

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority acknowledges the continuing sea country management and custodianship of the Great Barrier Reef by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners whose rich cultures, heritage values, enduring connections and shared efforts protect the Reef for future generations.

None of the recommendations in the report, if implemented, are intended to have the effect of extinguishing native title.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Glossary xiv**

1 Introduction 1–3

1.1 The Great Barrier Reef 1–3

1.1.1 Traditional Owner connections 1–3

1.1.2 International importance 1–5

1.1.3 National importance 1–6

1.1.4 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 1–6

1.1.5 Management approach 1–7

1.1.6 Evolving issues and management over time 1–8

1.2 Comprehensive strategic assessment 1–9

1.2.1 What is a strategic assessment? 1–9

1.2.2 Two complementary strategic assessments 1–9

1.2.3 Why undertake a strategic assessment? 1–9

1.2.4 Scope of the Great Barrier Reef Region strategic assessment 1–11

1.2.5 Matters of national environmental significance, including outstanding  
universal value 1–12

1.2.6 Strategic assessment process 1–13

1.2.7 Implications for the future 1–16

References 1–16

2 Assessment approach 2–3

2.1 Legislative basis 2–3

2.2 Matters of national environmental significance 2–4

2.3 Definitions and terminology 2–4

2.4 Principles 2–4

2.5 Complexity and scale 2–4

2.6 Steps in the assessment process 2–4

2.7 Assessment methods 2–6

2.7.1 Assessment logic 2–6

2.7.2 Structured assessments 2–6

2.7.3 Assessing impacts 2–7

2.7.4 Assessing condition and trend 2–9

2.7.5 Benchmarking outstanding universal value 2–9

2.7.6 Assessing management effectiveness 2–10

2.7.7 Understanding resilience 2–10

2.7.8 Assessing future risk 2–10

2.7.9 Developing projected condition 2–10

2.7.10 Assessment structure 2–11

2.8 Demonstration case studies 2–12

2.9 Recommended changes to management 2–12

2.10 Information used 2–12

2.11 Consultation and engagement 2–14

2.11.1 Authority’s advisory committees 2–14

2.11.2 Traditional Owner and stakeholder input 2–14

2.11.3 Input into assessment of management effectiveness 2–15

2.11.4 Presentations and meetings 2–16

2.12 Independent review 2–16

2.13 Information gaps 2–16

References 2–16

3 Current management 3–3

3.1 Context 3–3

3.2 Purpose 3–4

3.3 Strategic assessment area 3–5

3.4 Integrated management 3–5

3.4.1 Jurisdiction 3–5

3.4.2 Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 3–7

3.4.3 Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum 3–8

3.5 Legislation and conventions 3–8

3.6 Management tools 3–11

3.7 Management activities 3–16

3.8 Partners in management 3–17

3.9 Field Management Program 3–20

3.10 Management priorities 3–20

3.10.1 Current priorities 3–20

3.11 Applying the tools to achieve the priorities 3–21

3.11.1 Addressing the key risks 3–21

3.11.2 Ensuring use is ecologically sustainable 3–23

3.11.3 Fostering stewardship 3–23

3.11.4 Effective and efficient organisation 3–24

3.11.5 Current resources for management 3–24

3.12 Involvement in other planning and management frameworks 3–26

3.12.1 National 3–26

3.12.2 State 3–27

3.12.3 Regional 3–27

3.12.4 Local 3–27

3.13 Protecting matters of national environmental significance 3–27

3.14 Timeframe and review 3–30

References 3–30

4 Matters of national environmental significance in the Great Barrier Reef Region 4–3

4.1 What are matters of national environmental significance? 4–3

4.2 World heritage properties 4–6

4.2.1 Outstanding universal value 4–6

4.3 The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park 4–9

4.3.1 Biodiversity 4–10

4.3.2 Geomorphological features 4–16

4.3.3 Indigenous and historic heritage values 4–20

4.3.4 Community benefits of the environment 4–23

4.4 National heritage places 4–26

4.5 Commonwealth marine areas 4–26

4.6 Listed migratory species 4–28

4.6.1 Marine turtles 4–29

4.6.2 Estuarine crocodiles 4–31

4.6.3 Whales 4–31

4.6.4 Dolphins 4–32

4.6.5 Dugongs 4–33

4.6.6 Sharks 4–33

4.6.7 Seabirds 4–34

4.6.8 Shorebirds 4–36

4.7 Listed threatened species and ecological communities 4–37

4.7.1 Marine turtles 4–38

4.7.2 Marine mammals 4–38

4.7.3 Sharks and rays 4–38

4.7.4 Seabirds 4–39

4.8 Wetlands of international importance 4–39

4.8.1 Shoalwater and Corio Bays Area 4–39

4.8.2 Bowling Green Bay Area 4–40

4.9 Environmental processes 4–41

4.10 Connections between matters of national environmental significance 4–48

4.11 Summary of outcomes 4–53

References 4–53

5 Drivers and activities 5–3

5.1 Background 5–3

5.2 Drivers of change 5–3

5.2.1 Drivers relevant to the Region 5–4

5.2.2 Climate change 5–4

5.2.3 Economic growth 5–10

5.2.4 Population growth 5–13

5.2.5 Technological development 5–16

5.2.6 Societal attitudes 5–18

5.3 Activities adjacent to theRegion 5–19

5.3.1 Agriculture 5–20

5.3.2 Aquaculture 5–23

5.3.3 Urban development 5–24

5.3.4 Industrial development 5–26

5.3.5 Port activities 5–26

5.4 Activities within the Region 5–29

5.4.1 Traditional use of marine resources 5–30

5.4.2 Tourism 5–31

