



Queensland Government and Great Barrier
Reef Marine Park Authority

Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment – Public
Consultation on Draft Reports

April 2014

Disclaimer

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government are jointly conducting a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone (the Strategic Assessment). Public consultation of the draft content of the Strategic Assessment is a requirement for any strategic assessment completed under section 145 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. This report pertains to that public consultation.

GHD prepared this report for the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning as set out in the contract between GHD and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. This report is provided for the purpose agreed between GHD and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning as set out in the contract. More particularly this provides the public consultation report which collates information received during the public consultation regarding public comments on the draft Strategic Assessment. Additional information relating to the public consultation for the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment, the activities GHD completed to support development of and the purpose of this report is provided in Section 1 of this report.

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Executive summary

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Marine Park Authority) and Queensland Government are producing a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone to ensure it retains its world heritage values and continues to be one of the best managed marine protected areas in the world.

The Great Barrier Reef strategic assessment has two key components – a marine component led by the Marine Park Authority and a coastal component led by the Queensland Government. A 13-week long joint public consultation process was undertaken to facilitate comments on draft strategic assessment reports in order to inform and support the finalisation of the strategic assessment.

Consultation used a purpose built website featuring downloadable strategic assessment reports and supporting information describing the strategic assessment intent and process. The website also provided a comprehensive survey and an associated email address. In support of the public consultation process there were several community information sessions, regional briefings and stakeholder workshops. There was also a publicity campaign to raise awareness of the strategic assessment and the opportunity to make a submission. This used a variety of media including advertising through newspapers and online websites coupled with provision of information on YouTube and other social media networks.

There was global interest in the strategic assessment. The webpages were viewed from a number of different countries and the total number of submissions received was 6,616. Of these 606 submissions were made by individuals or organisations and 6,010 submissions were provided within campaign submissions. Campaign submissions enable identification of the number of stakeholders who hold the same view; those views have (for each of the campaigns) only been included once in the synthesis of comments across all other stakeholder entries. The weight of support for each of the campaigns is reported.

Analysis of submissions was undertaken in relation to whether comments referred to either both components, the coastal component, or the marine component. The analysis identified the theme of each submission's comments in accordance with the themes of the strategic assessment reports – namely values, activities, impact, management effectiveness and forward commitments/recommendations. The majority of submission comments related to both the coastal zone and marine zone components of the strategic assessment.

The key theme relating to both the coastal zone and marine zone components of the strategic assessment was management effectiveness, which covered issues relating to current management, measures to strengthen foundational management, key initiatives and implementation and governance.

Across all submissions there was general support for the approach taken in developing the strategic assessments for both the coastal and marine zones, support for the majority of ratings regarding the current condition of ecological values, concern about data underpinning the assessment and management of some values and the ability to translate proposed commitments and recommendations into tangible outcomes for the benefit of the World Heritage Area.

Responses on individual components of the strategic assessment were fewer than those that were provided across both the marine and coastal zone components, but were typically more detailed.

The most common theme represented within submissions related to the coastal zone strategic assessment was Queensland Government's forward commitments. Many of these submissions

included general support, although there were recommendations for improvements and areas of concern also identified. This principally related to the ability to translate the recommendation or commitment into a beneficial outcome for the Reef.

Many submissions for the marine component of the strategic assessment commented on management effectiveness. It was recognised the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is generally well managed and there were good outcomes working with industry, for example improving water quality. The complexity of managing the marine environment, particularly when many threats to it are outside of the scope of the Marine Park Authority's direct responsibility, was highlighted. There were a number of recommendations, suggestions and support for management improvement ranging from broadening partnerships to increasing compliance.

This process has provided opportunity for all stakeholders who have an interest in the marine and coastal zones which are linked to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to provide input and comments on the assessments and recommendations made within the draft strategic assessment reports. As such, it is providing valued input which will enable government to improve, adapt and enhance the strategic assessment and its outcomes for the long-term benefit of the Great Barrier Reef.

This report will be provided alongside the final strategic assessment reports to the Australian Minister for the Environment for endorsement and consideration.

Table of abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
DSDIP	Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
EC	Ecological Community
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)</i>
FAQs	Frequently asked questions
The Reef	Great Barrier Reef
GBRMP	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
GBRWHA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LNG	Liquefied natural gas
Matters of national environmental significance	Those matters defined in the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, being:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • world heritage properties • national heritage places • wetlands of international importance • listed threatened species and ecological communities • migratory species protected under international agreements • Commonwealth marine areas • the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
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 <i>Operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention</i>)
QLD	Queensland
QPS	Queensland Ports Strategy
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
URL	uniform resource locator (web address)
USA	United States of America

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1. Introduction

The Australian and Queensland governments are committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef (the Reef), ensuring it retains its world heritage values and continues to be one of the best managed marine protected areas in the world. As part of this commitment, the two governments are working together to undertake a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) and adjacent coastal zone.

Strategic assessments are landscape scale assessments and unlike project-by-project assessments, which look at individual actions (such as construction and operation of a pipeline or wind farm), they can consider a much broader set of actions. For example, a large urban growth area that will be developed over many years, or a fire management policy across a broad landscape¹.

The strategic assessment is being carried out in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and is one of the most comprehensive strategic assessments ever undertaken in Australia. There are two parts to the comprehensive strategic assessment—a marine component and a coastal zone component.

The marine component, led by the Australian Government's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Marine Park Authority), looks at the arrangements in place to manage and protect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP) and World Heritage Area.

The coastal zone component, led by the Queensland Government, looks at the state's planning, development and management framework and how it provides environmental protection along the coastal zone, adjacent to the Reef.

Each component of the strategic assessment includes two reports:

- **Strategic Assessment Report** assessing how the Queensland Government's / the Marine Park Authority's management arrangements protect and manage matters of national environmental significance, including the outstanding universal value of the GBRWHA.
- **Program Report** containing a detailed description of the Queensland Government's / the Marine Park Authority's management arrangements, including forward commitments, to protect and manage matters of national environmental significance, including the outstanding universal value of the GBRWHA.

The final reports, as well as a report on consultation which supported the assessment, will be provided to the Australian Minister for the Environment for endorsement and consideration in mid-2014.

Public consultation is a requirement of a strategic assessment under section 146 of the EPBC Act. The process for this strategic assessment provided for easy access to the draft strategic assessment reports and all related information, and adequate opportunity for all members of the community to provide feedback on the reports.

GHD was engaged by the Queensland Government to facilitate the public consultation process for this strategic assessment. To achieve this GHD coordinated development of a standalone website that gave access to all draft strategic assessment reports and supporting information, in

¹ <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/environment-protection/environment-assessments/strategic-assessments> , accessed 4 March 2014

conjunction with an online / postal survey to enable feedback on the draft reports and a portal for the electronic lodgement of submissions. GHD also managed and monitored submissions received during public consultation, including hard copy lodgement of submissions via a nominated postal address, and distributed copies of submissions to the Marine Park Authority, the Queensland Government and the Australian Department of the Environment. This report, prepared by GHD, provides a synthesis of information received during the public consultation process. Submission data has been analysed with regard to the values, activities, impacts, management and recommendations detailed in the draft strategic assessment reports.

This report therefore includes the following sections:

Section 2 details the consultation program – the timing of the consultation and the different methods used to consult with the public and stakeholders.

Section 3 explains the methodology applied to analyse the data collated through the consultation.

Section 4 provides an overview of the submissions made, including demographic information about respondents.

Section 5 collates the analysis of submission feedback which addressed the strategic assessment as a whole, or issues that are mutually relevant to both the coastal and marine components of the comprehensive strategic assessment.

Section 6 fulfils a similar purpose to the previous section, but concentrates solely on submissions to the coastal component.

Section 7 repeats the approach from Section 6 but for the marine zone component of the strategic assessment.

Section 8 outlines the submission feedback received in the form of ‘campaign’ emails, where large numbers of similar emails were received including the same content.

Section 9 includes analysis of submissions not related to the strategic assessment that were received through the public consultation process.

Section 10 summarises the conclusion of the consultation process.

2. Consultation approach

2.1 Joint consultation

The Great Barrier Reef strategic assessment has two key components – a marine component led by the Marine Park Authority and a coastal component led by the Queensland Government, through the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP). In practice, the Queensland Government and the Marine Park Authority manage the GBRWHA jointly, and accordingly the comprehensive strategic assessment includes a number of forward commitments and recommendations about how the Queensland Government and Australian Government will continue to work together to manage the Reef including matters of national environmental significance.

A joint consultation process was implemented which reflects this collaborative management and the overlapping nature of the strategic assessment reports. This approach also recognises public understanding of the issues pertaining to the Reef.

The public consultation process ran from 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014 – a total of 13 weeks. The period was lengthened from the minimum 28-day timeframe outlined in the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment terms of reference to take into account public interest, the length and complexity of the reports and the Christmas holiday period.

2.2 Methods of consultation

A range of recognised consultation methods were used to achieve extensive public consultation on what is a very complex strategic assessment. The approach applied is in keeping with the process prescribed in the EPBC Act and Section 7.2 of the Strategic Assessment Terms of Reference. Methods that facilitated consultation are briefly described, below.

2.2.1 Have your say website

A website was specifically designed to support the consultation of the strategic assessment². The website utilised the design features of the strategic assessment reports and publicity materials, as well as government logos. The site was prepared specifically to enable both mobile devices and traditional desktop devices to access all pages, features and functions. Appendix A contains snapshots of web pages. The website was available from 1 November 2013 at the start of the consultation period, until several days after the conclusion of the consultation period. It included the following pages and functions.

Draft reports – all reports for the both coastal and marine strategic assessments were available for download from a single webpage, in appropriate file sizes. This ensured stakeholders could access all relevant information on which they could base a submission. This page also featured a summary of the document ‘Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Strategic Assessment In Brief’.

Supporting information – a resources page containing a short overview video, fact sheets, maps and links to relevant webpages to assist interested parties. An overview page provided a brief description of the comprehensive strategic assessment process.

FAQs – a range of answers to expected questions about the strategic assessment to assist interested parties.

² The website www.reefhaveyoursay.com.au operated from 1 November 2013 until 5 February 2014.

Community information sessions – the details for all community information sessions (see Section 2.2.4 for a list of sessions), including relevant contact details.

Detailed survey – a survey to capture submissions from stakeholders. The survey (see Appendix B for the downloadable printable version) provided specific focus on whether respondents agreed with the various reports' contents, but included open text submission sections to allow full feedback on specific issues.

The survey was designed as an 'unfolding' system to avoid the need to load separate pages. The survey allowed respondents to leave the survey and return later without losing information. Clickable buttons enabled respondents to score opinions. The survey allowed respondents to skip ahead, or ignore sections. It featured separate sections for coastal and marine sections to enable consideration of both.

The survey also featured an upload functionality to allow respondents to upload submission documents (up to 10MB file size).

The website also included a printable version of the survey for respondents who preferred to make a submission offline and post it to the Public Consultation Manager at a supplied address.

2.2.2 Contact details

Each page on the website included the have your say contact email address and a 1300 phone number (operated by the Marine Park Authority) to assist with enquiries. Many respondents chose to use the email address to send submissions and supporting documents rather than upload them via the website. A mailing address was also provided, enabling respondents to post submissions.

During the consultation period the Marine Park Authority received 39 phone calls to the 1300 phone line.

2.2.3 Hard copies of reports

Hard copies of reports were displayed in:

- 31 libraries (30 in Queensland and one in Canberra)
- 6 Queensland Government offices
- 5 Marine Park Authority offices.

Given the large physical size and expense of reproducing the reports additional hard copies were not made widely available, however, the Marine Park Authority did make available a limited number of printed copies to stakeholders that requested these. Instead, on request, stakeholders were sent CD copies of the strategic assessment reports.

2.2.4 Community information sessions and regional briefings

The Marine Park Authority coordinated information sessions in six locations of the Queensland coast. These sessions provided information to the public about the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment and how to make a submission. This included the following events, which were attended by the Marine Park Authority and Queensland Government representatives.

Table 2-1 Community information sessions

Date	Attendees	Location
Tuesday 19 November 2013	20	Airlie Beach
Tuesday 26 November 2013	18	Townsville
Wednesday 27 November 2013	27	Cairns
Tuesday 3 December 2013	50	Mackay
Wednesday 4 December 2013	22	Rockhampton
Thursday 5 December 2013	20	Gladstone

Additional to the community information sessions, regional briefings were held before the information sessions at Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton.

The regional stakeholder briefings were follow ups to previous meetings of stakeholders that took place in 2012 to help develop the marine strategic assessment; the intention was closing the loop with these stakeholders who had already been engaged in this work.

2.2.5 Stakeholder consultation

Beyond the community information sessions the Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government also hosted two specific consultation workshops and delivered six presentations.

Indigenous stakeholder workshop

The Indigenous stakeholder workshop held in Cairns on 28 November, brought together approximately 40 Traditional Owner stakeholders from across the Great Barrier Reef catchment to discuss the draft reports and promote the opportunity for consultation.

Stakeholders made numerous recommendations to improve the reports, such as requesting greater inclusion of Indigenous issues throughout the reports rather than as discreet sections, and greater acknowledgement of Indigenous peoples' role in management of the Reef.

A number of Indigenous groups made submissions to the public consultation process, see Section 4.3.1 for further details.

Advisory committee workshop

The Marine Park Authority hosted a full day workshop on 12 December 2013 to present and discuss the coastal and marine components of the strategic assessment. Attendees included Queensland Government officers, as well as approximately 50 members from the Marine Park Authority's:

- Local Marine Advisory Committees
- Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee
- Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee
- Ecosystem Reef Advisory Committee
- Catchment and Coastal Reef Advisory Committee.

Local Marine Advisory Committees advise on management issues for the Marine Park at a local level. They enable local communities to have effective input into managing the Marine Park and provide a community forum for interest groups, government and the community to discuss issues around marine resources.

The Reef Advisory Committees are competency-based committees comprising a cross-section of stakeholder interests with expertise and experience in relevant areas. The role of the Reef Advisory Committees is to provide issues-based advice to the Marine Park Authority on operational issues. Each committee works closely with staff of the relevant branch and sections to ensure that policy development and strategic direction are developed in consultation with stakeholders.

Presentations

Senior officers from the Queensland Government and the Marine Park Authority also conducted a number of presentations to various stakeholder groups as part of the public consultation. These included:

- Queensland Resources Council, 8 November 2013, Brisbane
- Resource Industry Stakeholders (organised by Rio Tinto), 22 November 2013, Brisbane
- Great Barrier Reef Foundation Board, 28 November 2013, Sydney
- Australian Committee for IUCN Forum, 28 November 2013, Sydney
- Australian Committee for IUCN Forum, 6 December 2013, Brisbane
- Reef Plan Partnership Committee, 9 December 2013, Brisbane.

2.3 Publicity

The Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government publicised the public consultation period through websites, mail-outs, print and electronic advertising, as described in the following sections.

On 1 November 2013, the Australian Minister for the Environment issued a media release to announce the release of the draft strategic assessment for public comment.

On the same day, the Queensland Government issued a media release about the commencement of the public consultation period. On 17 January 2014 the Queensland Government issued a further press release to raise awareness about the upcoming end of the consultation period.

The Marine Park Authority also distributed news releases and provided interviews to media outlets about the regional community information sessions.

The Marine Park Authority also produced jointly branded pull up banners for the launch and community, flyers for distribution to the community and for libraries, posters for use at exhibition locations.

Appendix C includes the public notice and press releases.

2.3.1 Organisation websites and mailouts

The Queensland Government provided public consultation information on their Get Involved website, on the DSDIP website and in the DSDIP e-news publication of 6 November 2013 that is distributed to over 25,000 community members / stakeholders around Queensland.

The Deputy Premier sent letters to 55 key stakeholders on 14 November 2013 to inform them of the consultation and how to make a submission.

Additional to this, information was included in the Marine Park Authority's e-newsletter Reef in Brief, the Marine Park Authority's website, Local Marine Advisory Committees and stakeholder meetings, social media (Facebook and Twitter), and Reef HQ display.

2.3.2 Print advertising

The Marine Park Authority and Queensland Government placed a public notice in the following publications:

- The Australian (2 and 9 Nov)
- The Courier Mail (3 and 10 Nov)
- Australian Financial Review (8 Nov)
- Ayr Advocate (8 Nov)
- Bowen Independent (6 Nov)
- Bundaberg News Mail (2 Nov)
- Cairns Post (2 Nov)
- Cooktown Local News (7 Nov)
- Gladstone Observer (2 Nov)
- Herbert River Express (7 Nov)
- Innisfail Advocate (2 Nov)
- Mackay Daily Mercury (2 Nov)
- Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette (7 Nov)
- Rockhampton Morning Bulletin (2 Nov)
- Townsville Bulletin (2 Nov)
- Tully Times (7 Nov)
- Whitsunday Times (7 Nov).

A summary of the advertising completed in support of the consultation is provided in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2 Summary of advertising

Advertising		
Public notice	National papers Australian – 2 Nov and 9 Nov Australian Financial Review – 8 Nov Courier Mail – 3 Nov and 10 Nov 14 regional papers	2 Nov - 9 Nov 2013
Digital advertising	The Courier Mail News Queensland Section	18 Nov 2013
	News.com.au News National	9 Nov - 22 Nov 2013
Advertising of information sessions	Whitsunday Times (7 Nov) Townsville Bulletin (9 Nov) Rockhampton Morning Bulletin (9 Nov) Mackay Daily Mercury (9 Nov) Gladstone Observer (16 Nov) Cairns Post (23 Nov)	7 Nov - 23 Nov 2013

2.3.3 E-advertising and social media

E-adverts to direct traffic to the have your say website were placed on the following websites for the consultation period:

- The Courier Mail website on 18 November 2013
- News.com.au website from 9 November to 22 November 2013.

These adverts included links direct to the have your say webpage.

The Marine Park Authority posted to Facebook about the launch of the public consultation period and throughout the consultation phase there were ongoing posts and tweets about the opportunity to contribute to the consultation process.

The Marine Park Authority produced two YouTube videos (a short form and long form version) to highlight the strategic assessment public consultation period. Both videos attracted over 400 views during the consultation period.

3. Analysis methodology

3.1 Data

3.1.1 Website

The web export system used provided all survey submissions with a unique chronologically ordered identification code with all details, and a timestamp. Codes were only applied once a submitter had clicked the 'submit' button on the survey.

All data was saved into a spreadsheet for analysis. All uploaded documents were also saved with a submission relevant code for traceability.

3.1.2 Email / postal submissions

All email submissions were individually logged with a unique identification code. These submissions were then able to be filtered by subject titles to identify any frequently occurring subject titles – enabling swift identification of recurring patterns potentially signifying campaigns.

The few postal submissions received were also logged and provided each with a unique identification code. This enabled all submissions to be brought together into a comprehensive data set for analysis.

Applying this technique retains the link between the respondent and their submission.

3.2 Analysis process

All submissions sent via the website, email and post were analysed with regard to the themes of the draft strategic assessment reports.

3.2.1 Survey submissions

The online and written survey was intentionally designed to facilitate responses on both the coastal zone and marine zone.

The survey results have been analysed for presentation using two methods. Firstly, where questions required respondents to indicate their level of agreement on a scale of 1 to 5 a numeric average represented the general sentiment of respondents. The scoring system used was:

- strongly disagree = 1
- disagree = 2
- neutral = 3
- agree = 4
- strongly agree = 5.

This gives opportunity to analyse where the mean average score for each response ranked between 1 and 5, where a score of more than 1.0 but less than 2.9 indicates the general sentiment of respondents was to disagree and a score of more than 3.1 means the general sentiment of respondents was to agree. A score of exactly 3.0 indicates that on average respondents neither agreed nor disagreed.

The second method of data analysis uses charts which show the proportion of respondents expressing their level of agreement. This approach provides a greater resolution of detail than the average score as it indicates the distribution of respondents' opinions.

3.2.2 Written submissions (including comments in surveys)

Submissions were analysed in relation to whether comments referred to both components, only the coastal component, or only the marine component. The draft strategic assessment reports identified a diverse range of values for the environment and communities within the marine zone and the coastal zone and assessed the activities and impacts placing pressure on these values. They also included consideration of management effectiveness and then proposed forward commitments and recommendations for future management of the marine and coastal zones.

To assist with processing, synthesising and facilitating responses to the submissions, analysis identified the theme of each submission's comments in accordance with the themes of the strategic assessment reports – namely values, activities, impacts, management effectiveness and forward commitments / recommendations. Additional complementary sub-themes were used to provide further detail to the analysis and categorise submissions.

4. Submissions

4.1 Overview

During the 13-week public consultation period there were 6,616 submissions received in total³. There were 6,010 campaign emails whereby large numbers of submissions were received with near identical comments. An overview of the survey submissions received is provided in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Overview of submissions

Submission format	Number of submissions ⁴
Website survey submissions	362
Postal survey submission	1
Email submissions	6,250
Postal submissions (excluding posted copies of emailed documents/web uploads)	2
Hand-delivered report	1
Total	6,616

4.2 Respondent demographics

4.2.1 Location

Web visitors

There were 6,452 visitors to the have your say website and they visited the site 10,313 times, making 26,375 page views between 1 November 2013 and 1 February 2014. Of these, 92 per cent of visits occurred from within Australia. There were, however, visitors to the website from 74 countries with the second largest number of visitors coming from the USA, which accounted for 2.2 per cent of visitors.

Table 4-2 shows that most Australian visitors accessed the site from Queensland. There was interest from those in other states and territories, particularly in New South Wales and Victoria.

Table 4-2 State / Territory of website visitors

State / territory	Visits	Percentage ⁴
Queensland	5,948	63%
New South Wales	1,530	16%
Victoria	918	10%
Australian Capital Territory	590	6%
Western Australia	269	3%
South Australia	152	2%
Tasmania	51	1%
Northern Territory	16	0.2%

³ Submission numbers published in this report have been updated from those published at the close of the consultation period to take account of several late submissions and the identification of a number of duplicated submissions.

⁴ Numbers are subject to rounding, therefore do not necessarily sum to 100 per cent.

Survey submissions

The online survey recorded contact details. Table 4-3 shows that respondents from Australia submitted most of the surveys.

Table 4-3 Source of survey submissions - country

Country	Number of surveys submitted	Percentage
Australia	348	93.3%
Great Britain	8	2.2%
USA	7	1.9%
New Zealand	3	0.8%
Canada	3	0.8%
Germany	2	0.5%
Sweden	1	0.3%
Ireland	1	0.3%
Total	373	100%

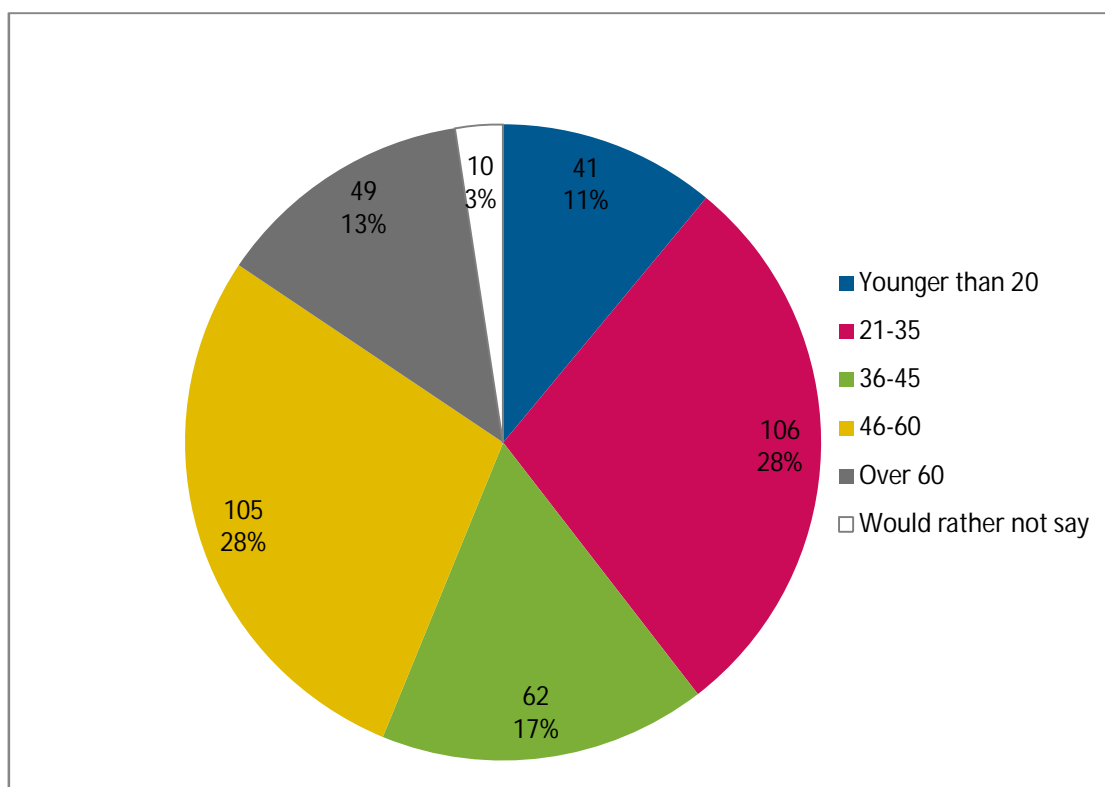
Just over half of survey submissions came from Queenslanders, although they accounted for nearly two-thirds of Australian web visitors. While New South Wales made up 16 per cent of Australian web visitors they provided nearly a quarter of Australian survey submissions.

4.2.2 Age groups

Survey submissions

Survey respondents were asked their age group (ten respondents selected to decline to answer this question). The most represented age groups were 21-35 and 46-60 providing nearly 57 per cent of responses (Figure 4-1). The 36-45 age group provided almost 17 per cent of responses and both the over 60 age group and the under 20-years' old age groups provided just over 24 per cent of responses.

Figure 4-1 Age groups of survey respondents



4.3 Submissions from organisations or groups

Of the submissions made on the draft strategic assessment reports that were not campaign submissions 18 per cent were sent by representatives of organisations or defined groups.

Submissions from organisations were generally longer and more detailed than those from individuals. The majority of submissions from organisations were received from conservation groups (refer Table 4-4).

Table 4-4 Number of submissions by organisation type

Organisation type	Number of submissions
Indigenous groups (including Indigenous Advisory Committee)	3
Advisory committee (excluding Indigenous Advisory Committee)	8
Community group	13
Conservation group	38
Government (local, state, federal)	12
Industry associations / businesses	20
Port authority / shipping	6
Science / research organisation	4
Tourism operators / industry bodies	9
Total	113

A summary of the nature and content of the submissions made by each organisation type follows to identify the key issues different organisational sectors provided responses on.

Comments by organisations relating explicitly to activities, impacts, management improvements or the long-term sustainability plan are also included in the relevant sections of this report.

4.3.1 Indigenous groups

The Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee submission was analysed within this category as the submission reflected matters of direct relevance to Indigenous groups. Analysis of this response was not duplicated in the advisory committee analysis.

The three Indigenous groups' submissions received all referred to matters pertaining to both the coastal and marine strategic assessments. All requested greater involvement of Indigenous people in the management of the Reef, and two of the submissions requested more emphasis in the reports on the traditional use of the Reef and relevant cultural / heritage values.

Two of the submissions also raised concern regarding the effects of actions such as dredging and dredge material disposal on the health of the Reef.

4.3.2 Advisory committees

Submissions were received from eight Local Marine Advisory Committees / Reef Advisory Committees. The advisory committees' submissions covered a wide range of issues across both components of the strategic assessment.

Similar to Indigenous group submissions, a theme of concern expressed by six of the advisory committee submissions was the activity and impact of port development and the potential impact of dredging / dredge material disposal on the health of the Reef. The associated risk of shipping to the Reef also featured in three of the submissions.

