cral. Stationary pontoons are less of a problem because the anchor is only dropped once onto the coral. Anchors from boats can repeatedly damage the reef by breaking off pieces of the coral. If the damage is minimal and does not occur often, the coral can usually regenerate.

- **Economic issues**
  The Great Barrier Reef is under threat from the most widespread, rapid and damaging set of industrial developments in Queensland’s history. The Queensland Government is fast-tracking dredging and dumping of millions of tonnes of seabed and rock, and encouraging increased shipping through the narrow straits between reefs. The Australian Government is considering approval of these developments, including the world’s biggest coal port at Abbot Point, 50 km from the Whitsunday Islands.

- **Perspectives of stakeholders in relation to this tourist destination**
  There has been increased emphasis in recent years on involvement of stakeholders including the tourism industry in management of the GBRMP. The status of tourism as one of the ‘critical issues’ in marine park management is justified by the fact that tourism is the major commercial activity within the GBRMP. It generates significant income, supports a large number of employees, and contributes to the reef’s World Heritage Values by presenting the reef to tourists and the community. Among those who work with GBRMPA on key issues relating to tourism and recreation are community groups, recreational users, Local Marine Advisory Committees and Reef Advisory Committees, specifically the Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee (TRRAC).

  Main stakeholders are local residents, council, tourists, government – local (to sustain the area for residents), state, or federal, volunteers, and businesses.

- **Management strategies implemented.**
  Maintaining a healthy and diverse Great Barrier Reef ecosystem is important so it is better able to withstand, recover and adapt to impacts and stress. A productive and healthy Reef environment provides essential resources such as fish and prawns and supports many industries.

  In managing tourism use of the Marine Park, particular attention is given to: protecting coral reefs and other habitats such as seagrasses from anchor damage, poor diving practices, waste disposal, reef walking and collecting, protecting turtles and seabirds from disturbance, especially during nesting seasons respectively, the cultural importance of the Great Barrier Reef. Management issues relating to tourism use of a specific region can be further addressed through plans of management. Such plans have been developed for the Cairns Area and Whitsundays (the two major tourism nodes in the Marine Park). These plans are designed to manage:

- environmental protection of these high-use sites
- separation of different uses
- resolution of conflicting use
- limiting use where necessary.

**Extreme Weather** – The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority worked with key partners to implement the Extreme Weather Response program to assess the impact on the environment, communities and industries.

The entire Marine Park is covered by a Zoning Plan that identifies where particular activities are permitted and where some are not permitted. The Zoning Plan separates conflicting uses, with 33 per cent of the Marine Park afforded marine national park status where fishing and collecting is not permitted.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is a partner in the Australian and Queensland Government’s joint commitment to a new Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan). Under this action plan, governments are working with farmers and graziers to halt and reverse the decline in the quality of water flowing into the Great Barrier Reef by improving land management practices and monitoring the results.