

QLD

06 DEC 02

Great Barrier Reef Study
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2 Collins St East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Dear Sir

Please refer to the attached copy of table 1.1 of your report. The information in the entry underlined is incorrect. There are no major towns on the Russell-Mulgrave Rivers. The population can not be 75,400.

When it is considered that the area and the population your report covers is a lot more are than that which GBRMPA covers, I am amazed that you only received 57 submissions when they got about 10,000 for their Representative Area Program closures. Perhaps the public was not well enough informed about what was going on.

My concern is that if you give support for the CRC Reef Consensus Statement GBRMPA will use this to support further closures of reefs. There does not really appear to be any evidence that the reef is suffering from discharges to its waters.

If someone has something good to say someone else comes along and can only find doom and gloom about what was good. (The last two paragraphs on page 22 of your report). The doom and gloom, when referring to the reef seems to be right through the report. So much so that you start talking about 'no regrets' actions on page 159.

Your final report should inform readers that there is no hard evidence to suggest the reef has been damaged and policy makers, especially, should be aware of this.

Yodurs sincerely

Ian Spradbrow

Table 1.1 Population and area of selected GBR catchments

Catchment	Population ^a	Area
	persons	km ²
Baffle	447	3 996
Barron	23 814	2 902
Black	1 579	1 057
Boyne	5 009	2 590
Burdekin	17 497	130 126
Burnett	59 284	33 248
Calliope	24 387	2 236
Daintree	738	2 192
Don	237	3 695
Endeavour	1 344	2 104
Fitzroy	114 536	142 537
Haughton	10 343	4 044
Herbert	8 778	9 843
Johnstone	13 428	2 325
Kolan	1 471	2 901
Mossman	17 111	100 400
Murray	1 296	1 107
Normanby	na	24 408
O'Connell	5 082	2 387
Pioneer	44 159	1 570
Plane	6 911	2 539
Proserpine	16 286	2 535
Russell	106 445	1 707
Russell-Mulgrave	75 400	1 983
Styx	na	3 012
Tully	5 585	1 683

^a Population numbers are for 1996. na Not available.

Source: GBRMPA (2001a).

1.2 Study background

In August 2002, the Commonwealth and Queensland Government Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation to protect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Heritage Area from land-sourced pollutants (Beattie 2002). In the appendix C for details), the two Governments noted that:

- the catchments adjacent to the GBR have extensive land modification focus on developing land and infrastructure for urban centres, agriculture, production, tourism and mining;

* This entry is wrong. There are no major towns on the Russell-Mulgrave Rivers. The population probably refers to Cairns which is on the Tully Inlet and Smith Creek.