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**THE AUTHORITY:**

ZONES FOR PARK SECTION ENDORSED

- recommends areas of the Great Barrier Reef Region for declaration as marine park

The zoning plan for the management of activities within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park - Capricornia Section is to be submitted to Federal Parliament following its endorsement by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council on August 1.

- prepares zoning and management plans for these areas

It will be placed before both Houses of the Parliament for 20 sitting days and providing no motion of disallowance is passed, will take effect on a date to be specified in a public notice issued by the Minister for Science and the Environment, Mr David Thomson MC.

- arranges and undertakes research and investigation relevant to the marine park

The plan has been amended as a result of submissions during an eight-weeks period of public comment. A sixth zone - the Marine National Park "B" Zone - has been added following many representations seeking an area of unrestricted access free from the influences of fishing and collecting.

The zoning plan has been developed so as to provide for maximum public enjoyment, with a minimum of restrictions, consistent with maintaining the natural qualities of the Great Barrier Reef. The Capricornia Section which was proclaimed on 17 October 1979 covers approximately 12,000 square kilometres of the most southern part of the Reef off Gladstone and Rockhampton.

REEF MOORING COMPETITION

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has launched a nation-wide competition for engineering students in connection with a proposal for establishing mooring sites on the Great Barrier Reef.

The sites have been suggested as a means of protecting corals from boat and anchor damage and making reefs more accessible with greater safety for visitors.

The Authority has invited engineering students at tertiary institutions throughout Australia to submit designs. There is a first prize of \$1000 and entries close on 19 October.

BOAT RAMP SURVEY

A survey to provide up-to-date and accurate information on recreational fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Region between Tully and Port Douglas will begin later this month.

Amateur fishermen will be invited to complete a questionnaire handed out at boat ramps in the area, to assist the compiling of catch and effort statistics and other relevant information. The survey is entirely voluntary and is being conducted by the Authority in cooperation with the Queensland Fisheries Service. The assistance of the Queensland Amateur Fishing Council is also being sought.

POSSIBLE SECOND PARK SECTION

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council will examine proposals for a second section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park off Cairns at its next meeting scheduled for November.

At its August meeting, the Council invited the Authority to examine and bring forward to the November meeting proposals for boundaries of the proposed Cairns Section and the full implications of these boundaries.

The Council noted that considerable progress had been made by the Authority in assembling biological, physical and economic information on the proposed Cairns Section, and a program to obtain the views of the public had been carried out. Most comments were strongly in favour of a park section off Cairns.