Other impacts of concern to the advisory committees included catchment runoff and climate change.

4.3.3 Community groups

Community groups making submissions included 13 organisations with specific interest in regions or particular species (e.g. birds). Six of these submissions had concerns regarding the exclusion of, or currency of, data for specific species. Submissions also asked for further detail regarding the impacts on the Region of coastal development, aquaculture, shipping, port development and dredging, industrial development and mining, and fishing.

4.3.4 Conservation groups

There were 38 submissions from conservation groups ranging from region-specific and species-specific conservation groups to national and international conservation groups. Many of the submissions related to data and / or general discussion of specific species, predominantly fauna species including dugong, turtles, cassowary and mahogany glider. Submissions did, however, also consider flora such as seagrass.

Within these submissions there was request for greater inclusion within the strategic assessment reports of terrestrial habitats such as nationally significant wetlands and not just Ramsar sites.

The activities and impacts frequently cited by conservation group submissions included dredging / dredge material disposal and port development, shipping and their impact on coastal ecosystems, the impacts of agriculture, industrial development and mining on catchment run-off and coastal ecosystems.

4.3.5 Government

Twelve submissions were received from government, including Australian Government departments, local governments and government representative organisations. Most of these submissions referred to both the coastal zone and marine zone reports.

Comments on values provided within the submissions included a request to update text relating to defence activities, including research funding, greenhouse gas emissions and noise impacts.

Impacts of mining on groundwater were referred to in one submission with a request for greater detail regarding this issue as it relates to ports and shipping and potential to impact the Reef.

A number of submissions requested the strategic assessment reports include greater consideration of the role of local government in the management of the Reef and suggested greater collaboration could be achieved in the future.

4.3.6 Industry associations / businesses

Twenty submissions were received from a range of businesses, peak bodies and associations. Several submissions commented on concerns about dredging and dredge material disposal and port development, although two submissions pointed to a lack of data to support assertions about the environmental effect of such activities.

While there were comments expressing concern about shipping activities potentially degrading the values of the Reef, one submission included an example of successful shipping management demonstrating sustainable use of the environment.

Two submissions asked that the strategic assessment reports should recognise the efforts and contribution of their industries to the Reef and the economy – one related to the commercial fishing industry and its link to tourism and the other related to the seafood industry.

One submission requested inclusion of information on the regulation of the CSG / LNG industry and commented that environmental research being undertaken in that industry was supporting initiatives for Reef health.

4.3.7 Port authorities / shipping organisations

The six submissions in this category all provided comments focussed on port activities and were generally supportive of the draft reports. There was recognition that world's best practice dredging and dredge management is required to prevent damage to the Reef. Concerns were expressed that in the public domain the environmental impacts of dredging and shipping have been exaggerated and the draft strategic assessment places disproportionate weight on the impacts of dredging.

Submissions urged the need for greater consultation with the ports industry in developing management practices for the Reef.

4.3.8 Science / research organisations

There were four submissions from science / research organisations. One of the submissions was a proposal promoting the preference for a single coal export port for Queensland to be based at Gladstone. Others concerned issues such as the impacts of urban development, port development and shipping on the Reef. Submissions raised concerns that the quality and availability of the data used in the reports was insufficient in some places to have been used for indicators and one submission provided detailed comments relating to improvements for specific sections of the reports.

4.3.9 Tourism operators / industry bodies

The nine submissions received from tourism operators / industry bodies all focussed on marine-based tourism / recreation organisations. Seven of the nine submissions expressed concerns around the impacts to tourism from dredging and dredge material disposal, and three of these also referred to port development. Other issues raised included concern over the impact of agricultural runoff, mining and urban development in the coastal zone affecting tourism.

5. Submissions relevant to both components of the strategic assessment

This section includes analysis of submissions received relating to both the coastal zone and marine zone components of the strategic assessment.

A submission was deemed to relate to both components if the themes of submissions are relevant to both coastal zone and marine reports, either with or without specific reference to the particular reports.

5.1 Summary of feedback

Many of the submissions included comments referring to both the marine and coastal zone components (Table 5-1). Where campaign submissions made comments relevant to both components of the strategic assessment they were included in this summary as a single count.

The most common theme represented in submissions relating to both components related to management effectiveness; there were 120 comments on this theme that related specifically to the strategic assessment. This covered issues relating to current management, measures to strengthen foundational management, key initiatives and implementation and governance. Comments on measures to strengthen foundational management were particularly common. These provided a wide range of suggestions on ways to improve the management of the Reef and coastal zone, from improving people's awareness of environmental issues through to prioritising research programs and making changes to legislation.

There were similar numbers of submissions referring to activities, impacts and suggested amendments to reports, with 108, 104 and 103 comments, respectively.

Comments on activities focussed largely on port activities, although shipping, industrial development and fishing were also common sub-themes. Comments on impacts focussed on direct use impacts, particularly with regard to dredging, disposal and resuspension of dredged material. There were also many submissions relating to climate change, catchment run-off and degradation of coastal ecosystems.

Suggested amendments to reports were wide-ranging, and covered such aspects as feedback on overall report structure and content, requests for the inclusion of targets, as well as specific data suggestions. There were also comments on values that related to both components – particularly with regard to species and habitats.

Comments on the proposed long-term sustainability plan tended to be requests for information regarding the way it will be prepared, emphasising a need for funding and further consultation, and that a scientific and balanced approach be undertaken.

Table 5-1 Submissions relevant to both components - summary of themes

Theme	Sub-theme	Number of submissions raising the theme ⁵
Values	Total	49
	GBR habitats	7
	Terrestrial habitats	18
	Species	33
	Geomorphological features	4
	Indigenous heritage	5
	Historic heritage	2
	Community benefits	17
Activities	Total	104
	Agriculture	14
	Aquaculture	3
	Urban development	7
	Industrial development	27
	Port activities	75
	Traditional use	9
	Tourism	13
	Fishing - commercial	19
	Fishing - recreational	17
	Recreation	1
	Shipping	27
	Defence activities	3
	Research activities	12
Impacts	Total	103
	Climate change	29
	Catchment run-off	33
	Degradation of coastal ecosystems	34
	Direct use	64
Management effectiveness	Total	120
	Current management	18
	Measures to strengthen foundational management	92
	Key initiatives	52
	Implementation and governance	11
Suggested amendments to draft reports	Total	108
Long-term sustainability plan	Total	26

⁵ Submissions typically covered multiple themes, therefore summing the themes does not equal the number of submissions received.

5.2 Values

The Great Barrier Reef contains a diverse range of environmental and community values. Values assessed in the draft strategic assessment reports include marine and terrestrial species and habitats located in the Great Barrier Reef and adjacent coastal zone, geomorphological features, Indigenous and historic heritage, and a range of community benefit values. One submission made general comments on the outstanding universal value of the Reef.

Many of these submissions discussed impacts on and management of values of the Reef and surrounding coastal zone. More detail on comments that discuss impacts on values and management of values can be found in the relevant impacts section (5.4) or management effectiveness section (5.5).

5.2.1 Great Barrier Reef habitats

A total of seven submissions that apply to both the coastal and marine zones discussed habitats of the Great Barrier Reef. Specific habitats mentioned included seagrass and its importance to dugongs, as well as the value of coral reefs to the community and tourism industry.

In a more general sense there were submissions which referred to the ecosystem services provided by habitats within the Reef and the importance of beaches as habitats to migratory species.

5.2.2 Terrestrial habitats that support the Great Barrier Reef

A total of 18 submissions discussed terrestrial habitats that support the Reef.

Relevant submissions discussed the presence and value of various ecological communities including broad leaf tea-tree woodlands, semi-evergreen vine thickets, Melaleuca forests, rainforest communities, beach scrub and native grasslands. The importance of freshwater wetlands and salt marshes for water quality and for supporting marine and migratory species was also mentioned.

One submission included details regarding the values of specific areas within national parks, such as Byfield National Park, and another submission expressed the opinion that cleared land can potentially retain some ecological value.

5.2.3 Species

A total of 33 submissions discussed species that occur within both the marine and coastal zones and recognised their importance to the biodiversity of the Reef. Species discussed included dugongs, dolphins (including Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins and Australian snub-fin dolphins), whales, marine turtles, seabirds and shorebirds (including little terns), estuarine crocodiles, and bony fish (including tuna, marlin and barramundi).

For submissions commenting on the value of coral, seagrass and mangroves please see Sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, above which focus on habitats.

5.2.4 Geomorphological features

Geomorphological features relevant to the strategic assessment include islands, shorelines, channels, canyons and river deltas. The four submissions that discussed the value of geomorphological features created or defined by living entities (for example coral reefs and seagrass meadows) are discussed in Section 5.2.1 as they focus on their function as habitats.

Submissions were also received highlighting the Fitzroy River delta as a geomorphological feature with high ecological value.

5.2.5 Indigenous heritage

Five submissions discussed Indigenous heritage values that apply to both coastal and marine zones. These submissions included discussions of the value of traditional hunting and fishing practices to the Indigenous community as well as the fact that Indigenous cultural values are a consideration in the World Heritage Listed status of the Reef. Concern was expressed in relation to the impact of degraded reef health on the Indigenous values of the Reef.

Other relevant issues raised by submissions include the value of Native Title and cooperative management agreements to the Indigenous community, and the importance of sites of Indigenous heritage significance.

5.2.6 Historic heritage

Historic heritage values include places of historic significance (such as historic shipwrecks, World War II historical landmarks, lightstations), scientific significance and social significance. Two submissions were received discussing historic heritage values that support the values of the Reef. Both submissions discussed the historic heritage values of the Low Isles.

5.2.7 Community benefits

Seventeen comments in submissions discussed community benefits that apply to both marine and coastal zones in relation to both economic values as well as other important but less quantifiable values. Economic considerations included comments relating to the role of the Reef as a source of employment from tourism, ports and day-to-day reef management roles, and the general economic value of ports and the coal seam gas industry. Other submissions pointed towards the importance of the Reef's value as a healthy environment to current and future communities, the need to protect and enhance social values of the Reef, the cultural values of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and the social value of recreational fishing to the community.

5.3 Activities

A total of 104 submissions discussed activities that occur within the coastal and marine zones. The number of submissions relating to each activity is shown in Table 5-1.

When discussing particular activities, submissions commented on values and associated impacts, made management recommendations and / or suggested specific amendments to the draft strategic assessment reports. Submissions on activities are, therefore discussed in multiple sections of this report as follows:

- Comments regarding values, including community benefits, of relevance to activities are discussed in Section 5.2.
- Discussion of the environmental effects of different activities is provided in Section 5.3.
- Commentary about activity management, including recommendations for improved management, is provided in Section 5.5.
- Suggestions for specific amendments to the draft reports of relevance to different activities are discussed Section 5.6.

5.4 Impacts

Submissions discussed impacts on environmental values of the Region that apply to both the coastal and marine zones. Of these submissions, 39 made generalised comments about impacts of development on the Reef, unspecified threats to the Reef or expressed a general concern about declining reef health. Impacts were allocated into four categories:

- **Climate change** – including global warming, cyclone impacts, increased sea temperature, altered ocean currents, ocean acidification and rising sea level.
- **Catchment run-off** – including increased freshwater flow, nutrients in catchment run-off, outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish (linked to higher concentrations of nutrients), pesticides from catchment run-off, sediments from catchment run-off and urban and industrial discharge.
- **Degradation of coastal ecosystems** – including acid sulphate soils, artificial barriers to riverine and estuarine flow, atmospheric pollution, coastal reclamation, light pollution and modifying supporting habitats.
- **Direct use** – including dredging, disposal and resuspension of dredged material, exotic species and diseases, fishing impacts, illegal fishing and poaching, marine debris, noise pollution, outbreaks of disease and other species (e.g. algae), shipping and boating impacts, tourism impacts and wildlife disturbance.

Where the theme of a comment was relevant to more than one of the four impact sections the comment was assigned an impact category based on its main theme. For example, a comment on the potential mobilisation of acid sulfate soil by dredging is relevant to both the degradation of coastal ecosystems and disposal categories. As dredging is the primary cause of impact, it was included, and counted for, in the direct use category. Each comment was counted in a single category only. Comments that explicitly address coastal zone impacts or marine zone impacts are discussed in Sections 6 and 7 respectively.

5.4.1 Climate change

A total of 29 submissions discussed impacts of climate change on the Reef or parts of the Reef. Climate change was considered to include associated changes such as global warming, cyclone activity, increased sea temperature, altered ocean currents, ocean acidification and rising sea level. Submissions varied from general concerns about the impact that climate change and associated changes will have on the Reef, to the need to promote research in areas relating to climate change and the Reef and the advantages and disadvantages of sea level rise on coral reefs.

Other relevant submissions included consideration of the contribution of climate change and associated changes to the total cumulative impact on the Reef. These submissions discussed climate change in relation to other impacts such as declining water quality, development impacts, dredging and dredge material disposal and crown-of-thorns starfish.

5.4.2 Catchment run-off

A total of 33 submissions discussed impacts of catchment run-off on the Reef or parts of the Reef. Submitters noted catchment run-off impacts, including increased freshwater flow, nutrients in catchment run-off, outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish (linked to higher concentrations of nutrients), pesticides from catchment run-off, sediments from catchment run-off and urban and industrial discharge.

Submissions discussed the effects of agricultural run-off as well as urban, industrial development and aquaculture on water quality and expressed concerns about the impact of poor water quality on coral, seagrass, biodiversity and outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish. Comments were made about the adequacy of current initiatives trying to improve water quality, including both criticism and support for the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

5.4.3 Degradation of coastal ecosystems

A total of 34 submissions explicitly commented on the degradation of coastal ecosystems. Topics included in the degradation of coastal ecosystems were acid sulphate soils, artificial barriers to riverine and estuarine flow, atmospheric pollution, coastal reclamation, light pollution and modifying supporting habitats.

There was general concern expressed about the environmental impacts of urban and industrial development including ports and mining, the clearing of native vegetation, the dispersion of coal dust in the marine environment and mining for guano, uranium and fossil fuels.

Submissions also referred to the degradation caused by 'opening' national parks to development and clearing or degradation of native bushland, as well as the degradation of specific coastal areas.

Also discussed was a perceived lack of sustained environmental protection afforded by nature refuges and the impact of light pollution on turtles and other marine life.

5.4.4 Direct use

A total of 64 submissions discussed impacts from the direct use of the Reef and supporting habitats. Topics included in the direct use category were dredging, disposal and resuspension of dredged material, exotic species and diseases, fishing impacts, illegal fishing and poaching, marine debris, noise pollution, outbreaks of disease and other species (e.g. algae), shipping and boating impacts, tourism impacts and wildlife disturbance.

A common topic of discussion was the effect of port development, dredging and the disposal of dredged material on the health of the Reef and on water quality, including the mobilisation of acid sulfate soils, release of contaminants in dredged material and sedimentation impacts on environmental health.

The environmental impacts of shipping were also discussed, including seabed damage caused through anchoring, pest and disease introductions from boat ballast, pollution and the potential oil spill impacts.

There were conflicting comments from different parties that suggest environmental impacts are under- and over-estimated.

Other submissions referred to the potential effect of declining reef health on fisheries and tourism, the need for more information on the potential influence of aquaculture, noise pollution, defence activities, marine pests and marine debris on ecosystem health. Equally there were comments about the effect of recreational and commercial fishing on ecosystem health and the effect of changes in reef health on recreational and commercial fishing.

Concern was also expressed about the ecological effects of Indigenous hunting of sea turtle and dugong.

5.5 Management effectiveness

Submissions made comments of relevance to both the coastal and marine zones and / or their management authorities. Comments on management effectiveness were split into four categories based on the following definitions:

- **Current management** – comments on management effectiveness that do not make suggestions to improve management and do not discuss key initiatives or implementation and governance.
- **Measures to strengthen foundational management** – comments that provide suggestions and recommendations to improve management and do not discuss key initiatives or implementation and governance.
- **Key initiatives** – comments on key initiatives to strengthen management including a management framework based on outcomes and targets, strengthening standards and identifying critical thresholds, cumulative impact assessment policy, net benefit policy, Reef Recovery program and an integrated monitoring and reporting program.
- **Implementation and governance** – comments on regulatory responsibilities, compliance, coordination among management groups / authorities and resourcing of management actions.

Comments that explicitly address management effectiveness in the coastal zone or marine zone are discussed in relevant Sections 6.5 and 7.5 respectively.

5.5.1 Current management

A total of 18 submissions discussed the current management of the Region without making suggestions to strengthen management or improve key initiatives. These submissions varied from general comments supporting or raising concerns regarding the overall management of the Region, to specific areas and events, including concern that recent development decisions such as Abbot Point are not applicable to the strategic assessment findings and recommendations, issues relating to Gladstone Harbour and other specific events in the fisheries sector.

Some submissions discussed that a lack of, or a reduction in, environmental protection creates uncertainty for businesses that are influenced by the health of the Reef. Others suggested the management response and regulation of port and shipping activities is disproportionate to the risks presented by these activities.

In contrast some submissions expressed concern that the world heritage status of the GBRWHA is threatened under current management practices and that UNESCO's recommendations are not being achieved.

5.5.2 Measures to strengthen foundational management

A total of 92 submissions provided suggestions and recommendations for management of the Region. Such submissions covered a wide range of topics including ideas to help improve the Reef's health, to requests for specific legislative changes and suggestions of research priorities for future funding.

Respondents recommended increasing stakeholder consultation and involvement, including with the community, Traditional Owners, local governments, community groups, industry groups and international authorities.

Suggestions relating to fishing included suggestions to adjust fishing restrictions (such as bag / size limits) and recreational fishing licences. Other fisheries related submissions discussed making changes to marine zoning and expressed concerns about the practicality of using vessel monitoring systems in commercial fisheries. There were also requests for by-catch management to be improved and specific measures requested in relation to certain fisheries. Concerns about spawning aggregations were also discussed.

Numerous submissions included measures to improve the environmental health of the Reef. These varied from broader recommendations to increase the general environmental awareness of residents and visitors in the Region, through to strategies to increase resilience of the Reef, to a request for a moratorium on development, including dredging and marine dredged material disposal and shipping in the Reef area. Other specific suggestions included recommendations and initiatives to improve water quality and reduce crown-of-thorns starfish impacts, identification of priority areas for protection and restoration, the prioritisation of recovery actions and suggestions for areas of the coast which should be excluded from Priority Port Development Areas. These submissions were aimed at improving the health of the Reef and avoiding further impacts.

There were also detailed submissions that requested improving existing environmental management programs regarding water quality, protected area management, threatened species, invasive species and Indigenous cultural heritage. Submissions also suggested applying a standard condition to improve monitoring of the effect of dredging activities and development of an integrated recovery plan, with thresholds, for all matters of national environmental significance.

There were numerous submissions regarding research and scientific advice. These submissions discussed the environmental assessment processes used for development, recommending they are undertaken by independent organisations and that the data used to inform them is made publicly available. The use of scientific advice and knowledge throughout management, including the adaptive management process was recommended, as were suggestions for priority research areas – including further research on environmental and ecological processes, or into the impact of activities on fish species. One submission pointed to developing partnerships between industry and research organisations.

Suggestions for changes to legislation included reforming environmental legislation to enhance environmental protection, strengthen shipping controls and strengthen the environmental assessment process for future development. There were also submissions requesting development of regulations, guidelines and standards in relation to noise pollution, non-statutory environmental guidelines and sustainable fisheries development, as well as to ensure new buildings' aesthetics complement the Reef. Conversely, there were also submissions that emphasised avoiding over-regulation. There was also reference to increasing the coordination between strategic assessment and program reports and other government policies / legislation.

Additional management suggestions included those relating to increasing power to protect values of specific locations, and also specific measures to increase management control in relation to ports, agriculture, aquaculture, mining, dredging and dredged material disposal.

Other submissions suggested a need for increased transparency, consistency and accountability in the decision making framework across jurisdictions.

Regarding Indigenous management issues, there were submissions relating to increasing participation of Indigenous community in the management of the Reef, improving management of traditional hunting and fishing, as well as a request to include consideration of Indigenous issues in bilateral agreements.

5.5.3 Key initiatives

A total of 52 submissions made comments relevant to key initiatives as summarised below.

Submissions referring to the Reef Recovery program covered data and research requirements to inform the program, requests for clarification of the spatial scale of the program (i.e. local or regional) and the need to include heritage values and community benefits.

There was broad support for developing policy or guidelines for conducting a cumulative impact assessment and providing more detail to this effect within the strategic assessment reports. Comments on cumulative impact assessment varied between recommending avoiding duplicating regulation, to suggesting the guidelines should be enforceable and making specific requests for the inclusion of further impacts and measures. Other submissions asked that research requirements for cumulative assessments should be clearly specified and that the accuracy of the assessments should be increased.

It was evident from submission responses that respondents did not necessarily identify that the environmental offsets policy are seen as an additional tool to support the net benefit policy and therefore did not differentiate between them. Some commented on the use of environmental offsets in relation to achieving net benefits, questioning the ability of environmental offsets to achieve a net environmental benefit, where certain ecological communities cannot be restored.

There were also recommendations that the net benefit policy and offsets policy should be enforced, that there should be development of a structured decision making framework of the avoid, mitigate or offset policy to support it and that there should be the development of a register of current, completed and prospective offset projects.

Many respondents had considered how policies could be implemented and suggested a range of ways to do so, including developing a management framework based on outcome and targets.

Some submissions talked about the practicality of the policies, requesting there should be no duplication or unnecessary regulation in formulating these policies. They requested that the policy development should ensure that the net benefit policy is practical and feasible and allows industries to operate competitively.

Other recommendations included that there be requirement for alternative scenarios for development to be considered, that there could be further development of the Reef Trust, including recommendations for the delivery of offsets. Also that Direct Benefits Management Plans should be integrated with the offsets policy.

One submission called for development and implementation of an integrated monitoring program across the Reef, including monitoring for ciguatera fish poisoning and algal blooms, increased monitoring of agricultural run-off, dugong, sea turtle and Australian snub-fin dolphin protection and monitoring plans, in order to get better data to support resilience based monitoring.

5.5.4 Implementation and governance

A total of 11 submissions commented on implementation and governance arrangements applicable to both coastal and marine zones. These submissions included expressions of support towards seeing the strategic assessment reports' commitments turned into action, as well as comments on the requirement to adequately resource their implementation "on the ground". This included commentary of resourcing requirements of local, state and federal management authorities, community groups and not-for-profit organisations. It was also

suggested that improved integration among local, state and federal governments will enhance governance outcomes.

Other related submission comments requested that increased field presence would improve compliance, as would enhancing profile of successful prosecutions and increasing penalties. Submissions included comments on enhancing compliance to reduce illegal take of animals and illegal disposal of waste.

5.6 Suggested amendments and comments on draft reports

There were 108 submissions that suggested amendments and gave comments that apply to both the draft strategic assessment and / or program reports.

Suggestions relating to the overall report structure and content included those asking for improved clarity and readability of reports. More detailed comments included those expressing concern that the content and conclusions of coastal and marine reports are not aligned. Others asked for a single strategic assessment to replace the marine and coastal components. Some respondents felt the strategic assessment reports are too “high level” and expressed concerns there are too much a “plan for a plan”. Respondents also suggested there should be development of tangible and measurable management targets with clearly defined objectives. Respondents asked for there to be clear identification of where the Terms of Reference are addressed in the reports.

Respondents pointed to discrepancies in the reports where they believed information presented and the reports’ conclusions / interpretations did not align.

There were suggestions relating to the spatial scale of the strategic assessments, including suggestions for the assessment to occur at a final spatial scale (e.g. condition and trend analyses at a regional scale, rather than current broader spatial scale) and to include additional areas outside of those currently assessed.

Some submissions recommended there should be independent expert review of final strategic assessment and program reports, in addition to the independent review which has already taken place.

To make clearer the reports’ recommendations, one submission suggested the inclusion of a single summary table for recommendations indicating jurisdiction responsibility. One submission requested naming section authors are named and another asked for summaries at the end of each section to include detail on the significance of findings. One submission queried the relevance of the reports’ response to UNESCO recommendations.

There were comments in submissions that questioned the validity and completeness of information currently contained in the reports and requested amendments. These related to specific:

- activities including port development, shipping, dredging, dredge material disposal, resources sector, defence, Indigenous use, seafood industry and fishing.
- impacts including marine noise, climate change, catchment run-off and direct use impacts.
- species including little tern and sea turtles.
- specific values including geomorphological features, including nationally significant wetlands, biodiversity, cultural, Indigenous heritage, aesthetic values and outstanding universal value.

Clarification was requested around:

- the discussion on cumulative impact assessment guidelines and where they will fit within the current Australian Government / Queensland Government EPBC assessment bilateral agreement.
- the consultation process for the strategic assessment – this included suggested amendments to the public consultation process including an increase in the public consultation time period and increasing clarity and transparency in online survey design.

Respondents also requested that additional details should be added to the strategic assessment reports where they did not believe information was comprehensive enough. These comments related to:

- the management, prioritisation and implementation of offsets and the net benefit policy.
- the roles and jurisdictions of local, state and federal governments in the Region's management.
- distinction between Reef Recovery, Reef Rescue and Reef Plan.
- definitions of key values and processes.
- processes to determine ecological thresholds.
- legislation applicable to the strategic assessments including a discussion on the influence that potential amendments to legislation / regulatory frameworks may have on environmental protection of the Region.

There was a request from a respondent to include recognition of stakeholders, partnerships and collaboration required to deliver coordinated action including government authorities, community groups, industry, Traditional Owners and the general community.

There were also suggested amendments and comments on the accuracy of data and report information around a range of topics, such as the appropriateness of baseline data, the accuracy of condition and trend assessments, impact and risk ratings and water quality data. The accuracy of maps for specific habitats and species and identification data limitations of specific habitats and species was questioned by some respondents.

Some respondents disagreed with selection of certain case studies used in the reports and suggested alternatives that could be used.

Additional data was suggested for the strategic assessments, including data from local government community surveys.

5.7 Long-term sustainability plan

The Australian and Queensland governments are working together to develop a long-term sustainability plan for the GBRWHA to guide its protection and management to 2050. The Plan will inform future development by drawing together the marine and coastal components of the comprehensive strategic assessment, providing an over-arching framework to guide the protection and management of the GBRWHA from 2015 to 2050. It will target the identified areas of action from the strategic assessments and seek to address gaps important for future management of the Area⁶.

⁶ http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/e166e5b7-bd7f-4bc5-9807-ba263e248632/files/gbr-ltsp-info-sheet_0.pdf accessed 1 March 2014.

Survey participants were specifically asked to comment on the long-term sustainability plan and 26 email submissions also referred to the long-term sustainability plan in their email submissions.

Many of the comments were broad opinions on the way the long-term sustainability plan should be prepared, researched or written. The comments covered a wide range of suggestions. Common comments included:

- Ensuring that a scientific and balanced approach is taken
- Including local government and agencies involvement in development and execution
- Making sure there is adequate funding and that there is monitoring in place
- Ensuring there is no negative impact on the Reef and that the health of the Reef is the primary goal of the plan.

Almost all comments relating to the plan and activities affecting the Reef were requests that the plan includes commitments to not allow further industrial, urban or port development, including dredging and dredge material disposal in the World Heritage Area.

One submission referred to assisting development of agriculture and aquaculture in the coastal zone while keeping it sustainable, and another called for an ideas forum and suggested businesses using the Reef should take more responsibility for its care.

Other general comments about the long-term sustainability plan requested that:

- More detail on how the process will work is needed
- Catchment management is a key part
- There should be consultation on its development and independent assessment.

