

# AUSTRALIA

## The Lord Howe Island Group



### II.1 Introduction

Year of Inscription 1982

#### Organisation Responsible for the Report

- Environment Australia  
New South Wales (NSW) Government through the Lord Howe Island Board  
Australia

### II.2 Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria N iii, iv

#### Statement of Significance

- Proposed as follows:  
The islands are the eroded remnant of a large shield volcano which erupted from the sea floor intermittently for about 500,000 years in the late Miocene (6.5-7 million years ago).  
They are a major breeding hotspot for extensive colonies of nesting seabirds, including the only known breeding locality for the Providence Petrel, and the largest breeding concentration in the world of the Red-tailed Tropic bird.  
There is a transition between algal and coral reefs at their ecological limits (235 species of marine algae), endemism is high, and a unique assemblage of temperate and tropical forms cohabit.  
There are also 500 marine fish species and numerous species of indigenous pteridophytes, angiosperms, and spiders.

#### Status of Site Boundaries

- The borders and buffer zone of the property are considered adequate.
- The Island Board and the local Community have sought to extend the marine park from 12 to 30 nautical miles.

### II.3 Statement of Authenticity/Integrity

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- The WH value is considered to have been maintained.
- No changes are foreseen.

### II.4 Management

#### Administrative and Management Arrangements

- The WH property is managed directly by the Lord Howe Island Board (consists of 3 elected local residents) responsible for the care, control and management of the Island.
- Relevant laws include the: National Parks & Wildlife Act (1974, amendment 1981); NSW Environment Planning & Assessment Act (1979); Noxious Weeds Act (1993); Lord Howe Island Regulation (1994); Threatened Species Conservation Act (1995); NSW Marine Parks Act (1997); and the Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999).
- The Lord Howe Island WH Property Strategic Plan for Management 2000–2005 was released in February 2000.

#### Present State of Conservation

- The island is considered secure from outside environmental influences.

#### Staffing and Training Needs

- 53 staff including temporary positions.
- Training needs have not been identified.

#### Financial Situation

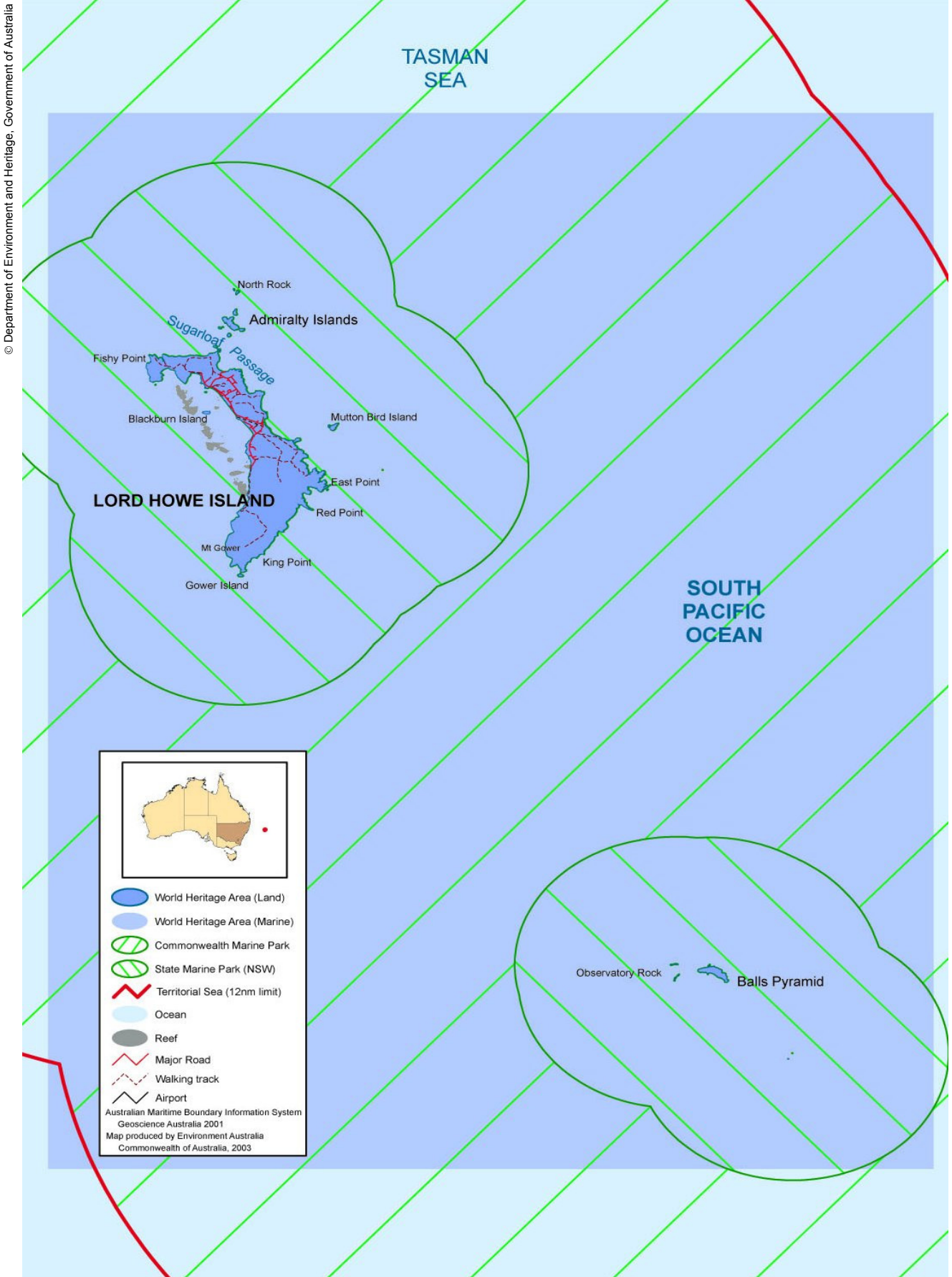
- The Island's Board expenditure on environmental management was US\$615,000 in 2001-2002.
- The NSW Marine Park Authority's expenditure was US\$335,400 in 2001-2002.
- It is considered that a proportion of State funding and almost all Commonwealth funding is project-specific and generally short term.
- \* International Assistance from WHF: none.

#### Access to IT

- No information supplied.

#### Visitor Management

- There is a limit of 400 visitors at any one time according to the Regional Environment Plan (REP).



Map of the Lord Howe Island showing WH Area (in darker blue)

### *II.5 Factors Affecting the Property*

#### **Threats and Risks**

- Many threatened species of animals,
- Invasive plants & animals,
- Global warming,
- Visitor & Tourism pressures,
- Fishing.

#### **Counteractive Plans**

- A 'Threatened Species Recovery Plan' (with a special "recovery team") and a 'Strategic Plan for Weed Management' were prepared by the Board in 2002.
- The new Regional Environment Plan (REP) will address development and visitor pressure by mid-2003.

### *II.6 Monitoring*

#### **Monitoring Arrangements**

- The NSW 'Threatened Species Conservation Act' (1995) currently outlines monitoring criteria for measuring impacts.

#### **Monitoring Indicators**

- Indicator categories include: (i) ongoing; (ii) biannual; (iii) annual; and (iv) 5-yearly research projects.
- Inventories have also been developed.

### *II.7 Conclusions and Recommended Actions*

#### **Conclusions and Proposed Actions**

- Significant progress has been made since the inscription of the Property.
- Several operational projects on the island relate to monitoring of key species which are fundamental to the maintenance of WH value.
- There is a need to establish reliable, on-going streams of funds in order to sustain these projects through to their logical conclusion.

#### **\* No State of Conservation Reports**