estuaries and pools. Fishing contravenes the national park cardinal principle and the world heritage "look but don't take" philosophy. Dugongs, Snubfin dolphins, and turtles are at risk.

5. **NO cruise ships** (mass visitation). In its *Hinchinbrook Plan of Management* the GBRMPA introduced provision for cruise ships to anchor at Hecate Point and Cape Richards. Tourist-operated boats emanating from cruise ships are counted as private vessels and are uncontrolled.

6. **NO aircraft lower than 1500 feet** (other than the seaplane currently servicing the resort, as a permitted non-conforming use) above the island's surface or within one kilometre of its coast laterally. Exceptional use should be limited to emergency services in actual rescue – NO ADF or SES exercises; NO helicopter transport of scientific expeditions or film-making parties.
7. **NO MORE infrastructure** or facilities, including toilets. A perceived increasing "need" for infrastructure indicates that visitation is too heavy. Reduce visitation rather than introduce more infrastructure. The provisions of the Plan should ensure that rehabilitation (a duty within world heritage conservation) is a rare necessity.
8. **NO track hardening** – reduce visitation numbers to prevent impacts rather than repair afterwards.
9. **REDUCE all site camping permits** to duration of four days instead of seven.
10. **NO commercial walking or commercial camping.**
11. **NO camping in breeding areas** of *vulnerable* beach stone curlews.
12. **NO motorised water sports.**
13. **INTRODUCE AND ENFORCE speed limits** in the national park waters – 6 knots maximum, 4 knots in streams less than 25 metres wide;
14. **NO generators**, PA systems, loud music or other amplified noise.
15. **NO littering, no camp fires.**
16. **NO commercial landings in crocodile habitat** streams on western coast eg Deluge Inlet, Paluma, Mendel and Gayundah Creeks.
17. **NO animal feeding** (crocodiles, turtles, fish, birds).
18. **NO adventure training**, ADF or SES training exercises, outdoor training school camps.
19. **ERADICATE/CONTROL cane toads** – make seasonally timely toad/tadpole raids on streams and pools. Consider assistance from volunteers.

20. **ERADICATE/CONTROL the pig population.**

21. **INTRODUCE provisions for climate change and sea level rise.**

22. **EMPHASISE that world heritage presentation is always limited by the primary duty of conservation.**

23. **REPLACE "nature-based activities" with "activities limited to enjoyment of the area for its intrinsic values".**

24. **INTRODUCE strong permit enforcement measures.** Although injuries can arise from unpermitted activities in wilderness areas with resulting calls for built infrastructure, the community understands and accepts the value and risk of wilderness experience.

25. **ENFORCE prohibition against introduction of non-native plants and animals** – no proliferation and no replacement of existing non-conforming mangoes and coconut trees.

26. **RETAIN strong powers to close** all or part of the Island for weather and conservation reasons.

27. **EXPLAIN fire management policy** and planning details. The community hates to see the Island burn. If there is a strong conservation imperative for burning we want to know that the desired conservation outcomes are achieved.

28. **CLARIFY** that historical uses that are not compatible with preservation of world heritage natural and cultural values will be phased out. Specify time frames.

29. **FIX VISITATION LIMITS** - Introduce strict unmodifiable limits to commercial visitation including by boat and especially at Zoe Bay - NO breakwaters or other marine infrastructure (this has been proposed). Fix limits (on conservation and aesthetics grounds) to commercial boat visitation at South Ramsay Bay - don't accede to operator's demands for bigger boats and more people.

30. **NO EXCEPTIONS** – other than for genuine emergency.

THE BROOK ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

These tiny islets are the nesting sites of Torresian Imperial pigeons, *vulnerable* beach stone curlews and many seabird species. Prohibition against landing must be enforced.

The conservation related measures in the present Plan should be retained, and improved. The Plan states that:

- protective measures are to be considered if bird populations are noticed to have significantly declined, and only if humans are the cause. Ten years ago there were less than a 1000 beach stone curlews in Queensland.

These sites need proactive protection now.

- coconut trees are to be allowed to proliferate, except where vegetation is less than 3 metres high. Boaties *plant* coconuts.

Coconuts are a weed; they must be removed.

GOULD ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

Goold Island is subject to much local visitation from Cardwell.

The inclusion of coconut trees on the basis that some local people like them is *entirely* inappropriate.

Coconuts are a weed; they must be removed

The Plan needs strong provisions and enforcement to prevent non permitted activities eg . firewood collecting, littering, introduction of exotic plants and animals, the proliferation of coconut trees, and protection of aboriginal cultural sites.

FAMILY ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK DUNK ISLAND

For this world heritage national park, the Plan should abandon the ecologically unsound “multiple use” concept borrowed from the GBRMPA and accept the fundamental requirement of world heritage presentation – that is, enjoyment of the area for its intrinsic values.

The Plan has sacrificed the resort spit area to heavy visitation and noisy activities. The reviewed Plan should initiate measures to reclaim the spit for natural processes.

The Plan also state that “*no new weeds*” should be introduced. The Plan allows coconut palms, although recognised to be of recent origin, to proliferate “naturally” because “they have become a much loved feature of the landscape” and are “accepted by locals”. This is inconsistent with national park and world heritage protection. *Planting* coconuts is prohibited – but who checks?

Coconuts are a weed; they must be removed.

Other feral species on Dunk Island include weeds like Singapore Daisy, which we are told the resort attempts to control.

The community has no information about the incidence of weeds on the island.

Pigs should be eradicated.

FAMILY GROUP ISLANDS

These rainforested islands are protected particularly because of their bird populations. These islands must be preserved as a haven for protected bird species.

Access to landing on the Island should be restricted to facilitate bird conservation.

ORPHEUS ISLAND

This very slight Plan was prepared with very little information. It makes the wistful comment that “if unacceptable impacts occur” action could be taken.

Orpheus Island has a resort (on Hazard Bay) and a research station (Pioneer Bay – corals and clams). Pioneer Bay is a favourite short-term anchorage for yachts.

There should NO extension of the resort or research facility, and no increase in resort visitation. Sites should be managed to *prevent* deterioration rather than diverting visitation activities to other sites.

There should be NO commercial access to Pioneer or Little Pioneer Bays

HOW TO obtain plans and submission guide:

Phone the EPA Customer Service on (07) 3227 8185 for plans and submission guide

The existing management plans and submission guide may be found on its website www.epa.qld.gov.au.

The management plans are easy to find and download - just type into google the NAME of the plan you wish to see. Or go to the EPA website and follow the links -

parks and forests / managing parks and forests / management plans and strategies / XYZ national park management plan.

The submission guide says:

Please provide comments under the following headings:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Landscape | 5. Recreation and tourism |
| 2. Animal and plants | 6. Scientific and education |
| 3. Indigenous culture | 7. Community partnerships |
| 4. Non-indigenous cu | 8. Other comments. |

Please provide a separate submission for each park

Address for submissions is published in *Phoenix!* and ready-to-use address label is enclosed.