One email campaign stated that the strategic assessment was inadequate to form the basis of the long-term sustainability plan (see Section 8 for discussion of campaign emails).

A number of submissions included suggestions to commit to tackle climate change and that the conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity should take priority in the plan.

Further comments about management of the GBRWHA marine zone specified that the plan should allow for rotation of the green zones, should include out of bounds areas and should reaffirm the independence of the Marine Park Authority.

6. Submissions relevant to just the Coastal Zone Strategic Assessment (Queensland)

This section details submissions relating solely to the coastal zone strategic assessment. Submission comments were deemed to relate to the coastal zone if they commented specifically on the coastal zone reports or coastal zone issues, where general comments are relevant solely to the coastal zone report but no specific report is referenced, and where themes of submissions are relevant to coastal zone reports.

Respondents provided a range of personal opinions and data through the submission process. In most instances, though not all, respondents did not include references to verified external sources to support their comments. Where survey responses were received respondents were not asked to justify their opinions.

6.1 Summary of submission feedback

Responses on individual components of the strategic assessment were fewer than those that were provided across both the marine and coastal zone components. Submission comments which only made reference to the coastal zone component of the strategic assessment are summarised in Table 6-1. Where campaign submissions made comments relevant to the coastal zone strategic assessment they were included in this summary as a single count.

Submissions relating solely to the coastal zone component were typically more detailed than those reflecting on both components. The most common theme represented within submissions related to Queensland Government's forward commitments (73 submissions). Many of these submissions included general support, although there were recommendations as well as concern for the ability to translate these commitments into measurable benefits.

Twenty-two submissions included suggested amendments to the coastal zone draft strategic assessment reports. This included general feedback on report structure and content, topics requiring inclusion or additional information, data / scientific accuracy, the spatial coverage of strategic assessments and amendments and suggestions to specific sections of the coastal zone reports.

Of the 18 submission referring to management effectiveness, 17 referred to measures to strengthen foundational management.

There were relatively few comments referring to values, activities and impacts in relation to the coastal zone.

Discussion of the context of submissions provided against the coastal zone is provided in the following sections for sub-themes that received comment.

Table 6-1 Submissions relevant to the coastal zone component - summary of themes

Theme	Sub-theme	Number of submissions raising the theme ⁷
Values	Total	9
	Species	9
Activities	Total	3
	Aquaculture	1
	Fishing	1
	Recreation	1
Impacts	Total	8
	Climate change	1
	Catchment run-off	5
	Direct use	2
Management effectiveness	Total	18
	Current management	4
	Measures to strengthen foundational management	17
Suggested amendments to draft reports	Total	22
Forward commitments	Total	73

6.2 Values

6.2.1 Species

A total of 9 submissions discussed species that occur exclusively within the coastal zones of the region. Species discussed included:

- Terrestrial birds – including bush stone curlews, yellow chats, cassowaries, black-throated finches.
- Terrestrial mammals – including spectacled flying fox, grey-headed flying fox mahogany glider, spotted quoll, bare-rumped sheath-tail bat.

Comment was made regarding the value these species contribute to the unique diversity of the coastal zone. Concerns regarding currency of data underpinning the management of these species and adequacy of measures to protect species from impacts associated with different development activities were also raised.

⁷ Submissions typically covered multiple themes, therefore summing the themes does not equal the number of submissions received.

6.2.2 Survey feedback

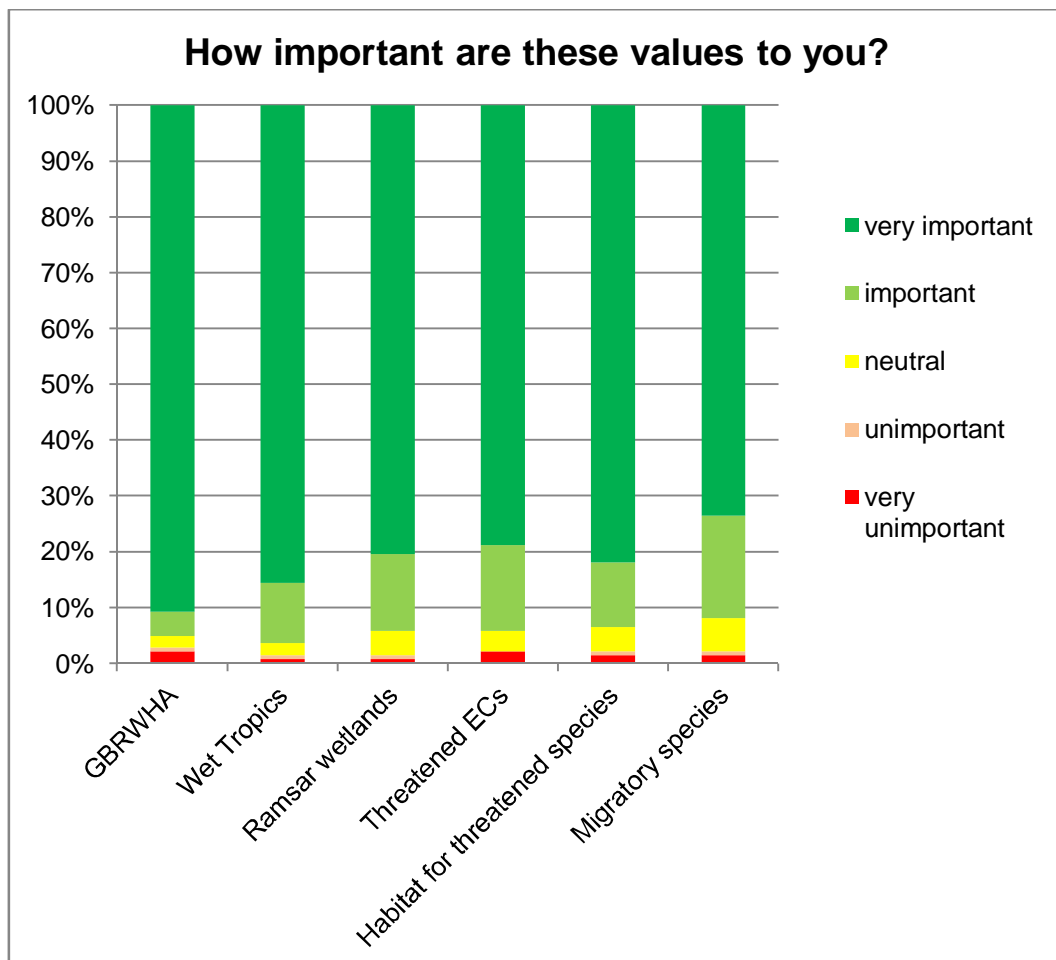
Coastal zone values and benefits

Table 6-2 and Figure 6-1 show that on average respondents felt all of the values outlined in the coastal zone report were very important.

Table 6-2 Coastal zone natural and heritage values – average scores

Value	Average score
GBRWhA	4.8
Wet Tropics	4.8
Ramsar wetlands	4.7
Threatened ECs	4.7
Habitat for threatened species	4.7
Migratory species	4.6

Figure 6-1 Coastal zone values – distribution of opinion

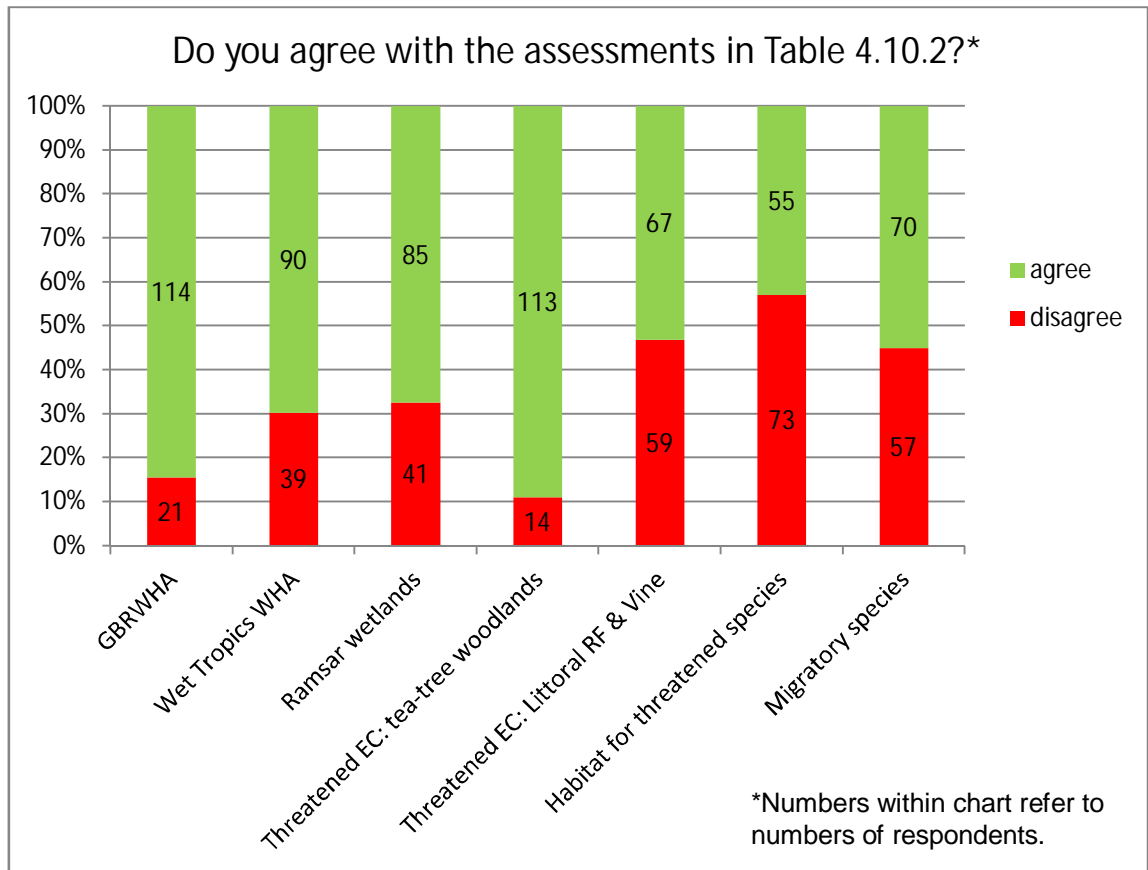


When asked if there were other relevant values 82 per cent of respondents identified there were, and 120 respondents specified a wide range of suggested additional values. The majority of responses did, however, refer to impacts or issues of concern rather than values, or alternatively referred to sub-components of the values already identified.

Current condition of values

The survey asked whether respondents agreed with Queensland Government’s assessment of the current condition of the identified values. Figure 6-2 shows the majority of respondents agreed with the assessment of most of the values. However, on average respondents disagreed with the finding in the draft strategic assessment reports that the condition of the habitat of threatened species was good and there was equivalence about whether the findings of the strategic assessment for threatened ecological communities and migratory species habitat were accurate.

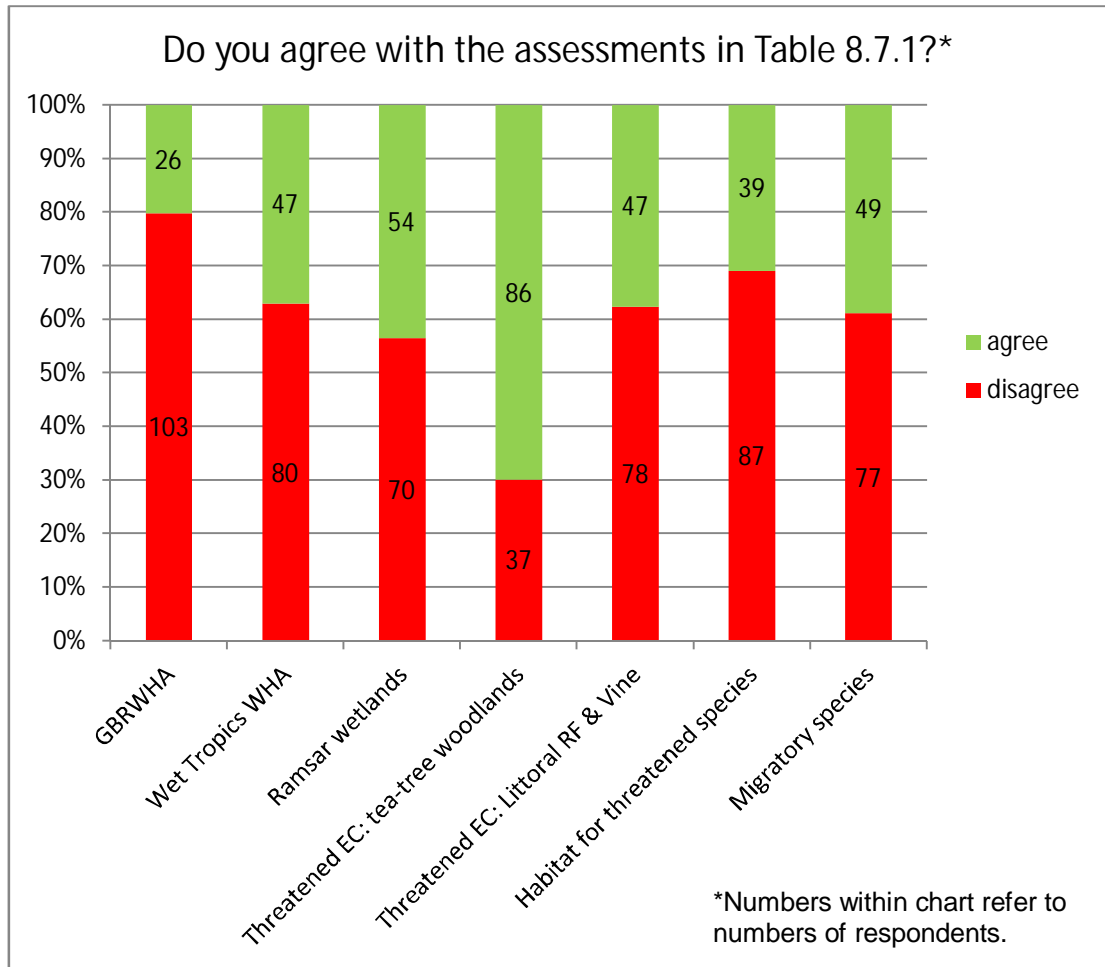
Figure 6-2 Current condition of values



Future condition of values

On average respondents were critical of the Queensland Government’s assessment of the projected future condition of these values. As Figure 6-3 shows the only value assessment respondents generally agreed with was the tea-tree woodlands, which was assessed as poor. All others were assessed as either good or very good – which respondents disagreed with.

Figure 6-3 Future condition of values



6.3 Activities

There were three comments in submissions that discussed activities specifically related to the coastal zone. As discussed in Section 5.3 submissions on activities are discussed in multiple sections of this report.

6.3.1 Aquaculture

One submission made specific suggestions for inclusions into the draft reports in relation to prawn farming, including the need for research assessing the impacts of prawn farms on coastal environments.

6.3.2 Fishing

One submission suggested that the draft reports should address the management of threats to the Reef identified by fishing networks along the Marine Park coastline.

6.3.3 Recreation

One submission was received for the coastal zone which focussed on recreational use of the coastal zone. This submission highlighted concern for the environmental impact of four wheel drive traffic on wetlands and suggested its inclusion in the strategic assessment. This is also addressed in Section 6.4.3.

6.3.4 Survey feedback

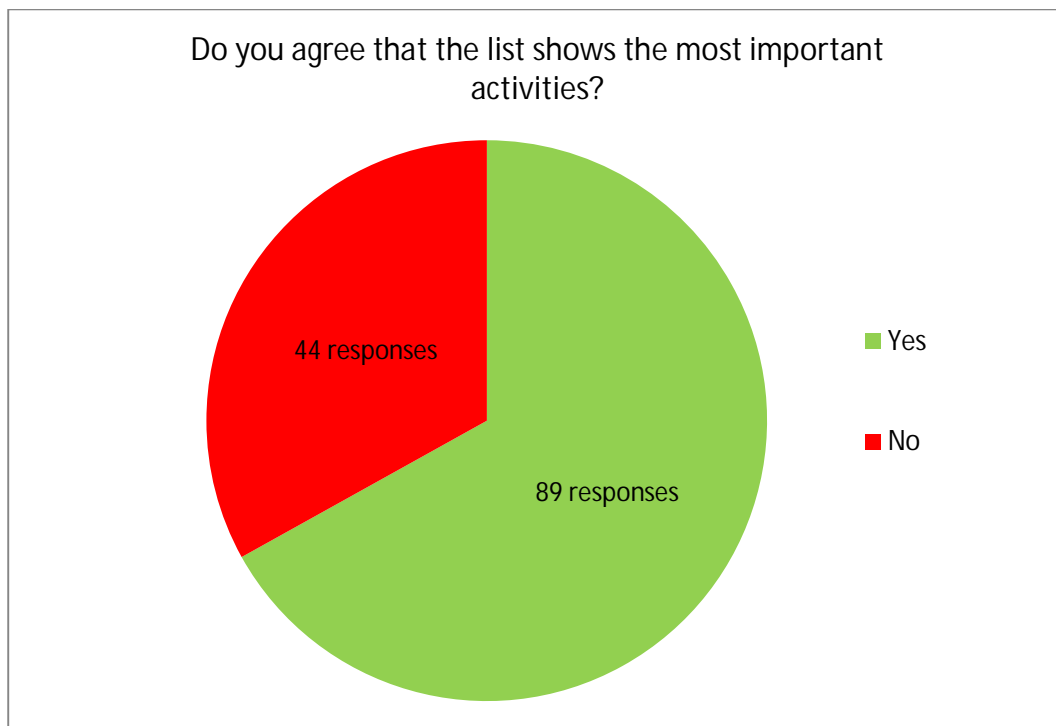
Activities impacting values

The survey included a list of activities occurring within the coastal zone which are known to impact the values of the coastal zone. The list included:

- Urban and industrial development
- Tourism development and use
- Port development and maritime infrastructure
- Agriculture
- Mining and quarrying
- Natural resource management.

Figure 6-4 shows that two-thirds (67 per cent) of respondents agreed that the list of activities reflects the most important activities which have potential to impact values of the coastal zone.

Figure 6-4 Activities impacting values



A follow-up question asked those that disagreed with the list, which other activities impacting on the values they feel should be included. Almost all responses referred to sub-categories of the activities already referred to, or the actual impacts rather than the activities.

Of the 51 responses to this clarification question, just over half referred to impacts such as fishing (29 per cent) and climate change (16 per cent). Approximately 14 per cent suggested natural resource management activities, such as catchment management, Indigenous practices and the effects of government policies, were also important for supporting coastal zone values.

Ten per cent of responses related to port development and marine infrastructure, in particular dredging and shipping. Mining and quarrying activities were referred to by almost 6 per cent of responses, and almost 4 per cent referred to agriculture or aquaculture impacts.

Other responses referred to the activities which are categorised as tourism / recreational activities or urban and industrial development. Ten per cent of respondents identified issues not relevant to the question.

6.4 Impacts

6.4.1 Climate change

One submission was received that was specifically concerned with climate change impacts on the coastal zone. The submission expressed concern that no actions were proposed for tackling climate change and impacts from climate change on the coastal zone and suggested that there should be.

6.4.2 Catchment run-off

Five submissions discussed impacts of catchment run-off within the coastal zone affecting the Reef. These submissions discussed:

- Influence of changes to Queensland Legislation on environmental protection, including changes to State Planning Policy, vegetation management and wild rivers legislation and the draft Cape York Regional Plan.
- Impacts that clearing vegetation has on the water quality of run-off.
- Water quality from sewage treatment plants being discharged.

6.4.3 Direct use

Two submissions discussed impacts from the direct use of the coastal zone and recommended that the strategic assessment should include information on these impacts. These submissions discussed the environmental impact of introduced species including rubber vine, lantana, horses and wild pigs, as well as the impact of four wheel drive traffic on wetlands.

6.4.4 Survey feedback

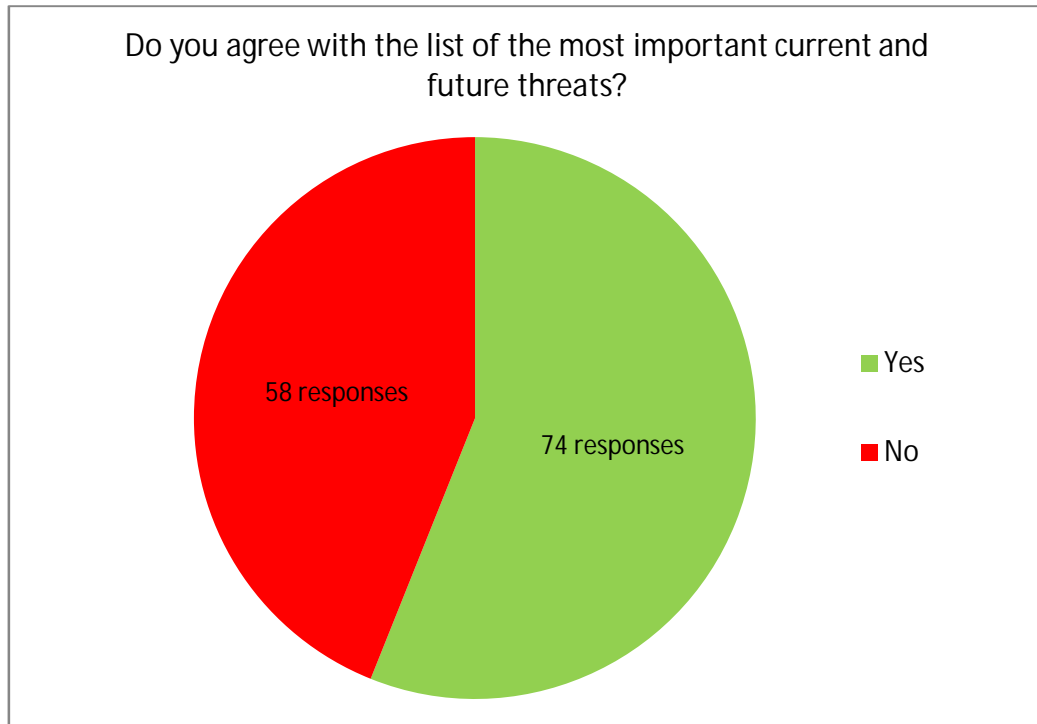
Current and future threats

The survey included a list of current and future threats to the values of the coastal zone, as identified in the strategic assessment. The list included:

- Climate Effects and Extreme Weather events
- Loss of habitat and connectivity
- Decline in water quality
- Pest and weed species
- Modified fire regimes
- Disturbance of species
- Altered flow regimes.

Figure 6-5 shows that just over half (56 per cent) of respondents agreed that the list reflects the most important current and future threats.

Figure 6-5 Current and future threats



A follow-up question asked those that disagreed, which other threats they feel should be included. Most respondents to this clarification question expressed concern about threats caused by anthropogenic impacts on the environment.

Of the 58 responses to this question over half (55 per cent) referred to activities such as industrial or mining developments, governance or general issues such as the effect of population growth, tourism, shipping or cumulative impacts.

However, some respondents referred to issues already listed. For example, six responses referred specifically to the threat of a decline in water quality either generally, or due to agriculture or port development. Five responses discussed disturbance to species generally and three of these referred specifically to this being caused by fishing. Four responses referenced the effect of climate change as a threat.

The remainder of responses, 11 in total, were not relevant to the question.

6.5 Management effectiveness

Eighteen submissions made explicit comments in relation to the management of the coastal zone. As identified under Section 5.5 management effectiveness was categorised as follows for the consultation:

- **Current management** – comments on management effectiveness that do not make suggestions to improve management and do not discuss key initiatives or implementation and governance
- **Measures to strengthen foundational management** – comments that provide suggestions and recommendations to improve management of the region and do not discuss key initiatives or implementation and governance

- **Key initiatives** – key initiatives to strengthen management including a management framework based on outcomes and targets, strengthening standards and identifying critical thresholds, cumulative impact assessment policy, net benefit policy, Reef Recovery program and an integrated monitoring and reporting program
- **Implementation and governance** – regulatory responsibilities, compliance, coordination among management groups / authorities and resourcing of management actions.

Responses were received against the first two management categories and are discussed below.

6.5.1 Current management

A total of four submissions discussed the current management of the coastal zone without making suggestions to strengthen management or improve key initiatives. These submissions raised concern that there is no mandatory public consultation process in Queensland for many types of development that may impact the Reef.

6.5.2 Measures to strengthen foundational management

Seventeen submissions provided suggestions and recommendations for inclusion in the strategic assessment to improve management of the coastal zone as follows:

- Increasing the extent of the coastal zone over a greater land area.
- Support for the Marine Park Authority's marine debris reduction scheme by Queensland management authorities.
- Changes / recommendations to Queensland environmental legislation including incorporating the precautionary principle into the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.
- Enhancing catchment management through the preparation of catchment management plans, accelerating the catchment management program and investing in water quality improvement programs.
- Increasing resourcing and oversight of local councils to improve environmental outcomes.
- Strategies to improve protection of specific ecological values, including Cassowaries, freshwater wetlands, mangroves and riparian habitats.

There were also concerns expressed that measures to strengthen management as described by the strategic assessment report are insubstantial.

6.6 Suggested amendments and comments on draft reports

Twenty-two submissions suggested amendments to the draft coastal zone strategic assessment and / or program reports.

Suggested amendments included general feedback on report structure and content, such as developing an overall executive summary for the strategic assessment and that the management effectiveness conclusions need better factual support in the reports.

A range of comments related to including additional topics or additional information. These comments focused on including greater detail on aquaculture and fisheries development, specific species such as cassowary and mahogany glider, cumulative impacts and social and economic factors.

Respondents also asked for more consideration of terrestrial matters of national environmental significance in the coastal zone, the influence of amendments to state government regulatory frameworks on environmental protection of the Reef and improvements to discussion of climate change.

Some requested that the final reports should include more on the future methods to address management issues and that they should address all recommendations of the independent peer review of the coastal strategic assessment process.

Submission comments also questioned the data / scientific accuracy with in the reports, with regard to specific species, ecological communities, trend and condition assessments matters of national environmental significance and the case studies used in the reports.

One submission suggested that for the purpose of the strategic assessment the coastal zone boundary should be expanded to better protect the Reef.

6.7 Forward commitments

6.7.1 Submissions

A total of 73 submissions contained information, recommendations, criticism or expressed support that directly related to forward commitments outlined in the coastal zone component of the strategic assessment report.

Table 6-3 provides an overview of the submission comments relating to the forward commitments.

Section 6.7.2 contains a list of each of the forward commitments contained in the coastal zone strategic assessment, followed by brief commentary relating to the recommendations and criticisms relating to each forward commitment. The commentary is informed by interpretation from comments to that forward commitment in submissions. Comments were either supportive of, made recommendations or criticism of, or provided information that respondents suggested would improve, the forward commitments.

Section 6.7.3 summarises the feedback from survey responses specifically relating to each forward commitment, indicating overall support for the forward commitments identified by the coastal zone component of the strategic assessment.

Table 6-3 Relevance of submissions to forward commitments

Forward commitment	Number of relevant submissions	Relevance		
		General support	Relevant information	Recommendations and / or criticisms
1	3	✓	✓	✓
2	29	✓	✓	✓
3	6	✓	✓	✓
4	5	✓	✓	✓
5	11	✓	✓	✓
6	7	✓	✓	✓
7	7	✓	✓	✓
8	24	✓	✓	✓
9	21	✓	✓	✓
10	20	✓	✓	✓
11	15	✓	✓	✓
12	19	✓	✓	✓
13	15	✓	✓	✓
14	5	✓	✓	✓
15	9	✓	✓	✓
16	7	✓	✓	✓
17	1	✓		
18	14	✓	✓	✓
19	1	✓		
20	1	✓		

6.7.2 Recommendations and criticisms

Forward Commitment 1

“Queensland will provide information to the Australian Government on proposed developments that may impact upon World Heritage properties to ensure Australia’s international obligations continue to be met.”

