

REVIEW OF  
**Fraser Island Defenders Organization's  
GREAT SANDY REGION  
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

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May 1992

**FIDO has followed this Strategy as a basis of its advocacy for the better management of Fraser Island since it submitted the fuller version of this Strategy which has been edited and reviewed by an independent environmental consultant. This is the condensed version of FIDO's Management Strategy.**

## **2.0 MANAGEMENT GOALS**

1. - to preserve the World Heritage and National Estate values and cultural heritage of the Great Sandy Region and transmit them intact to future generations;
2. - to maintain the ecological integrity of the region and its component ecosystems and processes;
3. - to conserve and manage the natural and cultural resources of the region consistent with long-term ecological sustainability;
4. - to maintain the role of the Great Sandy Region in coastal Southern Queensland as a major resource of undeveloped natural open space, especially with respect to existing and potential wilderness values;
5. - to present the natural and cultural values of the region to the public in a manner which encourages understanding of their significance and which maximizes the benefits arising from international recognition;
6. - to facilitate access to and enjoyment of the region's natural attractions by a wide cross-section of the community, to levels of visitation consistent with retention of ecological integrity and heritage values;
7. - to use land and other resources of the region primarily for nature conservation, wilderness, nature-based recreation and tourism, education, research and some essential services;
8. - to eliminate land-uses incompatible with preservation of values and ecological sustainability;
9. - to prevent or reduce detrimental environmental impacts associated with public access and activities, existing and future developments, resource degradation and past resource exploitation;
10. - to allow and encourage public participation at all stages of planning, management and evaluation of proposals;
11. - to include Aboriginal people in management of the region's natural resources and visitors.

## **3.0 MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**

1. - the natural integrity of the region is greater than the sum of its individual features, requiring a holistic approach to management;
2. - planning, management and impact assessment should be integrated, goal-oriented and responsive to changing circumstances and community input;
3. - the system of reserves to ensure biological conservation in terrestrial areas should extend equivalent protection to marine areas;
4. - the coastal sandmass ecosystems are sensitive to artificial disturbance, despite resilience to dynamic natural forces of change;
5. - natural processes should be accepted and not modified or inhibited;
6. - the number of people using the region should be limited to avoid depreciating essential natural values;
7. - prevention of resource degradation is better than cure, especially regarding impacts of injurious agencies on previously unaffected areas;
8. - some types of degradation should be concentrated to allow larger areas to retain or to regain their pristine character;
9. - degraded areas should be repaired and re-used rather than degradation extended to previously unaffected areas;
10. - human use should be confined to activities which need a natural setting, and oriented towards enjoyment, presentation and management of heritage values; rather than speculation, resource exploitation, residential or commercial land uses;
11. - the natural attraction of the region should be kept as public common - it is not possible to supply the demand for freehold land without destroying the character of the region;
12. - areas with high natural values should be kept free of major tourist infrastructure, which is more appropriately sited on the nearby mainland as 'gateways' to Fraser Island and Cooloola
13. - Cooloola has values and sensitivity to change similar to Fraser Island; it should not absorb demand transferred from the island;
14. - the "user pays" principle is an equitable basis

for charging fees for services, but does not imply that the supply of services should match the demand, nor that visitors should be charged for maintaining basic life support systems (such as genetic diversity) for the whole community;

- 15 - economic criteria should not outweigh biological, cultural, aesthetic and other natural values in management decisions affecting the region.

#### **4.0 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES and ACTIONS**

**NOTE: In this section management objectives (identified by 'o') are followed by management strategies ('s') and recommended actions ('a') to achieve such objectives.**

**Management Objectives ('o') are in Bold.**

**Management Strategies ('s') are indented.**

**Recommended Actions ('a') are further indented.**

##### **4.1 WORLD HERITAGE VALUES**

###### **4.1 (I) Integrity**

**Io1. To recognize the whole of the Great Sandy Region (GSR) as a unique part of the World; natural heritage:**

Is1. Ensure that Fraser Island, Cooloola and marine areas within the region are protected in the highest possible category of nature reserve, consistent with other management objectives.

Is1. Inscribe Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Region on the list of World Heritage properties of outstanding universal value.

**Io2. To restore biological diversity on degraded areas not required for other management objectives:**

Is2. Rehabilitate degraded areas to viable natural communities capable of progressing towards ecological stability approximating their original condition

Is2. Actively manage the native plant communities on mined land to reduce the induced dominance of wattles.

**Io3. To satisfy and maintain World Heritage Convention integrity conditions by protecting the natural integrity of ecosystems and ecological processes:**

Is3.1. Ensure land use and management throughout the region are consistent and directed towards protecting ecosystems, processes and natural integrity

Is3.2. Protect all ecologically intact parts of the ecosystem as an integral whole, and enhance integrity on modified areas capable of restoration.

Is3.2. Avoid 'sacrificing' any part of the GSR

(eg. those with no 'special' features) for non-sustainable resource extraction or other uses incompatible with protection of natural values.

**Io4. To maintain, free of interference, the natural faunal populations, genetic stock, ecological processes and biological balance; and all natural dynamic processes of sand, wind and sea:**

Is4. 1. Discourage manipulation, interference and artificial 'improvement' of habitats, faunal populations, food sources, predator-prey relations or natural cycles.

Is4. 1a. Ensure that any introduction or re-establishment of native animals on Fraser Island or any part of the region does not upset the existing natural balance.

Is4. 1b. Discourage hand-feeding of wild native fauna, especially dingoes and birds by residents' and visitors, including action against tourist operators who allow this practice by their clients.

