



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

MEDIA RESPONSE

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Please attribute the following to Russell Reichelt, Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)

The World Heritage Convention encourages state parties to consider establishing national public and private foundations or associations whose purpose is to invite donations for the protection of world heritage sites.

For research projects to be relevant and well targeted, it's important for the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to collaborate with the agency that manages the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park on a day-to-day basis.

Being a board member and a member of its scientific advisory committee helps facilitate that collaboration.

Building a connection between research and management is also assisted by having other GBRMPA representatives sit on a number of the foundation's committees. For example, a GBRMPA general manager chairs the foundation's research adoption group to help ensure research products are useful to end-users.

It's appropriate and constructive for our agency to be involved in any major initiative or group that relates to the health of the Great Barrier Reef — the board of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership and Reef Plan are just three other examples of where GBRMPA is represented.

Given GBRMPA's management practices and decisions are underpinned by science, ongoing research into the Reef is critical — this includes the innovative research that the foundation actively seeks to fund.

Private-public partnerships for environmental restoration and protection are used extensively around the world, and enable the corporate sector to make a wider contribution to the community.

Without corporate investment, some of the research funded by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation simply would not occur.

The foundation, through its board and various committees, provides a good cross-section of scientific, management, corporate and government experience in deciding how and where to channel private and public investment. It also has strong governance procedures in place.

In 2012, GBRMPA received \$25,000 to conduct a citizen science scoping study on behalf of the foundation.

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