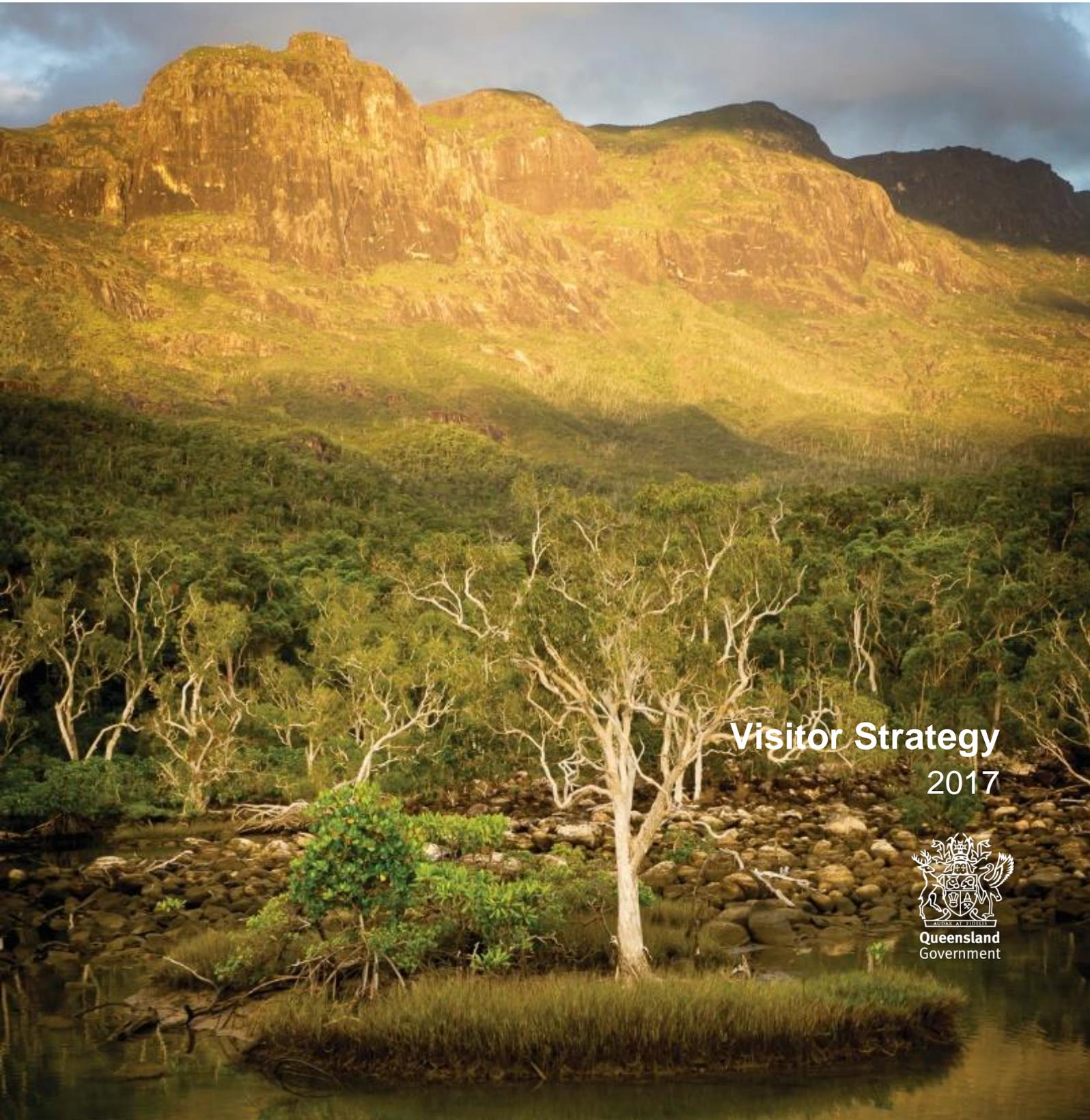


Hinchinbrook Island National Park

Incorporates: Eva Island, Agnes Island and Haycock Island



Visitor Strategy

2017



Prepared by: **Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing**



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Hinchinbrook Island National Park

Hinchinbrook Island National Park will be managed at an **exceptional level of service** for visitor management because **visitors come from all over the world to experience the park's 'remote and wild nature', particularly the iconic Thorsborne Trail, which relies on protecting the park's very high natural and cultural values and outstanding scenic beauty.**

Desired level of service for visitor management



Desire outcomes for visitor management

1. The Thorsborne Trail is recognised and managed as Queensland's premier multi-day, 'remote and wild nature' coastal/island bushwalking experience.
2. Visitors appreciate and respect the park's very high natural and outstanding scenic and aesthetic values—the heart of the park's remote and wild nature experiences.
3. Visitors can choose from a range of sustainable, nature-based activities, catering for both local and international visitors with different abilities, interests and access.
4. Visitors appreciate and respect the park's cultural heritage values—particularly Indigenous heritage values and the Traditional Owners' connection to country.
5. Visitors to the park have an enjoyable and safe experience.