Is4. 1c. Maintain the natural permeability of the sand surface: - keep impervious surfaces to a minimum reduce and manage any increase in run-off from roads, hard surfaces and disturbance; slow down run-off and carefully disperse it to minimise erosion.

Is4. 1d. Discourage attempts to "replant" naturally treeless foredunes, and avoid artificial plantings on naturally mobile sand surfaces.

Is4. 1e. Phase out the presence of domestic cats and dogs from Fraser Island and prevent their access to or through Cooloola - the only parts of the region where dogs are permitted should be Rainbow Beach and Noosa North Shore.

##### **4.2 CONSERVATION**

###### **4.2 (I) Protection of World Heritage values**

**Io2. To preserve the unique geomorphology, hydrology, ecological dynamics and evidence of Quaternary evolutionary processes; and the integrity, genetic diversity and volume of the biomass of Fraser Island and Cooloola:**

Is2. Create a World-class national park to protect an entire ecosystem, the complete segment of evolutionary history and an outstanding example of intact landform.

Is2.a. Gazette almost all Fraser Island and other terrestrial areas within the region as national park, as

Is2.b. Include all reserved terrestrial and marine areas of Fraser Island, Cooloola, Great Sandy Strait, Hervey Bay and the Woongara Coast in a single integrated Great Sandy National Park of world significance.

Is2.c. Acquire and reserve the grazing properly

'Tarangau' to protect the whole upper Noosa River catchment.

**Io3. To maintain the genetic diversity of remaining tall forests and restore their diversity where possible:**

I a 3. In particular, protect the tall forests of Fraser Island in national Park

**4.2 (M) Marine Areas**

**Mol. To preserve in as natural a condition as is possible the estuaries and marine areas of the region:**

Mol. Upgrade the level of protection given-to significant marine areas in Hervey Bay and Sandy Strait.

Ma1.a. Include Fisheries Habitat Reserves and Marine Parks in adjoining National Parks, especially between Moon Point and Rooney's Point (Platypus Bay).

Ma1.b. Extend existing Fisheries Habitat Reserves to include all estuarine areas of Great Sandy Strait and Tin Can Bay, and gazette all remaining islands as national parks.

Ma1.c. Extend the Marine Park to include all Hervey Bay'

**Mo2. To protect, and where necessary restore, the natural values and productivity of marine areas in sandy strait and Hervey Bay:**

Ms2.1. Avoid modification of the foreshores and marine environment through incompatible development of adjacent land along Great Sandy Strait.

Ma2.1a. Prevent the development of marinas or canal estates on Great Sandy Strait, including Riverheads Resort.

Ma2.1b. Prohibit development of new marine facilities on the western side of Fraser Island, except for tramline terminus wharves.

Ma2.1c. Prevent dredging within Great Sandy Strait and Hervey Bay, except where necessary for existing boat harbours and ferry crossings in accordance with the Management Plan.

Ms2.2. To protect, the natural values anal ecological processes of Inskip Point and Pelican Bay.

Ma2.2. Maintain these areas free of development likely to affect marine and intertidal habitats and coastal processes.

**Mo3. To protect marine mammals and turtles in Great Sandy Strait and Hervey Bay:**

Ms3.1. Reduce incidental mortality of marine mammals and turtles associated with shark meshing and trawling 1.ta3.1a. Discontinue shark meshing off Rainbow Beach anal prohibit meshing within the Great Sandy Region.

Ma3.1b. Discontinue trawling in dugong feeding areas.

Ma3.1c. Require fishing trawlers in the region to be fitted with Trawler Efficiency (Turtle Exclusion) Devices.

Ms3.2. Protect Humpback Whales from interference or harassment by fishing boats, especially during the months when mother-calf pairs rest in Hervey Bay.

Ma3.2. Close Platypus Bay to fishing between mid-August and mid-November.

**4.2 (H) Hydrology, Lakes and Water Quality**

**Ha1. To maintain the exceptional chemical water quality anal biological properties of the dune lakes:**

Hs1. Develop a water quality management strategy for the Region, especially in relation to dune lakes.

Ha1.a. Regularly monitor water quality in lakes.

Ha1.b. Maintain safe buffer distances between lakes and potential sources of contamination.

Ha1.c. Control vehicle access, camping, day use and swimming at lakes.

Ha1.d. Place a ceiling on visitor numbers at lakes.

Ha1.e. Educate anal inform visitors regarding the potential impacts of soaps, urine, nutrient enrichment and other chemical contamination.

**Ho2. To maintain the chemical water quality and biological properties of the upper Noosa River and the ecological integrity of its catchment:**

Hs2. Control use of power boats and bush camping on the upper Noosa River, and land use and vehicle access within the catchment.

Ha2.a. Limit length of stay in bush camps.

Ha2.b. zone the upper Noosa River for boating use, with power boats prohibited upstream of Campsite 3 and tourist boats prohibited upstream of Harry's Hut.

Ha2.c. Limit the size of boats and boat motors permitted in the upper Noosa River above Fig Tree Point.

Ha2.d. Set standards for the amount of wash generated by commercial tour boats using the upper Noosa River.

Ha2.e. Prohibit extended use of house-boats for living on the upper Noosa River.

**Ho3. To maintain the hydrological regime. water quality and biological properties of the Noosa River lakes:**

Hs3. Maintain low-intensity land uses and natural area buffers surrounding the lakes, and control recreational, tourist and fishing uses.