5.4.3 Fishing — commercial 5–36

5.4.4 Fishing — recreational 5–41

5.4.5 Recreation 5–44

5.4.6 Shipping 5–48

5.4.7 Defence activities 5–54

5.4.8 Research activities 5–57

5.5 Summary of outcomes 5–58

References 5–59

6 Impacts on the values 6–3

6.1 Background 6–3

6.1.1 Context 6–3

6.1.2 Challenges in assessing impacts 6–3

6.1.3 Terminology 6–4

6.2 Impacts considered 6–5

6.2.1 Identifying likely past and present impacts 6–5

6.3 Legacy impacts 6–9

6.4 Impacts on biodiversity values 6–11

6.4.1 Climate change impacts 6–11

6.4.2 Catchment run-off 6–18

6.4.3 Degradation of coastal ecosystems 6–32

6.4.4 Direct use 6–35

6.4.5 Assessment of impacts on biodiversity 6–56

6.5 Impacts on geomorphological features 6–59

6.6 Impacts on Indigenous and historic heritage values 6–62

6.6.1 Indigenous heritage values 6–62

6.6.2 Historic heritage values 6–66

6.7 Impacts on community benefits of the environment 6–66

6.8 Cumulative impacts 6–67

6.8.1 Qualitative models 6–67

6.8.2 Spatial approaches 6–71

6.8.3 Outcomes of cumulative impact assessments 6–79

6.9 Effects on matters of national environmental significance 6–81

6.9.1 World heritage properties 6–81

6.9.2 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park 6–81

6.9.3 National heritage places 6–82

6.9.4 Commonwealth marine area 6–82

6.9.5 Listed migratory and listed threatened species 6–82

6.9.6 Wetlands of international importance 6–83

6.10 Key information gaps 6–83

6.10.1 Biodiversity 6–83

6.10.2 Geomorphological features 6–84

6.10.3 Indigenous and historic heritage values 6–85

6.10.4 Community benefits of the environment 6–85

6.10.5 Cumulative impact assessment 6–85

6.10.6 Processes to address information gaps 6–86

6.11 Summary of outcomes 6–87

References 6–91

7 Current condition and trend 7–3

7.1 Biodiversity 7–3

7.1.1 Summary of overall condition of biodiversity 7–13

7.1.2 Coral reefs 7–14

7.1.3 Seagrass meadows 7–16

7.1.4 Marine turtles 7–17

7.1.5 Inshore dolphins 7–18

7.1.6 Dugongs 7–19

7.1.7 Seabirds 7–21

7.1.8 Targeted bony fish species 7–21

7.1.9 Sharks and rays 7–21

7.2 Geomorphological features 7–22

7.3 Indigenous and historic heritage values 7–24

7.3.1 Traditional Owner connections 7–27

7.3.2 Cultural keystone species 7–28

7.3.3 Identifying Indigenous heritage values 7–28

7.3.4 Historic heritage values 7–29

7.4 Community benefits of the environment 7–29

7.4.1 Economic benefit 7–31

7.4.2 Visitation 7–32

7.4.3 Understanding and appreciation 7–33

7.4.4 Personal connections 7–33

7.4.5 Knowledge about community benefits 7–33

7.5 Environmental processes 7–34

7.6 Condition and trend of matters of national environmental significance 7–39

7.6.1 World heritage properties 7–39

7.6.2 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park 7–48

7.6.3 National heritage places 7–49

7.6.4 Commonwealth marine area 7–50

7.6.5 Listed migratory and listed threatened species 7–50

7.6.6 Wetlands of international importance 7–50

7.7 Key information gaps 7–51

7.7.1 Biodiversity — habitats and species 7–51

7.7.2 Geomorphological features 7–52

7.7.3 Indigenous and historic heritage values 7–52

7.7.4 Community benefits of the environment 7–53

7.7.5 Environmental processes 7–54

7.7.6 Processes to address information gaps 7–54

7.8 Summary of outcomes 7–54

References 7–56

8. Management effectiveness — an independent assessment 8–3

8.1 Background 8–3

8.2 Assessment method 8–4

8.2.1 Impacts and values assessed 8–6

8.2.2 Calculation of grades 8–7

8.2.3 Traditional Owner and stakeholder input 8–10

8.3 Protecting values 8–10

8.3.1 Biodiversity protection 8–11

8.3.2 Indigenous and historic heritage values 8–12

8.3.3 Community benefits 8–15

8.4 Assessing external impacts 8–16

8.4.1 Climate change and extreme weather 8–16

8.4.2 Water quality protection (catchment run-off) 8–18

8.4.3 Coastal development (protection of coastal ecosystems) 8–20

8.5 Managing direct use 8–21

8.5.1 Tourism 8–22

8.5.2 Fishing – commercial 8–24

8.5.3 Fishing — recreational 8–25

8.5.4 Recreation 8–27

8.5.5 Port activities 8–28

8.5.6 Shipping 8–30

8.5.7 Defence activities 8–31

8.5.8 Research activities 8–33

8.6 Effectiveness of specific measures to address impacts 8–34

8.6.1 Understanding impacts and considering issues 8–35

8.6.2 Managing impacts 8–36

8.6.3 Providing certainty 8–38

8.6.4 Halt and reverse declines 8–49

8.6.5 Adapting to climate change 8–49

8.6.6 Integrating with government programs 8–50

8.6.7 Meeting Australia’s international obligations 8–51

8.6.8 Monitoring, evaluating and reporting 8–52

8.7 Effectiveness of specific measures to protect values 8–53

8.7.1 Identifying values and determining their condition and trend 8–53

8.7.2 Monitoring, evaluating and reporting of values 8–54

8.8 Effectiveness of specific measures to protect matters of national environmental  
significance 8–55

8.9 Summary of outcomes 8–61

References 8–63

9 Demonstration case studies 9–3

9.1 Case studies selected 9–3

9.1.1 Topics chosen 9–3

9.1.2 Meeting the selection criteria 9–4

9.2 Assessing management effectiveness 9–5

9.3 Dugongs 9–7

9.4 Corals 9–11

9.5 Islands 9–15

9.6 Princess Charlotte Bay 9–22