No recommendations or criticisms on Forward Commitment 1 were submitted, however there was support for the commitment, as well as one submission expressing concern that the statement of intent may not transfer to action.

Forward Commitment 2

“Queensland will work with the Australian Government to develop and implement a long term sustainability plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area by the end of 2014.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- The need to improve foundational management and legislation supporting the long-term sustainability plan.
- Recommendation to increase short-term outcomes of the long-term sustainability plan.
- Requests to clarify the next steps of the long-term sustainability plan.
- Comment on elements of the strategic assessment and program reports that support the long-term sustainability plan, including suggestions to base the long-term sustainability plan largely on the Marine Park Authority’s final Program Report.
- Recommending information, research and collaboration to support the long-term sustainability plan.
- Specific aspects to include within the long-term sustainability plan. For example, planning for Traditional Owners to engage in management.

Forward Commitment 3

“Queensland will work with the Australian Government to jointly develop an outcomes-based framework for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.”

Recommendations related to setting targets and outcomes, including making targets more specific, measurable and reducing the number of targets.

Forward Commitment 4

“Queensland will continue to work with industry and other stakeholders in Gladstone Harbour to establish and implement the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership which will inform future management decisions.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Suggestion that the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership fails to maintain environmental health of Gladstone Harbour.
- Recommendation to investigate environmental impacts and causes at Gladstone Harbour and to use this information to inform future management decisions.

Forward Commitment 5

“Queensland is committed to working with the Australian Government to improve identification of matters of national environmental significance.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Recommendation to align state and federal approaches to matters of national environmental significance.
- Suggestions for data improvement, including for specific species and ecological communities.

- Suggestions for inclusion of matters of national environmental significance and concern that narrow the focus of matters of national environmental significance may limit the ability of the coastal zone strategic assessment to meet its Terms of Reference.
- Concern that the commitment will not translate into action.

Forward Commitment 6

“Queensland will continue to work with the Australian Government and other states and territories to achieve consistent national listing of threatened species.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Recommendations for the assessment process for threatened species, including aligning state and federal approaches.
- Concern that the commitment will not translate into action.

Forward Commitment 7

“Queensland will continue to work with the Australian Government and other states and territories to achieve consistent national listing of threatened species. Migratory Species (such as particular bird species).”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Recommendations for the assessment process for migratory species, including assessing species individually where supporting data exists.
- Concern that commitment will not translate into action.

Forward Commitment 8

“Queensland will develop and implement the Queensland Ports Strategy which builds on and further strengthens the government’s commitment to consolidate existing port capacity and strengthen port-related management of the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Concern that the Queensland Ports Strategy (QPS) does not provide adequate environmental protection.
- Recommendations for alternative port development options and methods including restricting marine dredged material disposal, development of a single high capacity port facility.
- Recommendations for exclusions and alterations to priority port development areas.
- Criticism of the public consultation process for the QPS.
- Criticism of the options assessment process.
- Compliance recommendations including the development of appropriate environmental limits and vessel inspection practices.
- Recommendation to increase the timeframe of QPS.
- Recommendation to increase detail on specific areas of QPS.

Forward Commitment 9

“Queensland will work with the Australian Government and the Authority to develop guidelines proponents should consider when assessing cumulative impacts for EPBC Act approvals including those that impact on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.”

Recommendations and criticisms:

- Public consultation recommendations.
- Recommendation for a framework of cumulative impact assessment policy, including using a qualitative risk-based assessment in cumulative impact assessments.
- More detail required on the development of cumulative impact assessment guidelines including issues that will be addressed as part of a cumulative impact assessment.
- Concern that commitment will not translate into action.
- Recommendation that cumulative impact assessment guidelines should be enforceable.

Forward Commitment 10

“Implement a new Queensland offsets policy that delivers more strategic outcomes and ensures funds derived from the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone are used to tackle the most significant issues facing the Great Barrier Reef and seek to align with the objectives of the Australian Government Offsets Policy and proposed Reef Trust where possible.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Public consultation recommendations and transparency of decision making process.
- Legislative suggestions for the offset policy, including the development of a decision framework to guide the avoid, minimise or offset policy.
- Recommended management of offsets including the prioritisation, implementation and use of funds derived from offsets.
- Concern that offset programs do not effectively provide ecological restoration and protection outcomes.
- A request for consistency between state and federal offset policies.

Forward Commitment 11

“Queensland will also work with the Authority and seek to utilise the outcomes of recent research (coastal basin assessments) in implementing the new offsets policy, including through the development of a Direct Benefit Management Plan for the Great Barrier Reef.”

Recommendations and criticisms about offsets and the offsets policy are identified in commentary on Forward Commitment 10 above.

Forward Commitment 12

“Queensland will continue to support the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and the associated Paddock to Reef monitoring program to help achieve the long term goal of no detrimental impact from water entering the Great Barrier Reef.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Recommended goals, targets and outcomes for Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan).

- Inclusion of additional water quality factors into Reef Plan such as urban and industrial water quality and the importance of coastal habitats.
- Recommendations to clearly distinguish Reef Recovery, Reef Rescue and Reef Plan.
- Criticism of the ability of the Reef Plan to halt or reverse declines in water quality. This includes concerns that Reef Plan will not be implemented and / or funded appropriately and suggestion for a critical review of Reef Plan.

Forward Commitment 13

“At Reef Plan’s next review (2018), consideration will be given to expanding its scope to sources of pollutants other than broadscale land use.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Recommendation that the expansion of scope should not be postponed.
- Recommendations on how Reef Plan’s scope can be expanded.
- Criticism of expanding its scope if Reef Plan is not meeting its targets.

Forward Commitment 14

“Queensland will continue to support programs that improve the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Request for more detail on how improvements will be made.
- Suggestions for support programs.

Forward Commitment 15

“Queensland will continue to undertake broader activities to improve the character of wetlands through the Queensland Wetlands Program.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Suggestions to improve ecosystem health of wetlands, including limiting four wheel drive access and incorporating the value of wetlands into Reef Plan.
- Identification of specific wetlands where environmental protection should be increased.

Forward Commitment 16

“Queensland will prioritise actions to recover species, taking into account national recovery plans, threat abatement plans and conservation advices.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Suggested species to be prioritised and resourcing of recovery plans.
- Data / information, recovery plans, threat abatement plans and conservation plans that require review / updating.
- Recovery targets.

Forward Commitment 17

“Incorporate reporting into Queensland state of the environment reporting in relation to matters of national environmental significance condition and trend.”

No recommendations or criticisms were submitted in relation to forward commitment 17.

Forward Commitment 18

“Work with the Australian Government to develop an integrated monitoring program that incorporates existing Queensland monitoring programs and provides improved information to underpin the long term sustainability plan.”

Recommendations and criticisms included:

- Suggestions of activities, species, environmental responses and indicators to include in an integrated monitoring program.
- Support for collaboration among stakeholders in developing and undertaking an integrated monitoring program. Stakeholders suggested include local, state and federal government authorities, research institutions, community groups and regional sectors.
- Timeframe of integrated monitoring program, including the time until inception of the monitoring program.

Forward Commitment 19

“Advise the Australian Government of any proposed changes to the Program and prepare an matters of national environmental significance Impact Statement where a significant change is considered.”

No recommendations or criticisms were submitted in relation to Forward Commitment 19.

Forward Commitment 20

“The Queensland Government will report annually to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on implementation of the strategic assessment.”

No recommendations or criticisms on Forward Commitment 20 were submitted.

6.7.3 Survey responses

The survey asked respondents how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the entire list of Queensland Government’s 20 forward commitments.

Table 6-4 shows the average scores for this question. Analysis shows that none of the forward commitments received an average score of less than 3.0, which means on average respondents did not disagree with any of the forward commitments.

However, there were a number of forward commitments which received scores of 3.5 or less, suggesting that respondents were less supportive of these. These included Forward Commitment 4 (3.5), Forward Commitment 8 (3.2), Forward Commitment 10 (3.4), (included in italics in Table 6-4) and concern port-related and offsets-related commitments.

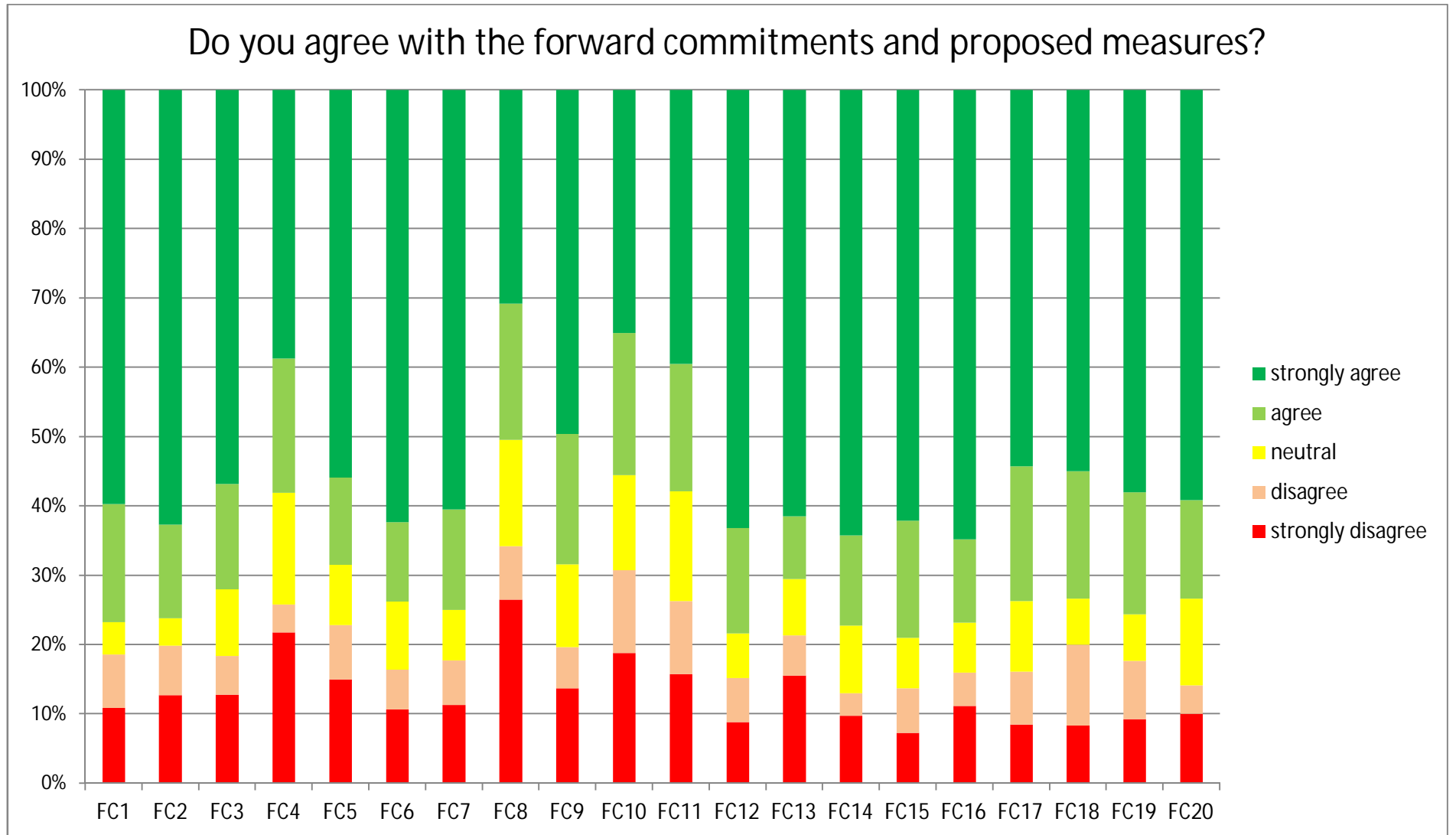
Figure 6-6 shows greater resolution on this question with the distribution of scores in the survey in relation to each of the forward commitments. This analysis is illustrative of the strength of opinion. For example, relatively few respondents strongly agreed with Forward Commitment 4, Forward Commitment 8 and Forward Commitment 10 compared with other forward commitments, and relatively high numbers of respondents strongly disagreed with Forward Commitment 8.

Table 6-4 Forward commitment average scores

Forward commitment number	Forward commitment	Average score
	International obligations	
FC1	Queensland will provide information to the Australian Government on proposed developments that may impact upon World Heritage properties to ensure Australia's international obligations continue to be met.	4.1
FC2	Queensland will work with the Australian Government to develop and implement a long term sustainability plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area by the end of 2014.	4.1
FC3	Queensland will work with the Australian Government to jointly develop an outcomes-based framework for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.	4.0
FC4	Queensland will continue to work with industry and other stakeholders in Gladstone Harbour to establish and implement the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership which will inform future management decisions.	3.5
	Managing coastal development	
FC5	Queensland is committed to working with the Australian Government to improve identification of matters of national environmental significance	3.9
FC6	Queensland will continue to work with the Australian Government and other states and territories to achieve consistent national listing of threatened species.	4.1
FC7	Queensland will continue to work with the Australian Government and other states and territories to achieve consistent national listing of threatened species. Migratory Species (such as particular bird species).	4.1
	Implementing strengthened management measures	
FC8	Queensland will develop and implement the Queensland Ports Strategy which builds on and further strengthens the government's commitment to consolidate existing port capacity and strengthen port-related management of the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone.	3.2
FC9	Queensland will work with the Australian Government and the Authority to develop guidelines proponents should consider when assessing cumulative impacts for EPBC Act approvals including those that impact on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.	3.8
FC10	Implement a new Queensland offsets policy that delivers more strategic outcomes and ensures funds derived from the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone are used to tackle the most significant issues facing the Great Barrier Reef and seek to align with the objectives of the Australian Government Offsets Policy and proposed Reef Trust where possible.	3.4
FC11	Queensland will also work with the Authority and seek to utilise the outcomes of recent research (coastal basin assessments) in implementing the new offsets policy, including through the development of a Direct Benefit Management Plan for the Great Barrier Reef.	3.6
	Enhancing Matters of National Environmental Significance	
FC12	Queensland will continue to support the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and the associated Paddock to Reef monitoring program to help achieve the long term goal of no detrimental impact from water	4.2

Forward commitment number	Forward commitment	Average score
	entering the Great Barrier Reef.	
FC13	At Reef Plan's next review (2018), consideration will be given to expanding its scope to sources of pollutants other than broadscale land use.	4.0
FC14	Queensland will continue to support programs that improve the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.	4.2
FC15	Queensland will continue to undertake broader activities to improve the character of wetlands through the Queensland Wetlands Program.	4.2
FC16	Queensland will prioritise actions to recover species, taking into account national recovery plans, threat abatement plans and conservation advices.	4.1
	Adaptive management	
FC17	Incorporate reporting into Queensland state of the environment reporting in relation to matters of national environmental significance condition and trend.	4.0
FC18	Work with the Australian Government to develop an integrated monitoring program that incorporates existing Queensland monitoring programs and provides improved information to underpin the long term sustainability plan.	4.0
FC19	Advise the Australian Government of any proposed changes to the Program and prepare an matters of national environmental significance Impact Statement where a significant change is considered.	4.1
FC20	The Queensland Government will report annually to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on implementation of the strategic assessment.	4.1

Figure 6-6 Forward commitments - distribution of opinion



7. Submissions relevant to just the Marine Zone Strategic Assessment (the Marine Park Authority)

This section details submissions relating solely to the marine zone strategic assessment. Submission comments were deemed to relate to the marine zone if they commented specifically on the marine zone reports or marine zone issues, where general comments are relevant solely to the marine zone report but no specific report is referenced, and where themes of submissions are relevant to marine reports. Where submission comments related to both components of the strategic assessment analysis has been provided in Section 5.

7.1 Summary of feedback

Responses on individual components of the strategic assessment were fewer than those that were provided across both the marine and coastal zone components. Table 7-1 summarises the number and context of submission comments which only made reference to the marine zone component of the strategic assessment. Where campaign submissions made comments relevant to the marine strategic assessment they were included in this summary as a single count.

As with the coastal zone component, submissions relating solely to the marine zone component were typically more detailed than those reflecting on both components. The most common theme represented within submissions was management effectiveness.

Forty submissions discussed the current management of the Reef without making suggestions to strengthen management or improve key initiatives. Four submissions provided suggestions and recommendations to strengthen the management of the marine zone. These suggestions related to matters such as enhancing data underpinning management, strengthening the authority of the Marine Park Authority and opportunities for translating management actions into benefits for the Reef.

Five submissions includes suggested amendments to draft reports, including specific suggestions to sections of the marine zone reports and identified topics requiring inclusion or additional information for the final reports.

One submission received related to the effect of both commercial and recreational fishing and the impact of these activities on the Reef.

Table 7-1 Submissions relevant to the marine zone component - summary of themes

Theme	Sub-theme	Number of submissions raising the theme ⁸
Activities	Total	1
	Fishing - commercial	1
	Fishing - recreational	1
Management effectiveness	Total	41
	Current management	4
	Measures to strengthen foundational management	40
Suggested amendments to draft reports	Total	5
Recommendations	Total	70

7.2 Values

Marine zone values and benefits

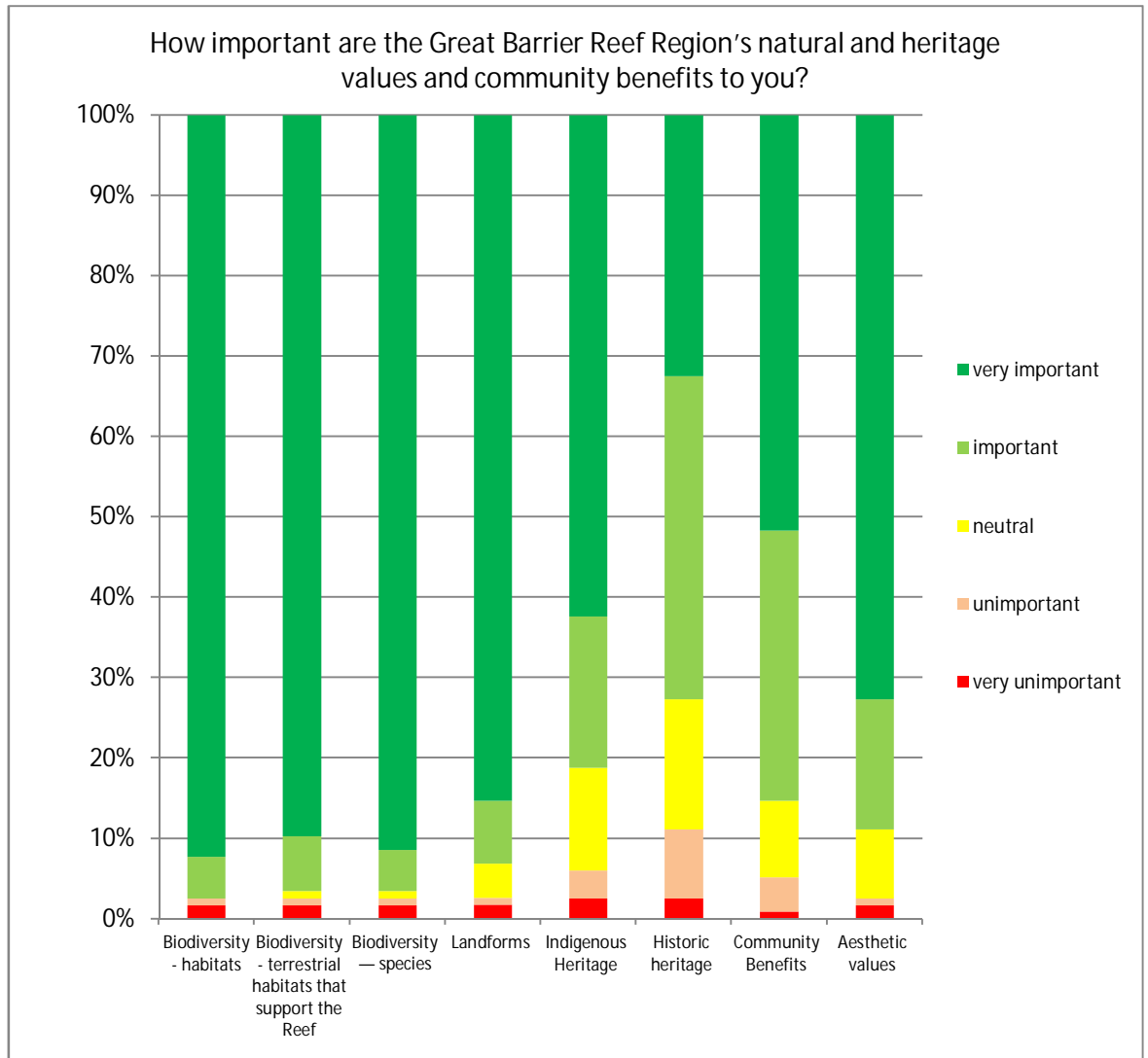
Table 7-2 and Figure 7-1 show that on average respondents felt the values and benefits outlined in the marine zone report were important. The majority of identified values and benefits were considered to be very important. Although still considered important by many respondents, Indigenous heritage, historic heritage, community benefits and aesthetic values received a higher number of responses which were neutral or which considered the values to be unimportant (Figure 7-1).

Table 7-2 Marine zone values and benefits – average scores

Values and Benefits	Average score (where >3.0 indicates important values)
Biodiversity – habitats	4.9
Biodiversity – terrestrial habitats that support the Reef	4.8
Biodiversity – species	4.8
Landforms	4.7
Indigenous heritage	4.4
Historic heritage	3.9
Community Benefits	4.3
Aesthetic values	4.6

⁸ Submissions typically covered multiple themes, therefore summing the themes does not equal the number of submissions received.

Figure 7-1 Marine zone values and benefits - distribution of opinion



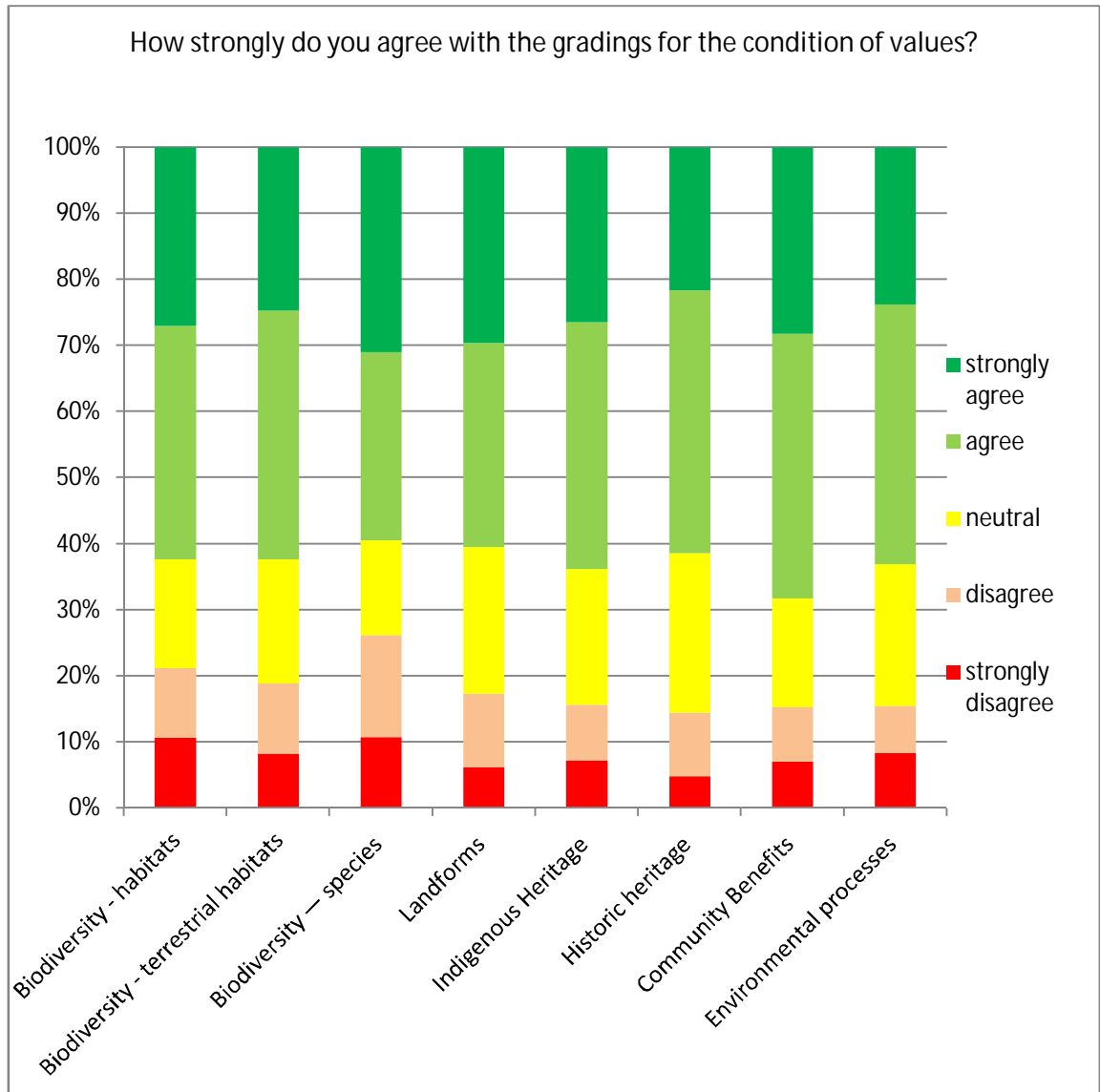
Condition of values

On average survey respondents agreed with the Marine Park Authority's assessment of the condition of values, with little variation across the average scores for each of the different values (Table 7-3). Figure 7-2 confirms that there was a spread of opinion across all values about whether respondents agreed, had neutral opinion or disagreed with gradings. On balance more respondents agreed than disagreed with gradings of the marine values reported.