Ha3.a. Avoid intensive tourist and residential development on lake shores through appropriate town planning to protect natural buffers.

Ha3.b. Monitor camping and recreational impacts of Elanda Point.

Ha3.c. Extend Cooloola and Noosa River National Park to include remaining areas of natural habitat bordering the lower Noosa River and lakes.

#### 4.2 (B) Beaches and Coastal Features

##### **Bo1. To maintain the spectacular coastal features of the region:**

Bs1. Prevent physical and visual degradation of significant beaches, headlands, foredunes and coloured sand cliffs by visitors.

Bal. Ensure management presence on beaches to prevent breaches of regulations (especially domestic animals), monitor tourist and fishing impacts, and possibly to enforce access restrictions.

#### 4.2 (F) Fire Management

##### **Fo1. To return native vegetation communities to their natural fire regime, to the maximum extent compatible with other management objectives.**

Fs1. Review fire regimes for various plant communities in the Region, and develop a fire management strategy consistent with management of natural values and retention of diversity.

Fal. Subject all managed fire regimes and burning programs in the region to environmental impact assessment and public scrutiny.

Fs2. Develop a managed fire regime appropriate to primitive undeveloped and wilderness areas with low levels of self-reliant recreational use.

#### 4.2 (X) Injurious Agencies

##### **Xo1. To maintain areas free of injurious agencies (weeds, feral animals, pests, diseases, chemicals and nutrients):**

Xs1. Quarantine areas presently unaffected by injurious agencies against their introduction.

Xal. Maintain the isolation of Fraser Island from the mainland (ie. no bridge)

##### **Xo2. To eliminate feral animals and/or their impacts:**

Xs2. Remove where possible feral animals from the region, and prevent their introduction to areas presently free of them.

xa2.a. Remove all brumbies from Fraser Island, either immediately by relocation to the mainland areas, or more gradually by trapping and gelding all stallions.

Xa2.b. Trap and destroy any feral cats on Fraser Island (high priority), phase out domestic dogs and cats from Fraser Island, prohibit cats in any part of the Great Sandy Region, and implement a program of feral cat control at Cooloola.

Xa2.c. Prohibit grazing stock in the Great Sandy Region.

Xa2.d. Maintain Fraser Island free of domestic rats and mice through strict checks of any containers and large consignments and shipments, regular inspections of all boats and barges especially those anchored inshore and at jetties, rat guard on mooring lines, and minimum offshore distances for mooring.

Xa2.e. Prevent introduction of exotic earthworms to the sandmasses.

Xa2.f. Prevent introduction of exotic aquarium fish and *Gambusia*.

Xa2.g. No program for eradicating or managing cane toads is proposed. Crows are apparently starting to attack toads, but there are no other practical management controls.

##### **Xo3. Maintain the integrity of native plant communities relatively free of seeds:**

Xs3. Develop a weed management strategy to locate and control the spread of existing weeds, and to prevent the introduction of cultivated plants with the propensity to become weeds.

Xa3.a. Enforce a strict quarantine on Fraser Island to prevent the introduction of weeds, as well as measures to prevent the spread of plant pests which have already become established.

Xa3.b. Strictly control the importation of plants with the same vigilance applied to domestic animals.

Xa3.c. As a matter of urgency, locate and eradicate any infestations of Bitou Bush in the region, and continue to closely monitor and destroy any outbreaks with the utmost vigilance.

##### **Xo4. To maintain water bodies and aquifers relatively free from chemical pollution, and biological communities relatively free from nutrient enrichment and chemical contamination:**

Xs4. Reduce and where possible eliminate all use of chemical herbicides, biocides and fertilisers in the region

Xa4.a. Prohibit spraying of insecticides and herbicides affecting national parks and protected marine and wetland areas

xa4.b. Closely monitor the use of chemicals and fertilizers in gardens and all private lands within the GSR.

##### **Xo5. To maintain the Great Sandy Region, and especially Fraser Island, relatively free of pests and**

**diseases affecting native flora and fauna:**

Xs5. Develop a program to limit, control and prevent

further introduction of pests and diseases, especially soil borne root rot fungi such as *Phytophthora*.

Xa5.a. Identify and isolate areas infected with *Phytophthora*.

Xa5.b. Prevent the transport of road building material, earth or soil to or within the Region.

Xa5.c. Provide conspicuous ranger presence at major embarkation points (Mary River Heads, Urangan and Inskip Point) and/or access points in the region (Hook Point, Wangoolba Creek, Bymien Picnic Area, Double Island Point, Teewah Beach and Moon Point) to enforce quarantine, inspect vehicles and to advise visitors of the risks of transporting anything capable of harbouring pests and diseases, such as pot plants, seeds, soil or pets.

#### 4.3 ABORIGINAL INTERESTS

**Kol. To recognize the spiritual value to Aboriginal people of the land, particular places and natural features:**

Ksl.1. Survey and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Kal. Identify and catalogue cultural heritage throughout the whole region, to ensure protection from further destruction and for interpretation, education and cultural awareness.

Ka1.2. Prepare a supplementary world Heritage nomination of the Great Sandy Region to recognize its cultural values.

Kal.2. Investigate the criteria for nomination as cultural heritage and, in conjunction with Aboriginal people, implement a program of research into the cultural significance of the region.

**Ko2. To recognize the aspirations of the descendant6 of the region's Aboriginal people to maintain a presence and management role in the region, to contribute to the region's conservation, to participate in any benefits of tourism and to present their cultural heritage to visitors:**

Ks2. Support the development of facilities at the Thoorgine Educational and Cultural Centre, (now known as *Kgari*) including a camping ground, cultural information centre for visitors and a training centre for Aboriginal people.