9.7 Cairns Planning Area 9–26

9.8 Mackay Whitsunday — water quality improvement 9–30

9.9 Keppel Bay 9–35

9.10 East Coast Trawl Fishery 9–38

9.11 Summary of outcomes and guidance for future management 9–44

References 9–45

10 Resilience and risk 10–3

10.1 Understanding resilience 10–3

10.1.1 Factors that affect ecosystem resilience 10–3

10.2 Resilience of key values of biodiversity 10–4

10.2.1 Coral reefs and corals 10–4

10.2.2 Seagrass meadows 10–5

10.2.3 Lagoonal habitats 10–5

10.2.4 Deep water and continental slope habitats 10–5

10.2.5 Inshore habitats 10–5

10.2.6 Bony fishes 10–6

10.2.7 Dugongs 10–6

10.2.8 Marine turtles 10–6

10.2.9 Sharks and rays 10–6

10.3 Overall ecosystem resilience 10–6

10.4 Active restoration of ecosystem resilience 10–7

10.5 Social and cultural resilience 10–8

10.6 Assessing risks on the Region’s values 10–8

10.7 Risks to biodiversity 10–10

10.8 Risks to geomorphological features 10–15

10.9 Risks to Indigenous heritage values 10–16

10.10 Risks to historic heritage values 10–20

10.11 Summary of risks to matters of national environmental significance 10–22

10.12 Summary of outcomes 10–23

References 10–27

11 Projected condition 11–3

11.1 Current condition and trends of values 11–3

11.2 Effectiveness of current management 11–4

11.2.1 Broadscale assessment 11–4

11.2.2 Outcomes of demonstration case studies 11–4

11.3 Ecosystem resilience 11–4

11.4 Overall risks to values 11–5

11.5 Future scenarios 11–6

11.5.1 Coral reef scenarios 11–7

11.5.2 Seagrass meadow scenarios 11–9

11.5.3 Dugong scenarios 11–9

11.6 Projected condition 11–11

11.6.1 The future of the Great Barrier Reef 11–11

11.6.2 Projected condition of the Reef’s values 11–12

References 11–23

12. Recommended changes to management 12-3

12.1. How recommended improvements were identified 12-3

12.2. The need to strengthen the Authority’s management 12-3

12.3. Recommended improvements 12-4

12.3.1. Recommended improvements to the Authority’s management  
arrangements 12-4

12.3.2. Recommended improvements to related local, state and national  
government programs 12-10

12.4. Recommendations of the coastal zone assessment 12-13

13 Adaptive management 13–3

13.1 Summary of the Program Report 13–4

13.1.1 Foundational management 13–4

13.1.2 Strengthening management 13–4

13.1.3 Forward commitments 13–5

13.2 Applying the principles of ecologically sustainable development 13–5

13.3 Adaptive management 13–8

13.3.1 Addressing risk 13–8

13.3.2 Addressing uncertainty 13–8

13.3.3 Implementing adaptive management to protect and manage matters of  
national environmental significance 13–9

13.4 Monitoring and reporting 13–10

13.4.1 Monitoring 13–10

13.4.2 Review and public reporting 13–11

13.4.3 Adapting to new information 13–11

13.4.4 Parties responsible for monitoring, review and reporting 13–12

13.5 Review, modification or abandonment of the Program 13–12

References 13–13

**Appendix 1** Agreement with the then Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

**Appendix 2** Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment Terms of Reference

**Appendix 3** Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, Great Barrier Reef – Property ID 154

**Appendix 4** Assessment of Management Effectiveness Terms of Reference

**Appendix 5** Traditional Owner and Stakeholder Engagement – Report on Workshops and Surveys

# LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1 Great Barrier Reef Region, World Heritage Area and Marine Park 1–4

Figure 1.2 Outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef 1–5

Figure 1.3 Components of the comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef   
World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone 1–10

Figure 1.4 An example of the different coastal boundaries for the Great Barrier Reef  
World Heritage Area, Region and Marine Park 1–13

Figure 1.5 Strategic assessment process 1–15

Figure 2.1 Steps in the assessment process 2–5

Figure 2.2 Assessment logic for the strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef Region 2–6

Figure 2.3 Indicative broad assessment areas for the Region and its catchment 2–9

Figure 3.1 Jurisdictional boundaries for the Great Barrier Reef Region 3–6

Figure 3.2 Bowling Green Bay Special Management Area 3–19

Figure 4.1 Timeline for the matters of national environmental significance relevant to the  
Great Barrier Reef Region 4–4

Figure 4.2 Matters of national environmental significance in the Great Barrier Reef Region 4–5

Figure 4.3 Spatial extent of the matters of national environmental significance for the  
Great Barrier Reef Region 4–6

Figure 4.4 Reef bioregions of the Great Barrier Reef 4–12

Figure 4.5 Non-reef bioregions of the Great Barrier Reef 4–13

Figure 4.6 Three-dimensional bathymetry of the Great Barrier Reef shelf 4–17

Figure 4.7 Three-dimensional bathymetry of submarine canyons along the Great Barrier Reef  
shelf edge 4–19

Figure 4.8 Dominant values identified by Rockhampton Traditional Owner participants at a strategic assessment workshop 4–20

Figure 4.9 Boundaries of the Commonwealth marine area within and outside the Region 4–27

