



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

### **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

This is to confirm that Pelican Expeditions Pty Ltd. undertook the Indigenous Involvement in Coral Bleaching Assessment and Monitoring Project from 6 March to 14 April 2006 in a very professional manner.

The Coral Monitoring Project was a collaboration between Pelican Expeditions; the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), the then Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH), Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management Board (BDT), the Cairns Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC), Far North Queensland Natural Resource Management Ltd (FNQ NRM), the Marine Education Society of Australasia, and a number of individuals, Indigenous communities, and schools.


Its aim was to integrate marine research, Indigenous involvement and vocational training, as well as educational elements in an expedition that would have multiple benefits for all participants. The participation of a wider audience was encouraged through the technology of the internet and in particular an educational web site set up by Pelican Expeditions.

In conducting this project Pelican Expeditions proved to be a very competent and capable service delivery agent. They complied with all necessary requirements associated with receiving, managing, implementing and reporting upon government and community funding from a variety of organisations, including Natural Heritage Trust funds. They are particularly skilled at project managing collaborations and meeting multiple needs and objectives.

The project was planned within a very short timeframe, with many changes and decisions made "on-the-run". Pelican Expeditions were very flexible and accommodating in this regard and continued to deliver a quality service in a timely and prompt manner. This was particularly challenging given the window of opportunity to observe and monitor the coral bleaching could not easily be determined.

The project met and in many instances exceeded outcomes in: communication and education; Indigenous training and involvement as well as marine research and data collection. Mid term and final reports were submitted promptly and were of a high standard. All funds were acquitted in a timely manner to the satisfaction of an independent auditor and all collaborating organisations.

As key project fund contributors (\$85,000), the then Department of the Environment and Heritage have confidence in the capacity of Pelican Expeditions to deliver. I commend the objectives of their organisation and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

  
Ed Wensing

**Director**

**Queensland Team**

**Australian Government Natural Resource Management**

**Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

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