Ka2. Establish a high-standard museum at the Thoorgine Centre, (*Kgari*) as a repository for Fraser Island Aboriginal artefacts.

#### 4.4 SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE

#### HARVESTING

##### 4.4 (M) Fishing

**Mo2. To maintain fish populations and fisheries resources in perpetuity:**

Ms2. To allow a sustainable level of commercial and recreational fishing in marine areas of the region.

Ha2. Monitor, research, manage and control fishing in marine areas to ensure sustainability, and undertake research into restoring the productivity of the area for oysters and crabs.

**Mo3. To reduce the impacts of beach fishing and associated camping, especially those of vehicle traffic on beaches' litter and hygiene:**

Ms3. Control beach fishing activities by controlling the movement of vehicles and camp permits.

Ma3. Control and eventually restrict the use of vehicles on beaches associated with fishing, especially in areas designated as primitive. Eventually prohibit vehicle-based beach fishing on the northern end of Fraser Island.

**Mo4. To reduce conflict between commercial and recreational fishing, especially in relation to estuary fisheries:**

Ms4. Develop and implement research-based policies and sustainable catch limits for estuary and beach fish.

Ma4.a. Increase monitoring of catches and research effort on sustainable harvest, variability of stock etc., including investigation by the Ungowa Research Station of the region's beach and estuarine fisheries.

Ma4.b. Close all beaches of Fraser Island and Cooloola to commercial fishing, and implement bag limits for all recreational fishing.

**Mo5. To protect freshwater fish in streams and lakes:**

Ms5. Provide significant areas of habitat free from fishing for Australian Bass.

Ma5. Prohibit bass fishing in the Noosa River upstream of Fig Tree Point.

##### 4.4 (Z) Incompatible Land Uses

**Zo1. To utilise natural resources only to the extent of ecological sustainability and maintenance of ecosystem integrity:**

Zs1. Exclude and phase out all land-uses incompatible with objectives, including sandmining, logging, plant harvesting, urbanization and intensive tourism.

Za1.a. Continue the prohibition of any logging and sand mining activity.

Za1.b. Prohibit terrestrial exploration for or exploitation of hydrocarbons or mineral resources, and restrict off-shore exploration or exploitation of hydrocarbons or minerals within the region.

*\* Seismic work and exploration for hydrocarbons has occurred in the Region. Environmental risks associated with off-shore oil drilling in marine areas include potential oil spill.*

za1.c. Prohibit commercial harvest of native plants.

## 4.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES, SERVICES and STRUCTURES

### 4.5 (S) Services

**So1. To provide essential services to the community in the region. subject to thorough and independent impact assessment to avoid compromising environmental integrity:**

Ss1.1. Maintain the high level of water quality in the aquifer as a Potential future source of potable water'

Sa1.1. Investigate the supply of safe potable water from the sandmass aquifer (e.g. Bogimbah creek as a source of water for the City of Hervey Bay) subject to rigorous independent assessment of all feasible alternatives' environmental impacts and mitigation measures'

Ss1.2. Continue to use the region for low-impact communication and navigation facilities, compatible with use and management.

Sa1.2a. Provide essential communication and navigation services and facilities, subject to comprehensive independent environmental impact studies and consultation.

Sa1.2b. Convert the Sandy Cape Light Station to an automatic un-staffed facility.

Ss1.3. Repair damage caused by past insensitive services installation.

Sa1.3. Reconstruct the existing intrusive overhead power line across the Noosa Plain as an underground cable.

### 4.5 (E) Education and Research

**Eo1. To foster the use of the region for educational purposes appropriate to the values and management of the region:**

Es1. Develop field study centres oriented towards natural and cultural resources, wilderness values and self-reliance.

Ea1. Establish Field Studies Centres to cater for school groups of up to 50 students, outside primitive (wilderness) zones and using existing forestry barracks' management buildings and contractors' buildings at

Poyungan and/or Lake Allom and Camp Milo for use these sites for Scientific Research Stations)

**Eo2. To foster scientific research in the region, especially that which leads to better understanding and management of the natural and cultural resources:**

Es2.1. Establish Scientific Research Stations in areas of low visitation.

Ea2.1a. Establish a Scientific Research Station at Central Station using the camping area and management buildings (but allow no extensions) with out-stations at Yankee Jack Lake and Lake Coomboo (former saw-miller's house).

Ea2.1b. Redevelop the existing Forestry support facilities at Ungowa as a Marine Research Centre to focus on Great Sandy Strait and the Mary River estuary.

Es2.2. Monitor environmental changes and ensure data is accessible.

Ea2.2a. Collate and store data about Fraser Island and the region, and monitor environmental changes at the Scientific Research Stations.

Ea2.2b. Determine priorities for occupancy and rules for use of research facilities, and require all research conducted to be documented and lodged.

### 4.5 (L) Waste Disposal

**Lo1. To ensure wastes from human activity do not contaminate the environment or threaten the natural integrity of the region:**

Ls1.L. Develop a waste management strategy to include consideration of sewage, solid wastes, putrescibles and toxic or hazardous materials.

La1.1. Remove all solid waste garbage for disposal on the mainland outside the region.

Ls1.2. Reduce contamination of aquifers and surface waters by septic disposal of wastes La1.2a. Prohibit any new septic systems on sandmasses.