Table 7-3 Condition of values - average scores

Value	Average score
Biodiversity – habitats	3.6
Biodiversity – terrestrial habitats	3.6
Biodiversity – species	3.5
Landforms	3.7
Indigenous heritage	3.7
Historic heritage	3.6
Community benefits	3.7
Environmental processes	3.6

Figure 7-2 Condition of values - distribution of scores



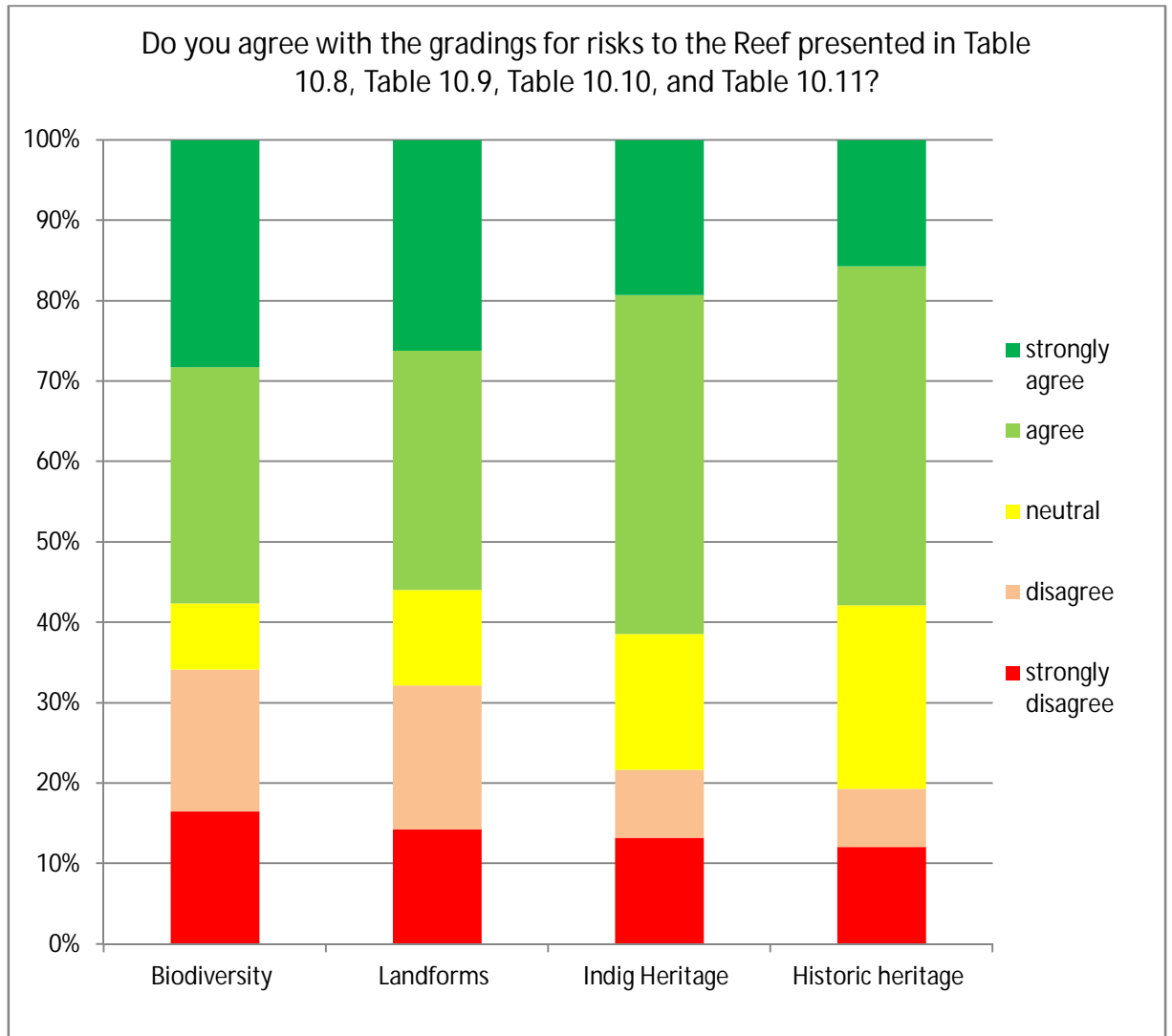
Risk to the Reef

The survey asked if respondents agreed with the future risks to the Reef identified in tables 10.8 – 10.11 in the marine zone strategic assessment. The average scores across responses to this question (refer Table 7-4) show that respondents generally agreed. This is also reflected in Figure 7-3, which shows the distribution of scores across all response categories. Marginally more respondents agreed with gradings provided about risks to Indigenous and historic heritage, however, than those provided for biodiversity and landforms. On balance more respondents agreed than disagreed with gradings about future risks to the Reef.

Table 7-4 Risks to the Reef - average scores

Value	Average score
Biodiversity	3.4
Landforms	3.4
Indigenous heritage	3.5
Historic heritage	3.4

Figure 7-3 Gradings for risk to the Reef – distribution of scores



7.3 Activities

As discussed in Section 5.3, submissions on activities are discussed in multiple sections of this report. One submission discussed activities in the Reef specifically related to the marine zone reports, providing multiple comments relating to fishing.

7.3.1 Fishing – commercial

One submission comment suggested specific amendments to the draft reports related to the description of commercial fishing activities and how they relate to health of the Reef.

7.3.2 Fishing – recreational

Similar to commercial fishing, one submission comment also suggested specific amendments to the draft reports related to recreational fishing activities and how they influence the health of the Reef.

7.4 Impacts

No submissions were provided that discussed impacts to the Reef only referencing the marine zone reports. In general, any submissions that discussed impacts to the marine zone also discussed impacts to the coastal zone and are, therefore, provided in Section 5.4 of this report.

7.4.1 Survey feedback

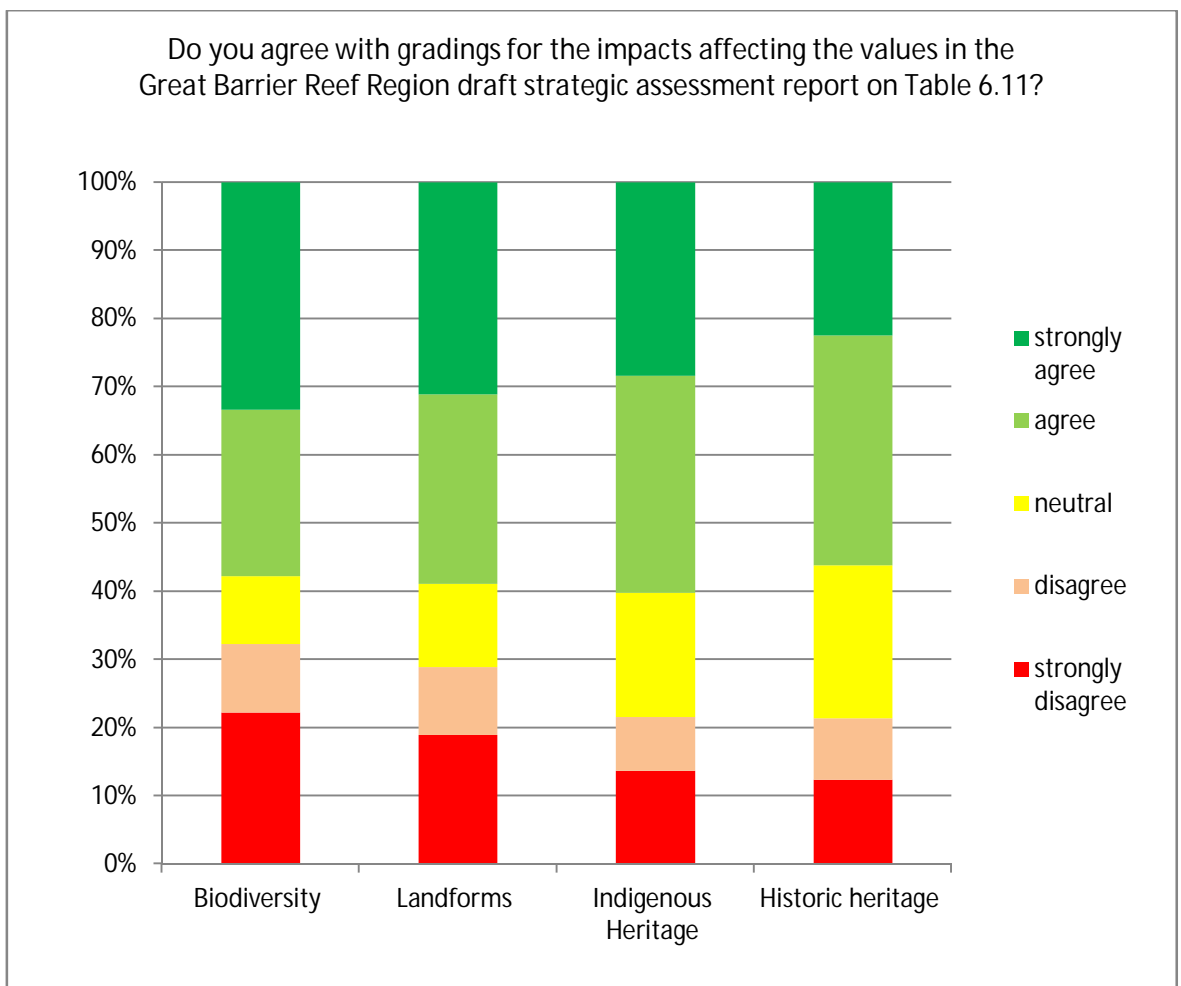
Impacts affecting values

The survey asked to what extent respondents agreed with the Marine Park Authority's gradings of impacts affecting the values. Table 7-5 shows that on average respondents agreed with these assessments. This is also reflected in Figure 7-4, which shows the distribution of scores across all response categories was relatively even. More respondents disagreed with the rating of impacts associated with biodiversity and landforms than Indigenous and historic heritage. However, on balance more respondents agreed than disagreed with gradings about impacts affecting values of the Reef across all categories.

Table 7-5 Gradings of impacts average scores

Gradings related to:	Average score
Biodiversity	3.4
Landforms	3.4
Indigenous heritage	3.5
Historic heritage	3.4

Figure 7-4 Gradings of impacts – distribution of scores



7.5 Management effectiveness

Forty-one submissions included comments explicitly relating to the management of the marine zone. As identified under Section 5.5 management effectiveness was categorised as follows for the consultation:

- **Current management** – comments on management effectiveness that do not make suggestions to improve management and do not discuss key initiatives or implementation and governance.
- **Measures to strengthen foundational management** – comments that provide suggestions and recommendations to improve management of the region and do not discuss key initiatives or implementation and governance.
- **Key initiatives** – key initiatives to strengthen management including a management framework based on outcomes and targets, strengthening standards and identifying critical thresholds, cumulative impact assessment policy, net benefit policy, Reef Recovery program and an integrated monitoring and reporting program.
- **Implementation and governance** – regulatory responsibilities, compliance, coordination among management groups / authorities and resourcing of management actions.

7.5.1 Current management

A total of four submissions included comments discussing the current management of the Reef without making suggestions to strengthen management or improve key initiatives. Submission comments included concern that the management commitments are focused on the long term and have little to benefit Reef health in the short term, that there is no proposed significant investment or intervention to reverse the condition of Reef habitats and that the Marine Park Authority has limited power to action the management strategies. One submission included support for the GBRMP zoning system.

7.5.2 Measures to strengthen foundational management

A total of forty submissions provided suggestions and recommendations to strengthen the management of the marine zone. Relevant submissions discussed:

- Increasing the authority and regulatory responsibility of the Marine Park Authority:
 - Increasing the Marine Park Authority's jurisdictional control over more activities that impact on the Reef's values
 - The Marine Park Authority to have the power to advise on a wider range of activities that may impact the Reef.
- Concern that streamlining and harmonising regulatory tools may reduce the Marine Park Authority's regulatory power and degrade the opportunity to effectively manage the marine zone.
- Suggestions that the GBRMP be extended to align with the GBRWHA.
- Review of the structure and funding of the Marine Park Authority management committee to enhance opportunity for effective management of the marine zone.

7.5.3 Survey feedback

Recommended improvements – the Marine Park Authority

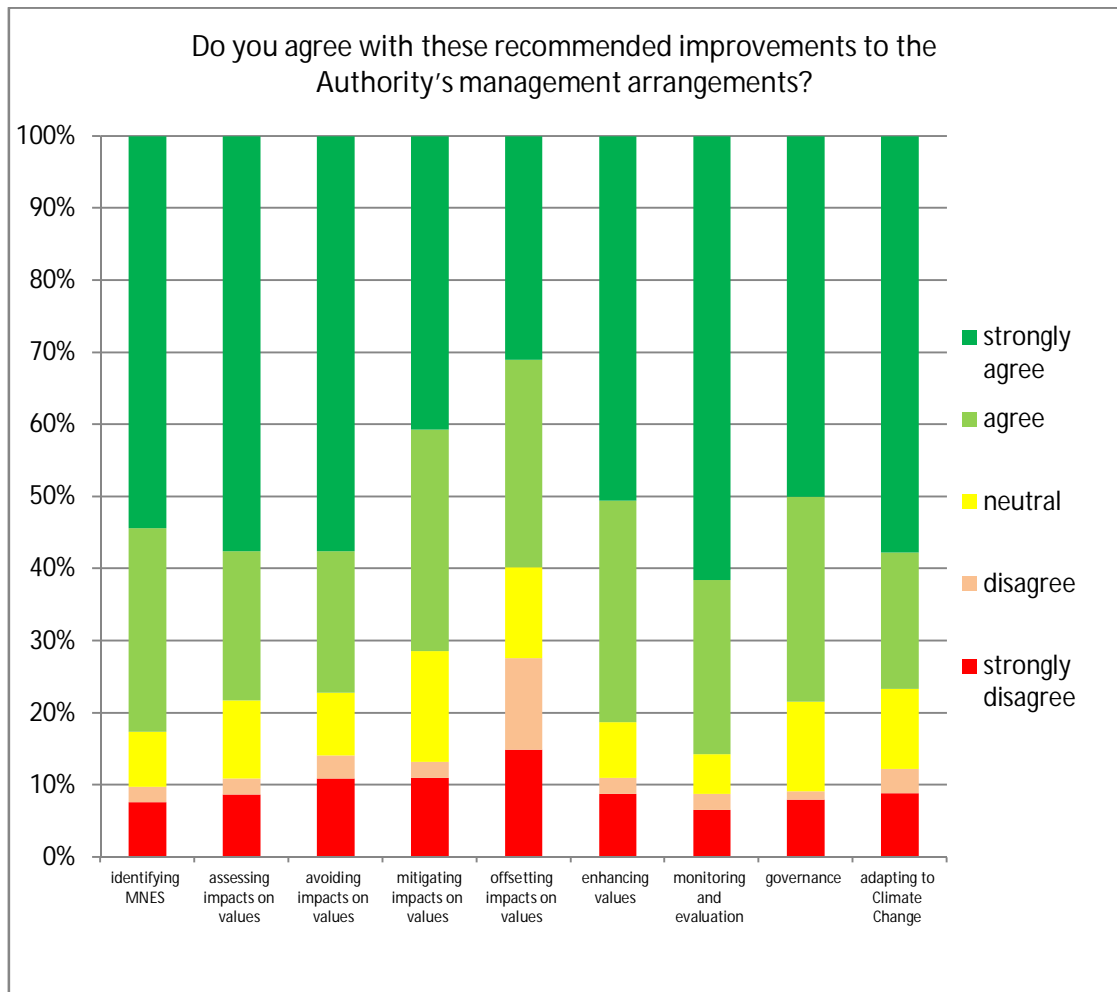
The survey asked respondents how strongly they agreed to a reported list of recommended improvements to the way the Marine Park Authority protects and manages the Reef. Table 7-6 shows that there was agreement with all recommended improvements – with the average scores varying between 3.5 for offsetting recommendations up to 4.3 for monitoring and evaluation.

Table 7-6 Agreement with recommended improvements to the Marine Park Authority’s management arrangements

Recommended improvement	Average scores
Identifying matters of national environmental significance	4.2
Assessing impacts on values	4.2
Avoiding impacts on values	4.1
Mitigating impacts on values	3.9
Offsetting impacts on values	3.5
Enhancing values	4.1
Monitoring and evaluation	4.3
Governance	4.1
Adapting to Climate Change	4.1

Figure 7-5 shows the distribution of these scores, supporting the conclusions of the table and showing that for most recommended improvements there was a considerable proportion of respondents who expressed strong agreement with the proposed recommended improvements to the existing Marine Park Authority management arrangements for enhancing protection of the marine zone.

Figure 7-5 Agreement with recommended improvements to the Marine Park Authority's management arrangements – distribution of scores



Local, state and national government programs

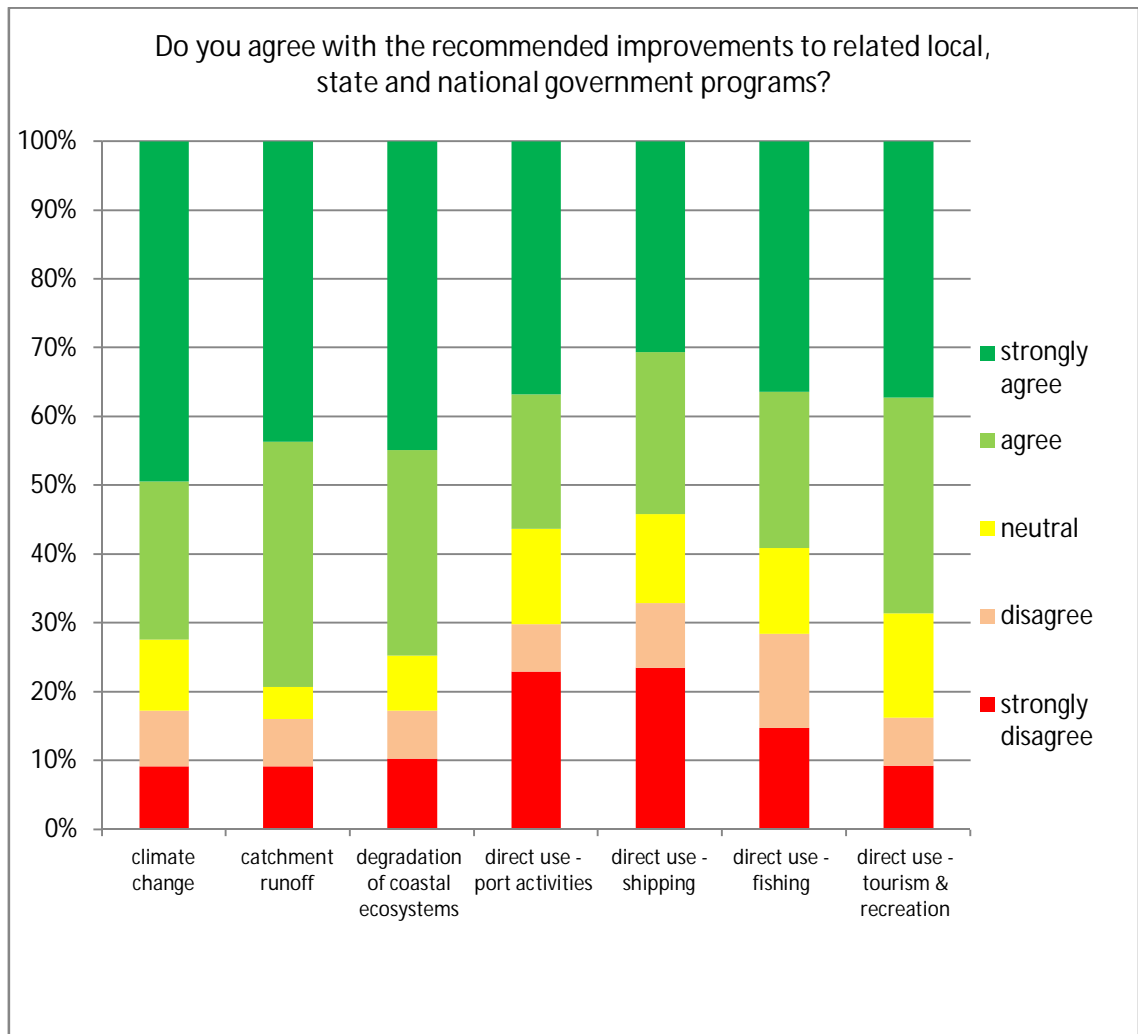
The survey also asked respondents how strongly they agreed to a list of recommended improvements related to local, state and national government programs for enhanced management and protection of the Reef.

Respondents on average agreed that the proposed recommended improvements were of value (refer Table 7-7), although there was greater support for some recommendations compared to others. A higher proportion of respondents strongly disagreed that proposed improvements for managing direct use ports and shipping activities would provide enhanced benefits.

Table 7-7 Agreement with recommended improvements to the Marine Park Authority's management arrangements

Recommended improvement	Average scores
Climate Change	3.9
Catchment runoff	4.0
Degradation of coastal ecosystems	3.9
Direct use - port activities	3.4
Direct use - shipping	3.3
Direct use - fishing	3.5
Direct use - tourism and rec	3.8

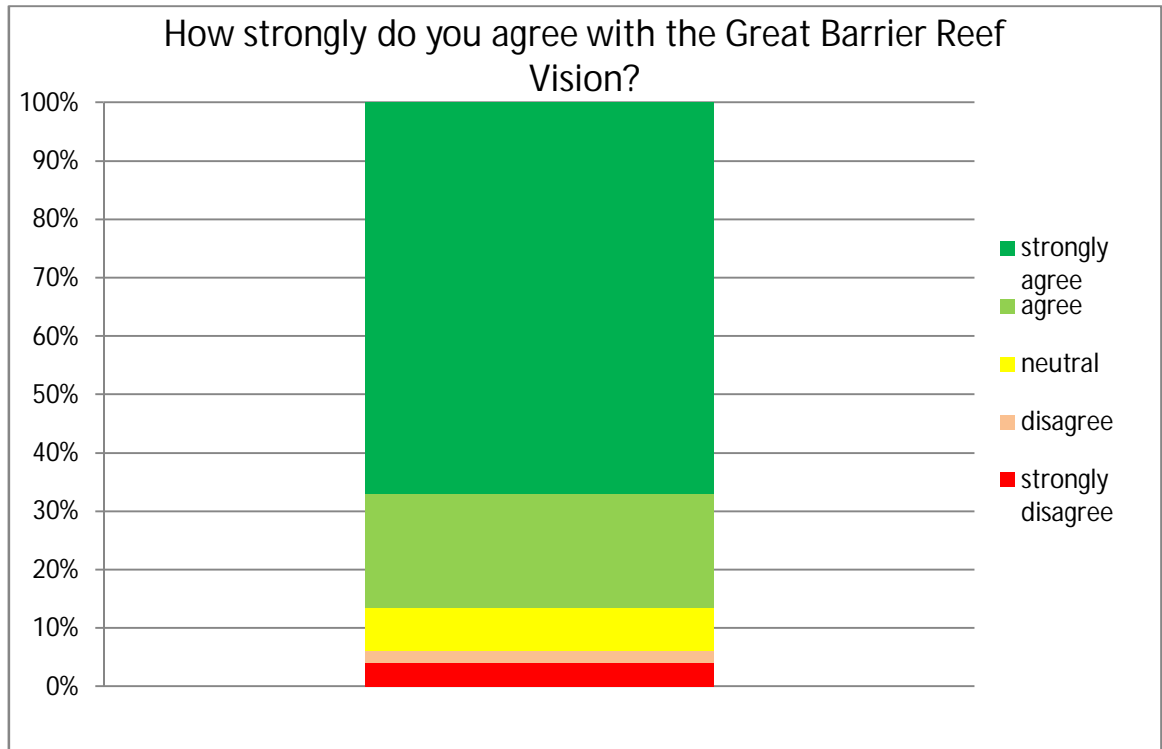
Figure 7-6 Agreement with recommended improvements to the Marine Park Authority's management arrangements – distribution of scores



Vision for the Reef

Eighty-seven per cent of respondents indicated they either agreed or strongly agreed with the Marine Park Authority's vision of *A healthy Great Barrier Reef for future generations* (refer Figure 7-7).

Figure 7-7 Agreement with the Great Barrier Reef vision



Fifty-four respondents provided comments on the vision with some querying how achievable the vision is, others suggesting alternative visions identifying factors that will make the vision a success or failure.

Three submissions expressed broad support for the vision, although expressed uncertainty that it could be achieved with current management / policies.

There were 12 suggestions made for the vision, which included statements requesting that all development is excluded (four respondents) or that the vision is too vague (four respondents). One respondent suggested there was no need for a Great Barrier Reef vision as the Reef is already healthy. Another requested that the vision should emphasise conservation. The two alternative suggestions for the vision were:

- A natural and unspoiled wonder for future generations
- A healthy beautiful Great Barrier Reef for future generations.

A further 14 responses raised concerns regarding the alignment of government policy to support achievement of the vision.

There were 25 comments submitted that were not considered relevant to the vision for the Reef as they discussed other issues.

Initiatives and measures

The Marine Park Authority’s proposed management program is made up of three parts:

- Existing (foundational) management
- Strengthening management
- Forward commitments.

Chapter 5 of the Marine Park Authority's draft Program Report contained various initiatives and measures to enhance existing management. The survey asked how strongly respondents agreed with these measures.

As Table 7-8 shows there was, on average, across the board agreement with all of the initiatives and measures, with most suggestions receiving scores of over 4.0. A larger proportion of respondents did, however, have neutral opinion of, or expressed disagreement with the net benefit policy and the increased reliance on modelling. Despite this average scores were still 3.7 and 3.8.

Table 7-8 Initiatives and measures average score

Initiatives / measures	Average Score
New initiatives	
Outcomes and Targets	3.9
Cumulative impact assessment policy	4.0
Net benefit policy	3.7
Reef Recovery program	4.2
Integrated monitoring, reporting and adaptive management program	4.2
Measures to strengthen management	
Identifying matters of national environmental significance	4.3
Regionally-based standards for ecosystem health	4.2
Strengthened guidelines	4.3
Streamlining, harmonising and enhancing tools	4.0
Improving assessment of matters of national environmental significance	4.2
Supporting recovery and building resilience	4.2
Improving certainty	4.1
Strengthening protection of heritage values	4.1
Improving compliance	4.2
Improving incident response capacity	4.3
Engagement	4.2
Influencing drivers and activities affecting the Region	4.2
Supporting best practice and stewardship	4.3
Improving consultation arrangements	4.2
Improving identification and understanding of matters of national environmental significance	4.3
Identifying Indigenous heritage values	4.1
Developing an historic heritage database	3.9
Improving understanding of community benefits	4.1
Improving alignment and coordination of research priorities	4.2
Increasing emphasis on use of modelling	3.8

Other measures to strengthen management

A common theme of respondents suggesting other measures to strengthen management was that of the management of the Marine Park Authority itself. Six respondents referred to avoiding conflict of interest on the Marine Park Authority board of directors, three called for the Marine Park Authority's independence to be maintained or strengthened, and another requested a change of management structure.

Nine suggestions centred on preventing further development, including specific references to port and mine development. A further related suggestion was to not allow further ports or shipping channels.

Two suggestions requested improving school education about the Reef and another suggested community involvement should be increased to encourage a sense of ownership.

The remaining 16 suggestions were recommendations for Marine Park Authority policies and management. These suggestions were generally targeted at increasing legislative control to improve the values underpinning the Reef. The suggestions are summarised below:

- Allocate sensitive areas extra protection
- Align tourism industry regulation with the Marine Park Authority policy
- Assess actual rather than potential impacts
- Improve management of recreational fishing, including strengthening / increasing zones
- Develop policies around resource developments
- Increase research
- Keep federal government oversight of EPBC Act
- Look at long term effects of dredging
- Prevent legislative change
- Provide adequate resources to support management actions
- Respond to climate change
- Separate corporate and environmental interests
- Transparent monitoring of industry
- Introduce user-pays funding.

7.6 Suggested amendments and comments on draft reports

Five submissions suggested amendments that apply to the draft Marine Zone strategic assessment and / or program reports. Suggested amendments addressed:

- Improvements of specific sections of the strategic assessment and / or program reports, either to language or data.
- Topics identified as requiring inclusion or needing additional information to support improvement:
 - Assessment of knowledge gaps
 - Description of connection between research and decision support tools
 - Influence of amendments to Australian government regulatory frameworks on environmental protection of the Region
 - Accountability in the Marine Park Authority program report

- More information on Reef trust
- Clarity of link between strategic assessment recommendations and where they are addressed in the program report.
- Inclusion of other sources of information including knowledge of fishing networks.

7.7 Recommendations

A total of 70 submissions contained information, recommendations, or expressed concern or support that directly related to the 38 recommendations outlined in the marine zone component of the strategic assessment.

Section 7.7.1 contains sections for each of the recommendations contained in the marine zone strategic assessment, followed by a list summarising comments relating to these recommendations. Comments were either supportive of, made recommendations or criticism of, or provided information that respondents suggested would improve, the recommendations.

7.7.1 Responses to recommendations

Recommendation 1

“Explicitly incorporate consideration of all values relevant to matters of national environmental significance, including elements of the property’s outstanding universal value, into the Authority’s programs, plans and policies.”