1. Visitor management objectives

This section outlines the *management objectives* and their priority (see **Table 1.**), against each *strategic management direction* for:

1. Key visitor opportunities
2. Key values
3. Other values
4. Levels of services

Table 1. Management objectives priorities

Priority	Definition
1	Extremely urgent and extremely necessary (needed within 12 months)
2	Very necessary and very urgent (needed within one-two years)
3	Moderately necessary and moderately urgent (needed within next three years)
4	Somewhat necessary and somewhat urgent (needed within five years)
5	Optional and not urgent (addressed after other priorities)
M	Maintain current priority
SMS	Specified management setting (to be determined in consultation with Traditional Owners)

Visitor opportunities

Ecotourism activities within existing lease area

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Support the renewal of ecotourism activities at Cape Richards, consistent with the conditions of the existing rolling term lease (under the <i>Land Act 1994</i>).	Encourage use of the existing lease area at Cape Richards that is consistent with existing lease terms and conditions, is focused on nature-based visitor experiences, and promotes the park's values. Ongoing	2
	Work with any future lessee to ensure the public can gain safe access through the lease to nearby park walking tracks. Ongoing	2

Thorsborne Trail

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Increase opportunities for visitors to walk the Thorsborne Trail, while maintaining the park's remote and wild nature experience.	Facilitate new visitor experiences along the trail, such as commercially guided bushwalks or other limited visitor support services.	2 2018
	Investigate the feasibility of extending the Thorsborne Trail north to Cape Richards.	2 2020

Aboriginal cultural experiences

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Support Traditional Owners to share their culture with visitors (if appropriate), including through commercial visitor services.	Continue to support the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation's interest in sharing Traditional Owners' cultural heritage with visitors, including the potential to provide commercial cultural visitor services (e.g. guided tours of stone fish traps).	3 2020

Wild island sea kayaking experience

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Promote sea kayaking along the island's east coast.	Promote sea kayaking opportunities to potential visitors, through pre-visit communications, and talking with commercial operators about opportunities to improve the kayaking experience.	3 2020

Other visitor opportunities

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Improve existing, or explore new, sustainable and nature-based visitor opportunities based on the park's 'remote and wild nature' experience, and other values.	If there is increased demand for commercial day-use and camping, improve visitor sites and tracks—including review of site Levels of Service (LoS) at The Haven, Macushla and tracks to Shepherds Bay—by preparing and implementing site plans.	2 2022
	Investigate feasibility of requiring commercial operators to use a booking system for some sites (i.e. day trips to popular sites), rather than limiting the number of operators to those sites.	2 2019
	Investigate other visitor opportunities, including engaging with the local tourism industry.	2 2019

Connecting visitors with the park's values

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Ensure all visitors are able to access high quality information that interprets the park's World Heritage values, and builds respect for its Indigenous cultural values.	Prepare and implement a basic communication strategy for the park, which provides key messages and strategies for promoting the park's values to all visitors.	3 2020
	Review, and where necessary improve, visitor communication materials that encourage trail walkers to appreciate and protect the park's natural and cultural values.	2 2020

Key values

Indigenous Connection to Country

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Support Traditional Owners to strengthen connection to country, including involving Traditional Owners in managing the park, facilitating access to country, and jointly seeking new opportunities that help sustain culture.	Work with Giringun Aboriginal Corporation and Traditional Owners to monitor visitor impacts on heritage places and values (e.g. stone fish traps at Scraggy Point) and to develop strategies (including interpretation) that help visitors understand and protect values.	2 2019
	Support Giringun and Traditional Owners to explore opportunities to provide or participate in commercial visitor services, particularly services which increase visitors understanding of their cultural heritage.	2 2020
	Explore Giringun's and Traditional Owners' interest in providing basic facilities for Traditional Owners at Muhr Amalee.	2 2019
	Involve Giringun and Traditional Owners in making decisions about any significant visitor management strategies, facilities or visitor services. Ongoing	2

Remote and wild nature experience – Thorsborne Trail precinct

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Maintain and enhance visitors' experience of the Thorsborne Trail 'precinct' (trail and nearby camping and visitor sites).	Regulate the number of bushwalkers on the trail at one time, and keep group sizes small, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implementing a limit within the range of 40-60 bushwalkers on the trail at one time implementing independent group sizes of six walkers implementing commercial group sizes within the range of eight-12 walkers (including guides) and encouraging commercial groups to split into group sizes of six or less while on the trail further investigating preferred commercial group sizes based on a better understanding of the type of experience commercial operators may seek to provide along the trail implementing a maximum stay of five nights for trail walkers. 	2 2018
	Minimise contact between trail bushwalker groups, by investigating the benefit and feasibility of setting daily walker departure limits (rather than number of walkers on the trail at one time), requiring walkers to travel one-way (north to south) during peak visitor times, requiring walkers to book camping area they intend using, and/or separating independent and commercially guided walkers at camping areas.	2 2018
	Minimise contact between trail walkers, day visitors and campers arriving in the trail precinct by boat, using the following strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> separating bushwalker camping areas from other visitor use where feasible (i.e. South Zoe Bay) continuing to manage the size, frequency and length of stay of commercial day-use and camper groups arriving by boat and kayak within the trail precinct giving priority to the experience of walkers undertaking the multi-day trail walk, when considering new commercial visitor proposals encouraging commercial operators to focus day-use activities on the island's northern end (i.e. Cape Richards, The Haven, Macushla and Missionary Bay). 	2 2019
	Monitor and manage erosion and other impacts along the trail—favouring minor reroutes over trail grading, hardening or surfacing. Ongoing	2
	Maintain basic camping and day-use facilities in the precinct (e.g. toilets and devices to protect walkers' food) consistent with visitor zones, LoS site standards and strategic management directions for sites. Ongoing	2
	Consider introducing a 'trail fee' to help manage the trail and enhance the visitor experience.	2 2022
	Review the route up to Nina Peak and implement strategies to manage erosion where necessary (e.g. reroute).	2 2020
	Continuing to provide each walker with access to a map and information about the route, safety and appreciating and protecting the park's values. Ongoing	2
	Close the trail in response to planned burning or risk of hazardous conditions (wildfire, cyclone, lack of drinking water). Ongoing	2
	Ensure park boat transfer services are reliable and meet visitor needs. Ongoing	2