La1.2b. Encourage conversion to alternative means of disposal of human wastes, including composters, community sewage systems with tertiary treatment and denitrification processes at all major settlements in the region and within the catchments of Hervey Bay and Great Sandy Strait.

Ls1.3. Prevent native fauna feeding on tips and avoid the Long tern ecological changes on sandmasses, health risks, vermin, smell and visual impact associated with tips.

La1.3. Vermin-proof fence all rubbish tips to prevent rats, (even bush rats) and dingoes from feeding on food scraps and building up

populations near there.

#### 4.5 VISITOR USE

##### 4.5 (W) Wilderness and Open Space

###### **Wol. To ensure the region continues to provide extensive natural open space:**

Wsl.1 Reserve existing open space free from development; plan and control any new development, and maintain and enhance wilderness areas.

Wa1.1. Gazette foreshadowed National Parks, plus review all development and activity proposals for their impact on natural open space.

Wsl.2. Retain the largely undeveloped character of Noosa North Shore.

Wa1.2. Retain Noosa North Shore free of resorts and large-scale developments in accordance with the Noosa Shire Council draft Development Control Plan.

###### **Wo2. To preserve remaining large undisturbed natural areas for scientific observation, wildlife conservation and maintenance of genetic diversity; and the primitive, nature-oriented and 'wilderness' quality of recreational experiences offered in such places:**

Ws2. Designate and manage existing isolated areas as primitive zones and maintain them essentially free from roads, human interference, obvious development or evidence of technology, offering wilderness experience for self-reliant visitors; and manage such areas to preserve wilderness conditions.

Wa2.a. Maintain and manage northern Fraser Island as a wilderness area to provide solitude, physical and mental challenge and primitive recreation.

Wa2.b. Phase out incompatible facilities, access and support from the northern end of Fraser Island, allowing it to revert to wilderness as soon as possible, and avoid development or support facilities (e.g. loads, communications ) which discourage self-sufficiency.

Wa2.c. Phase out the Orchid Beach Resort and residential sub-division and/or relocate them to the southern part of Fraser Island (south of Maheno, preferably on mined land near Govi Creek).

Wa2.d. In the Orchid Beach-Waddy Point-Indian Head area, allow only developments consistent with retention and management of wilderness values i.e. relocate dwellings from Waddy Point, monitor and regularly review the Waddy Point camping areas.

Wa2.e. Acquire the two dwellings at Indian Head for management purposes (high priority) and immediately screen and landscape the sites.

Wa2.f. Prohibit any new landing at Wathumba Creek and immediately close the North Wathumba track.

wa2.g. Close all beaches to vehicular traffic north of Awinya Creek and Middle Rocks (when Orchid Beach closes and Sandy Cape Lighthouse is de-staffed)-

Wa2.h. Prohibit aircraft flights below 8,000m. over the Sandy Cape area (north of Wathumba Ck - Ngkala Rocks); and eventually extend the ban to all areas north of Lake Bowarrady. Exempt aircraft landing on the beach at low tide to supply the Sandy Cape Lighthouse.

##### 4.5 (V) Tourism and Recreation

###### **Vol. To allow access to and use of the Great Sandy Region by a diversity of recreational and tourist users, consistent with the distinctive character and primitive quality of recreational experience and other management objectives:**

Vsl.1. Provide a range of accommodation and recreational options including nature-oriented and low-cost

Va1.1. Investigate measures to support and improve the recreational experience of backpackers.

Vs1.2. Provide accessible opportunities for the maximum number of people possible without resource degradation.

val.2. Provide access to and through national parks only as required by a management plan indicating locations and levels of public access for foot recreation and presentation of heritage values.

###### **Vo2. To manage tourism for long term sustainable use, avoiding or minimizing adverse environmental impacts:**

Vs2.1. Develop a phased strategy for management of visitors, including carrying capacities consistent with management objectives for particular sites and for the whole region, relating the volume and growth of tourism to the level of facilities and management at any one time.

Va2.1. Monitor visitor numbers (total and site-specific) and key indicators of environmental degradation

Vs2.2. Where necessary limit the number of visitors to particular sites, areas or the region.

Va2.2. Visitor numbers can be limited by permits, ceilings, vehicle restrictions, access constraints, quotas, selective site closures, concessionaire licence restrictions, load-

spreading and diversion to alternatives, removal of facilities etc.

vs2.3. Extend existing carrying capacities to accommodate greater visitor numbers with better management and less environmental impact, in accordance with the phased visitor management strategy and other management objectives.

Va2.3. Harden sites and circulation routes, spell sites to allow recovery, concentrate loads and reduce impact per person by mass transport and facilities, educate visitors and manage their transport, accumulation and activities.

Vs2.4. Concentrate development of facilities for tourist accommodation and activities, using white possible land previously degraded; and focus activity for commercial tourism and visitors on Cooloola and the southern section of Fraser Island.

va2.4. Develop a main low-key tourist node for Fraser Island on mined land at Govi Creek near Dilli Village.

Vs2.5. Restrict recreational usage on Fraser Island to activities of the lowest environmental impact.

**Vo3. To orient human use of the region primarily towards enjoyment and presentation of heritage values:**

Vs3. Restrict activities for which there are alternative sites outside the region.

va3.a. Encourage patterns of recreational use of Fraser Island which rely on mainland accommodation and transport bases.

va3.b. Develop accommodation and support facilities for regional tourism at existing urbanized areas such as Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach.

va3.c. Re-route through traffic from the 'Cooloola way' to alternative route(s) outside the region (such as upgrading the Counter Road).