Recommendation	Submissions
1	10

Responses included:

- Suggestions for values to consider for incorporation within the strategic assessment including the abundance / vitality of species and seabirds as a key value of biodiversity.
- Suggestions for additional locations to be added to the strategic assessment that are relevant to matters of national environmental significance including Long Beach, Kepple Bay and the Fitzroy River Delta.
- Strengthening the incorporation and consideration of heritage and community benefit values in the strategic assessment.

Recommendation 2

“Improve spatial mapping capabilities to support planning and assessment decision making, including the range of values mapped and public availability.”

Recommendation	Submissions
2	6

Responses included:

- Suggested areas for mapping improvement, including maps for bird species of national environmental significance, additional areas that are of national environmental significance value and delineation of potential ports (in Fig. 5.11 within the relevant report).
- Support for increased mapping to underpin matters of national environmental significance.

Recommendation 3

“Work closely with Australian and Queensland government agencies to help identify values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area that are not easily represented and measured such as aesthetic values.”

Recommendation	Submissions
3	9

Responses included:

- Suggestions to incorporate local government agencies into Recommendation 3.
- Suggested values to support this recommendation including indigenous cultural values and the importance of environmental health to different cultures, tourism assets and traditional livelihoods.
- Suggestions for defining aesthetic values of the GBRWHA including not confining aesthetic values to the visual and the inability of landscape values and scenic amenity values to completely portray aesthetic values.

Recommendation 4

“Collaborate with Traditional Owners to undertake an assessment of the Indigenous heritage values of the Region.”

Recommendation	Submissions
4	6

Responses included a recommendation to support closer engagement and consultation with Indigenous groups including the consideration of Indigenous issues in bilateral agreements.

Recommendation 5

“Develop and implement knowledge management systems for Indigenous and historic heritage information, including a protocol for managing culturally sensitive information and improved information sharing arrangements.”

Recommendation	Submissions
5	7

Responses included support of and suggestions for consultation with local government, Traditional Owners and community groups including incorporating Traditional Owners into management of the Region and monitoring key indicators that are of importance to Traditional Owners.

Recommendation 6

“Improve understanding of the role that the Great Barrier Reef plays in the life of the community.”

Recommendation	Submissions
6	6

Responses included:

- Support for a strengthening and prioritisation of Recommendation 6.
- Interest in engagement with local government in relation to Recommendation 6.

Recommendation 7

“Work closely with Australian and Queensland government agencies to improve understanding and management of cumulative impacts from activities within and adjacent to the Region and provide clearer guidance on how proponents and decision makers should address cumulative impacts in assessments.”

Recommendation	Submissions
7	18

Responses included:

- Interest in engagement of local government in relation to Recommendation 7.
- Concern that a cumulative impact policy should have already been developed, or developed sooner.
- Suggestions for factors to include as part of cumulative impact assessments including consideration of interactions among ecological processes and assessment of the contribution of development to climate change and associated impacts.
- Suggestions for alterations and development of legislation including recommendation to develop compliance arrangements around cumulative impact assessments.

Recommendation 8

“Streamline assessment processes across jurisdictions and seek to have a more coordinated approach to community consultation.”

Recommendation	Submissions
8	12

Responses included:

- Concern that streamlining assessment process across jurisdictions will reduce environmental protection.
- Recommendation to increase transparency and consistency in decision making process across jurisdictions.
- Support for increased consultation with local government and the community.

Recommendation 9

“Improve alignment between the Authority’s and Queensland Government’s protected area and tourism management arrangements and look for opportunities to streamline.”

Recommendation	Submissions
9	6

Responses included:

- Suggestions for managing tourism development / expansion including suggestions for sustainable tourism practices and to apply caution when assessing tourism expansion.
- Concern that the focus of Recommendation 9 is for development and not environmental outcomes.

Recommendation 10

“Develop and implement plans of management in areas of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that have high growth for recreation and other uses.”

Recommendation	Submissions
10	5

Submissions expressed concern that Recommendation 10 will reduce environmental protection and appropriate management for protected areas.

Recommendation 11

“Support development of a Queensland ports strategy that concentrates port development around long-established major ports in Queensland, and encourage port master planning.”

Recommendation	Submissions
11	22

Recommendation 11 strongly reflects Forward Commitment 8. Responses to Forward Commitment 8 are included in Section 6.7.

Recommendation 12

“Promote a strategic approach to the development and operation of marinas and other access infrastructure along the Great Barrier Reef coast.”

Recommendation	Submissions
12	6

Submissions recommended targets are developed to address the impacts of port development.

Recommendation 13

“Review and update the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Heritage Strategy to guide management actions to strengthen recognition and protection of heritage values.”

Recommendation	Submissions
13	2

Recommendation was made to further develop controls to limit impacts.

Recommendation 14

“Promote, recognise and encourage stewardship and best practice efforts by community, industry and government.”

Recommendation	Submissions
14	13

Responses included:

- Recognition of best practice efforts associated with various activities and groups including dredging and dredged material disposal, fisheries and the Indigenous community.
- Suggestions for best practice efforts in relation to Recommendation 14 including for prawn farming, cassowary management / conservation and fishing.

Recommendation 15

“Support increased investment in site infrastructure to protect matters of national environmental significance in the Great Barrier Reef Region.”

Recommendation	Submissions
15	5

Responses provided suggestions for environmentally friendly infrastructure including moorings for ships anchoring within the Reef and planning guidelines to enhance aesthetics of new buildings.

Recommendation 16

“Improve compliance through more effective surveillance and compliance activities, access to latest technology, increased coordination across jurisdictions and strengthened powers to prevent repeat offending.”

Recommendation	Submissions
16	10

Recommendations were made to improve compliance practices including promoting community engagement and education, increasing resourcing for compliance activities and altering legislation to support compliance.

Recommendation 17

“Support a collaborative, Reef-wide management strategy for islands and contribute to its development and implementation.”

Recommendation	Submissions
17	3

Recommendations were made to include more detail on Recommendation 17, including information on timeframe, importance and implementation.

Recommendation 18

“Update and strengthen the Great Barrier Reef water quality guidelines to address a broader range of habitats and species and account for cumulative impacts.”

Recommendation	Submissions
18	19

Responses included:

- Concern regarding the ability of water quality guidelines to protect reef health.
- Suggestions for inclusion of particular water quality indicators, such as herbicide concentrations in river flood plumes.
- Recommendations to improve coordination of water quality monitoring, including water quality testing before and after dredging events and assessing water quality impacts from point and diffuse sources.

Recommendation 19

“Improve the effectiveness of the Authority’s hydrodynamic guidelines as a decision making tool by requiring consideration of a greater range of environmental factors, and regularly reviewing them to reflect improvements in understanding.”

Recommendation	Submissions
19	4

Responses included:

- Recommendations to close knowledge gaps.
- Accommodation of additional information sources into dredge material disposal plans.

Recommendation 20

“Support research on critical ecosystem thresholds, with a focus on inshore biodiversity and associated ecosystems.”

Recommendation	Submissions
20	6

Recommendations were made regarding relevant research areas / needs including research into crown-of-thorns starfish and their impacts, dugong and seagrass research and a general support for investment into research to support reef management.

Recommendation 21

“Improve understanding and the Authority’s management of the impacts of noise on species, particularly at-risk and inshore species.”

Recommendation	Submissions
21	6

Submissions claimed that the examination of noise pollution in the strategic assessment is inadequate.

Recommendation 22

“Reduce crown-of-thorns outbreaks by continuing to improve water quality and through a long-term control program.”

Recommendation	Submissions
22	10

Responses included:

- Support for management to improve water quality and or control crown-of-thorns starfish.
- Suggestions of a need for improved discussion of link between water quality and crown-of-thorns starfish.

Recommendation 23

“Develop a policy and supporting mechanisms to facilitate strategic and collaborative implementation of offsets across jurisdictions.”

Recommendation	Submissions
23	23

Responses included discussion of:

- Development of a decision making framework to guide the avoid, offset or mitigate policy.
- Suggestions for the proposed offset policy and supporting legislation including an application of Section 66(2)e of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* to support Recommendation 23, as well the identification of thresholds and specific locations where impacts must be avoided and not offset.
- Inclusion of additional detail on the management, prioritisation and implementation of offsets including on the time frames, accounting outcomes, as well as on the proposed direct benefits management plan.
- Support for increased consultation with local government.
- Concern that offset policy will lead to environmental degradation.

Recommendation 24

“Inform implementation of Australian and Queensland government offsets policies and restoration programs by identifying actions that will maximise the delivery of environmental benefits to the Region.”

Recommendation	Submissions
24	20

Responses included:

- Suggestions to guide the establishment of offsets and to use benefits gained from those offsets including an engagement of the community to set offset investment priorities.
- Comments aligned with those provided against Recommendation 23.

Recommendation 25

“Establish a management framework with clear outcomes and targets for the protection of values and the management of impacts, including cumulative impacts.”

Recommendation	Submissions
25	20

Responses included:

- Concern that Recommendation 25 is considered a new initiative rather than considered a continuation of current practices.
- Suggestion to include Indigenous values within recommendation 25.
- Encouragement to set realistic, manageable and measurable targets and a management framework that incorporates a plan, implement, review and modify principle.

Recommendation 26

“Develop and implement a long-term sustainability plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area in cooperation with Australian and Queensland government agencies to better coordinate programs designed to manage and improve the condition of the Reef.”

Recommendation	Submissions
26	9

Recommendation 26 strongly reflects Forward Commitment 2 and relevant responses are summarised against Forward Commitment 2 in Section 6.7.

Recommendation 27

“Strengthen engagement with all relevant partners to facilitate actions that maintain and enhance the condition of values and reduce impacts, particularly in relation to climate change, catchment run-off, degradation of coastal ecosystems and direct use.”

Recommendation	Submissions
27	20

Responses included:

- Inclusion of more detail on methods to improve consultation.
- Suggestions for groups for which engagement and consultation should be improved including Indigenous and community groups and with local, state and federal government authorities.
- Need to strengthen framework for Recommendation 27 across all levels of government.

Recommendation 28

“Develop a comprehensive management framework and an Indigenous heritage strategy for Traditional Owner use and management of the Great Barrier Reef.”

Recommendation	Submissions
28	6

Responses included:

- Suggestions to improve management of Indigenous values and Traditional Owner use of the Great Barrier Reef including increasing representation of Traditional Owners in management of the Region and including Traditional Owners cultural values into the World Heritage listed values of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Suggestions to support a closer engagement with Indigenous groups.

Recommendation 29

“Adopt regionally-based cooperative approaches to protect inshore biodiversity hotspots – supporting local actions and encouraging cooperation.”

Recommendation	Submissions
29	4

Responses included:

- Concern that approaches delegate responsibility to volunteers.
- Suggestion that there is a need to assess the ability of existing programs to achieve this recommendation.

Recommendation 30

“Improve alignment and coordination of strategic research priorities and strengthen partnerships between the Authority and research institutions to facilitate the delivery of critical research needs.”

Recommendation	Submissions
30	11

Responses included:

- Suggestions for research areas to prioritise in order to inform management including coral propagation and invasive microbes, fungi, benthic and planktonic organisms in ship ballast.
- Recommendation to focus research on supporting adaptive management.

Recommendation 31

“Implement an integrated monitoring, reporting and adaptive management program for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, including more explicit reporting on the condition and trend of matters of national environmental significance.”

Recommendation	Submissions
31	14

Responses included:

- Requests for inclusion of science and expert knowledge throughout the adaptive management program.
- Suggestions for development of a monitoring program with indicators to monitor including monitoring of ciguatera fishing poisoning and algal blooms and indicators that are easy to interpret, socially and politically meaningful and scientifically robust.
- Support of consultation to inform adaptive management.
- Concern that an adaptive management program is regarded as a new initiative rather than continuation of current practice.
- Combination of state and Australian Government adaptive management programs to achieve greater alignment.

Recommendation 32

“Maintain and improve monitoring, investigation and data management relating to critical species and habitats.”

Recommendation	Submissions
32	14

Recommendations were made regarding indicators to monitor including specific species such as spectacled and grey-headed flying foxes, dugongs and cassowaries as well as specific habitats such as the Fitzroy River Delta.

Recommendation 33

“Support implementation of a long-term social and economic monitoring program to improve understanding of changing use, investment and values.”

Recommendation	Submissions
33	7

Submissions expressed support for this recommendation.

Recommendation 34

“Contribute to the development of improved governance arrangements for the management and coordination of development activities that affect the Great Barrier Reef.”

Recommendation	Submissions
34	23

Responses included:

- Suggested industries which government should support, including aquaculture and tourism.
- Support for a collaborative approach engaging multiple stakeholders to identify relevant governance improvements.
- Support for management measures to improve prioritisation of development activities.
- Amendments and inclusions to legislation supporting Recommendation 34.
- Provision of detail on cross-jurisdiction of management arrangements, including weaknesses.

Recommendation 35

“Communicate the implications of climate change impacts for the Great Barrier Reef and the critical need to halt increasing concentrations of global greenhouse gases and restore them to levels that will support growth, recruitment and recovery processes of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem.”

Recommendation	Submissions
35	13

Responses included:

- Concern that Recommendation 35 is not matched by Queensland Government’s Forward Commitments.

- Suggestion for stronger emphasis on the importance of managing climate change impacts.

Recommendation 36

“Ensure the impacts of climate change and extreme weather are appropriately considered in the Authority’s management decisions.”

Recommendation	Submissions
36	13

Responses included:

- The need to build resilience of the GBRWHA to future impacts of climate change and extreme weather.
- Concern that Recommendation 36 is not matched by state Forward Commitments.
- Concern that draft report contains no action to slow, halt or reverse climate change.

Recommendation 37

“Encourage reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the Great Barrier Reef Region in partnership with industry and communities.”

Recommendation	Submissions
37	16

Responses included:

- Development of clearly defined and detailed actions to address existing and emerging risks of climate change.
- Concern that Recommendation 37 is not matched by state Forward Commitments.
- Concern that draft report contains no action to slow, halt or reverse climate change.
- Addition of more detail including on funding programs.
- Concern that the recommendation is difficult to achieve.

Recommendation 38

“Support initiatives to build the capacity of management agencies and Reef users to adapt and respond to climate change and extreme weather events.”

Recommendation	Submissions
38	11

Responses included:

- Concern that recommendation is difficult to achieve.
- Support for building the resilience of the GBRWHA.
- Concern that Recommendation 38 is not matched by state Forward Commitments.

8. Campaign submissions

8.1 Campaign responses

The Great Barrier Reef strategic assessment received a number of petition-style campaigns. These campaigns involved organisations posting suggested submission content on their website, and encouraging respondents to add their contact details and additional content before submitting via the organisation's website.

Generally speaking the campaign emails related to concerns over industrial development in the region.

Three campaigns generated significant email traffic to the feedback email account while there were two smaller campaigns, one via email and one via survey responses:

- Campaign 1 – derived from the website of a USA-based organisation the Sea Turtle Restoration Project (<http://seaturtles.org/>)
- Campaign 2 – derived from the Australian website of the Fight for the Reef campaign, (<http://www.fightforthereef.com>)
- Campaign 3 – derived from a Facebook campaign at the following URL: <https://www.facebook.com/events/567416813354345/?source=1>
- Campaign 4 – a relatively small email campaign derived from an unknown source
- Campaign 5 – another relatively small campaign of submission comments sent via the online survey derived from an unknown source.

Analyses of the issues included in the campaign submissions has been included in the preceding sections of this report, but to avoid over-representing counts of submissions relating to particular themes or aspects of reports each campaigns' submissions have been counted only once.

Appendix D includes further details of the campaigns.

8.1.1 Campaign 1

The first email from the Sea Turtle Restoration Project campaign was received on Friday 17 January 2014. By the end of the public consultation period a total of 4,227 emails were received from the site.

The webpage (http://action.seaturtles.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=14875) included a window with editable text.

Respondents sent emails from a wide range of countries. A particularly large number of respondents sent emails from North America, and many also sent emails from Europe.

Over 97 per cent of emails represented unmodified replications of the text provided on the webpage.

Modified responses did not contain discussion of the strategic assessment. In keeping with the suggestion in the website to '... Please add your own unique thoughts about the Great Barrier Reef and whether you visited or ever plan to visit,' many respondents referred to their visits to the area and experiences diving, etc, their plans to visit, or that they would no longer visit due to their understanding the Reef is in decline.

Respondents predominantly wrote messages imploring maximum environmental protection for the Reef or that the ecological importance of the Reef outweighs the importance of industrial or economic development.

A small number of respondents referred to the condition and / or decline of other reef systems. The modified sections of the submissions did not make clear reference to specific issues relating to the strategic assessment.

8.1.2 Campaign 2

The first email from the Fight for the Reef website was received on Friday 24 January 2014. By the end of the public consultation period 1,676 emails were received from the site.

The webpage (<http://www.fightforthereef.com>) included a window with editable text and a tick-box list of priorities for the strategic assessment.

When opening the website the tick-boxes were already ticked; participants had opportunity to include information as provided or to un-tick boxes those they did not want to include in their submission.

The vast majority of campaign 2 respondents sent submissions from Australia.

The site included a form for visitors to add their own message as part of the email, although 64 per cent of respondents submitted unmodified versions of the standard text included on the webpage.

Most of the modified submissions contain personal messages requesting protection for the Reef. In this vein, many refer to the dredging and disposal of dredged material for the proposed expansion at the Port of Abbot Point north of Bowen, often requesting that the Marine Park Authority do not grant a permit.

The modified sections of the modified submissions did not make clear reference to specific issues relating to the strategic assessment.

8.1.3 Campaign 3

Campaign 3 was less formal in its approach. A Facebook page included text for readers to copy and email to the public consultation email address. There were 76 emails received during the consultation period, most of which included the subject title 'I say NO to dredge dumping on the Reef!!'.

All emails from this campaign specifically related to the dredging and disposal of dredged material for the proposed expansion at the Port of Abbot Point north of Bowen.

There were 17 modified versions of the email, none of which referred to the strategic assessment process or associated reports. Most reinforced the key message of the suggested text on the Facebook page, for the Marine Park Authority to refuse a dredging permit to North Queensland Bulk Ports. Some respondents sent emails after the Marine Park Authority granted the permit to express dissatisfaction with the decision.

8.1.4 Campaign 4

This campaign consisted of 19 emails sent during the last two days of the public consultation period. The campaign was based on a draft letter provided on the Environmental Defenders Office website (www.edo.org.au), (see Appendix D), which criticised the coastal zone strategic assessment by arguing the program report does not accurately reflect Queensland laws.

8.1.5 Campaign 5

This campaign consisted of 14 survey submissions where the contact details sections were completed and the "general comments" text box near the end of the survey were completed. The submissions featured near identical comments. Submissions were generally addressed

“Attention: The Great Barrier Reef Region (marine) strategic assessment (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority).”

These submissions offered criticism of “the decision by the Queensland Government to establish five strategic Priority Port Development Areas in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.” They also called for “a moratorium placed on any development expansion in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.”

No additional comments were provided regarding the strategic assessment or reports.

9. Submissions not explicitly related to the strategic assessment

This section analyses submissions that did not relate specifically to the subject of the strategic assessment reports or their content.

Submissions considered out of scope related to specific issues, particularly topical issues at the time the reports were released for public consultation, such as the permit application for disposing of dredge material at Abbot Point.

While these topics are connected to the health of the Reef generally, they are not strictly relevant to the strategic assessment itself insofar as the consultation sought feedback on specific terms of reference for the assessment.

For this reason these submissions have not been summarised in sections above, however as these submissions provide content relevant to the management of impacts on the Reef, a summary is provided in this section.

There were 369 submissions that did not make reference to the strategic assessment, but did refer to catchment and coastal water management supporting protection of the Reef. For example:

- The need to protect the Reef and its value for the community and for future generations
- The importance of species and habitats within the Region
- Environmental effects of dredging and dredged material disposal and / or comment on the need to protect the Reef
- General statements about management initiatives or management effectiveness without sufficient detail to be relevant to the information discussed within the strategic assessment reports e.g. not allow development on or adjacent to the Reef
- Other environmental issues such as port development (including Abbot Point and Gladstone / Curtis Island), shipping, mining, agriculture and fishing.

10. Summary and conclusion

This report provides a high-level overview of how the consultation was undertaken and the themes and comments received for both the marine and coastal component of the strategic assessment.

Many submissions provided extensive detail and very specific feedback, necessitating further analysis of the submissions and the individual comments.

This detailed analysis is presented in the Great Barrier Reef Region supplementary report and the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Zone supplementary report, which will be released concurrently with the final program reports.

The public consultation process ran from 1 November 2013 to 31 January 2014, a total of 13 weeks, and attracted 6,616 submissions, including five campaigns that accounted for 6,010 submissions. Submissions were received from a diversity of interested parties sectors including, but not limited to, government, industry, community, Indigenous and research sectors as well as the general public.

Comments on the strategic assessment were facilitated through the provision of a standalone website featuring downloadable strategic assessment reports, supporting information, a comprehensive survey to capture submissions from stakeholders and an associated email address for respondents to address submissions to. There were also several community information sessions, regional briefings and stakeholder workshops. The process was also supported by a publicity campaign to encourage submissions.

This report presented a synthesis of all the responses received from submissions. Analysis and synthesis of the submissions was presented with regard to the Values, Activities, Impacts, Management measures (and their effectiveness) and forward commitments / recommendations presented within the draft strategic assessment reports.

High level findings include general support for the approach taken in developing the strategic assessments for both the coastal and marine zones, support for the majority of ratings regarding the current condition of ecological values, concern about data underpinning the assessment and management of some values and the ability to translate proposed commitments and recommendations into tangible outcomes for the benefit of the World Heritage Area.

Many of the submissions provided as part of the public consultation process included comments referring to both the marine and coastal zone components of the strategic assessment.

The most common theme represented in submissions relating to both components related to management effectiveness, many of which were comments on measures to strengthen foundational management. These provided a wide range of suggestions on ways to improve the management of the Reef and coastal zone, from improving people's awareness of environmental issues through to prioritising research programs and making changes to legislation.

Comments on activities focussed largely on port activities, although shipping, industrial development and fishing were also common sub-themes. Comments on impacts focussed on direct use impacts, particularly with regard to dredging, disposal and resuspension of dredged material. There were also many submissions relating to climate change, catchment run-off and degradation of coastal ecosystems.

Suggested amendments to reports were wide-ranging, and covered such aspects as feedback on overall report structure and content, requests for the inclusion of targets, as well as specific

data suggestions. There were also comments on values that related to both components – particularly with regard to species and habitats.

Comments on the proposed long-term sustainability plan tended to be requests for information regarding the way it will be prepared, emphasising a need for funding and further consultation, and that a scientific and balanced approach be undertaken.

Submission comments relating specifically to the coastal zone strategic assessment were typically more detailed than those relating to both components. The most common theme represented within submissions related to Queensland Government's forward commitments. Many of these submissions included general support, although there were recommendations as well as concern for the ability to translate these commitments into measurable benefits.

Similarly submission comments relating specifically to the marine zone strategic assessment were also typically more detailed than those relating to both components. The most common theme represented within submissions was management effectiveness. Submissions discussed the current management of the Reef, provided suggestions and recommendations to strengthen the management of the marine zone, including enhancing the data underpinning management, strengthening the authority of the Marine Park Authority and opportunities for translating management actions into benefits for the Reef.

There were submissions made to the strategic assessment consultation process that did not direct comment about the strategic assessment reports but did raise concerns over the management efficacy for protection of reef values. Much of these related to opposing dredging, port development and dredged material disposal but there also references to improving catchment management to reduce impacts on the Reef.

The large numbers of submissions to the public consultation process is taken as representation that large numbers of people care about the health of the Reef and that there is support for stronger management and legislation to protect its values into the future. The intent of the public consultation process, to reach a wide target and increase awareness of the strategic assessment, has been achieved.

This public consultation process has provided opportunity for all stakeholders who have an interest in the marine and coastal zones which are linked to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to provide input and comment on the assessments and recommendations made within the strategic Assessment. As such, it provides valued input to the assessment which enables government to improve, adapt and enhance the strategic assessment and its outcomes for benefit.

This report will be provided alongside the final strategic assessment reports to the Australian Minister for the Environment for endorsement and consideration.

Appendices

Appendix A – Have your say webpages



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

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Welcome to the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment consultation portal.

The Australian and Queensland governments are committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef—and this is your chance to have a say on its management.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland Government are undertaking a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone.

[The draft strategic assessment and program reports are now available for public comment.](#)

The draft reports look at the Reef's values and how these values are being protected now and into the future, while enabling the sustainable development of the coastal zone.

Consultation closes at 12 midnight ([Australian Eastern Standard Time](#)) on Friday 31 January 2014.

The comprehensive strategic assessment has been developed in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

[View the draft reports of the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone strategic assessment](#)

[View the draft reports of the Great Barrier Reef marine component strategic assessment](#)

Complete online survey now

(closing 31 January 2014)

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Overview

The Australian and Queensland governments are committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef, ensuring it retains its world heritage values and continues to be one of the best managed marine protected areas in the world.

As part of this commitment, the two governments are working together to undertake a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone.

The strategic assessment is being carried out in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and will be one of the most comprehensive strategic assessments ever undertaken.

There are two parts to the comprehensive strategic assessment—a marine component and a coastal zone component.

The marine component, led by the Australian Government's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, will look at the arrangements in place to manage and protect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area.

The coastal zone component, led by the Queensland Government, will look at the state's planning, development and management framework and how it provides environmental protection along the coastal zone, adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef.

The comprehensive strategic assessment is being undertaken in line with the Terms of Reference ([marine component](#) and [coastal zone component](#)) which were finalised following public consultation in early 2012.

For more information view the [overview fact sheet](#).

Further information

Email: [mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au?](mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au?subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment)

[subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment](mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au?subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment)

Phone: 1300 854 427

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Draft reports

The Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment is presented in four draft reports now available for public comment.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government (led by the Department of State Development, Planning and Infrastructure) have developed the draft reports in accordance with section 146 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment Terms of Reference ([marine component](#) and [coastal zone](#)), which were finalised following public consultation in early 2012.

Great Barrier Reef coastal zone (Queensland Government)

Draft program report 2013

[Front cover, Executive Summary, Tables of contents](#)

[Glossary and abbreviations](#)

[Chapter 1 - Introduction](#)

[Chapter 2 - Proposed Program](#)

[Chapter 3 - Foundational management](#)

[Chapter 4 - Strengthening management](#)

[Chapter 5 - Forward commitments](#)

[Chapter 6 - Implementation and governance](#)

[References](#)

[Full Report](#) (47.8 MB)

Draft strategic assessment report 2013

[Front cover, Acknowledgements, Executive Summary, Table of contents](#)

[Glossary and abbreviations](#)

[Chapter 1 - Background](#)

[Chapter 2 - Social and economic context](#)

[Chapter 3 - Assessment approach](#)

[Chapter 4 - Condition and trend](#)

[Chapter 5 - Pressures and impacts on MNES](#)

[Chapter 6 - Program summary](#)

[Chapter 7 - Program effectiveness](#)

[Chapter 8 - Projected condition](#)

[Chapter 9 - Adaptive management](#)

Great Barrier Reef marine component (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)

Draft program report 2013

[Full Report](#) (3.4 MB)

Draft strategic assessment report 2013

[Table of contents](#)

[Chapter 1 - Introduction](#)

[Chapter 2 - Assessment approach](#)

[Chapter 3 - Current management](#)

[Chapter 4 - Matters of national environmental significance in the Great Barrier Reef Region](#)

[Chapter 5 - Drivers and activities](#)

[Chapter 6 - Impacts on the values](#)

[Chapter 7 - Current condition and trend](#)

[Chapter 8 - Management effectiveness - an independent assessment](#)

[Chapter 9 - Demonstration case studies](#)

[Chapter 10 - Resilience and risk](#)

[Chapter 11 - Projected condition](#)

[Chapter 12 - Recommended changes to management](#)

[Chapter 13 - Adaptive management](#)

[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](#)

[Appendix 4 - Assessment of Management Effectiveness Terms of Reference](#)

[Appendix 5 - Traditional Owner and Stakeholder Engagement - Report](#)

[Chapter 10 - Recommended changes and forward commitments](#)

[References](#)

[Appendices A-H](#)

[Abbot Point Demonstration Case](#)

[Andergrove Demonstration Case](#)

[Bowling Green Bay Demonstration Case](#)

[Dugongs Demonstration Case](#)

[Ella Bay Demonstration Case](#)

[Gladstone Harbour Offsets Demonstration Case](#)

[Island Management Demonstration Case](#)

[Mackay Demonstration Case](#)

[Water Quality Demonstration Case](#)

[Wet Tropics Demonstration Case](#)

[Full report - Chapters 1-5](#) (61.5 MB)

[Full report - Chapters 6-10](#) (43.3 MB)

[on Workshops and Surveys](#)

[Full Report](#) (27.4 MB)

In Brief

[Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Strategic Assessment In Brief](#)

Further information

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[subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment](mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au?subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment)

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Have your say

The Australian and Queensland governments invite you to have your say on the management of the Great Barrier Reef and the adjacent coastal zone. The comprehensive strategic assessment is being carried out under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and public consultation is a statutory requirement.