Remote and wild nature experience – Thorsborne Trail precinct (Continued)

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Increase the opportunity for visitors to walk the Thorsborne Trail, by facilitating commercially guided bushwalks along the trail, while maintaining the park's remote and wild nature experience.	Facilitate commercially guided bushwalks or other limited visitor support services along the trail, by 2018 .	2

Remote and wild nature experience – scenic value and amenity

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Maintain the 'remote and wild nature' visitor experience by protecting the park's scenic and aesthetic values.	Manage scenic amenity by protecting viewsheds from key vantage points along the Thorsborne Trail and from other key visitor sites in the park. Ongoing	2
	Ensure any ecotourism activities associated with Cape Richards have minimal impact on the park's scenic and aesthetic values. Ongoing	2
	Ensure commercial scenic flights do not intrude on visitors' experiences of the Thorsborne Trail and other popular visitor sites. Ongoing. (Note: Regulations limit all aircraft to a minimum of 1500ft above ground height over the park).	2
	Ensure all facilities, infrastructure and use are generally consistent with the park's visitor zones, LoS site standards, and that any new facilities are assessed for impacts on scenic and aesthetic values (as well as other values). Ongoing	2
	Review current visitor number limits for all camping and day-use areas (including group sizes, people at one time, visit frequency, camper type and length of stay) to ensure that each visitor site can sustain these numbers without impacts on environmental values and visitor experience. Continue to apply current or updated visitor number limits through the booking system and commercial operator authorities. Ongoing	2 2018
	Prohibit motorised water sports (e.g. skiing), personal watercraft, hovercraft and any vessels travelling at high speed, consistent with regulations for the surrounding marine park. Ongoing	2
	Reduce littering by developing and communicating key messages to visitors and continuing to reduce marine debris (as part of management visits) at visitor sites in the Thorsborne Trail precinct.	2 2020
	Continue to prohibit campfires in the Park (fuel stove only), unless required by Traditional Owners for cultural purposes. Ongoing	2

Other values

Shorebirds (i.e. Beach stone-curlews)

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Minimise visitor impacts on Beach stone-curlews	Discourage visitor use of Beach stone-curlew habitat by not providing visitor facilities and limiting camping and commercial use of these locations, and informing visitors how they can avoid impacting on birds. Ongoing	3
	Continue to prohibit all camping and commercial use on Agnes Island, Eva Island and Haycock Island, and also prohibit all access to Eva Island during shorebird breeding season (Restricted access area from 1 October-31 March). Ongoing	3
	Work with external organisations to help monitor visitor impacts on Beach stone-curlews, and implement management strategies if results show significant adverse impacts—particularly on breeding success of birds.	3 2020

Wild island sea kayaking experience

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Support sea kayakers visiting the island, including commercial groups, while maintaining a remote and wild nature experience.	Maintain designated camping areas for sea kayak groups (independent and commercial) on the island's east coast. Ongoing	3
	Manage the size, frequency and length of stay of independent and commercial sea kayaking groups by implementing an independent group size limit of six kayakers, with only 12 independent sea kayakers allowed on the east coast at one time. Commercial groups will be limited to 15 kayakers, only camping or using day-use areas designated for their use. Ongoing	3
	Sea kayaking along the island's west coast will continue to be discouraged, including prohibiting commercial tours, due to risk of crocodile attack. Ongoing	3

Beach camping— arriving by boat

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Maintain camping opportunities for visitors arriving by boat, while ensuring their use is sustainable.	Allow independent visitors arriving by boat to camp at designated sites, managing the frequency, size and length of stay of these visitors, particularly those using the Thorsborne Trail precinct. Implement a camper group size limit of six people, except for camping at The Haven, Macushla or Georges Point. Ongoing	3
	Allow commercial camping groups at The Haven but not at other sites. Small commercial groups (group size limit of six) may be allowed to camp at Zoe Bay, subject to the type of activities proposed, limits on trip frequency, and a review of number limits and capacity indicating that Zoe Bay can sustain extra numbers without impacts on environmental values and visitor experience. Only allow large groups, including educational groups to camp at The Haven or Macushla (subject to limits). Ongoing	3

Day visits to iconic visitor sites

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Enhance the experience of day visitors to iconic sites, including Zoe Bay, Zoe Falls and Mulligan Falls, while ensuring use is sustainable.	Give priority to improving visual quality and environmental conditions at iconic sites, while maintaining only basic facilities consistent with visitor zones and LoS site standards.	3 2020
	Continue to manage the frequency and group size of commercially guided day walks in the Thorsborne Trail precinct and implement a commercial group size limit of 15 day visitors in all parts of the precinct (except South Ramsay Bay, Blacksand Beach and George Point). Ongoing	3
	Support commercial operators providing guided day-walks between Zoe Bay and Zoe Falls, and Mulligan Bay and Mulligan Falls (and for larger groups), at The Haven and on tracks between Macushla, South and North Shepherd bays and Cape Richards. Ongoing	3