**Vo4. To manage day use for long term sustainable use, avoiding or minimizing adverse environmental impacts:**

Vs4.1. Provide adequate facilities for day use of popular sites.

va4.1. Develop toilet facilities at Lake Wabby, Ocean Lake, Indian Head and Garawongera.

**4.5 (C) Accommodation and Camping**

**Col. To provide a variety of low-key visitor accommodation, facilities and recreational experiences appropriate to the region's character:**

Cs1.1. Develop accommodation and facilities compatible with the region's primitive wilderness character and 'get-away-from-it-all' atmosphere, and demonstrably different from the style of tourist and recreational development on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts.

Ca1.1a. Encourage nature-based and experiential tourism, fishing, bush walking, passive nature observation and appreciation, photography and exploring scenic attractions; and avoid tall or massive buildings, imitation South Sea or Great Barrier Reef Island resorts, sophisticated night life, golf courses and facility-dependent recreation.

Ca1.1b. Provide or ensure a range of visitor accommodation including budget tourist hotels, youth hostel type accommodation, and a mix of self-contained units and dwellings.

Cs1.2. Develop new camping areas only in suitable locations.

Ca1.2. Avoid development of any new camping area at Cooloola.

**Co2. To limit the adverse environmental impacts of camping**

Cs2.1. Ensure that the numbers of campers is consistent with carrying capacity and management objectives.

Ca2.1a. Limit camping at peak times (eg. Easter) to a maximum number in the region or particular areas, as well as site-specific limits.

Ca2.1b. Limit the number of campers at Harry's Hut and Freshwater, if necessary by time limits on camping to enable more people to enjoy the facilities.

Cs2.2 Reduce environmental damage, litter and visual impact of the proliferation of beach camping and bush camping close to visitor attractions and routes; including phasing out of camping in selected areas intolerant of impacts

Ca2.2a. Phase out uncontrolled 'free-range' camping on beaches and foreshore areas.

Ca2.2b. Phase out camping at sites close to major tourist attractions and areas where it detracts from natural amenity and scenic values.

Ca2.2c. Prohibit all camping within a kilometre of the Wabby Lakes walking tracks, the Maheno, the mouths of all major creeks such as Eli, Govi and Gerrawea Creeks and possibly other major tourist attractions.

Cs2.3. Reduce potential health hazards and environmental degradation from unserviced bush camping in isolated areas.

Ca2.3a. Restrict camping to established serviced camping areas except for limited bush-camping.

Ca2.3b. Limit bush camping to backpackers and other persons without vehicle support, and to maximum periods of 24 hours.

Cs2.4. Protect lakes and the upper Noosa River from the impacts of camping.

Ca2.4a. Closely monitor the impacts of bush-camping, especially on water quality, with a view to closure or rotation of sites.

Ca2.4b. Define and strictly control the buffer distance between bush camping sites and lake or river shores.

Ca2.4c. Restrict camping at Lake Allom to a maximum of two nights and a maximum of 20 persons at one time, with no further development of the site,

**Co3. To ensure developed camping areas are attractive to visitors and can adequately cater for their needs with minimal impact on the environment:**

Cs3. Provide access, services and facilities for all developed camping areas.

Ca3.a. Retain the existing camping area at Wathumba Creek with no expansion, and restrict use to non vehicle-based camping.

Ca3.b. Retain the existing camping area at Dundubara with no expansion.

Ca3.c. Retain the private camping area at Cathedral Beach, limited to providing camp sites and basic supplies .

**4.5 (T) Commercial Tour Operations**

**To1. To reduce the numbers of persons travelling independently in private vehicles throughout the region. reduce the number of vehicles and avoid deterioration of tracks:**

Ts1.1. Encourage more visitors to use licensed commercial tour operators

Ta1.1. Set access fees payable by commercial tour operators and their passengers at reasonable levels, increased only in proportion with other fees, to encourage more people to use them.

Ts1.2 Change the system for vehicle-based commercial tours to ensure viability of the rail system

**To2. To improve the quality of recreational and educational experience and the level of management of visitor activities provided by commercial tour operators:**

Ts2.1. Base the renewal of permits on standards appropriate to management and quality of visitor experience rather than commercial criteria.

Ta2.1. Require concessionaires to demonstrate appropriate proficiency to qualify for licenses to act as tour guides.

**4.5 (A) Transportation and Access**

**Ao1. To reduce the impact of vehicular traffic and roads in the region:**

As1.1. Develop an access and circulation strategy, including review of traffic volumes.

As1.2. Restrict the number of off road vehicles and trailers allowed to be on Fraser Island and Cooloola at any one time.

Aal.2. Prohibit trailers on the Freshwater Road.

As1.3. Reduce damage to roads and tracks.

Aal-3- Restrict the permissible axle load of vehicles using boarded corduroy tracks by introducing load limits for all vehicles.

As1.4. Restrict mechanized vehicles to authorized off road vehicles meeting reasonable standards of mechanical reliability and noise, and under the control of competent drivers.

Aal.4. Prohibit conventional two-wheel drive motor vehicles and trail bikes or conventional motorcycles from Fraser Island.

Aal.4. Restrict the hire of four-wheel drive vehicles by tourists with international driving licences.

As1.5. Phase out all private off-road vehicles and replace them with upgraded public transport and commercial tours.

Aal.5. Review the system of licensing concessionaire vehicles, which should operate on the same basis as taxis within certain zones. As far as possible, these vehicles should be capable of carrying up to 20 people.

