



INQUIRY ... GBRMPA's Sheriden Morris

SR403B04

Water worries on the agenda

By **ANDY TOULSON**

TOWNSVILLE holds a unique position in urban water management with vital water quality issues affecting the precious Great Barrier Reef, a public meeting heard yesterday.

With polluting effluent being contained close to shore by the Great Barrier Reef, inshore water quality is becoming a significant problem which needs to be addressed immediately.

The area's particular water management issues were raised during a public Senate hearing held in Townsville as part of an inquiry into urban water management across Australia. The meeting heard submissions from the

Great Barrier Marine Park Authority and the Townsville City Council.

The inquiry committee will hold public hearings across the nation for the next two months, with a reporting deadline of June 27.

GBRMPA water quality director Sheriden Morris said while water quality on the reef was generally good, some inshore areas were in poor condition.

"We were very pleased to meet with the Senate committee and have the opportunity to advise them of local issues," Ms Sheriden said.

"The reef has a great capacity to absorb, but when it does collapse it will collapse completely, and we don't know what the trigger will be."