Figure 4.10 Identified important feeding and breeding areas for four species of marine turtles within  
the Region 4–31

Figure 4.11 Principal seabird breeding islands in the Region 4–35

Figure 4.12 Shoalwater and Corio Bays Area 4–40

Figure 4.13 Bowling Green Bay Area 4–41

Figure 4.14 Key environmental processes of the Great Barrier Reef Region 4–42

Figure 4.15 Crossing the blue highway 4–45

Figure 4.16 Connections between catchment basins and the Great Barrier Reef Region 4–47

Figure 5.1 The influence of drivers and activities 5–3

Figure 5.2 Mean atmospheric concentrations and the annual mean increase of carbon dioxide,  
1960 to 2013 5–5

Figure 5.3 Projected trends in climate change variables and the Region’s biodiversity values 5–8

Figure 5.4 Major resource projects planned or underway in Queensland 5–12

Figure 5.5 Wells drilled in Queensland, 1954–2011 5–13

Figure 5.6 Predicted population growth in regional centres of the catchment, 2006–2031 5–14

Figure 5.7 Forecast average annual population growth by local government area 2006–2031 5–15

Figure 5.8 Activities within and adjacent to the Region 5–19

Figure 5.9 Land use in the Great Barrier Reef catchment, 2009 and 1999 5–21

Figure 5.10 Fertiliser use in the Great Barrier Reef catchment 5–23

Figure 5.11 Queensland trading ports in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, Region and  
Marine Park and their throughput, 2011–12 5–27

Figure 5.12 Port infrastructure at Mackay and the Port of Hay Point 5–28

Figure 5.13 Distribution of tourism activity in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, 2012 5–32

Figure 5.14 Number of tourism visitor days to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, 1994–2012 5–33

Figure 5.15 International visitation to the Great Barrier Reef catchment, 2002–2011 5–34

Figure 5.16 Percentage of visitors to the Marine Park carried on high standard tourism operations,  
2004–2012 5–34

Figure 5.17 Spatial distribution of catch by commercial line, net, pot and trawl fisheries,  
Great Barrier Reef Region, 2011 5–37

Figure 5.18 Annual trawl fishing effort in the Great Barrier Reef Region, 1990–2011 5–39

Figure 5.19 Number of recreational fishers by Queensland residential region in 2000 and 2010 5–42

Figure 5.20 Recreational fishing compliance incidents by marine park zone, 2008–2012 5–44

Figure 5.21 Main activities of visitors to the Great Barrier Reef 5–44

Figure 5.22 Main destinations of recreational vessel-based trips, 2003 and 2008 5–45

Figure 5.23 Vessel registrations in the Great Barrier Reef catchment, 2011 5–46

Figure 5.24 Number of recreational vessels registered in the Great Barrier Reef catchment,  
2001–2011 5–47

Figure 5.25 Total commercial vessel calls to ports adjacent to the Region, 2011–12 5–48

Figure 5.26 Designated Shipping Area and designated ship anchorages, Great Barrier Reef Region 5–49

Figure 5.27 Polled ship positions, Great Barrier Reef Region, 2000 5–50

Figure 5.28 Polled ship positions, Great Barrier Reef Region, 2010 5–51

Figure 5.29 A projection of shipping increases at major ports adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef  
Region, 2012–2032 5–52

Figure 5.30 Defence training areas relevant to the Region 5–56

Figure 6.1 Direct, indirect and consequential impacts 6–4

Figure 6.2 Cyclone winds (2005–2011) and flood plume exposure (1991–2011) in the  
Great Barrier Reef Region 6–13

Figure 6.3 Cyclone wave exposure in the Region, 2000–2011 6–14

Figure 6.4 Summer sea surface temperature anomalies in the Region, 2001–2011 6–16

Figure 6.5 Global average mean sea level, 1880–2011 6–17

Figure 6.6 Rates of sea level rise in Australia 6–18

Figure 6.7 Annual freshwater discharge from the major rivers of the Great Barrier Reef catchment,  
2002–2012 6–19

Figure 6.8 Freshwater exposure in the Region, 2001–2011 6–20

Figure 6.9 Years that chlorophyll concentrations exceeded the guidelines in the Region, 2003–2012 6–22

Figure 6.10 Role of nutrients in the population dynamics of crown-of-thorns starfish 6–23

Figure 6.11 Extent of observed crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks in the Region, 1986–2011 6–25

Figure 6.12 Removal of crown-of-thorns starfish, offshore Cairns, August 2012 to September 2013 6–26

Figure 6.13 Risk areas of additive PSII herbicide residues modelled in the Great Barrier Reef Region 6–28

Figure 6.14 Years that total suspended solids exceeded the guidelines in the Region, 2003–2012 6–30

Figure 6.15 Water clarity at three tourism sites 6–31

Figure 6.16 Coastal ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef catchment before European settlement 6–36

Figure 6.17 Coastal ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef catchment as they are today 6–37

Figure 6.18 Dredge material disposed to date, approved for disposal or being assessed, by port 6–38

Figure 6.19 Modelled and actual dredge plume dispersion during a dredging campaign for the  
Port of Hay Point 6–40

Figure 6.20 Surface large-scale currents for El Niño (2004), neutral (2007) and La Niña (2011)  
conditions at major ports 6–41

Figure 6.21 Retained and non-retained fisheries catch, Great Barrier Reef, 20071 6–43

Figure 6.22 A breakdown of commercial fisheries non-retained catch, Great Barrier Reef, 2007 6–43

Figure 6.23 Ecological groups retained by commercial fishing, Great Barrier Reef, 2007 6–46

Figure 6.24 Man-made noise sources and the hearing ranges of marine mammals and fish 6–48