Feedback and comments received during consultation will be used to inform the preparation of final reports for the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment. The final reports, as well as a report on the consultation, will be provided to the Australian Minister for the Environment for review and consideration.

[View the draft reports](#)

[Complete the online survey](#)

Exhibition locations of the draft reports

Hard copies and electronic copies of the draft reports will be available for viewing at [exhibition locations](#) in Queensland from 6 November 2013.

View the downloadable PDFs of the [draft reports](#) now.

Written submissions can be made via:

email: feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au

post: Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment
Public Consultation Manager
GPO Box 668
Brisbane QLD 4001

A [written submission form](#) is available and can be submitted by email or post.

Consultation closes on Friday 31 January 2014.

[About your privacy](#)

Further information

Email: [mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au?](mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au)

[subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment](#)

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Online survey

This public consultation is on the [draft reports](#) of the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment.

Feedback and comments gained during public consultation will help inform the preparation of final strategic assessment reports for consideration by the Australian Minister for the Environment, and in 2015, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

There are two components to the comprehensive strategic assessment — a marine component and a coastal zone component.

The marine component is about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's arrangements to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef Region — including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and almost all of the World Heritage Area. The Authority is undertaking this component.

The coastal zone component is about the Queensland Government's management, planning and development framework for the 2300 kilometre-long coastal area adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef and how its management protects the Great Barrier Reef. The Queensland Government is undertaking this component.

This public consultation is being carried out in accordance with agreements with the Australian Government Minister for the Environment developed under Part 10 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EBPC Act).

This survey's aim is to gain views on the two components of the comprehensive strategic assessment, including proposed measures to improve future management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and its coastal zone.

In this online survey:

you can answer all questions or just those that relate to the topics that interest you

you can skip to the end of the survey and submit it at any point in the survey

you can provide any general comments at the end of the survey

you can upload a document that will be considered as part of your submission at the end of this survey

you can keep the online survey open for as long as you need to but you will not be able to close out of it and return to complete it later

you will be asked questions about yourself which will help us gain general demographic information on the public consultation

you will be asked for an email address so we can send you an email notification to confirm we have received your online survey submission

you will be able to go back into your survey responses to change them any time before you click the submit button

you will only be able to complete the online survey once from your computer

Consultation closes on Friday 31 January 2014 at 12 midnight (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

Feedback and comments received during consultation will inform the preparation of the final reports for the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment. The final program and strategic assessment reports, as well as a report on the consultation, will be provided to the Australian Minister for the Environment for review and consideration in late 2014.

[About your privacy](#)

Personal Details

1*. Please provide your email address so we can acknowledge your submission

2. Title

3. First name

4. Surname

5. Phone number

6*. Where do you live?

Australia

6a*. Which state?

ACT

6b*. What is your postcode?

7. What age are you?

Younger than 20

8. Which group most closely describes you?

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

9. Are you completing the survey as a:

Private individual A representative of an organisation

Survey questions

The survey questions are divided into two sections: one section relates to the Great Barrier Reef **coastal zone** strategic assessment; the other to the Great Barrier Reef Region (**marine component**) strategic assessment.

You can answer questions on one or both sections.

Which section would you like to view first?

[coastal zone assessment](#)

[Great Barrier Reef Region marine component assessment](#)

[none, skip to the end of the survey to make a general comment or upload a document for your submission](#)

Great Barrier Reef coastal zone

1*. Have you viewed the Queensland Government's Great Barrier Reef coastal zone draft program report and/or draft strategic assessment report?

Yes No



**Queensland
Government**

2. Would you like to answer questions relating specifically to these draft reports?

Yes No

It's highly recommended to keep the [relevant chapters of the report](#) open for reference.

Great Barrier Reef marine

1*. Have you viewed the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's (the Authority) Great Barrier Reef Region program report and/or strategic assessment report?

Yes No



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

2. Would you like to answer questions relating specifically to these reports?

Yes No

It's highly recommended to keep the [relevant chapters of the report](#) open for reference.

Submit

Thank you for taking the time to complete this online survey. As part of the public consultation we are interested in your views on the comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the adjacent coastal zone.

Please comment on any component/s of the strategic assessment below.

1*. To help us understand the intent of your comments, please tell us if your comments relate to any of the following

- The Great Barrier Reef coastal zone strategic assessment (Queensland Government)
- The Great Barrier Reef Region (marine) strategic assessment (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)
- The Great Barrier Reef in general
- Specific species in the Great Barrier Reef
- Specific locations in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Other

2. Please have your say by commenting in the following box (500 words max.) or uploading an attachment here:

Maximum of 500 words

no file selected

Maximum of 10MB

3*. Do you wish to be kept updated about the comprehensive strategic assessment?

If yes, we will email you any project updates.

Yes No

4*. Following consultation, a consultation report will be prepared for the Australian Minister for the Environment which is expected to include comments gained during consultation. All or part of this report may be released to the public via Australian and Queensland government websites. In line with the privacy statement, we will not publish your name (next to your comments) without your consent.

Do you consent to your name being published next to your comments in any publicly released consultation report?

Yes No

Submit survey

Further information

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[subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment](mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au?subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment)

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FAQs

Jump to question:

1. [What is a strategic assessment?](#)
2. [What is the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment?](#)
3. [Why is the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment being conducted?](#)
4. [What will it mean for the future of the Great Barrier Reef and the adjacent coastal zone?](#)
5. [What are the Terms of Reference?](#)
6. [What is the scale of the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment?](#)
7. [Who is leading the two components of the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment?](#)
8. [What is the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone?](#)
9. [What will the coastal zone strategic assessment involve?](#)
10. [What is the Great Barrier Reef marine component?](#)
11. [What will the marine component strategic assessment include?](#)
12. [What are Matters of National Environmental Significance?](#)
13. [Why is public consultation happening on the draft reports?](#)
14. [How do I have my say on the draft report?](#)
15. [How do I contact the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment project teams?](#)
16. [What will happen after public consultation?](#)

1. What is a strategic assessment?

[Strategic assessments](#) under section 146 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) are landscape scale assessments and unlike project-by-project assessments, which look at individual actions (such as construction and operation of a pipeline or wind farm), they can consider a much broader set of actions. For example, a large urban growth area that will be developed over many years, or a fire management policy across a broad landscape.

Advantages of doing a strategic assessment include:

clear 'goal posts' or requirements for protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance are set up-front, at the planning stage

greater certainty to local communities and developers over future development

reduced administrative burden for strategic assessment partners and government through:

a substantial reduction in the number of environmental assessments required for an area;

the avoidance of potentially duplicative and separate environmental assessments by different types of government (such as Australian, state, territory or local governments)

capacity to achieve better environmental outcomes and address cumulative impacts at the landscape level

coordinated establishment and management of offsets

flexible timeframes to better meet planning processes

[Strategic Assessment under the EPBC Act - Brochure \(PDF - 853.95 KB\)](#)

2. What is the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment?

The Australian Government and the Queensland Government have formally [agreed](#) to undertake a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone. The strategic assessment will be undertaken in accordance with section 146 of the EPBC Act.

At the heart of this assessment is an examination of how Matters of National Environmental Significance, and the values that underpin the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, are protected for future generations.

The comprehensive strategic assessment is made up of two components:

[marine component](#) (led by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)

[coastal zone component](#) (led by the Queensland Government).

3. Why is the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment being conducted?

The Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment is being conducted as part of the Australian and Queensland governments' commitment to ensuring the Great Barrier Reef remains one of the best managed reefs in the world.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee made a [decision](#) in June 2011 that recommended the Australian Government undertake a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment responds to this recommendation.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government are working together to undertake a strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone—the most comprehensive strategic assessment undertaken in Australia.

4. What will it mean for the future of the Great Barrier Reef and the adjacent coastal zone?

The comprehensive strategic assessment will help identify, plan for and manage existing and emerging risks to ensure ongoing protection and management of the unique environmental values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone.

The strategic assessment responds to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's [decision](#) of July 2011 that the Australian Government undertakes a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

As part of the comprehensive strategic assessment process, the Australian and Queensland governments will build upon their robust environmental and development management frameworks to protect the Great Barrier Reef's unique environmental values. This will be achieved through a range of new measures designed to strengthen these frameworks and support identifying and managing Matters of National Environmental Significance, including the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

5. What are the Terms of Reference?

Part 10 of the EPBC Act identifies the requirements of strategic assessments. In accordance with part 10, the Terms of Reference for the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment require the preparation of two reports by both the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government – a program report and strategic assessment report.

Following public consultation on draft Terms of Reference conducted from February to April 2012, the Australian Government approved the terms of reference for the comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone on 30 August 2012.

The approved Terms of Reference take into account the public comments received, the World Heritage Committee's [decision](#) of 6 July 2011, the report of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre - International Union for Conservation of Nature reactive monitoring mission, and consultations with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Government.

Terms of Reference:

[Terms of Reference \(Queensland Government\)](#)

[Terms of Reference \(GBRMPA\)](#)

6. What is the scale of the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment?

The scale of the comprehensive strategic assessment is vast, covering an area of 348 000 square kilometres. To put this into perspective, the Great Barrier Reef encompasses an area roughly the same size as countries such as Japan or Italy.

The comprehensive strategic assessment encompasses the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and two Ramsar wetlands that support 175 threatened species, 81 migratory species and seven threatened ecological communities.

7. Who is leading the two components of the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment?

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is leading the strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef marine component and is examining the arrangements in place to manage and protect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area.

The Queensland Government is leading the strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone component and is examining the state's coastal management, planning and development framework and how it provides environmental protection along the coastal zone adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef.

8. What is the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone?

The Great Barrier Reef Coastal Zone Strategic Assessment covers the coastal zone adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. This includes Queensland waters, islands and adjacent inland areas, 5 kilometres inland or 10 metres Australian Height Datum (AHD), whichever is further. It also includes areas of the Great Barrier Reef catchment to the extent that water quality management arrangements apply.

The coastal zone spans an area that is nearly 2,300 kilometres long and is part of the comprehensive strategic assessment.

9. What will the coastal zone strategic assessment involve?

In accordance with part 10 of the EPBC Act, the [Terms of Reference](#) for the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Zone Strategic Assessment require the preparation of two reports:

- a program report, describing Queensland's coastal management, planning and development framework to be assessed (Program)
- a strategic assessment report, which assesses the Queensland Program and potential impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance, including Outstanding Universal Value.

10. What is the Great Barrier Reef marine component?

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is leading the marine component of the strategic assessment. This work has examined whether current arrangements are effective in managing and protecting the Great Barrier Reef Region which extends from the tip of Cape York in the north to just past Lady Elliott Island in the south. This has entailed identifying the Region's natural and heritage values, the threats to those values and how those threats can best be managed.

11. What will the marine component strategic assessment include?

The marine component assesses the effectiveness of current management arrangements aimed at protecting the Great Barrier Reef Region's natural and heritage values. It examines the various drivers behind environmental changes, impacts on values recognised as Matters of National Environmental Significance, and the current condition and trend of those values.

It also includes a close look at the effectiveness of various tools used by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, as well as partnerships with other Australian and Queensland government agencies, and other stakeholders. The reports contain recommendations on how the Authority can improve its management of Australia's national environmental assets within the Great Barrier Reef Region.

12. What are Matters of National Environmental Significance?

[Matters of National Environmental Significance](#) are environmental assets recognised as worthy of protection under Australia's environmental law and include features such as world heritage properties, listed migratory species, listed threatened species and habitats, as well as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

13. Why is public consultation happening on the draft reports?

The Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment public consultation will help inform the preparation of final strategic assessment reports for consideration by the Australian Minister for the Environment, and in 2015, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Public consultation on the draft reports for the comprehensive strategic assessment is a statutory process under the EPBC Act.

[View the draft strategic assessment and program reports.](#)

14. How do I have my say on the draft report?

You can complete an [online survey](#) or make a written submission.

Written submission can be made via:

Email: feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au

Post: Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment
Public Consultation Manager
GPO Box 668
Brisbane QLD 4001

A [written submission form](#) is available and can be submitted by email or post.

Consultation closes on 31 January 2014.

15. How do I contact the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment project teams?

Phone 1300 854 427 (within Australia during business hours)

[Community information sessions](#) are also being conducted throughout the 13-week consultation period at locations along the Great Barrier Reef coast.

For more information on venues, dates and how to register your attendance, visit <http://www.reefhaveyoursay.com.au/>. Community information sessions will provide attendees the opportunity to speak to a project team member about the strategic assessment and learn more about how to make a submission on the draft reports.

16. What will happen after public consultation?

Feedback and comments received during consultation will inform the preparation of the final reports for the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment.

The final program and strategic assessment reports, as well as a report on the consultation, will be provided to the Australian Minister for the Environment for review and consideration.

Further information

Email: [mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au?](mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au)

[subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment](#)

Phone: 1300 854 427

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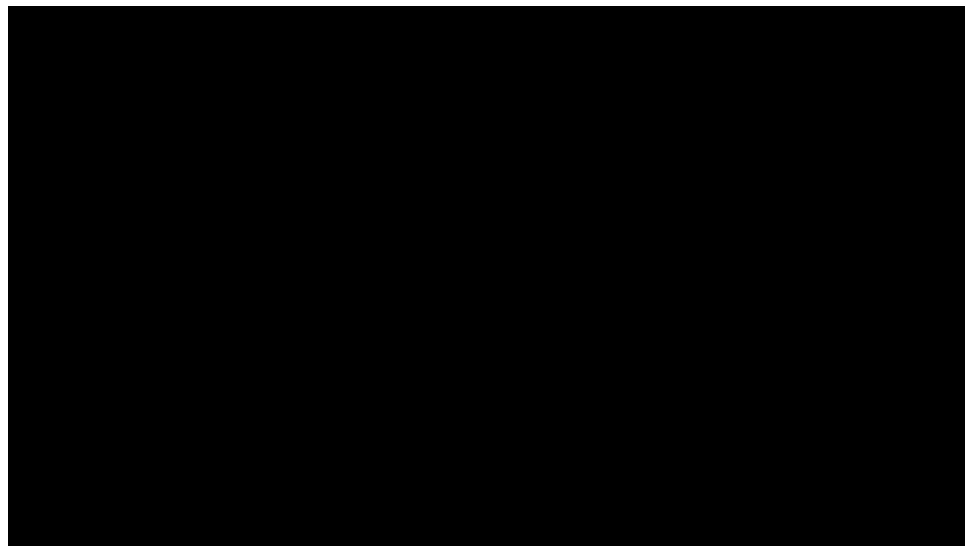


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Resources



[About the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area](#)

[Great Barrier Reef coastal zone map](#)

[Great Barrier Reef Marine Component Strategic Assessment Terms of Reference](#)

[Great Barrier Reef Coastal Zone Strategic Assessment Terms of Reference](#)

Fact sheets

[Overview fact sheet](#)

[Have your say fact sheet](#)

[Great Barrier Reef coastal zone strategic assessment frequently asked questions](#)

[Terms of Reference fact sheet](#)

[Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment fact sheet](#) (Department of the Environment)

In Brief

[Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Strategic Assessment In Brief](#)

Links

[Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority](#) (Australian Government)

[Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning](#) (Queensland Government)

[Department of the Environment](#) (Australian Government)

Further information

Email: [mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au?](mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au)

[subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment](#)

Phone: 1300 854 427

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Community information sessions

Register for a community information session to find out more about the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment and how to make a submission. Places are limited for each session – please register by the RSVP date.

Date	Location	Registrations
Tuesday 19 November 2013	Airlie Beach	RSVP: Friday 15 November 2013 Email: central.region@gbmpa.gov.au Phone: 07 4951 3454
Tuesday 26 November 2013	Townsville	RSVP: Friday 22 November 2013 Email: far.northern.region@gbmpa.gov.au Phone: 07 4057 0702
Wednesday 27 November 2013	Cairns	RSVP: Monday 25 November 2013 Email: far.northern.region@gbmpa.gov.au Phone: 07 4057 0702
Tuesday 3 December 2013	Mackay	RSVP: Friday 29 November 2013 Email: central.region@gbmpa.gov.au Phone: 07 4951 3454
Wednesday 4 December 2013	Rockhampton	RSVP: Monday 2 December 2013 Email: southern.region@gbmpa.gov.au Phone: 07 4921 4055
Thursday 5 December 2013	Gladstone	RSVP: Tuesday 3 December 2013 Email: southern.region@gbmpa.gov.au Phone: 07 4921 4055

Further information

Email: <mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au>

subject: [!%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment](#)

Phone: 1300 854 427

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Contact

General enquiries on the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment and the public consultation:

Email: feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au

Call: 1300 854 427 (within Australia during business hours)

If you are hearing impaired, or need a translator or interpreter

Contact us using [Translating and Interpreting Service \(TIS\)](#), or the [National Relay Service](#).

Have your say on the draft reports

View the [draft reports](#) online or at an [exhibition location](#) in Queensland from 6 November 2013.

Complete the [online survey](#).

Written submission can be made via:

Email: feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au

Post: Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment
Public Consultation Manager
GPO Box 668
Brisbane QLD 4001

A [written submission form](#) is available and can be submitted by email or post.

Consultation closes on Friday 31 January 2014.

Further information

Email: <mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au>

[subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment](mailto:feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au?subject=I%20need%20further%20information%20on%20the%20GBR%20Strategic%20Assessment)

Phone: 1300 854 427

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Appendix B – Printable survey

Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef
and coastal zone for the future

Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment

Have your say—written submission form

The Australian and Queensland governments invite you to have your say on the management of the Great Barrier Reef and the adjacent coastal zone.

You are invited to have your say on the draft strategic assessment and program reports on the management of the Great Barrier Reef and the adjacent coastal zone.

You can have your say by completing this written submission form. Please view the draft strategic assessment and program reports at www.reefhaveyoursay.com.au before completing the form.

Submit your form by email feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au or by post:

Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment
Public Consultation Manager
GPO Box 668
Brisbane QLD 4001

Consultation closes on Friday 31 January 2014.

Personal details

This part of the written submission form is optional. Please read the privacy notice at the end of this form for more information about your privacy and this consultation.

Title	
First name	
Surname	
Email address	
Would you like to be provided updates on the comprehensive strategic assessment? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (If yes, please ensure you have provided your email address above.) <input type="checkbox"/> No	



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Contact phone number	
What is your country of residence?	
If Australia, what is your state or territory?	
Postcode	
What is your age? <input type="checkbox"/> Younger than 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 21-35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36-45 <input type="checkbox"/> 46-60 <input type="checkbox"/> Over 60 <input type="checkbox"/> would rather not say	
Are you completing this survey as a private individual or as a representative of an organisation? <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation - Please specify the name of the organisation below.	
Organisation	
What group most closely describes you? <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Community group <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation group <input type="checkbox"/> Fisher—commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Fisher—recreational <input type="checkbox"/> Government (local, state, federal) <input type="checkbox"/> Industry association <input type="checkbox"/> Landholder (farmer or grazier) <input type="checkbox"/> Port authority/shipping <input type="checkbox"/> Resources industry <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational user <input type="checkbox"/> Scientist/researcher <input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism operator/industry <input type="checkbox"/> Tourist/visitor <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional owner <input type="checkbox"/> Other - Please specify below.	
Other group	
<p>Following consultation, a consultation report will be prepared for the Australian Minister for the Environment which is expected to include comments gained during consultation. All or part of this report may be released to the public via Australian and Queensland government websites. In line with the privacy statement featured at the end of this form, we will not publish your name (next to your comments) without your consent.</p> <p>Do you consent to your name being published next to your comments in any publicly released consultation report? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	



Survey questions

The survey questions are divided into two sections:

Section 1: Great Barrier Reef coastal zone strategic assessment

Section 2: Great Barrier Reef Region (marine component) strategic assessment.

You can answer questions on one or both sections. It is not necessary to answer every question in this survey. Please provide responses to those questions that are relevant to you or your organisation.

You will have the opportunity to provide any general comments about any component/s at the end of the survey.

Section 1: Great Barrier Reef coastal zone strategic assessment

1. Have you viewed the Queensland Government's Great Barrier Reef coastal zone draft program report and/or draft strategic assessment report?

Yes / No

2. The coastal zone strategic assessment identifies the following natural and heritage values relevant to the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone. How important are these values to you?

Value: Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area	
Your rating of importance	<input type="checkbox"/> not sure <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> neutral <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree

Value: Wet Tropics World Heritage Area	
Your rating of importance	<input type="checkbox"/> not sure <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> neutral <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree

Value: Ramsar wetlands (Bowling Green Bay and Shoalwater/Corio Bay)	
Your rating of importance	<input type="checkbox"/> not sure <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> neutral <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree

Value: Threatened Ecological Communities (broad leaf tea-tree woodlands in high rainfall coastal north Queensland and Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia)	
Your rating of importance	<input type="checkbox"/> not sure <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> neutral <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree

Value: The habitat of particular threatened species (such as cassowary , mahogany glider and Proserpine rock wallaby)	
Your rating of importance	<input type="checkbox"/> not sure <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> neutral <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Value: **Migratory Species (such as particular bird species)**

Your rating of importance not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

3. Do you believe there are other important values relevant to the protection of the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone?

Yes / No

If so, what are they? (50 words or less)

4. The coastal zone strategic assessment examines the current condition of these values, as shown below (see Table 4.10.2 in the coastal zone draft strategic assessment report). (Ratings from very poor to very good)

Do you agree with these assessments?

Value	Report's assessment of <u>current</u> condition	Do you agree with the assessment of condition?
Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Wet Tropics World Heritage Area	Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Ramsar wetlands (Bowling Green Bay and Shoalwater/Corio Bay)	Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Threatened Ecological Community - broad leaf tea-tree woodlands in high rainfall coastal north Queensland	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Threatened Ecological Community - Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia	Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
The habitat of particular threatened species (such as cassowary mahogany glider and Proserpine rock wallaby)	Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
The habitat of particular migratory species (such as particular bird species)	Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

5. The Great Barrier Reef coastal zone strategic assessment also examines the future condition of those values based on the Queensland Government's proposed improvements and forward commitments for the management of the coastal zone (see *Table 8.7.1* in Chapter 8 of the coastal zone draft strategic assessment report). Do you agree with these assessments? (Ratings from very poor to very good)

Value	Report's assessment of <u>future current</u> condition	Do you agree with the assessment of condition?
Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area	Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Wet Tropics World Heritage Area	Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Ramsar wetlands (Bowling Green Bay and Shoalwater/Corio Bay)	Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Threatened Ecological Community - broad leaf tea-tree woodlands in high rainfall coastal north Queensland	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
Threatened Ecological Community - Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia	Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
The habitat of particular threatened species (such as cassowary, mahogany glider and Proserpine rock wallaby)	Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree
The habitat of particular migratory species (such as particular bird species)	Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree

Activities impacting values

- Urban and industrial development
- Tourism development and use
- Port development and maritime infrastructure
- Agriculture
- Mining and quarrying
- Natural resource management

6. The draft coastal zone strategic assessment examines the activities impacting on those values.

Do you agree that the list to the left captures the most important activities?

Yes / No



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

7. If not, what other important activities do you think impact on the values of the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone?

(50 words or less)

Key current and future threats on values

Climate Effects and
Extreme Weather events

Loss of habitat and connectivity

Decline in water quality

Pest and weed species

Modified fire regimes

Disturbance of species

Altered flow regimes

8. The draft coastal zone strategic assessment outlines key current and future threats which could affect those values.

Do you agree that the list to the left captures the most important current and future threats?

Yes / No

9. If not, what other current and future threats do you think the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone faces?

(50 words or less)



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

10. The draft coastal zone strategic assessment outlines a series of forward commitments and proposed measures to strengthen Queensland Government's coastal planning, management and development frameworks.

On a scale of 1-5, where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of these commitments?

Forward commitments – Meeting international obligations

Queensland will provide information to the Australian Government on proposed developments that may impact upon World Heritage properties to ensure Australia's international obligations continue to be met.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Queensland will work with the Australian Government to develop and implement a long term sustainability plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area by the end of 2014.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Queensland will work with the Australian Government to jointly develop an outcomes-based framework for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Queensland will continue to work with industry and other stakeholders in Gladstone Harbour to establish and implement the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership which will inform future management decisions.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Forward commitments – Managing coastal development

Queensland is committed to working with the Australian Government to improve identification of matters of national environmental significance.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Queensland will continue to work with the Australian Government and other states and territories to achieve consistent national listing of threatened species.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Queensland will complete regional plans in the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone where there is a gap and continue to update other regional plans to ensure they respond to the latest information and pressures.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Forward commitments – Implementing strengthened management measures

Queensland will develop and implement the Queensland Ports Strategy which builds on and further strengthens the government's commitment to consolidate existing port capacity and strengthen port-related management of the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Queensland will work with the Australian Government and the GBRMPA to develop guidelines proponents should consider when assessing cumulative impacts for EPBC Act approvals including those that impact on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Implement a new Queensland offsets policy that delivers more strategic outcomes and ensures funds derived from the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone are used to tackle the most significant issues facing the Great Barrier Reef and seek to align with the objectives of the Australian Government Offsets Policy and proposed Reef Trust where possible.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Queensland will also work with the GBRMPA and seek to utilise the outcomes of recent research (coastal basin assessments) in implementing the new offsets policy, including through the development of a Direct Benefit Management Plan for the Great Barrier Reef.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Forward commitments – Enhancing Matters of National Environmental Significance

Queensland will continue to support the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and the associated Paddock to Reef monitoring program to help achieve the long term goal of no detrimental impact from water entering the Great Barrier Reef.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

At Reef Plan's next review (2018), consideration will be given to expanding its scope to sources of pollutants other than broadscale land use.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Queensland will continue to support programs that improve the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Queensland will continue to undertake broader activities to improve the character of wetlands through the Queensland Wetlands Program.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Queensland will prioritise actions to recover species, taking into account national recovery plans, threat abatement plans and conservation advices.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Forward commitments – adaptive management

Incorporate reporting into Queensland state of the environment reporting in relation to matters of national environmental significance condition and trend.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Work with the Australian Government to develop an integrated monitoring program that incorporates existing Queensland monitoring programs and provides improved information to underpin the long term sustainability plan.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Advise the Australian Government of any proposed changes to the Program and prepare any matters of national environmental significance Impact Statement where a significant change is considered.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

The Queensland Government will report annually to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on implementation of the strategic assessment.