Fishing

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Support sustainable fishing in the park's saltwater estuaries.	Allow fishing in tidal parts of estuaries, consistent with the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> , Queensland Fisheries Regulation and zoning plans. Ongoing. (Note: there are regulations prohibiting fishing in freshwater areas and in Channel Nine in Missionary Bay).	4

Bushwalking off tracks

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Continue to support off-track bushwalking and bush camping by small, self-reliant, bushwalking groups, including in the mountains.	Continue to require a camping permit for overnight bushwalking in the mountains, and manage frequency of visits, group sizes and length of stay, including implementing a group limit of six bushwalkers. Provide all walking groups with information promoting safety and minimum impact bushwalking. Ongoing	4
	Monitor impacts of bushwalking in the mountains, and implement strategies to address any environmental or social impacts (e.g. limit numbers, locations). Ongoing	4

Estuarine crocodiles

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Conserve crocodile habitat while maximising visitor safety in crocodile habitat.	Do not provide visitor facilities along creeks between Bluff Inlet and Scraggy Point to discourage visitors from landing on the shores of these creeks, and provide safety information to visitors, particularly those using boats, kayaks and other vessels. Ongoing	1

Boating in estuaries

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Continue to manage the number of commercial visitors anchoring overnight in estuaries, including overall numbers, group size and length of stay.	Continue to support visitors in small boats (including yachts and houseboats) using and anchoring in park estuaries, while maintaining the remote and wild nature experience.	4
	Continue to discourage visitors going ashore in estuarine creeks, including prohibiting landing by commercial groups—except for Seventh Creek (access to Ramsay Bay boardwalk) and Bluff Inlet (transport of bushwalkers to Mt Straloch). Only existing permit holders may moor in Eighth Creek. Ongoing	4

Levels of service

Improving knowledge and understanding

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Better inform park management by improving our understanding of visitors, including their expectations and experiences associated with the park's scenic, aesthetic, and wild and remote qualities.	Survey visitors to improve understanding of visitor profiles, use, trends, expectations, satisfaction and behaviour—particularly regarding use of the Thorsborne Trail precinct, and retaining the remote and wild experience.	1 2018
Review capacity and condition of all visitor sites, particularly Thorsborne Trail precinct, to inform limits on visitor numbers and potential new visitor opportunities (day use and camping).	Assess each visitor site's current use, condition and physical capacity to determine any new limits for visitor sites (e.g. persons at one time (PAOT), group sizes, length of stay, frequency of visits).	1 2018

Engaging with commercial operators and Traditional Owners

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Work with the local tourism industry to explore new visitor opportunities, promote a coordinated approach to visitation and promote key messages about the park.	Establish an appropriate forum for discussing strategic visitor management issues with key local tourism groups, including new visitor opportunities and booking systems.	2 2019

Improving overall approach to visitor management

Strategic management direction	Management objectives	Priorities
Give priority to maintaining or improving visitor experience at popular sites, consistent with LoS site standards.	If visitation increases, review the need for upgraded facilities at visitor sites that support larger groups (i.e. The Haven, Macushla) and plan and implement site plans where necessary. Ongoing	3 2020
	Forward program the review, site planning or improvement (i.e. environmental or visual condition, layout) of popular visitor sites (i.e. Zoe Bay, Zoe Falls, Mulligan Falls).	
Improve presentation of the park to visitors, including its World Heritage values, by developing and implementing a communication strategy.	Prepare and implement a basic communication strategy that includes key messages about the park (including for use by commercial operators), updated pre-walk information and a higher quality trail map/brochure for walkers.	3 2020
Increase the level of regional and central office specialist support over short term, to manage new visitor opportunities while protecting the park's key values.	Provide an increase in Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) central office expert support over the short-term, particularly to progress new visitor opportunities associated with the Thorsborne Trail and to assess visitor capacity, condition and limits at other visitor sites.	1 2018
Liaise within QPWS and with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) to ensure management in the surrounding marine park is consistent with managing the park's key visitor values.	Continue to liaise internally and with GBRMPA to ensure consistent visitor management across the surrounding marine park and Hinchinbrook Island National Park. Ongoing	M
Maintain the level of contact with visitors to the park, particularly to protect key values and maintain compliance with permits.	Maintain the level of field ranger presence, to maintain compliance, monitoring and maintenance. Ongoing	M

2. Visitor management zones and sites

This section outlines the **Visitor Management Zones** that have been determined for Hinchinbrook Island National Park. Zones indicate the acceptable level of development, the acceptable number of *persons at one time* (PAOT) and group sizes, visitor site standards, and an indication of visitor expectations.

