

# Great Barrier Reef Marine Turtles

## Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)



**Did you know . . .** Loggerhead turtles get their name because of their large square heads and strong jaws.

## Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)



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**Did you know . . .** Olive Ridley turtles are the smallest of all the marine turtles and their shell is shaped like a heart.

## Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)



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**Did you know . . .** Leatherback turtles are the largest of all the marine turtles with a leather-like shell up to 2.5m in length.

## Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)



**Did you know . . .** Hawksbill turtles have thick overlapping scales and a distinctive beak. Their shell was once used to make 'tortoiseshell' jewellery.

## Flatback Turtle (*Natator depressus*)



Photo: Scott Whiting

**Did you know . . .** Flatback turtles have a very flat shell with upturned edges. The species is only found on the Australian continental shelf.

## Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)



**Did you know . . .** Green turtles get their name because their fat is coloured green. They mainly eat algae and other marine plants.

## Egg Facts

Marine turtles lay between 50 and 200 eggs per clutch. Eggs take about 60 days to hatch.



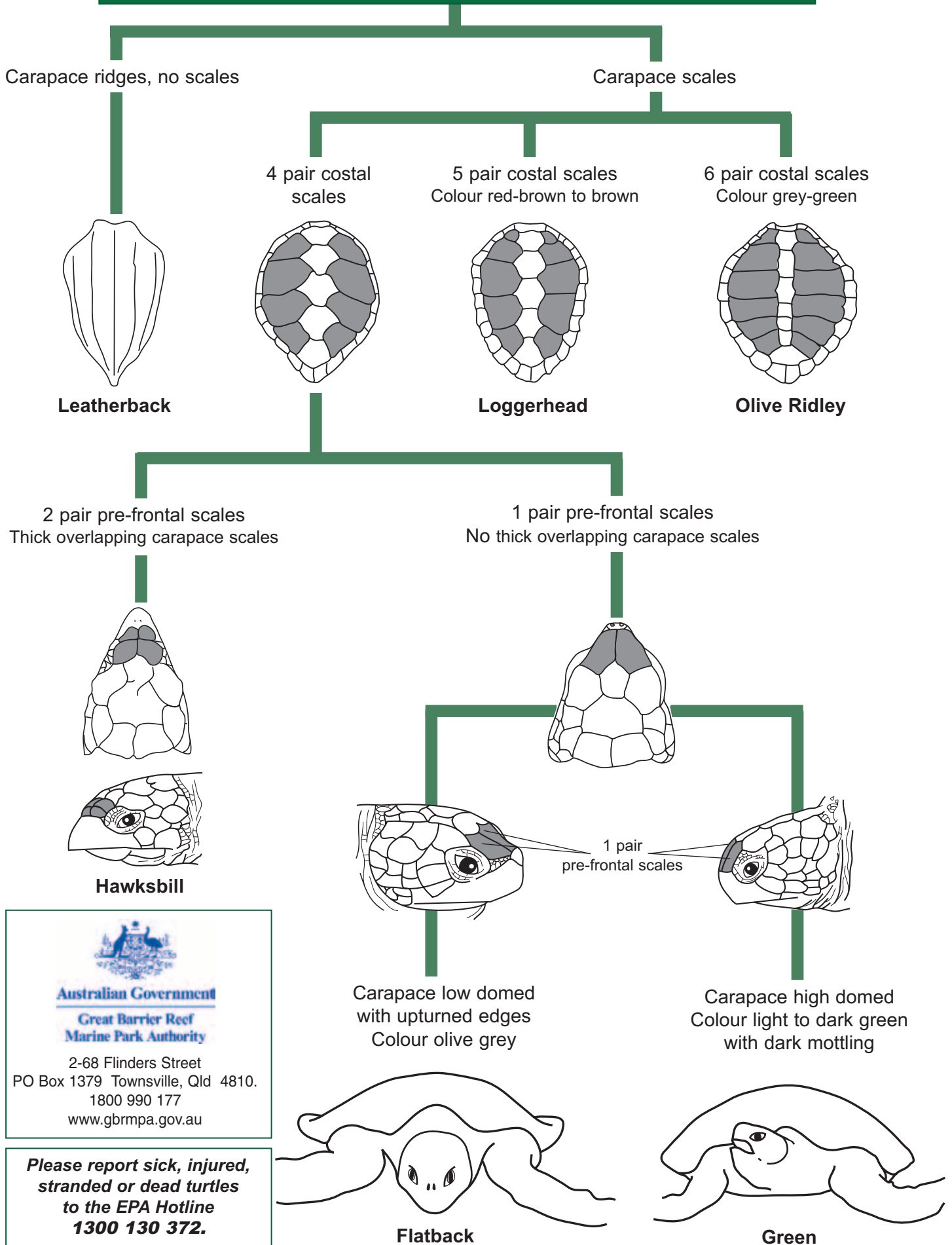
Australian Government  
Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority

our great barrier reef  
let's keep it great



# Identification Key

The identification key below will help you identify the marine turtles of the Great Barrier Reef. Follow the flow chart and match the carapace (shell) and/or the pre-frontal scales on the head to the turtle in question.



  
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**Please report sick, injured, stranded or dead turtles to the EPA Hotline 1300 130 372.**