

Reef Facts for Tour Guides: Climate Change and the Great Barrier Reef

Summary

The *Reef Facts for Tour Guides* fact sheet series aims to ensure accurate, up-to-date information in an easy-to-read format that is readily available to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park tourism industry. An edition on *Climate Change and the Great Barrier Reef* provides key messages about climate change with relevant examples, and clearly outlines how visitors to the Reef can do their bit to help.

Background

Climate change factors are likely to have the greatest influence on the long-term outlook for the Great Barrier Reef.

Most visitors to the Reef want to learn more about climate change and the effect that a changing climate will have on the Reef. They are generally also very interested to learn what they can do as individuals to reduce the effects of climate change.

The climate change Reef Facts issue was created in 2008 to assist tourism operators explain climate change and its impacts on the Reef to their passengers and to train their crew in climate change impacts. A survey of Great Barrier Reef tourism operators found that 72 per cent of operators were aware of *Reef Facts for Tour Guides*, and 52 per cent of tourism operators regularly used this resource. Reef Facts was updated in 2010 to reflect the *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009*, tourism operators feedback and scientific advances and to enhance the relevance and value of Reef Facts to operators and their passengers.

The Reef Facts climate change edition contributes to Objective 1.1 *Raise awareness of Reef marine tourism operators about climate change* of the *Great Barrier Reef Tourism Climate Change Action Strategy 2009-2012*. The initiative also contributes to Objective 3.2 *Maximise*



Front cover of the revised climate change Reef Facts

resilience of industries and communities to climate change and 4.2 Work with organisations and individuals to reduce their climate footprint under the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2012.

Project name: Reef Facts for Tour Guides: Climate Change and the Great Barrier Reef

Project number: 3.2A.402.5.08

Objective: To help Great Barrier Reef tour guides interpret climate change to their passengers accurately and in an interesting way

Year: 2009— 2010

Objectives

- To provide tourism operators with easy-to-read, relevant and up-to-date information on climate change that they can pass on to their passengers
- To ensure tourism operators know the actions everyone can take to help protect the Reef, so they can educate their guests
- To provide interpretive examples relevant to the Great Barrier Reef designed specifically for tourism operators
- To empower tourism operators to make a difference to climate change and its effect on the Reef through their link to guests.

Activities

- Developed a fact sheet *Reef Facts for Tour Guides: Climate change and the Great Barrier Reef*.

Outputs

- Produced 300 fact sheets and distributed to tourism operators through industry workshops.



Outcomes

The revised edition of the climate change Reef Facts publication is now available on the GBRMPA website.

- Great Barrier Reef tour guides have an up-to-date, authoritative resource on climate change impacts.
- Tourism operators have a simple document they can use for staff training.



The Action Strategy identified the 'Reef Facts for Tour Guides' as a way to raise awareness of climate change with visitors

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