Table 2. Hinchinbrook Island National Park visitor management zone definitions

Zone	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Special management setting
Zone description	A totally, or almost totally natural landscape, with minimal evidence of modern human activity. Usually large remote areas.	Predominantly natural landscape with only minor disturbance. Inconspicuous evidence of modern human activity in small limited areas.	Predominantly natural landscape with some disturbed areas; human activity apparent at small sites.	Mostly natural areas, but with disturbance and high levels of human activity apparent at some sites at some times.	Modified immediate environment but with rural, natural or semi urban background. Human activity is primary intent of site.	Special management settings are applied to areas that have special values, opportunities or management issues, to enhance visitor experience, ensure visitor safety or protect key values.
General visitor experience	Totally self-reliant visitor experience in wilderness setting. High degree of isolation and sense of solitude. Very high level of outdoor skills required.	Highly self-reliant visitor experience in very natural area. Frequent opportunities for sense of solitude. High level of outdoor skills required.	Degree of self-reliance required in predominantly natural setting. Sense of isolation and solitude moderate to low. Moderate level of outdoor skill required.	Infrequent opportunities for solitude. Encounters with others frequent. Sites managed for visitor safety and comfort. Low level of outdoor skills required.	Semi-urban recreation experience with no opportunity for solitude. Encounters with individuals and groups constant. Site may be crowded at peak times. No outdoor skills required.	
LCS*	LCS 1-2	LCS 3	LCS 3-5	LCS 5-7	LCS 7-9	
Suggested group sizes	LoS PAOT range Very small	LoS PAOT range Very small to small	LoS PAOT range Very small to medium	LoS PAOT range Very small to large	LoS PAOT range Very small to very large	
	Managed group size: <6	Managed group size: <25	Managed group size: <25	Managed group size: <50	Managed group size: <75	
Likely Visitor Facilities	No visitor facilities provided. Bush camping in undefined and unmarked sites possible.	Mostly undeveloped camping and day use sites, basic campgrounds may be present in few locations with limited discrete facilities provided.	Campgrounds and day use areas with facilities such as toilets are highly likely. Site modification including retaining walls and steps may be present and potentially hardened walkways Basic interpretive shelters may be appropriate.	Developed and hardened campgrounds, day use areas, walking tracks and facilities such as toilets, picnic tables, campfire rings and barbecues. Site modifications include retaining walls, hardened walk ways. Interpretive shelters or interpretive centres may be present.	Highly developed sites such as major day use and camping areas, visitor centres and associated infrastructure. Site surfaces may be hardened and full range of facilities offered.	

* Notes the equivalent Landscape Classification System's (LCS) represented in the visitor management zone, LoS=Levels of Service, PAOT = Persons at one time

Table 3. Key to Hinchinbrook Island National Park visitor sites

Site capacity class	Very small 1-10 PAOT	Small 11-20 PAOT	Medium 21-50 PAOT	Large 51 -150 PAOT	Very large >151 PAOT			
Site level of service	 Bronze Relatively common opportunities in modest demand with limited associated experiences and few (if any) basic facilities (high self-sufficiency).		 Silver Regionally significant opportunities in popular demand with some attractive associated experiences and modest facilities (may include vault, composting and hybrid toilets, water, picnic tables, basic interpretation)		 Gold High quality opportunities in high demand with many attractive associated experiences and developed facilities (may include vault, composting, hybrid and flush toilets, showers, BBQs, covered picnic areas, extensive interpretation)		 Platinum Exclusive (nationally unique) opportunities with outstanding site quality associated opportunities and well developed facilities (private composting, hybrid and flush toilets, hot showers, kitchen, personal interpretation). Often operated by private partners. Market based pricing.	
Walking track class [^]	Class 1 Opportunity for large numbers of visitors, including those with reduced mobility, to undertake walks that are provided with a high level of interpretation and facilities. Users can expect abundant opportunities to learn about the natural environment through interpretive signs or brochures. Users can expect frequent encounters with others.	Class 2 Opportunity for large numbers of visitors to walk easily in natural environments with a moderate to high level of interpretation and facilities. Users can expect to learn about the natural environment with moderate to abundant opportunities to learn through interpretive signs or brochures. Users can expect frequent encounters with others	Class 3 Opportunity for visitors to walk in slightly modified natural environments requiring a moderate level of fitness and where providing interpretation and facilities is not common. Users can expect opportunities to observe and appreciate the natural environment with limited provision of interpretive signage. Users can expect occasional encounters with others.	Class 4 Opportunity for visitors to explore and discover relatively undisturbed natural environments along defined and distinct tracks with minimal (if any) facilities. Users can expect opportunities to observe and appreciate the natural environment without provision of interpretive signage. Users can expect opportunities for solitude with few encounters with others.	Class 5 Opportunity for visitors with advanced outdoor knowledge and skills to find their own way along often indistinct tracks in remote locations. Users can expect frequent opportunities for solitude with few encounters with others.	Class 6 Opportunity for highly experienced walkers to explore remote and challenging natural areas without reliance on managed tracks. Users can expect extended periods of solitude with few encounters with others.		

PAOT = Persons at one time, ^ Walking Track Classification (AUS Standards)

