








Report card: Australia's progress in responding to the 2013 World Heritage Committee decision

2013 WHC decision (37 COM 7B.10)	Progress since June 2013	Status
3. Strategic assessments and Reef 2050—Long-Term Sustainability Plan	<p>Strategic assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft strategic assessments of the management of the entire property and the adjacent coastal zone were released on 1 November 2013 for public comment until 31 January 2014 and active consultation with key stakeholders and the broader community. • The draft strategic assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – are the largest and most comprehensive of their kind ever undertaken in Australia – conclude that the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the Great Barrier Reef remain largely intact, while some aspects of the overall health of the Reef have declined – propose key areas of strengthened management to reduce the risks to the Reef, halt and reverse decline and restore health and resilience, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ adopting a management framework focused on clear outcomes for the future of the Reef's values and driven by specific measurable targets ▪ developing a cumulative impact assessment policy to provide a transparent, consistent and systematic approach to assessing cumulative impacts across jurisdictions from activities within and adjacent to the region ▪ introducing a net benefit policy to guide actions required to restore ecosystem health ▪ introducing a reef recovery programme to address local issues at a local scale ▪ establishing a reef-wide integrated monitoring programme. <p>Reef 2050—Long-Term Sustainability Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has commenced on the development of the Reef 2050—Long-Term Sustainability Plan for the GBRWHA, and opportunities have been provided for initial public input. • Broad elements proposed for the Reef 2050—Long-Term Sustainability Plan include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a vision for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area that reflects the diversity of use and interest in the property, protects the Outstanding Universal Value, sustains its integrity and integrates the three pillars of sustainability (environmental, social and economic) – an outcomes framework that includes desired outcomes and targets for protection of Outstanding Universal Value – adaptive management actions to deliver outcomes and targets, primarily drawn from the strategic assessments and focusing on critical areas of new work; these include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a standard approach on cumulative impact assessment ▪ implementing a policy of net benefit in the assessment of projects or actions ▪ building on successful programmes to deliver a plan for reef recovery – an integrated monitoring and reporting programme to measure the success of the plan – a Reef Trust to improve water quality and coastal habitat, a Dugong and Turtle Protection Plan and crown-of-thorns starfish control – submission of the plan to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2015. 	On track 

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4. Managing development in Gladstone Harbour and on Curtis Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone was completed and its reports were released in two stages (July and November 2013). Both the Australian and Queensland governments have agreed to consider the review's proposed principles for port optimisation in planning for future port development and operations in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership was launched and implemented. Its intention is to bring community, industry, science, government, statutory bodies and management together to maintain and improve the health of Gladstone Harbour. The draft North-East Shipping Management Plan was released for public comment. The plan sets out Australia's intentions to enhance ship safety and environmental protection and specifically considers further measures to reduce and manage shipping-related risks to the Outstanding Universal Value of the GBRWHA. 	On track 
5. Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013 (Reef Plan) was released, guided by a revised Scientific Consensus Statement. The 2011 Reef Plan Report Card was released, showing continued progress towards water quality targets. The Australian and Queensland governments reaffirmed their commitment to the Reef Plan in December 2013. 	On track 
6a. No development to impact individually or cumulatively on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments that would have an unacceptable impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property have been approved and all decisions made since the release of the draft strategic assessments have been consistent with those assessments. Projects referred and assessed under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) explicitly incorporate Outstanding Universal Value into their decision-making framework. Any development proposal that could impact on the Great Barrier Reef will only be approved with the most robust conditions that ensure high environmental standards and a net benefit to the property, including protection of Outstanding Universal Value and integrity. 	On track 
6b. No port development outside existing and long-established port areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new port developments or associated port infrastructure projects have been approved outside existing or long-established major port areas in the Great Barrier Reef Region. The Draft Queensland Ports Strategy, released in October 2013, proposes to concentrate port development within existing major ports and introduce a statutory requirement for port master planning. Outside the long-established major ports, the Queensland Government will also prohibit capital dredging for the development of additional deepwater port facilities for the next 10 years within the GBRWHA. 	On track 
6c. Ensure legislation remains strong and adequate to maintain and enhance Outstanding Universal Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development proposals considered under national and state laws are assessed with enhanced consideration and understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the GBRWHA. A suite of products has been produced, including draft EPBC Act Referral Guidelines for the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Australia is working to deliver a single streamlined process for environmental approvals, maintaining high environmental standards. 	On track 
7. Overall protection and management of the property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia continues to make substantial progress in implementing the World Heritage Committee decisions and mission recommendations and is committed to corrective action to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. A strong foundation of existing protection and management of the property remains firmly in place and continues to be built upon. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority is preparing the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014 for release mid to late 2014. 	On track 
8. Submit 2014 State Party Report by 1 February 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2014 State Party Report has been completed. The World Heritage Committee has been notified of all proposed developments through regular reports to the World Heritage Centre. A further State Party Report will be submitted in 2015. 	Complete 