As1.6. Require all motor vehicles to travel either on designated beaches below the high water mark or on a designated roads or tracks.

As1.7. where necessary and consistent with the management strategy, harden existing tracks to reduce excessive erosion and down-cutting.

Aal.7. Establish ramps at any point where designated roads cross the foredunes onto the beach.

**Ao2. To establish vehicle-free areas for wilderness and safe nature-based recreation:**

Asz.1. Establish more vehicle-free beaches on Fraser Island and Cooloola to reduce the safety hazards and impacts of beach traffic on fauna, recreational amenity and sense of isolation.

Aaz.1a. Close beaches to vehicles where alternative routes exist, such as on southern Fraser Island, and in front of settlements.

Aa2.Lb. Close the Cooloola beach south of Freshwater to through-traffic travelling from Noosa to Rainbow Beach and Fraser Island.

Aa2.1c. Close the beach north of Ngkala Rocks in September 1993 when fishermen vacate Sandy Cape,

Aa2.1d. Close the beach north of Orchid Beach to all vehicles except those with specific permits e.g. the Sandy Cape lighthouse staff.

**Ao3. To rationalize access to and within Fraser island and Cooloola for effective management of dispersed impacts and the visitor experience of natural undeveloped bush:**

As3.1. Limit the number of access points to the region and in particular the number of landing

points on Fraser Island.

Aa3.1. Restrict vehicles to designated tracks except when accessing camp sites, and control such access especially on foredunes.

As3.2. Restrict the total carrying capacity of vehicular ferries to Fraser Island.

Aa3.2. License vehicular ferries.

As3.3. Reduce the number of roads, tracks and beach access points, and allow no other new or upgraded roads, or surfacing with imported gravel.

Aa3.3a. Restrict the number of beach exit/access points.

Aa3.3b. Limit by-passes around the rocks to those presently existing.

Aa3.3c. No other roads should be upgraded by either widening, establishing mole passing bays and/or hardening the surface with imported gravel.

Aa3.3d. No new roads should be created without adequate planning, consultation and independent impact studies.

As3.4. Upgrade and use former mining roads on Fraser Island wherever possible to allow vehicle access consistent with the management plan.

Aa3.4. Upgrade the two former mining roads on Fraser Island, from Hook Point to 500 metres north of Taleerba Creek, and from Buff Creek to Govi.

As3.5. Retain existing road-less areas.

Aa3.5. No new roads must be allowed to inaccessible lakes, such as Freshwater Lakes, Deepwater Lake, Wabby Lakes etc., nor to other significant natural road-less areas such as the upper reaches of Eli Creek, the northern end of Fraser Island and the area from Kings Bore Track to Teewah.

As3.6. Close roads used primarily for through-traffic unrelated to access to or use of the Great Sandy Region.

Aa3.6a. Close Cooloola Way between Loch's Pinch and the Noosa Bridge, and rehabilitate the strip with drainage.

Aa3.6b. Upgrade Counter Road as an alternative access route west of Cooloola.

As3.7. Keep roads narrow, safe and compatible with a 'bush' experience for visitors.

Aa3.7a. Provide more one-way roads, separated by wide buffers.

Aa3.7b. Redesign and reconstruct the recent road-works and car-park at Central Station to restore vegetation, landscape character and visitor experience.

**Ao4. To investigate and develop alternative means of transport for moving people through terrestrial**

**areas of the region:**

As4.L. Develop low-impact forms of mass transport (people movers) appropriate to the region's character, such as a steam train.

Aa4.1. Transport passengers by steam train along the old timber extraction routes on both Fraser Island and Cooloola.

Aa4.1. Reinstate old tram routes from Wangoolba Creek via Central Station to Eurong, follow the old Bogimbah Scrub route to Poyungan Valley, and establish a new route from Hook Point along the eastern side of Jabiru Swamp to Dilli Village.

Aa4.1. Reinstate the former 3'6" gauge for the tramway, using metal or concrete sleepers

**Ao5. To reduce the impact of intensive pedestrian traffic:**

As5.1. Monitor and where necessary upgrade or harden heavily-used walking tracks to reduce erosion, especially in sensitive areas.

Aa5.1. Construct board walks from Central Station to Pile Valley.

**Ao6. To encourage bushwalking within the region:**

As5. Develop more walking trails and upgrade existing tracks in areas of heavy pedestrian traffic to prevent degradation and use tracks to interpret the local environment for visitors.

Aa5.1a. Upgrade the walking track between the Cooloola Sand Patch and Campsite 3.

Aa6.1b. Harden the Lake Wabby trail, especially the walking track at the entrance to Lake Wabby.

Aa6.1c. Develop new walking trails around centres such as Eurong.

Aa6.1e. Upgrade and/or repair tracks at lake Allom and Wangoolba Creek.

Aa6.1f. Develop new walking tracks to Eli Scrub, and from Pile Valley to Wangoolba.

**Ao2. To retain wilderness and diversity of experience:**

Aa7. Preserve trackless areas north of White Lake and Freshwater Lakes catchment.

## **4.5 RESIDENTIAL and COMMERCIAL USE**

### **4.6 (U) Urbanization and Population**

**Uo1. To restrict the permanent population to a small number of residents:**

Usl. Limit the permanent population of the Region to the minimum necessary for management purposes.

Ual.1. Restrict the resident population outside Rainbow Beach to 200, including a maximum of 100 on Fraser Island.