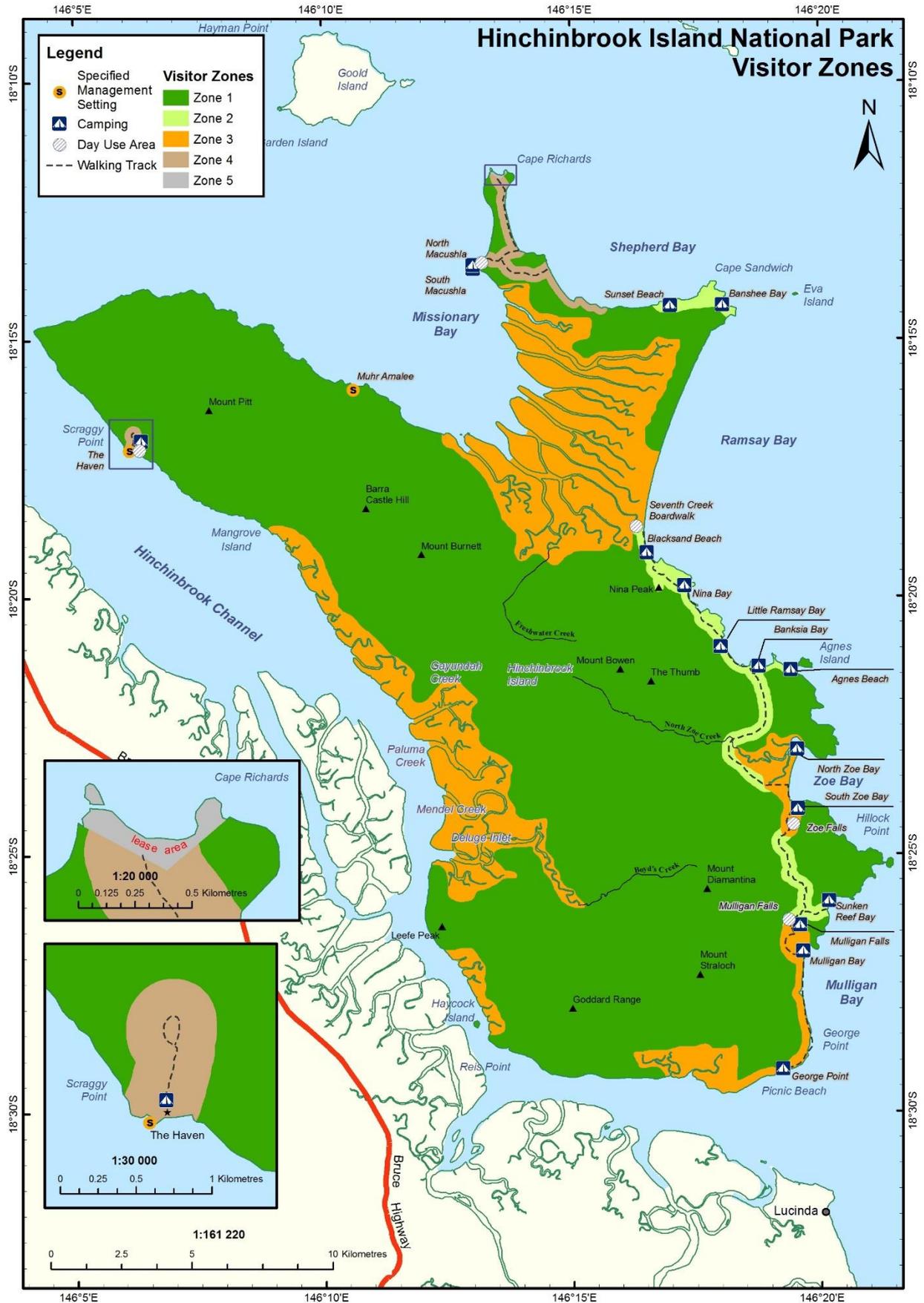
Zone	Site	Existing	Desired	Current site use	Opportunities/issues	Site management actions
Visitor Zone 1	The mountains (e.g. Mt Bowen). Agnes Island Haycock Island Eva Island	NA	NA	LC2. No facilities. Day and overnight (by permit) bushwalking in the mountains.	Some erosion along walking routes in the mountains. Walkers need to be fit and experienced given hazardous terrain. Seasonal (October–March) restricted access area on Eva Island to protect shorebirds.	No facilities will be provided. Require a permit for bush camping in the mountains and prohibit camping and commercial use of offshore islands. Monitor impacts of bushwalking in the mountains, and implement strategies to address any environmental or social impacts (e.g. limit numbers, manage erosion).
	Agnes Beach campground	Small 	Small 	LC 2. No facilities. Side track off trail. Kayak and boat bush camping. Trail walkers can use but not promoted.	Beach stone-curlews breed.	No public facilities will be provided. Allow camping by trail walkers, kayakers and independent visitors arriving by boat Prohibit camping during Beach stone-curlew breeding season (October–March).
Visitor Zone 2	Banksia Bay campground	Small 	Small 	LC3. No facilities. Side track off trail. Trail, kayak and boat bush camping Most trail walkers camp at Little Ramsay Bay.		No public facilities will be provided, except a toilet if required. Allow camping by trail walkers, kayakers and independent visitors arriving by boat.
	Banshee Bay campground	Small 	Small 	LC2/3 No facilities. Kayak and boat bush camping. Limited use, stable condition.	Relatively large flat area but exposed to weather.	No facilities will be provided. Allow camping by kayakers, independent visitors arriving by boat, and bushwalkers.
	Blacksand Beach day use area and campground	Small 	Small 	LC3. No facilities. Along trail. Kayak bush camping (no trail or boat use). Day visitors walk unguided from Ramsay Bay. Limited use, stable condition.	Higher levels of day-use could reduce experience of trail walkers.	No facilities will be provided. Allow camping by kayakers only (no trail walkers or visitors arriving by boat) and small commercial day-use groups.
	Little Ramsay Bay campground	Small 	Small 	LC3. Toilet and food boxes. Along trail. Trail bush camping along length of beach. Medium use but condition stable.	Some food boxes collect water and attract litter.	No extra public facilities will be provided but improve maintenance standards/frequency. Allow camping by trail walkers only (no kayakers or visitors arriving by boat).
	Nina Bay campground	Small 	Small 	LC3. Toilet and food boxes. Along trail. Trail bush camping. Medium-high use but generally stable.	Some food boxes collect water and attract litter.	No extra public facilities will be provided but improve maintenance standards/frequency. Allow camping by trail walkers only (no kayakers or visitors arriving by boat).
	Sunken Reef Bay campground	Small 	Small 	LC3. No facilities. Side track off trail. Trail and kayak bush camping Low use, generally used as a side trip.	Availability of site for camping takes pressure off Mulligan Falls and Zoe Bay.	No public facilities will be provided, except a toilet if required. Allow trail walkers and kayakers only (no visitors arriving by boat).
	Sunset Beach campground	Small 	Small 	LC2/3. No facilities. Kayak and boat camping.	Small area of flat land is not suited to large groups.	No facilities will be provided. Allow camping by kayakers, visitors arriving by boat and bushwalkers.

