

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 272
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)
Topic: GBRMPA COMPLIANCE STAFF
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 17 June 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

How many compliance staff does GBRMPA have, what do they do – how much proactive compliance and monitoring do they do?

Answer:

GBRMPA employs, principally through the joint Commonwealth and Queensland Great Barrier Reef Field Management Program, 25 officers dedicated to compliance management:

- 18 officers deliver a coordinated compliance program for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. This includes compliance risk assessment and operational planning, intelligence, proactive field surveillance and investigations.
- Three specialist Indigenous Compliance Liaison Officers support GBRMPA's Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Program. These officers deliver compliance training to Indigenous communities and ranger groups, support other Indigenous Ranger participation in proactive patrolling and assist communities to develop compliance management plans.
- An environmental assessments team provides the equivalent of four full time resources to manage proactive compliance monitoring of Marine Park permissions and the Environmental Management Charge through targeted field inspections and education activities designed to promote self-regulation.

GBRMPA works closely with other Queensland and Commonwealth compliance agencies to coordinated compliance in the field. As part of these joint arrangements there are an additional 118 officers appointed as Marine Park Inspectors under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* who participate in proactive compliance patrolling and monitoring. These are predominantly officers of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and the Queensland Water Police.

In 2012-2013, 1,460 dedicated compliance vessel patrols days, 60 helicopter patrol days and 49 land-based patrol days were delivered by the joint Field Management Program. The Commonwealth Border Protection Command provides additional aircraft surveillance flights across the World Heritage Area each year.