**Uo2. To limit urban areas within the region, especially in protected areas, and maximize their compatibility with natural surroundings:**

Us2.1. Use available and developable land in Hervey Bay and Rainbow Beach (and other mainland settlements providing easy access to the Region) to supply the demand for freehold residential land, and for urbanization.

Ua2.1. Avoid or minimize urbanization at North White Cliffs and the Noosa North Shore area.

Us2.2. Restrict urbanized areas on Fraser Island to the two main existing service centres.

Ua2.2a. Retain the existing centres of Happy valley and Eurong, but prevent any further expansion and encourage their consolidation and upgrading, including revegetation and extensive plantings of native species.

Ua2.2b. Phase out and/or relocate isolated groups of housing along the eastern beach on Fraser Island outside the main townships.

#### **4.6 (D) Land Development**

**Do1. To develop land only in places consistent with overall conservation management objectives:**

Ds1.1. Develop a land use plan and development strategy, limiting the extent of development on Fraser Island and Cooloola, and concentrating it in nodes using, where possible, land previously degraded.

Da.1. Limit private dwellings and permanent visitor accommodation on Fraser Island to designated serviced settlements at Happy Valley, Eurong, Govi Creek and Dilli Village.

Ds1.2. Utilize former Forestry buildings and infrastructure for management and/or research purposes.

Ds.1.3. Develop guidelines for siting and planning future developments.

**Do2. To minimize adverse environmental impacts of new developments and ensure they are compatible with heritage values and management, have low environmental impact and are consistent with ecological sustainability; and thereby reduce conflict:**

Ds2.1. Subject all new developments permitted by the Management Plan to independent environmental impact studies, appropriate evaluation and modification, before any work.

Da2.1a. Issues for consideration include waste disposal, runoff control, quarantine considerations and control of injurious agencies, plus impacts on other parts of the region outside the area of immediate impact.

Da2.1b. Amend details of proposed developments during and following impact

assessment in response to environmental constraints and public evaluation.

**Do3. To discourage use of land for residential, commercial, industrial or speculative purposes I**

Ds3. Prevent any further settlements or subdivision on Fraser Island and phase out existing scattered subdivisions.

Da3.a. Gradually acquire, relocate or replace (in serviced settlements) all other dwellings (for management) and existing blocks of private land

Da3.b. Phase out groups of houses at Yidney Rocks, The Oaks, Poyungan Valley and Poyungan Rocks, and/or relocate them to the Govi area.

Da3.c. Purchase, when offered for sale, all blocks of private residential land between Orchid Beach and Eurong, especially those with constructed dwellings outside established townships.

Da3.d. Permit no new sub-divisions for additional private dwellings.

Da3.e. Permit no condominiums or dwellings on Strata Title

Da3.f. Acquire the Moon Point inholding.

#### **4.6 (R) Resorts and Intensive Tourism**

**Ro1. To limit the likely detrimental impacts of the Kingfisher Resort development at North White Cliffs:**

Rs1.1. Reverse where possible the decisions leading to the further development at North White Cliffs.

Ra1.1a. Prevent further development.

Ra1.1b. Eventually acquire the site for integration with or inclusion in the national park, as proposed in the 1978 Government Management Plan.

Rs1.2. Ensure that development and activities at North white Cliffs are not permitted to affect world Heritage values of the rest of Fraser Island.

Ra1.2a. Require development to conform to the conditions of its approvals and the restrictions and mitigation measures of Environmental Impact Statements.

Ra1.2b. Isolate and confine the impacts of the Kingfisher Resort development by measures such as exclusion fencing.

Ra1.2c. Control directional and other signs for Kingfisher Resort placed in the national park.

Ra1.2d. Acquire the Kingfisher jetty and associated land for integration into public access strategies.

Rs1.3. Ensure access from the resort to and through surrounding national park is closely

monitored and consistent with management planning for conservation and public access.

impact assessment, consultation and/or public evaluation.

#### **4.7 MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

##### **Yo1. To effectively integrate Management of the region:**

Ys1.1 Integrate all Crown land on Fraser Island and Cooloola under one authority (Department of Environment and Heritage/Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service).

Ya1.1. Apply legislation and regulations to Cooloola consistent with those for Fraser Island.

YsL.2. Rationalize local authority boundaries for more effective integration of decisions regarding private land.

Ya1.2. Include all of Fraser Island within Hervey Bay City and all of Cooloola within Noosa Shire.

Ys1.3. Integrate State Government management responsibilities and those of local government through a joint authority.

Ya1.3. Endorse the preferred management structure for the region recommended by the Commission of Inquiry.

Ya1.3. The recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry regarding the preferred management structure for the region are endorsed.

##### **Yo2. To equitably distribute the costs of managing the natural environment and visitors to the region:**

Ys2.1. Charge fees only for services actually used.

Ya2.1a. Exempt from the 'user-pays' principle people and organisations involved in management or advocacy, and those bushwalkers and boat-users who use no infrastructure or services.

Ys2.2. Avoid allowing the 'user-pays' principle to cause supply of facilities or services to meet demands inconsistent with management objectives.

##### **Yo3. To ensure effective and balanced community participation in planning and management decisions:**

Ys3. Involve the public, and especially the voluntary conservation movement, at all stages of planning, management and evaluation of impacts

Ya3. Regular meetings of management advisory committees, with adequate representation of voluntary conservation organisations such as FIDO.

##### **Yo4. To improve the standard of environmental management:**

Ys4. Subject major management programs, especially controlled burning, to environmental