



## Marine Protected Area Management Costs: an analysis of options for the Coral Sea

### An Overview

The report examines three protection scenarios for the Coral Sea:

- Scenario 1: A single large no-take reserve;
- Scenario 2: A network of no-take reserves (30%) in a multiple-use zoned park;
- Scenario 3: Three smaller no-take reserves, comprising 30% of the area and managed as separate parks.

A top-down and bottom-up approach was applied to each of these scenarios to estimate the management costs.

The **top-down approach** examined the current operational budgets for Commonwealth MPAs and identified key predictors for management costs within these reserves.

The **bottom-up approach** identified management requirements for the Coral Sea and cost estimates for these activities, based on expert interviews and informed by existing costs for GBRMPA and QPWS.

	<b>Initial Annual Budget</b>	
	Top-Down \$m	Bottom-Up \$m
Scenario 1	2.7	7.8
Scenario 2	14.0	13.4
Scenario 3	17.6	

The results are indicative of the relative differences in management costs between full no-take and smaller no-take scenarios.

For both methods of estimating costs, the 100% no-take scenario is the least expensive option.