

INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE GREAT BARRIER REEF: SUCCESS AND FAILURE By Sheriden Morris: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, P.O. Box 1379, Townsville 4810, AUSTRALIA :—There is comprehensive and unambiguous evidence that terrestrial inputs of nutrient and sediment to the coastal waters of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) have increased significantly. However to date, there is limited scientific evidence to demonstrate that these increased inputs have led to a direct decline of inshore reefs of the Great Barrier Reef. Despite this, factors such as declining fisheries and the rapid draining and clearing of the coastal floodplain has led the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to target nutrients, sediments and pesticides at the source. To this end GBRMPA's principal strategy is an active and open liaison with State and Local governments, agricultural and urban peak groups, and the general community. This enables the development of workable environmental strategies, from the river catchment to the reef. Issues associated with riverine and coastal decline are relatively straight forward to identify. Although management strategies are readily developed through industry, government and community consultation, the implementation and compliance to these strategies is however, difficult to achieve. Education and the extension of improved farm management and urban waste control techniques are the current tools for change. Stakeholder awareness of the potential impacts of some management strategies has increased significantly, yet the degradation of the coastal floodplain still occurs at an alarming rate.