

Fishing ban stays in place at Kelso Reef

THE protection of popular tourist destination Kelso Reef from fishing activity will continue for another five years.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) has announced that Kelso Reef, about 90km north-north-east of Townsville, would remain designated a Special Management Area (SMA) until June 2006.

GBRMPA planning director Andrew Skeat said Kelso Reef was first designated a special management area in 1991 in recognition of its importance as a tourism destination, popular for

snorkelling and scuba diving.

“The area around the existing tourist facility at Kelso Reef is important and deserving of special protection in order to maintain the visitor experience,” said Mr Skeat.

“With a 500m radius around the tourist facilities at Kelso Reef, the SMA will protect the area from activities otherwise allowed in the General Use B Zone it sits in.

“This means no commercial or recreational fishing is allowed.”

Pure Pleasure Cruises director Pat Savage welcomed the move.

— ANDY TOULSEN



DRAWCARD . . . diver examines a coral formation on Kelso Reef