

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations (Amendment) 1991 No. 63

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

STATUTORY RULES 1991 No. 63

MINISTER FOR THE ARTS, SPORT, THE ENVIRONMENT TOURISM AND TERRITORIES

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations (Amendment)

Issued under the authority of the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories

The prime purpose of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations (Amendment) is to extend permit assessment fees to all commercial operations in the Marine Park that are not presently included in the permit assessment fee system.

Permit assessment fees were introduced for all commercial tourist operations from 1 January 1990. Commercial tourist operations were the first sector of commercial operations to which permit assessment fees have been applied. This amendment will extend the permit assessment fee to the relatively small number of commercial operations in the Marine Park that are not presently included in the permit assessment fee system.

The other amendment relates to an identified shortcoming in the application of regulation 19D in circumstances where a permit holder applies to renew a permit prior to its expiry and then withdraws that application before the Authority has made a decision renewing or refusing to renew a permit. Regulation 19D provides for a permit to be extended where a person has applied for renewal and the Authority has not yet made a decision on this application (in effect it is a 'bridging' provision to cover any period between the expiry of an old permit and the issue of a new one).

Subregulation 19D(1) is to be amended so that the bridging provision will be in effect only until an application to renew an existing permit is granted or refused by the Authority, or withdrawn by the applicant.

Authorised by the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories