

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:

1. Cape Richards and resort area

- Include road and esplanade in national park, as called for in present Plan.
- Resume/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.
- 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.

2. NO new resorts.
3. NO development at Freshwater Creek.
4. REDUCE visitation at The Haven (Scraggy Point). Increased levels of rehabilitation dictate reduction in visitation levels allowed.
5. 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.
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. 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 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.
8. 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.
9. NO track hardening – reduce visitation numbers to prevent impacts.
10. REDUCE all site camping permits to duration of four days instead of seven.
11. NO commercial walking or commercial camping.
12. NO camping in breeding areas of *vulnerable* beach stone curlews.
13. NO motorised water sports.
14. INTRODUCE AND ENFORCE speed limits in the national park waters – 6 knots maximum, 4 knots in streams less than 25 metres wide;
15. NO generators, PA systems, loud music or other amplified noise.
16. NO littering, no camp fires.
17. NO commercial landings in crocodile habitat streams on western coast eg Deluge Inlet, Paluma, Mendel and Gayundah Creeks.
18. NO animal feeding (crocodiles, turtles, fish, birds).
19. NO adventure training, ADF or SES training exercises, outdoor training school camps.

20. ERADICATE/CONTROL the burgeoning pig population.
21. ERADICATE/CONTROL cane toads – seasonally timely attention to streams and pools. Consider assistance from volunteers.
22. INTRODUCE provisions for climate change and sea level rise.
23. EMPHASISE that world heritage presentation is *always* limited by the primary duty of conservation.
24. REPLACE “*nature-based activities*” with “*activities limited to enjoyment of the area for its intrinsic values*”.
25. INTRODUCE strong permit enforcement measures. Injuries can arise from unpermitted activities in wilderness areas with resulting calls for built infrastructure, but the community understands and accepts the value and risk of wilderness experience.
26. ENFORCE prohibition against introduction of non-native plants and animals – no proliferation and no replacement of existing non-conforming mangoes and coconut trees.
27. RETAIN strong powers to close all or part of the Island as required for weather and conservation reasons.
28. 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.
29. CLARIFY that historical uses that are not compatible with preservation of world heritage natural and cultural values will be phased out. Specify time frames.
30. 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.
31. 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 as follows:

- 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 have been known to *plant* coconuts. **Coconuts are a weed; they must be removed to allow native vegetation to proliferate.**
- **Landing on the beaches should be prohibited**, on all the islands of this group, not just on the land that is above high water mark. These tiny islets are not only nesting areas for several tern species and beach stone curlews, they are resting places for many other sea birds such as herons.

GOOLD ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

Goold Island is subject to much local visitation from Cardwell. The conservation related measures in the present Plan should be retained, and improved: the inclusion of coconut trees on the basis that some local people like them is *entirely* inappropriate. The Plan needs strong provisions 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 ISLAND NATIONAL PARK - Dunk Island and Family Group Islands

DUNK ISLAND

The Plan has sacrificed the resort spit area to heavy visitation and noisy activities. Some consideration must be given to reducing the incidence of at least some of the fun-park activities presently allowed.

The Plan also makes the extraordinary statement 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 and should 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.

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.

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 if scientific opinion suggests this would improve bird conservation.

ORPHEUS ISLAND

The present 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.