Zone	Site	Existing	Desired	Current site use	Opportunities / issues	Site management actions
Visitor Zone 2	Thorsborne Trail walking track	Class 5 	Class 5 	LC3. No facilities except trail and track markers. Day visitors use trail to access visitor sites (e.g. Zoe Falls). Trail is natural surface, not graded track (ie. some isolated rock steps). Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service manages some vegetation along trail (wait-a-while vine).	A few eroded, steeper sections, including the side route up Nina Peak, require monitoring or maintenance to minimise impacts. Hazardous vegetation (i.e. wait-a-while vine) can grow over the trail, particularly over summer. Overuse of signs along the trail is likely to reduce visitor experience.	Continue to manage trail as a Class 5 track (i.e. natural surface often rough) but increase maintenance standards and frequency to address erosion (favouring minor reroutes over grading, hardening or surfacing the trail) and to keep track clear. Keep signs to an absolute minimum—limit to directional arrows, basic icons, critical safety and environmental management information.
	George Point/Bluff Inlet day use area and campground	Small 	Small 	LC4. Toilets, tables, food boxes. Trail, kayak and boat camping. Start/finish of trail and boat transfers. Access to climb Mt Straloch (day trip).	Some food boxes collect water and attract litter.	No extra facilities will be provided but improve maintenance standards/frequency. Allow camping by trail walkers, kayakers and independent visitors arriving by boat, and commercial small day-use groups.
Visitor Zone 3	Mulligan Bay day use area and campground	Small 	Small 	LC4. No facilities. Along trail. Kayak and boat bush camping. Trail walkers can use but not promoted. Only popular with day visitors to falls in good conditions.	No fresh water available for campers. Higher levels of day-use could reduce experience of trail walkers.	No public facilities will be provided, unless monitoring shows a toilet is required. Allow camping by trail walkers, kayakers and independent visitors arriving by boat, and small commercial day-use groups.
	Mulligan Falls day use area and campground	Small 	Small 	LC4. Toilet and food boxes. Along trail. Trail camping in defined areas. Day trips from Lucinda via Mulligan Bay.	Slippery rocks around waterfall are safety risk (designated a restricted access area (RAA)). Some new camp sites appearing. Shortcut track to creek (used to access boats) can mislead trail walkers. Higher levels of day-use could reduce experience of trail walkers. Some food boxes collect water and attract litter.	No extra public facilities will be provided but improve maintenance standards/frequency. Allow camping by trail walkers only (no kayakers or visitors arriving by boat) and small commercial day-use groups. Maintain restricted access area at Mulligan Falls to prevent visitor injuries. Inform trail walkers not to use shortcut to creek, through minimal signage (icon only).
	Seventh Creek Ramsay Bay boardwalk and day use area	Medium  Class 2-4	Medium  Class 2-4	LC4. Boardwalk/pontoon/walkway, dune ladder. Northern start of trail and reliable access for all visitors to Island. High use at southern end but low use at northern end of Ramsay Bay.	Northern Bay has fragile sand dunes and Beach stone-curlews. Current bollard barrier appears to be keeping visitors off saltpan and shell midden near end of boardwalk. No toilet. Higher levels of day-use could reduce experience of trail walkers.	If use increases, monitor impacts of bush toileting and consider requiring commercial operators to manage human waste or installing toilet. Improve maintenance standards/frequency. Continue to prohibit all camping. Allow small-medium commercial day-use groups. Monitor success of current bollards in protecting saltpan and midden.
	Zoe Bay (North) campground	Small 	Small 	LC4. Defined sites for kayak and boat camping were impacted by Cyclone Yasi. Used by day visitors and campers in good weather conditions. Most walk to Zoe Falls.	Access reduced when swell running (can be two out of three days) but boat-based campers respond rapidly in good conditions.	No public facilities will be provided. Redefine sites and allow camping by kayakers and independent visitors arriving by boat (no trail walkers), and small commercial day-use groups.