Figure 6.25 Reported vessel groundings in the Region, 1987–2012 6–51

Figure 6.26 Reported spills and discharges in and adjacent to the Region, 1987–2012 6–54

Figure 6.27 Qualitative model of how coral reefs are affected by drivers, activities and impacts 6–69

Figure 6.28 Qualitative model of how seagrass meadows are affected by drivers, activities and impacts 6–70

Figure 6.29 Exposure of coral reefs to key impacts, 2001-2011 6–72

Figure 6.30 Cumulative exposure of coral reefs to key impacts, 2001–2011 6–73

Figure 6.31 Key water quality impacts in the Region (part 1) 6–76

Figure 6.32 Key water quality impacts in the Region (part 2) 6–77

Figure 6.33 Combined key water quality impacts 6–78

Figure 6.34 Zones of influence of different activities 6–80

Figure 7.1 Shifting baselines on inshore coral reefs, Stone Island, offshore Bowen 7–5

Figure 7.2 Hard coral cover in the Great Barrier Reef, 1986–2012 7–15

Figure 7.3 Average abundance of intertidal seagrass meadows, 1999–2012 7–16

Figure 7.4 Cumulative monthly marine turtle strandings for the Queensland east coast, 1998–2012 7–17

Figure 7.5 Overlap of protected areas and inshore dolphin populations 7–20

Figure 8.1 Framework for assessing management effectiveness of protected areas 8–4

Figure 8.2 Certainty provided for tourism activities by the Authority’s management arrangements 8–40

Figure 8.3 Certainty provided for fishing and collecting activities by the Authority’s  
management arrangements 8–41

Figure 8.4 Activities guide — an indication of what can be done in each zone 8–42

Figure 8.5 Certainty provided for research activities by the Authority’s management arrangements 8–43

Figure 8.6 Certainty provided for recreation activities by the Authority’s management arrangements 8–44

Figure 8.7 Certainty provided for traditional use by the Authority’s management arrangements 8–45

Figure 8.8 Certainty provided for defence activities by the Authority’s management arrangements 8–46

Figure 8.9 Certainty provided for shipping activities by the Authority’s management arrangements 8–47

Figure 8.10 Certainty provided for port operations by the Authority’s management arrangements 8–48

Figure 9.1 Dugongs caught in the Queensland Shark Control Program, 1962-1999 9–8

Figure 9.2 Relationships between the rainforest, islands and the migratory pied imperial pigeons 9–15

Figure 9.3 Princess Charlotte Bay 9–22

Figure 9.4 Life cycle of the largetooth sawfish 9–23

Figure 9.5 Cairns Planning Area 9–27

Figure 9.6 Coastal ecosystems in the Mackay Whitsunday natural resource management  
region, 2009 9–31

Figure 9.7 Conceptual diagram of land use in the Mackay Whitsunday region 9–32

Figure 9.8 Key components of the *Reef Water Quality Protection Plan* 9–33

Figure 9.9 Keppel Bay and its islands 9–36

Figure 9.10 Chronology of the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery 9–41

Figure 11.1 Future modelled changes in the condition of coral reefs 11–8

Figure 11.2 Future modelled changes in the condition of seagrass meadows and dugongs 11–10

Figure 13.1 Pathways of management intervention 13–10

# LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1 Chronology of key management responses to emerging issues from the 1970s to the present 1–8

Table 1.2 Differences between the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, Region and Marine Park 1–12

Table 2.1 Tools to improve understanding of cause-and-effect relationships 2–8

Table 3.1 Management tools employed to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef Region  
and relevant matters of national environmental significance 3–12

Table 3.2 Management tools used to address management topics in the Great Barrier Reef Region 3–16

Table 3.3 Current strategic priorities for the Authority 3–20

Table 3.4 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority involvement in national planning and management frameworks 3–26

Table 3.5 Examples of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority involvement in  
Queensland Government initiatives 3–27

Table 4.1 World heritage criteria relevant to the Great Barrier Reef 4–7

Table 4.2 Plants and animals of the Great Barrier Reef 4–15

Table 4.3 Values consistently identified in Traditional Owner and stakeholder workshops, 2012 4–25

Table 4.4 Listed migratory species in the Great Barrier Reef Region 4–28

Table 4.5 Estimated population of listed migratory inshore and coastal foraging seabirds  
known to breed in the Great Barrier Reef Region 4–34

Table 4.6 Estimated population of listed migratory offshore and pelagic-foraging seabirds  
known to breed in the Region 4–36

Table 4.7 Listed threatened species in the Great Barrier Reef Region 4–37

Table 4.8 Key values and attributes of matters of national environmental significance 4–49

Table 4.9 Key environmental processes relevant to matters of national environmental significance 4–52

Table 5.1 Population, housing and income within natural resource management areas of the  
Great Barrier Reef catchment, 201154 5–14

Table 5.2 Trading ports located within, or partly within, the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area,  
Region and Marine Park 5–26

Table 5.3 Commercial fisheries of the Great Barrier Reef Region, 2011 5–38

Table 6.1 Impacts considered in the assessment 6–5

Table 6.2 Impacts and their sources 6–8

Table 6.3 Past activities resulting in direct legacy impacts on Region’s values 6–10

Table 6.4 Marine species captured in the Queensland Shark Control Program, 1993–2003199 6–44

Table 6.5 Large oils spills that have affected the values of the Great Barrier Reef 6–53

Table 6.6 Past and present effects of impacts on Great Barrier Reef habitats 6–57

Table 6.7 Past and present effects of impacts on Great Barrier Reef species and groups of species 6–58

Table 6.8 Past and present effects of impacts on Great Barrier Reef geomorphological features 6–61

Table 6.9 Past and present effect of impacts on Indigenous and historic heritage values 6–64

