

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Great Barrier Reef

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

Australia/Asia and the Pacific/natural/Marine & coastal/154/1981

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Great Barrier Reef	-18.286 / 147.7	34870000	0	34870000	1981
Total (ha)		34870000	0	34870000	

Comment

Coordinates are fine; however we recommend the area of the GBRWHA be listed as 34 778 000 ha (pls note this is not due to any change in area but rather due to an improvement in the accuracy of mapping, rounded to the nearest 1 000ha).

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Nomination of the Great Barrier reef for inclusion in the World Heritage list	23/12/1980	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

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1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Jon Day
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Director, Outlook Report Taskforce
- Russell Reichelt
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Comment

Note that Jon Day is not the Property Manager; however he is the Director within GBRMPA responsible for heritage matters. Pls reverse the order of the two names (ie. put Chair/CEO first) and amend the info above as follows: Amend Jon Day's title to: 'Director, Ecosystem Conservation and Sustainable Use, GBRMPA' Add Russell Reichelt's title to read: 'CEO/Chairman, GBRMPA' Amend Russell Reichelt's address to be worded the same as that given for Jon Day.

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)
2. [The Official Site for Australian Travel and Tourism Australia](#)
3. [Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority](#)
4. [Natural site datasheet from WCMC](#)
5. [Great Barrier Reef \(Department of the Environment and Heritage\)](#)

Comment

Pls amend websites/re-order to: 1. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2. GBR Outlook 2009 3. GBR - Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities - Heritage 4. GBR - DSEWPaC Marine 5. Google - photos of the Great Barrier Reef

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

1. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971); (two areas within the GBRWHA are designated Ramsar sites - Bowling Green Bay; Shoalwater Bay/ Corio Bay)
2. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES 1973);
3. Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention 1979);
4. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS 1982);
5. International Convention for the prevention of pollution at sea (MARPOL); and
6. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 1992).

Comment

I suggest the order that these conventions are listed be amended - in priority for GBRWHA: 1. CBD 2. CMS 3. MARPOL 4. UNCLOS 5. Ramsar 6. CITES There are also other International Agreements that protect WH values including JAMBA, CAMBA and ROKAMBA - ie. agreements between Australia and Japan (and China and Republic of Korea respectively) for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in danger of Extinction and their Environment.

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Comment

A Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been prepared and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in February 2011, awaiting World Heritage Committee approval in June 2012.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Refer to the list on the website

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

Not applicable

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

Name	Impact					Origin
3.1	Buildings and Development					
3.1.1 Housing						
3.1.2 Commercial development						
3.1.3 Industrial areas						
3.1.4 Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure						
3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities						
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure					
3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure						
3.2.2 Air transport infrastructure						
3.2.3 Marine transport infrastructure						
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure						
3.3	Services Infrastructures					
3.3.1 Water infrastructure						
3.3.2 Renewable energy facilities						
3.3.3 Non-renewable energy facilities						
3.3.4 Localised utilities						
3.3.5 Major linear utilities						
3.4	Pollution					
3.4.1 Pollution of marine waters						
3.4.2 Ground water pollution						
3.4.3 Surface water pollution						
3.4.5 Solid waste						
3.4.6 Input of excess energy						
3.5	Biological resource use/modification					
3.5.1 Fishing/collecting aquatic resources						
3.5.2 Aquaculture						
3.5.3 Land conversion						
3.5.4 Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals						
3.5.5 Crop production						
3.5.10 Forestry /wood production						
3.6	Physical resource extraction					
3.6.1 Mining						
3.6.2 Quarrying						
3.6.3 Oil and gas						
3.6.4 Water (extraction)						
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses						
3.8.2 Society's valuing of heritage						
3.8.3 Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting						
3.8.4 Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system						
3.8.5 Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community						
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation						
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.1 Illegal activities						

	Name	Impact					Origin
3.9.2 Deliberate destruction of heritage							
3.9.3 Military training							
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events						
3.10.1 Storms							
3.10.2 Flooding							
3.10.3 Drought							
3.10.5 Changes to oceanic waters							
3.10.6 Temperature change							
3.10.7 Other climate change impacts							
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events						
3.11.3 Tsunami/tidal wave							
3.11.5 Erosion and siltation/ deposition							
3.11.6 Fire (wildfires)							
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species						
3.12.1 Translocated species							
3.12.2 Invasive/alien terrestrial species							
3.12.4 Invasive / alien marine species							
3.12.5 Hyper-abundant species							
3.13	Management and institutional factors						
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities							
3.13.2 High impact research / monitoring activities							
3.13.3 Management activities							
Legend	Current	Potential	Negative	Positive	Inside	Outside	