Zone	Site	Existing	Desired	Current site use	Opportunities / issues	Site management actions
Visitor Zone 3	Zoe Bay (South) campground	Medium 	Medium 	LC4. Toilet, tables, food boxes. Along trail. Trail and boat camping in large area with multiple sites beside South Zoe Creek. Most walk to Zoe Falls.	Higher levels of day-use or site hardening could reduce experience of trail walkers. Some food boxes collect water and attract litter.	No extra public facilities will be provided but improve maintenance standards/frequency. Allow camping by trail walkers, independent visitors arriving by boat (no kayakers), and small commercial day-use groups. Commercial camping groups of up to six people may be allowed, subject to other parts of this strategy. Investigate feasibility of separating different visitor types (i.e. walkers, boat-based campers) by reviewing the layout and capacity of the camping area and considering designating camping areas for different visitor types.
	Zoe Falls day use area	Small 	Small 	LC3. No facilities except rope ladder to top of falls. Along trail.	Some unauthorised camping and scramble tracks at falls and damage to vegetation near beach.	No facilities will be provided, except rope ladder, but improve maintenance standards/frequency. Close, rehabilitate and discourage unauthorised campsites at falls and in vegetation near beach. Allow small commercial day-use groups from Zoe Bay.
	The Haven campground	Medium 	Medium 	LC5. Toilet, tables, shelter, gas BBQs, track along Pages Creek. Temporary crocodile barriers. Camping in large open area—mainly by independent campers arriving by boat. Available for commercial and large group (i.e. education) camping but not high use.	Access can be problematic at low tide. No strong demand for commercial or education group camping but if this increases facilities may need upgrading. If day use increases significantly, may need to consider further limits on camping.	Monitor use and if commercial use significantly increases, review need to improve facilities or limit camping based on site planning. Ongoing. If use remains stable or decreases, consider removing gas BBQs. Allow camping by medium commercially guided and educational groups, and other visitors arriving by boat (no kayakers).
	The Haven day use area	Large 	Large 	LC5. Facilities shared with camping area. Used mainly for independent day visitors but available for commercial day-use and large groups (low use).	No strong demand for commercial or education group day-use but if this increases facilities may need upgrading. Provides land-based access to stone fish traps (Scraggy Point) and other Aboriginal cultural heritage places.	Manage facilities as per The Haven camping area. Allow medium-large commercial day-use groups. Work with Giringun Aboriginal Corporation and Traditional Owners to manage visitor access to fish traps.
	The Haven walking track	Class 3 	Class 3 	LC3. Runs along Pages Creek (some steps). No significant features but pleasant walk. Toilet and table.	Some erosion and steps need repairing.	Monitor use and if commercial use significantly increases, review need to improve or extend track based on site planning. Allow medium–large commercial day-use groups.

Zone	Site	Existing	Desired	Current site use	Opportunities / issues	Site management actions
Visitor Zone 3	Macushla (North) campground	Small 	Small 	LC4. Mainly independent campers and day visitors arriving by boat (i.e. fishers from nearby creeks). Track links to Cape Richards and Shepherds Bay. Busy at Easter but otherwise low use.	Opportunity to include interpretive information on the Macushla (boat) when signs reviewed.	Monitor use and if commercial or independent use significantly increases, review need to improve facilities based on site planning. Allow camping by small-medium educational groups and independent visitors arriving by boat (no kayakers, commercial tour groups). Consider including the story of the Macushla (boat) in any improved interpretive signs.
	Macushla (South) campground	Small 	Small 	LC5. Toilet, table, shelter, water tank, croc barrier. Use as per Macushla (north).	Coastal processes (e.g. erosion) can increase or reduce camping area or degrade beach access.	Monitor use and if commercial or independent use significantly increases, review need to improve facilities based on site planning. Ongoing. Allow camping by small-medium educational groups and independent visitors arriving by boat (no kayakers or commercial camping groups).
	Macushla day use area	Medium 	Medium 	LC5. Facilities shared with camping area. Provides access to walking tracks to North Shepherds Bay/Cape Richards and South Shepherds Bay.	Coastal processes (e.g. erosion) can degrade beach access.	Monitor erosion at beach access and implement strategies to manage where needed. Ongoing. Monitor use and if commercial or independent use significantly increases, review need to improve facilities based on site planning. Allow medium commercial day-use groups.
	Macushla to North Shepherds Bay/Cape Richards Walking track	Class 3 	Class 3 	LC3. Used by Macushla campers and day-use visitors.	Restricted access area to limit visitors to Cape Richards lease area. Resort guests previously used track.	If the leased area is redeveloped for ecotourism, review need to improve track. Allow medium commercial day-use groups.
	Macushla to South Shepherds Bay walking track	Class 3 	Class 3 	LC3. Used by Macushla campers and day-use visitors.	Resort guests previously used track.	If the leased area is redeveloped for ecotourism, review need to improve track. Allow medium commercial day-use groups.
	Muhr Amalee	SMS	SMS	LC2. Only available for use by Traditional Owners for cultural purposes. No facilities.	Designated as a restricted access area.	Allow basic facilities to support Traditional Owners' activities and minimise environmental impacts (e.g. camping, toilets), where approved through a site plan.
	Scraggy Point Aboriginal fish traps	SMS	SMS	No facilities and low use. May be accessed via The Haven.	Fish traps may be damaged by visitors but are partly protected in the adjacent marine park. Commercial operators may seek to run day tours to fish traps.	Partner with Giringun to protect and present fish traps, including setting visitor and commercial number limits and conditions and appropriate signs.

Map 1 Hinchinbrook Island National Park visitor zones



Map 2 Thorsborne Trail and Cape Richards visitor zones

Hinchinbrook Island National Park Visitor Zones



ACCURACY STATEMENT
Due to varying sources of data, spatial locations may not coincide when overlaid.

DISCLAIMER
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Visitor Zones

- Specified Management Setting
- Camping
- Day Use Area
- Walking Tracks

Zones

- Zone 1
- Zone 2
- Zone 3
- Zone 4
- Zone 5