Table 6.10 Summary of impacts affecting outstanding universal value 6–81

Table 6.11 Summary of the past and present effects of impacts on the Region’s values 6–90

Table 7.1 Current condition and trend of biodiversity values — Great Barrier Reef habitats 7–5

Table 7.2 Current condition and trend of biodiversity values — terrestrial habitats that support the  
Great Barrier Reef 7–8

Table 7.3 Current condition and trend of biodiversity values – species 7–10

Table 7.4 Summary of condition and trend for marine turtle species in the Region 7–18

Table 7.5 Current condition and trend of geomorphological features 7–23

Table 7.6 Current condition and trend of heritage values — Indigenous 7–25

Table 7.7 Current condition and trend of heritage values — historic heritage 7–26

Table 7.8 Current condition and trend of community benefits of the environment 7–29

Table 7.9 Economic contributions of Reef-related activities to Australia, 2012 248 7–32

Table 7.10 Current condition and trend of environmental processes 7–34

Table 7.11 Benchmarking the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef  
World Heritage Area 7–40

Table 7.12 Benchmarking the integrity of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area 7–47

Table 7.13 Current condition and trend of the Great Barrier Reef national heritage place 7–49

Table 7.14 Current condition of key values 7–56

Table 8.1 Management tools considered in assessing management effectiveness 8–5

Table 8.2 A comparison of the scale and complexity of management topics assessed 8–7

Table 8.3 Assessment criteria to assess effectiveness of management 8–8

Table 8.4 Management effectiveness scores for biodiversity protection 8–11

Table 8.5 Management effectiveness scores for Indigenous heritage values 8–12

Table 8.6 Management effectiveness scores for historic heritage values 8–14

Table 8.7 Management effectiveness scores for community benefits 8–15

Table 8.8 Management effectiveness scores for climate change and extreme weather 8–16

Table 8.9 Management effectiveness scores for water quality protection (catchment run-off) 8–18

Table 8.10 Management effectiveness scores for coastal development  
(protection of coastal ecosystems) 8–20

Table 8.11 Management effectiveness scores for tourism 8–22

Table 8.12 Management effectiveness scores for fishing – commercial 8–24

Table 8.13 Management effectiveness scores for fishing — recreational 8–25

Table 8.14 Management effectiveness scores for recreation 8–27

Table 8.15 Management effectiveness scores for ports 8–28

Table 8.16 Management effectiveness scores for shipping 8–30

Table 8.17 Management effectiveness scores for defence activities 8–31

Table 8.18 Management effectiveness scores for research activities 8–33

Table 8.19 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to understand impacts 8–35

Table 8.20 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to consider issues 8–36

Table 8.21 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to manage impacts 8–37

Table 8.22 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to provide certainty 8–38

Table 8.23 Summary of management certainty provided for activities that occur in the Region 8–39

Table 8.24 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to halt and reverse declines 8–49

Table 8.25 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to adapt to climate change 8–50

Table 8.26 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to integrate with  
government programs 8–51

Table 8.27 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to meet Australia’s international obligations 8–52

Table 8.28 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to monitor, evaluate and report 8–53

Table 8.29 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to identify values and  
determine their condition and trend 8–54

Table 8.30 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to monitor, evaluate and report on condition and trend 8–55

Table 8.31 Effectiveness of the Authority’s management arrangements to protect each matter of  
national environmental significance 8–56

Table 8.32 Summary of management effectiveness results for management topics 8–62

Table 9.1 Meeting the selection criteria for demonstration case studies 9–5

Table 9.2 Matching demonstration case studies to management topics 9–6

Table 9.3 Matching demonstration case studies to management tools 9–6

Table 9.4 Tenure of islands in the World Heritage Area 9–17

Table 9.5 Mechanisms for identifying and protecting water quality values 9–32

Table 10.1 Gradings for likelihood and consequence 10–9

Table 10.2 Combining likelihood and consequence for overall risk 10–9

Table 10.3 Projected risks to biodiversity in the Region over the next 25 years 10–10

Table 10.4 Projected risks to geomorphological features in the Region over the next 25 years 10–15

Table 10.5 Projected risks to Indigenous heritage values in the Region over the next 25 years 10–16

Table 10.6 Projected risks to historic heritage values in the Region over the next 25 years 10–20

Table 10.7 Summary of projected risks to matters of national environmental significance in the Region 10–22

Table 10.8 Summary of projected risks to biodiversity values over the next 25 years 10–24

Table 10.9 Summary of projected risks to geomorphological features over the next 25 years 10–25

Table 10.10 Summary of projected risks to Indigenous heritage values over the next 25 years 10–26

Table 10.11 Summary of projected risks to historic heritage values over the next 25 years 10–27

Table 11.1 Projected condition of biodiversity values 11–13

Table 11.2 Projected condition of geomorphological features 11–17

Table 11.3 Projected condition of Indigenous and historic heritage values 11–19

Table 11.4 Projected condition of matters of national environmental significance 11–21

Table 12.1 Recommended improvements to the Authority’s management arrangements 12-5

Table 12.2 Alignment between the recommended improvements of the Authority and the Queensland Government 12-13

Table 13.1 Applying the principles of ecologically sustainable development 13–6

# GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED TERMS AND ACRONYMS

***Action:*** Includes a project, a development, an undertaking, an activity or series of activities, and an alteration to any of these things. (Adapted from EPBC Act)

***Adaptive management:*** A systematic process for continually improving management practices through learning from the outcomes of previous management. It includes a monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement cycle. (Adapted from *A guide to undertaking strategic assessments*)

***Authority:*** Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

***Avoiding impacts:*** Measures taken so that actions have minimal negative effect on the environment. (Adapted from *A guide to undertaking strategic assessments*)

***Basin:*** An area of land where surface water channels to a hydrological network and discharges into the sea (for example a whole river system). Within the Great Barrier Reef catchment 35 basins have been defined, based on the major river systems. A basin can include small creeks and streams that discharge directly to the sea.