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

11. Having considered the Queensland Government's package of forward commitments, do you generally agree with them?

Yes / No

12. Do you think the Queensland Government should consider any other forward commitments to strengthen Queensland Government's coastal planning, management and development frameworks?

Yes / No

13. If yes, what other forward commitments do you think should be considered? (250 words or less)

14. The Australian and Queensland governments propose to develop and implement a long-term sustainability plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Areas.

Do you have any comments on the proposed long-term sustainability plan? (50 words or less)

**This is the end of the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone strategic assessment section of the survey.
Please proceed to Section 2: Great Barrier Reef marine component strategic assessment.**



Section 2: Great Barrier Reef Region (marine component) strategic assessment

15. Have you viewed the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Great Barrier Reef Region draft program report and/or draft strategic assessment report?

Yes / No

16. On a scale of 1 to 5, how important are the Great Barrier Reef Region's natural and heritage values and community benefits to you?

Value and community benefit: **Biodiversity — Great Barrier Reef habitats** (e.g. coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass meadows, open waters, islands, beaches, coastlines)

Your rating of importance not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Value and community benefit: **Biodiversity — terrestrial habitats that support the Reef** (e.g. saltmarshes, wetlands, woodlands, rainforests, forests)

Your rating of importance not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Value and community benefit: **Biodiversity — species** (e.g. mangroves, seagrasses, corals, fish, marine turtles, dugongs, crocodiles, whales, dolphins)

Your rating of importance not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Value and community benefit: **Landforms or geomorphological features** (e.g. coral reefs, islands, river deltas, channels, canyons)

Your rating of importance not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Value and community benefit: **Indigenous heritage** (e.g. cultural practices, customs, lores, sacred sites, stories, totems, languages)

Your rating of importance not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Value and community benefit: **Historic heritage** (e.g. historic shipwrecks, lighthouses, World War II features, sites of scientific significance)

Your rating of importance not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Value and community benefit: **Community benefits** (e.g. income and employment, understanding, appreciation, enjoyment, personal connection, health benefits)

Your rating of importance not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Value and community benefit: **Aesthetic values** (e.g. natural beauty)

Your rating of importance not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

17. Do you agree with gradings for the impacts affecting the values in the Great Barrier Reef Region draft strategic assessment report on *Table 6.11 Summary of the past and present effects of impacts on the Region's values?*

Effects on impacts on: **Biodiversity**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Effects on impacts on: **Geomorphological features (landforms)**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Effects on impacts on: **Indigenous heritage**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Effects on impacts on: **Historic heritage**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

18. Chapter 7 of the draft strategic assessment report assesses the current condition of the Region's values. On a scale of 1 to 5, how strongly do you agree with the gradings for the condition of values?

Current condition of values: **Biodiversity — Great Barrier Reef habitats (Table 7.1)**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Current condition of values: **Biodiversity — Terrestrial habitats that support the Great Barrier Reef (Table 7.2)**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Current condition of values: **Biodiversity values — species (Table 7.3)**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Current condition of values: **Landforms or Geomorphological features (Table 7.4)**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Current condition of values: **Indigenous heritage values (Table 7.6)**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Current condition of values: **Historic heritage values (Table 7.7)**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Current condition of values: **Community benefits of the environment (Table 7.8)**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Current condition of values: **Environmental processes (Table 7.10)**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

19. Chapter 10 of the draft strategic assessment report examines the future risks to the Great Barrier Reef's values.

Do you agree with the gradings for risks to the Reef presented in *Table 10.8*, *Table 10.9*, *Table 10.10*, and *Table 10.11*?

Risks to: **Biodiversity**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Risks to: **Geomorphological features (landforms)**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Risks to: **Indigenous heritage**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Risks to: **Historic heritage**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

20. Chapter 12 of the draft Strategic Assessment Report includes a series of recommendations to improve how the Authority protects and manages the Reef (*Table 12.1 Recommended improvements to the Authority's management arrangements*). These recommendations are summarised below.

Do you agree with these recommendations?

Recommendations to the Authority's management arrangements: **Identifying matters of national environmental significance (values)**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommendations to the Authority's management arrangements: **Assessing impacts on values**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommendations to the Authority's management arrangements: **Avoiding impacts on values**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommendations to the Authority's management arrangements: **Mitigating impacts on values**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommendations to the Authority's management arrangements: **Offsetting impacts on values**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommendations to the Authority's management arrangements: **Enhancing values**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommendations to the Authority's management arrangements: **Monitoring and evaluation**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Recommendations to the Authority's management arrangements: **Governance**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommendations to the Authority's management arrangements: **Adapting to climate change**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

21. Do you agree with the recommended improvements to related local, state and national government programs (*Section 12.3.2*)?

Recommended improvements for other management arrangements: **Climate change**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommended improvements for other management arrangements: **Catchment runoff**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommended improvements for other management arrangements: **Degradation of coastal ecosystems**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommended improvements for other management arrangements: **Direct use — port activities**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommended improvements for other management arrangements: **Direct use — shipping**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommended improvements for other management arrangements: **Direct use — fishing**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Recommended improvements for other management arrangements: **Direct use — tourism and recreation**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

22. The Great Barrier Reef Region draft program report is based on the outcomes of the Great Barrier Reef Region strategic assessment. **Its vision is: A healthy Great Barrier Reef for future generations**

Do you agree with this vision?

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

23. Do you have any comments on the vision?

(50 words or less)

24. The Authority's proposed management program is made up of three parts:

- existing (foundational) management
- strengthening management
- forward commitments

Proposals to strengthen management include five new initiatives and a suite of measures to enhance existing management. (*Chapter 5 of the draft program report*). Do you agree with these initiatives and measures?

New initiatives

Outcomes and targets
<input type="checkbox"/> not sure <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> neutral <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree

Cumulative impact assessment policy
<input type="checkbox"/> not sure <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> neutral <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree

Net benefit policy
<input type="checkbox"/> not sure <input type="checkbox"/> strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> disagree <input type="checkbox"/> neutral <input type="checkbox"/> agree <input type="checkbox"/> strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Reef recovery program

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Integrated monitoring, reporting and adaptive management program

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Measures to strengthen management

Identifying matters of national environmental significance

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Environmental regulation: **Regionally-based standards for ecosystem health**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Environmental regulation: **Strengthened guidelines**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Environmental regulation: **Streamlining, harmonising and enhancing tools**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Environmental regulation: **Improving assessment of matters of national environmental significance**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Environmental regulation: **Supporting recovery and building resilience**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Environmental regulation: **Improving certainty**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Environmental regulation: **Strengthening protection of heritage values**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Environmental regulation: **Improving compliance**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Environmental regulation: **Improving incident response capacity**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Engagement

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Engagement: **Influencing drivers and activities affecting the Region**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Engagement: **Supporting best practice and stewardship**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Engagement: **Improving consultation arrangements**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Knowledge, innovation and integration: **Improving identification and understanding of matters of national environmental significance**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Knowledge, innovation and integration: **Identifying Indigenous heritage values**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Knowledge, innovation and integration: **Developing an historic heritage database**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Knowledge, innovation and integration: **Improving understanding of community benefits**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Knowledge, innovation and integration: **Improving alignment and coordination of research priorities**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

Knowledge, innovation and integration: **Increasing emphasis on use of modelling**

not sure strongly disagree disagree neutral agree strongly agree

25. Are there any other measures to strengthen existing management you think should be considered?
(50 words or less)

26. The Australian and Queensland governments propose to develop and implement a long-term sustainability plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (*Section 6.1. of the draft Program Report*).

Do you have any comments on the proposed long-term sustainability plan?
(50 words or less)

This is the end of the Great Barrier Reef Region (marine component) strategic assessment section of the survey.

You may provide any general comments in the next section of this survey.



General comments

As part of the public consultation we are interested in your views on the comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the adjacent coastal zone. You have the opportunity to provide general comments on any component/s of the strategic assessment.

To help us understand the intent of your comments, please tell us if your comments relate to any of the following: (you can select more than one)

- The Great Barrier Reef coastal zone strategic assessment (Queensland Government)
- The Great Barrier Reef Region (marine) strategic assessment (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)
- The Great Barrier Reef in general
- Specific species in the Great Barrier Reef
- Specific locations in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Specific impacts or threats to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
- Other (please specify)

Please provide any general comments in the following box (500 words maximum). You may provide an attachment with your submission.



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Thank you for completing this survey.

Feedback and comments received during consultation will inform the preparation of the final reports for the comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone. The final reports, as well as consultation reports, will be provided to the Australian Minister for the Environment for review and consideration.

Consultation closes on 31 January 2014

For more information visit www.reefhaveyoursay.com.au

Submit your form by email feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au or by post:

Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment
Public Consultation Manager
GPO Box 668
Brisbane QLD 4001

About your privacy

The Queensland Government is bound by the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (Qld). The Australian Government is bound by the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).

The information you provide on this form / survey will only be used for the purpose of informing the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment which is being undertaken by the Australian and Queensland governments, in particular the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) and the Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) who are leading the public consultation for the project.

The Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment and associated public consultation is a statutory process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) which is administered by the Australian Department of the Environment.

Your personal information and comments will be viewed by the Australian and Queensland governments.

This consultation is a public process and any comments you provide may be published, including on the internet and may be transmitted outside of Australia. You may wish to bear this in mind when providing your comments.

You are not obliged to provide comments and if you do so it is under the condition that you agree that your comments may be published including on the internet. We will not publish your name or contact details without your consent. However, all information you provide as part of your comments may be used for statistical purposes by the Australian and Queensland governments.

Requests for access to public submissions, including personal details, will be determined in accordance with the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Qld). Please also note that requests for access to information may also be made to the Australian Government under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth).

Your comments may be moderated according to the Queensland Government's [acceptable use policy](#). Read the [Queensland Government's privacy statement](#) for details.



Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

Personal information collection notice

DSDIP is collecting your personal information to manage your comments on the draft reports for the comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone. We may contact you to clarify aspects of your submission. The contact details you provide on this form / survey will be disclosed to the Australian Government, particularly the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Australian Department of the Environment to ensure that their records are kept up to date and accurate. Your personal information will not be disclosed to any other third parties unless required and authorised by law, or if you have provided consent.

What if my contact details change?

You can change your contact details by emailing gbr.coastalzone@dsdip.qld.gov.au You will need to provide your name, both your old and new contact details and the name of this consultation.



Appendix C – Publicity material



The Hon. Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

1 November 2013

Strategic Assessment will help protect the Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is one of Australia's great natural wonders and protecting it for the future is vital.

Today, the Commonwealth Government has released a comprehensive draft Strategic Assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area for public comment.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Strategic Assessment has been conducted in parallel with the Queensland Government and provides a big-picture analysis of factors impacting the World Heritage Area.

GBRMPA has carried out the marine component of the assessment to consider the impact of activities on the water. The Queensland Government has undertaken a separate assessment of the coastal zone component.

The GBRMPA Strategic Assessment addresses a number of challenges facing the reef that must be addressed to improve overall water quality. Most significantly, this includes measures to reduce sediment, nitrogen and nutrient flows, which also boosts the population of the damaging Crown of Thorns Starfish.

Going forward, the Strategic Assessment proposes a 'halt and reverse' approach to turn around the health of the reef, including:

1. Establishing a management framework based on outcomes and targets.
2. Examining the cumulative effect of human activities and natural forces, rather than looking at impacts in isolation.
3. Adopting a 'net benefit policy' so that activities produce an overall benefit to the condition of the reef.
4. Implementing a Reef Recovery Program to restore the health of the reef by working with communities, local industries, Traditional Owners and government agencies.
5. Establish a reef-wide integrated monitoring and reporting program to ensure measures being taken are making a difference.

Everyone wants to see the reef remain one of the most biologically diverse places on the planet so it can be enjoyed by future generations.

Having long-term actions and partnerships in place for tackling the challenges facing the reef help to provide greater certainty for the community, industry and the environment.

The Strategic Assessment will also guide the Commonwealth Government's Reef 2050 Plan and priorities for the Reef Trust which will inject money into projects for long-term sustainability.

All Australians have a strong connection and have a great sense of pride in the Great Barrier Reef.

As well as being a natural marvel, the reef plays a vital role in the North Queensland economy, generating significant business and tourism.

The draft GBRMPA Strategic Assessment — which was the largest and most comprehensive ever undertaken in Australia — provides an opportunity for people to express their views on how the reef can be protected long into the future.

As this is a large and complex assessment, the comment period will remain open until on 31 January 2014 to allow adequate time for the public and other stakeholders to comment.

The GBRMPA and Queensland Government reports are a key response to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations made in 2012.

The *Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area Strategic Assessment* and the program reports can be downloaded at: www.reefhaveyoursay.com.au

Media contact: John O'Doherty 0402 047 852



Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



Queensland
Government

Have your say

Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

You're invited to have your say on the management of the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland Government are undertaking a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone.

There are two parts to the comprehensive strategic assessment — a marine component and a coastal zone component.

Draft strategic assessment and program reports are now available for public comment, in accordance with s146(2)(b) of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The draft reports look at the Reef's values and how these values are being protected now and into the future, while enabling the sustainable development of the coastal zone.

Visit www.reefhaveyoursay.com.au to view the draft reports and find out how you can provide comments, including via an online survey. You can also check the exhibition locations where hard copies of the reports can be viewed and register for community information sessions. Alternatively, call the number below.

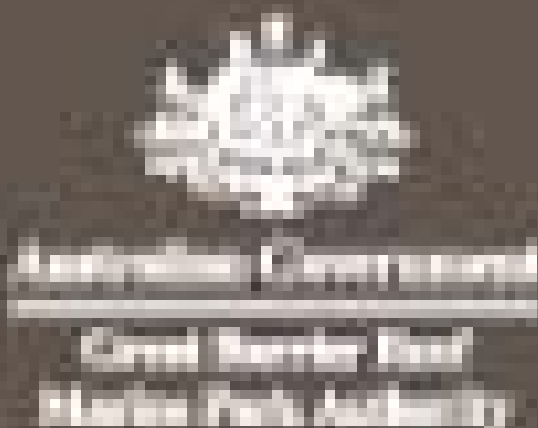
Consultation closes 31 January 2014

Phone **1300 854 427** during business hours

Email feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au



Great
Barrier
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Strategic
Assessment



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Complete the online survey
www.reefhaveyoursay.com.au

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park
Management
Authority



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Brisbane 18°C - 27°C . Chance of a storm.



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Two drown at waterfalls

ANIKA HUME A MAN and a woman have died at two popular swimming spots at waterfalls in north Queensland.

'Queensland lenient on pedophiles'



DAVID MURRAY | A CANADIAN detective involved in a global sex offender bust says he's disgusted by local justice handed out to pedophiles.

Global police swoop on child porn gang

10 comments



Have your say
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You're invited to have your say on the management of the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone

Complete the online survey
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Out-of-control man headbutts moving cars on freeway

This story was published: 8 HOURS AGO | NOVEMBER 12, 2013 2:26PM

0:30

Man headbutts cars on busy freeway

A man is being assessed in hospital after headbutting several cars on the busy Kwinana Freeway in WA. Courtesy DashCamsOnline/YouTube

Autoplay ON OFF

A MAN'S dashcam has caught the moment a driver lost control on a Perth freeway and decided to take it out on the moving traffic - using his head.

He can be seen headbutting several moving cars, smashing windows and throwing himself head first through the windscreens of others.

The shocking incident happened after the man crashed his Mazda ute into an unattended Volkswagen which was parked in the emergency lane of Kwinana Freeway in Perth.

Witnesses report the agitated man got out of his vehicle and ran into the oncoming traffic, jumping on the bonnets of some cars before smashing everything in sight.

The dramatic outburst forced traffic to stop and caused a major jam on the city highway.

Eye witnesses took to social media to report the incident, with one posting the dashcam footage of the man on YouTube.

A police spokeswoman said inquiries are continuing into whether alcohol or drugs were involved.

The man is being assessed at Fremantle hospital.

Have your say
Managing the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone for the future

You're invited to have your say on the management of the Great Barrier Reef and coastal zone

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STORY BY

JENNI RYALL with AAP

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RIGHT NOW IN NATIONAL NEWS


313 <small>READERS</small>	Copycat Clive Palmer swipes John F Kennedy's 1961 speech
61 <small>READERS</small>	Clive Palmer's most unusual demand yet
38 <small>READERS</small>	National National News and Australian News News.com.au
45 <small>READERS</small>	Britain's atheist megachurch going global - and it's coming ...
40 <small>READERS</small>	Out-of-control man headbutts moving cars on freeway

NATIONAL BREAKING NEWS

10:11PM | Vic independent MP sides with opposition

10:01PM | No SA or fed talks with senior GM official

Appendix D – Campaign details



SEA TURTLE RESTORATION PROJECT


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Great Barrier Reef at Risk

The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is at Risk of Losing World Heritage Status



The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBR) is threatened by massive fossil fuel projects that are destroying and polluting seashores, bays and coral reefs important to endangered sea turtles, dugongs, and snubfin dolphins.

These include refineries for processing natural gas piped from inland fracking wells. Coal facilities from distant mines. Industrial ports for ships to carry gas and coal to sea. All are currently being built or planned in the Great Barrier Reef despite public outcry, protests and a warning that its World Heritage status could be revoked this year.

Speak out for the Great Barrier Reef by commenting on the draft Strategic Assessment by January 30,

2014. Take Action below!

When final, the GBR strategic plan will determine whether the Great Barrier Reef remains one of the natural wonders of the world, or will be sacrificed for fossil fuel facilities and the short-term profits of multi-national corporations.

Please add your own unique thoughts about the Great Barrier Reef and whether you visited or ever plan to visit.


Subject: Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment

Your Letter:

Dear Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority,

I am writing to express my support for maximum environmental protections for the Great Barrier Reef. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the natural wonders of the world and it should never be sacrificed for fracking gas and coal facilities and industrial development. It would be a global tragedy if the Great Barrier Reef loses its World Heritage Status.

Specifically, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Queensland Government and the Government of Australia must immediately adopt regulations and measures to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef that will enhance and restore coral reefs, marine habitat for endangered sea turtles, dugongs and snubfin dolphins, and the multiple "outstanding universal values" that have been degraded due to pollution, commercial development and overuse.



Russell Reichelt Chairman and Chief Executive
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Phone: +61 7 1300 854

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Email*

Street

Street 2

City

State/Province
Select a state

Zip/Postal Code

Country
Select Country

Non US State or Province

Non-US Postal Code



Read more about threats to the Great Barrier Reef at SeaTurtles.org

The standard text included in the Campaign 1 web page was as follows:

Dear Great Barrier Reef marine Park Authority,

I am writing to express my support for maximum environmental protections for the Great Barrier Reef. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the natural wonders of the world and it should never be sacrificed for fracking gas and coal facilities and industrial development. It would be a global tragedy if the Great Barrier Reef loses its World Heritage Status.

Specifically, the Great Barrier Reef marine Park Authority, the Queensland Government and the Government of Australia must immediately adopt regulations and measures to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef that will enhance and restore coral reefs, marine habitat for endangered sea turtles, dugongs and snubfin dolphins, and the multiple "outstanding universal values" that have been degraded due to pollution, commercial development and overuse.

I recommend that the following measures be incorporated into the final Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessments and Programs:

- 1. Immediately adopt a moratorium on any and all development in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area until a strong, internationally supported, scientifically based protection and management scheme is imposed.*
- 2. Prohibit new or expanded Liquefied Natural Gas, fracking gas, coal seam gas, coal and other fossil fuel or mineral processing facilities or ports in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.*
- 2.(sic) Immediately adopt a moratorium on any and all sea dumping in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.*
- 3. Develop and implement a sea turtle protection and management plan to ensure the survival and recovery of all populations in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.*
- 4. Develop and implement a dugong management plan to ensure the survival and recovery of all populations in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area*
- 5. Develop and implement a snubfin dolphin protection and management plan to ensure the survival and recovery of all populations in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.*

I also urge you to consider the recommendations of Turtle Island Restoration Network, Gladstone Conservation Council, Capricorn Conservation Council, Fight for the Reef and Save the Reef to protect and enhance the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area for the long-term.

Please keep me informed of developments related to the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessments and Programs and advise when further opportunities to engage in the public process are available.

Snapshots of Campaign 2 webpage:



The Federal and Queensland Governments are making plans for the future management of the Great Barrier Reef.

While their draft plan acknowledges how fragile our Reef has become, parts of it downplay the threats and their proposed management plans certainly won't guarantee a safe future for the Reef.

This is your chance to make sure our decision makers get it right with a new approach for the Reef's long-term protection.

Make a submission now to the Reef Strategic Assessment process today to ensure a healthier Reef for generations to come.



SPEAK UP FOR THE REEF

Take part in the Government consultation about protecting the Reef by sending a submission today.

Name *

Email *

Postcode *



Your priorities for the strategic assessment *

- Return the Great Barrier Reef to good health within 10 years and invest in making this happen.
- Do not allow industrial capital dredging or dumping of dredge spoil in the Reef World Heritage Area.
- Ban ships deemed as high risk from traveling through the Reef.
- Take action to dramatically reduce carbon emissions from Australia and globally.
- Ensure the optimisation and best practice management of existing ports, not expansion.
- Rule out any industrial development on the largely undeveloped areas along the Reef coast, including Cape York Peninsula, the Fitzroy Delta and Northern Curtis Island.
- Protect all remaining wetlands of National Significance along the Reef coast, including the Fitzroy Delta and the Caley Valley Wetlands.
- Strengthen the laws that protect the Reef coastline, including waterways that flow into the Reef and retain Federal government oversight of development approvals.
- Fund highly targeted projects to dramatically reduce the levels of nutrients flowing onto the Reef from agriculture.

Add your optional message to the Government

This will help ensure your submission is counted individually

- I would like to receive updates from the campaign
- I consent to my name being published next to my comments in any publicly released consultation report

Submit

The standard text included in the Campaign 2 web page was as follows:

Dear Great Barrier Reef marine Park Authority and Queensland Government,

Thank you for the opportunity to make my submission to the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment.

I am very concerned that the health of the Great Barrier Reef is declining and will continue to do so without urgent government action for its protection.

Current management practices have not been enough to protect the reef from the impacts of rapid industrialisation, dumping and dredging and other human impacts.

Recent changes to Queensland laws, including land clearing in some reef catchments and reducing safeguards for coastal zones, will only make matters much worse.

I want government action to immediately stop the decline and turn around the health of the reef.

Proposed recommendations in the Strategic Assessment do not match the Reef's need for urgent protection.

I support the following urgent action needed to secure the long-term future of the reef:

Return the Great Barrier Reef to good health within 10 years and invest in making this happen.

- *Do not allow industrial capital dredging or dumping of dredge spoil in the Reef World Heritage Area.*
- *Ban ships deemed as high risk from traveling through the Reef.*
- *Take action to dramatically reduce carbon emissions from Australia and globally.*
- *Ensure the optimisation and best practice management of existing ports, not expansion.*
- *Rule out any industrial development on the largely undeveloped areas along the Reef coast, including Cape York Peninsula, the Fitzroy Delta and Northern Curtis Island.*
- *Protect all remaining wetlands of National Significance along the Reef coast, including the Fitzroy Delta and the Caley Valley Wetlands.*
- *Strengthen the laws that protect the Reef coastline, including waterways that flow into the Reef and retain Federal government oversight of development approvals.*
- *Fund highly targeted projects to dramatically reduce the levels of nutrients flowing onto the Reef from agriculture.*

I consent to my name being published next to my comments in any publicly released consultation report.



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Act now! Our sample letter will help you have your say on the future of the Great Barrier Reef

29 JANUARY 2014

What's happening?

The Federal Government has released a draft 'Strategic Assessment' for the Great Barrier Reef.

I want to be involved, what can I do?

You have until Friday 31st of January to have your say on the draft Strategic Assessment! To make it as easy as possible, we have prepared a [sample letter](#) for our members and supporters to use focusing on Queensland laws and inadequacies. Our sample letter is addressed to Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt and to the Queensland government Reef Have Your Say team. (And please, send us a copy of your letter too!) You can also have your say via the [online survey](#). We encourage you to do both.

What does it all mean?

The Strategic Assessment is meant to be a comprehensive snapshot of the current health of the reef including an in-depth program for how it will be managed going forward. The draft assessment is currently presented in [four draft reports](#) all available for public comment until Friday 31 January 2014.

The Strategic Assessment is important because, once finalised, it will set the foundations for management of the Reef for the next 25 years. It is being prepared in response to UNESCO's concerns about coastal development impacting on the Reef and the general decline in the health of the reef. In 2013, the strategic assessment will be taken to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

It is also important, because technically, the Federal Minister for the Environment can approve 'classes of actions' fast tracking major developments on the reef without individual assessment. We need to make sure this does not happen.

What does EDO Qld think about all this?

We have focused on one of the four reports – the report about Queensland's laws. Overall, the Queensland Government's laws are designed to facilitate development and are not in anyway adequate to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Reef, or to protect other matters of national environmental significance.

What do others think?

WWF-Australia (WWF) and the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) have released a report assessing progress on the recommendations made by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee on improving the management of the Reef. The [Report to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee](#) includes an accompanying [scorecard](#) which lists the government failures. To support the assessment, [EDO Qld provided legal advice](#) on the failures of the current regulatory framework in protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the Reef (see EDO Qld's advice at Appendix 5).

The private consulting firm SKM was also asked to do an analysis of the Queensland Government's part of the Draft Strategic Assessment [see here](#).

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Campaign 4 draft letter:

Insert your name, return address, email and phone number##

January 2013

The Hon. Greg Hunt MP Minister for the Environment PO Box 6022 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 <i>By email only</i>	Public Consultation Manager Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment GPO Box 668 Brisbane QLD 4001 <i>By email only</i>
--	---

greg.hunt.mp@environment.gov.au

feedback@reefhaveyoursay.com.au

edoqld@edo.org.au

Dear Minister Hunt and Public Consultation Manager,

DRAFT STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT WON'T PROTECT OUR GREAT BARRIER REEF

Insert short sentence why *YOU* love the Reef##

I write to express concern with the Draft Strategic Assessment for the Great Barrier Reef.

The draft coastal zone program report component prepared by the Queensland Government does not give an accurate picture of key Queensland laws. Its deficiencies include:

1. Failure to correctly describe the extent of major roll backs of Queensland laws protecting vegetation from clearing, laws protecting national parks and the impact those roll backs will have on the Reef;
2. Failure to highlight that major port developments currently undergoing assessment are exempted from restrictions on capital dredging in the Draft Queensland Port Strategy and that the State Government is 'fast tracking' many existing major projects for example the Gladstone LNG Project;
3. No adequate acknowledgement that 'major projects laws' in Queensland governing most coastal developments and laws governing land use at ports do not include principles of ecologically sustainable development and lack transparency and accountability;
4. Failure to note that the Queensland Government has reduced the number of public servants administering environmental laws and that the Queensland Government's 'Forward Commitments' are very weak and include vague plans to simply 'work with' the Australian Government.

Overall, **Queensland's laws are specifically designed to facilitate development** and are not in any way adequate to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Reef, or to protect matters of national environmental significance.

Without transformation of Queensland's laws, the strategic assessment must be rejected. It is inadequate to form the basis for a long term sustainability plan for the Reef.

The proposed program should not be endorsed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. Actions that affect the Reef must require a case-by-case rigorous individual assessment process as required by UNESCO.

Yours sincerely,

##Insert your name
and signature ##

GHD

145 Ann Street Brisbane QLD 4000

GPO Box 668 Brisbane QLD 4001







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