



# Lindeman Great Barrier Reef Resort Project – Matters of National Environmental Significance Fact Sheet

## Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) Fact Sheet

Environmental assessments undertaken as part of the EIS indicate that the proposed development is unlikely to cause degradation of World Heritage values, or significantly affect other matters of national environmental significance defined by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The few environmental impacts which could potentially occur are capable of being mitigated, managed or offset.

Potential project impacts on MNES include:

- *Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and National Heritage Place* - World Heritage Values include the scenery of the island and surrounding waters, fringing coral reefs and associated reef-building processes, habitat for migratory species (birds and marine fauna), and flora and fauna typical of continental islands which add to the biodiversity of the GBRWHA. The World Heritage values associated with geomorphology and associated processes (terrestrial and marine) are not at risk from the project. Visual impacts will be restricted to relatively confined arcs of view, because the island landform offers opportunities for 'visual absorption' on the plateau and viewshed of Kennedy Sound. The proposed development will be visible to relatively few receptors due to the proposed colour palate for buildings being drawn from the naturally occurring colours in the current landscape and the relative distance and low visibility of Lindeman Island from the main Whitsunday Islands Group, ferry routes and chartered boat routes;
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park* – the project no longer incorporates a safe harbour and as such will not have a direct impact on coral assemblages or seagrass beds;
- *Listed Threatened Species and Communities* – The EPBC-listed Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets (RE 8.12.11a) occurs on the island, but its extent and biodiversity values are unlikely to be significantly affected due to the ground truthing activities and amendments to the resort layout to avoid this community. The Broad Leaf Tea-tree (*Melaleuca viridiflora*) woodland will be impacted by the proposed airstrip upgrade in order to meet required airstrip safety transitional surfaces and will trigger the requirement for the provision of an environmental offset under the EPBC Act. There are no wetlands of international importance, and no terrestrial species of flora or fauna which are listed as threatened; and
- *Listed Migratory Species* - A number of migratory and listed marine species have been recorded or are likely to use the island and surrounding waters, but there are no 'important habitats' for migratory birds (as defined by DEWHA 2009) nor is the island a significant turtle rookery.