***Benthic:*** The bottom of the seafloor which includes the collection of organisms living on or in the bottom.

***Biodiversity:*** The variability among living organisms from all sources (including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part). It includes diversity within species and between species, and diversity of ecosystems. (EPBC Act and GBRMP Act)

***Bycatch:*** Any animal, plant or marine product that was unintentionally caught (that is, not targeted) during commercial, recreational or traditional fishing activities including Queensland’s Shark Control Program. Bycatch can either be retained (see by-product) or discarded.

***By-product:*** Any animal, plant or marine product that was unintentionally caught but retained during a commercial, recreational or traditional fishing activity.

***Capital dredging:*** Dredging for navigation, to create a new or enlarged channel, port, marina or boat harbour areas. Dredging for engineering purposes, to create trenches for pipes, cables, immersed tube tunnels, to remove material unsuitable for foundations and to remove overburden for aggregate.

***Carrying capacity:*** The number of individuals an ecosystem can support without having any negative effects. It also includes a limit of resources and pollution levels that can be maintained without experiencing high levels of change.

***Coastal ecosystem:*** Inshore, coastal and adjacent catchment ecosystems that connect the land and sea and have the potential to influence the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

***Coastal reclamation:*** The process of creating new land where there was ocean, wetlands, or other waterbodies by filling the area with ‘land fill’ or infrastructure such as groynes and jetties.

***Coastal zone:*** The area of land and sea in or adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef containing Queensland waters plus adjacent inland areas either within five kilometres of the coast or less than 10 metres above sea level (whichever is the further).

***Cultural keystone species:*** The species that play special cultural roles for Indigenous and local peoples and are the ones they depend upon most extensively to meet their needs for food, clothing, shelter, fuel, medicine, and other necessities of life. These are the species that become embedded in a community’s cultural traditions and narratives, their ceremonies, dances, songs, and discourse. Cultural keystone species can vary widely from one region to another and from one culture to another.

***Cumulative impact:*** The impact on the environment resulting from the effects of one or more impacts, and the interactions between those impacts, added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future pressures.

***Cumulative risk:*** The combined risks to the environment by multiple impacts.

***Discarded catch:*** See non-retained catch.

***Driver:*** An overarching cause of change in the environment. (*Australia State of the Environment Report 2011*)

***Ecologically sustainable use:*** Use of natural resources within their capacity to sustain natural processes while maintaining the life-support systems of nature and ensuring the benefit of their use to the present generation does not diminish the potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. (EPBC Act)

***Ecosystem:*** A dynamic complex of plant, animal and microorganism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit. (EPBC Act)

***Ecosystem-based management:*** An integrated approach to managing an ecosystem and matters affecting that ecosystem, with the main object being to maintain ecological processes, biodiversity and functioning biological communities. (GBRMP Act)

***Ecosystem services:*** Actions or attributes of ecosystems of benefit to humans, including regulation of the atmosphere, maintenance of soil fertility, food production, regulation of water flows, water filtration, pest control and waste disposal. It also includes social and cultural services, such as the opportunity for people to experience nature. (*Australia State of the Environment Report 2011*)

***Environment:*** Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; natural and physical resources; the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas heritage values of places; and the social, economic and cultural aspects of the above. (EPBC Act and GBRMP Act)

***EPBC Act:*** *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

***Extraction:*** The removal of any animal, plant or marine product through legal commercial, recreational or traditional fishing activities including Queensland’s Shark Control Program.

***Geomorphology***: Scientific study of landforms and the processes that shape them. (*Australia State of the Environment Report 2011*)

***GBRMP Act:*** *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975.*

***Great Barrier Reef catchment:***The area adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Region which drains into the Region.

***Habitat*:** The environment occupied by an organism or groups of organisms. (Adapted from EPBC Act)

***Halimeda****:* Green macroalgae which is responsible for distinctive circular deposits on parts of the Great Barrier Reef.

***Heritage value:*** A place’s natural and cultural environment having aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance, or other significance, for current and future generations of Australians. (EPBC Act and GBRMP Act)

***Impact:*** An event or circumstance which has an effect, either positive or negative, on a value.

***Indigenous person:*** A person who is a member of the Aboriginal race of Australia; or a descendant of an Indigenous inhabitant of the Torres Strait Islands. (GBRMP Act)

***Indigenous***: For the purposes of the strategic assessment, the term ‘Indigenous’ should be read to apply specifically to Traditional Owners and Traditional Owner groups.

***Indirect impact:*** An impact that is not the direct result of a particular action but has been made possible by that action. These include downstream or upstream impacts, as well as facilitated or consequential impacts resulting from further actions (including actions by third parties). (Adapted from *A guide to undertaking strategic assessments*)

***Inshore:*** Enclosed coastal and open coastal water bodies which extend from the mean low water mark out to approximately 20 kilometres, but also includes areas further offshore that are habitats for recognised inshore specialist species.

***Integrity:*** A measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes. (*Operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention* paragraphs no. 88–95)

***Listed migratory species*:** A migratory species that is native or included under a relevant international convention, which has been placed by the Environment Minister on the published list of migratory species. (Adapted from EPBC Act)

***Listed threatened species:*** A native species which is extinct, extinct in the wild, critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable or conservation dependent, as set out in the published list of threatened species established by the Environment Minister. (Adapted from EPBC Act)

***Maintenance dredging:*** Dredging to ensure that previously dredged channels, berths or construction works are maintained at their designated dimensions.

