



Great Barrier Reef Tourism Climate Change Action Strategy

Summary

The *Great Barrier Reef Tourism Climate Change Action Strategy 2009-2012* provides the marine tourism industry with a starting point to tackle the challenge of climate change. The Strategy provides a clear and accessible synthesis of climate change and explains how tourism operators can take meaningful actions to respond to a changing climate —both by leading emissions reduction strategies and by adapting their businesses. The final section of the strategy presents a detailed action plan that can be adopted by tourism operators and industry stakeholders.

Background

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing the world today.

The intimate connection between marine tourism and the natural environment means the Great Barrier Reef tourism industry will face significant climate change challenges. However, by taking proactive action to tackle climate change the Reef tourism industry will continue to keep the Reef positioned as a top international and national travel destination.

The Strategy was developed and released by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) in strong collaboration and partnership with the tourism industry and protected area agencies.

It translates the recommendations generated through a series of industry leader and operator workshops into a strategic program of action.

The Strategy meets Objective 3.2 *Maximise resilience of industries and communities to climate change* and 4.1 *increase knowledge and involvement of stakeholders in climate change responses* under the GBRMPA's *Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2012*.



Project name: Great Barrier Reef Tourism Climate Change Action Strategy 2009-2012

Project number: 3.2c.402.4.08

Objective: To ensure the Great Barrier Reef marine tourism industry is prepared for a climate change future.

Years: 2008—2010



Objectives

The Strategy aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Raise the awareness and understanding of the Reef marine tourism industry of climate change and its impacts
- Increase and support actions by the marine tourism industry to minimise their carbon footprint
- Identify and build a climate adaption and stewardship initiative that will help the Reef tourism industry protect the Reef in a changing climate.

Outputs

- *Great Barrier Reef Tourism Climate Change Action Strategy 2009-2012*



Activities

- Engaged Tony Charters and Associates to conduct industry workshops to inform the development of the Strategy
- Designed and printed 600 abridged and 50 full versions of the Strategy.

Outcomes

A marine tourism industry that is a global leader in nature-based tourism, in climate adaptation and in stewardship for conservation.

The strategy was driven by the Tourism Climate Change Action Group (TCCAG). The TCCAG members are:

- Queensland Tourism Industry Council
- Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators
- Quicksilver Group
- Lady Elliot Island Resort
- Whitsunday Charter Boat Industry Association
- Tourism Queensland
- Ecotourism Australia
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Department of Environment and Resource Management.

*For further information contact the:
Climate Change Group
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
PO Box 1379, Townsville Qld 4810
07 4750 0759
www.gbrmpa.gov.au*