***Marine Park:*** Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

***Matters of national environmental significance:*** Those matters defined in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

***Mesphotic reefs:*** Corals found at water depths where light penetration is low.

***Mitigating impacts:*** Measures put in place to reduce the level of impact arising from an action, including indirect and cumulative impacts. (Adapted from *A guide to undertaking strategic assessments*)

***Morphology:*** The form and structure of animals and plants, without regard to their functions.

***Non-retained (or discarded) catch:*** Marine life caught by commercial, recreational or traditional fishers which has been discarded. This includes targeted species discarded due to size or catch restrictions, low market value, ‘catch and release’ practices, or bycatch that has been unintentionally captured.

***Outstanding universal value:*** Cultural and/or natural heritage which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of such significance to humanity as a whole to make it worthy of special protection. (Adapted from *Operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention*)

***Offshore:*** Offshore water bodies extend from approximately 20 kilometres out to the edge of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park boundary.

***Offsetting impacts:*** Measures intended to compensate for the residual adverse impacts of an action on the environment. (Adapted from *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Environmental Offsets Policy,* 2012)

***Palaeochannel:*** An ancient stream or riverbed, cut into the rock or soil and overlaid by sediment after the stream has changed its course or dried up.

***Palaeoecology:*** The systematic study of the ecological relationships which prevailed among fossil plants and animals.

***Pelagic:*** Relating to or living in or on oceanic waters. The pelagic zone of the ocean begins at the low tide mark and includes the entire oceanic water column and living organisms that inhabit this zone for all or part of their life (for example, plankton, pelagic fish).

***Poaching:*** The illegal take of any animal, plant or marine product from land that is not one’s own or is under official protection. It also includes the illegal take of a protected species.

***Protected species*:** A species that is a cetacean; a listed marine species, a listed migratory species, a listed threatened ecological community, or a listed threatened species; a species of marine mammal, bird or reptile that is prescribed as endangered wildlife, vulnerable wildlife or rare wildlife under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld); a species declared to be a protected species for the purposes of this definition; a species declared to be a strictly protected species for the purposes of this definition. (GBRMP Act)

***Precautionary principle*:**The principle that lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing a measure to prevent degradation of the environment where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage. (EPBC Act and GBRMP Act)

***Pressure*:** An activity or group of activities that cause an impact on a value.

***Program:*** The Authority’s management arrangements, including future commitments, as described in the Program Report**.**

***Recreation*:** An independent visit for enjoyment that is not part of a commercial operation. It is distinct from tourism where a visitor pays to use a commercial operation. (*Recreation Management Strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park)*

***Refugia***: An area where an organism can survive during a period of unfavourable conditions.

***Resilience***: The capacity of an ecosystem to recover from disturbance or withstand ongoing pressures.

***Region:*** Great Barrier Reef Regionas defined in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975.*

***Retained catch:*** Marine life caught and kept by commercial, recreational or traditional fishers including targeted and non-targeted species.

***Risk:*** The possibility of something happening that impacts on objectives. It is the chance to either make a gain or a loss and is measured in terms of likelihood and consequence. *(Australian Standard for Risk Assessment (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009))*

***Ship:*** Vessels greater than 50 metres in overall length or carrying specialised product regardless of length (for example, oil tankers, chemical or liquefied gas carriers).

***SEWPaC*:** The former Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, now the Department of the Environment.

***State Development Area:*** Definedareas established to promote economic development for industry, infrastructure corridors and major public works.

***Take:*** The act of or attempt toremove, gather, catch, kill, destroy, dredge for, raise, carry away, bring ashore, interfere with and obtain (by other means) an animal, plant or marine product.

***Taxa:*** Groups of one or more populations of organisms.

***Threshold:*** The breaking point above which an ecosystem or a component of an ecosystem can no longer sustain natural processes and remain in a healthy condition (for example, the point at which there is a phase shift from coral-dominated or algal-dominated reefs).

***Throughput:*** The quantity of cargothat is passed through a port in a given period (exports and imports).

***Tourism:*** Commercial activities that provide transport, accommodation or services to people who are visiting the Region principally for enjoyment. (Derived from GBRMP Act)

***Trading port:*** A trading port refers to a port that has an associated pilotage area as defined in schedule 5 of the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004. In these areas, the regional harbour master has the authority to direct the master of a ship to navigate or operate a ship in a prescribed way.

***Traditional Owner:*** An Indigenous person recognised in the Indigenous community or by a relevant representative Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander body as having spiritual or cultural affiliations with a site or area in the Marine Park or as holding native title in relation to that site or area; and who is entitled to undertake activities under Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander custom or tradition in that site or area.

***Traditional Owner group:*** The group of Traditional Owners who, in accordance with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander custom, speak for a site or area.

***Trophic:*** Of or relating to nutrition.

***Trigger value:*** A point which, if exceeded, would mean there was a significant risk of adverse effects on an ecosystem or a component of an ecosystem. Exceeding a trigger value would ‘trigger’ action to address contributing impacts and/or review the trigger value.

***Turbidite:*** A type of sedimentary rock composed of layered particles that grade upward from coarser to finer sizes and are thought to have originated from ancient turbidity currents in the oceans.

***Value:*** Those aspects or attributes of an environment that make it of significance.

***Vulnerability:*** The degree to which a system, organism or community is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, an impact.

***World Heritage Area*:** Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

***Wellbeing:*** The combination of economic prosperity, community liveability and environmental integrity, which is determined by the quality, quantity, distribution, use and preservation of economic, human, social and natural capital.  (Commonwealth of Australia (2012) Sustainability Framework (Version 0– April 2012). Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, Canberra, Australia)

***Zones of influence:*** Areas where impacts have detectable effects on values.