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
3.1 Buildings and Development					
3.1.1 Housing	localised	on-going	minor	high capacity	increasing
3.1.2 Commercial development	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	increasing
3.1.3 Industrial areas	restricted	on-going	minor	medium capacity	increasing
3.1.4 Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure	restricted	on-going	minor	high capacity	decreasing
3.2 Transportation Infrastructure					
3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	static
3.2.2 Air transport infrastructure	restricted	on-going	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.2.3 Marine transport infrastructure	restricted	on-going	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	high capacity	increasing
3.3 Services Infrastructures					
3.3.1 Water infrastructure	restricted	on-going	minor	medium capacity	static
3.3.3 Non-renewable energy facilities	restricted	one off or rare	minor	medium capacity	increasing
3.3.4 Localised utilities	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	high capacity	static
3.3.5 Major linear utilities	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	static
3.4 Pollution					
3.4.1 Pollution of marine waters	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	static
3.4.2 Ground water pollution	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	low capacity	increasing
3.4.3 Surface water pollution	localised	on-going	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.4.5 Solid waste	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	decreasing
3.4.6 Input of excess energy	restricted	one off or rare	insignificant	medium capacity	decreasing
3.5 Biological resource use/modification					
3.5.1 Fishing/collecting aquatic resources	extensive	on-going	significant	high capacity	static

		Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
3.5.2	Aquaculture	restricted	on-going	minor	high capacity	static
3.5.3	Land conversion	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	increasing
3.5.4	Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals	localised	on-going	significant	medium capacity	static
3.5.5	Crop production	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.5.10	Forestry / wood production	localised	frequent	minor	medium capacity	static
3.6	Physical resource extraction					
3.6.1	Mining	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	static
3.6.2	Quarrying	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	significant	medium capacity	static
3.6.4	Water (extraction)	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	static
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.3	Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting	localised	frequent	significant	medium capacity	static
3.8.4	Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	low capacity	decreasing
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	localised	one off or rare	minor	medium capacity	static
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	localised	frequent	minor	high capacity	static
3.9	Other human activities					
3.9.1	Illegal activities	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.9.3	Military training	localised	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	high capacity	static
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events					
3.10.1	Storms	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	low capacity	increasing
3.10.2	Flooding	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	no capacity and / or resources	static
3.10.3	Drought	extensive	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	no capacity and / or resources	static
3.10.5	Changes to oceanic waters	widespread	on-going	catastrophic	low capacity	increasing
3.10.6	Temperature change	widespread	on-going	significant	low capacity	increasing
3.10.7	Other climate change impacts	widespread	intermittent or sporadic	significant	low capacity	increasing
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	insignificant	medium capacity	static
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.1	Translocated species	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.12.4	Invasive / alien marine species	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.12.5	Hyper-abundant species	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	significant	medium capacity	static
3.13	Management and institutional factors					
3.13.2	High impact research / monitoring activities	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	static

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

The 2009 Outlook Report identifies climate change as the key issue facing the GBR over the next few decades; the extent and persistence of the impact will depend on changes in the world's climate. The Report also identified continued declining water quality from land-based sources, loss of coastal habitats from coastal development, and some impacts from fishing, illegal fishing and poaching as the other priority issues requiring management attention for the long-term protection of the GBRWHA.

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is no buffer zone, and it is not needed

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The property had no buffer zone at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by the management authority but **are not known by local residents / communities / landowners**.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

The boundaries are adequate and are set in accordance with constitutional constraints. However, increasing urbanisation and industrialisation of the coastline adjacent to the GBRWHA is increasing the likelihood of impacts. Various management provisions effectively 'buffer' the WH values; these include the zoning spectrum providing increasing levels of protection for the core zones.

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

National legislation

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act was enacted in 1975 "to provide for the protection, wise use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef in perpetuity..."; in other words, to protect the area's outstanding biodiversity whilst providing for reasonable use. This has been achieved using a spectrum of multiple-use zones ranging from General Use Zones where most reasonable activities can occur, through to National Park Zones (no-take zones which provide opportunities to see and enjoy the diversity of the Reef but where no fishing or collecting are allowed), to Preservation Zones (reference areas which are off limits to virtually everyone except for limited scientific research).

All zones have an overriding objective of environmental conservation. Zoning is a spatial planning system that allows ecologically sustainable activities to occur, but separates conflicting uses and determines the appropriateness of various activities. The GBRMP Act provides for reasonable use. Activities, such as tourism, fishing, boating, diving and research, are permitted in specific zones but are regulated to minimise impacts and conflicts with other users.

- The Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, which came into force in July 2000, also provides for the protection of world heritage values as well as environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and the protection of threatened and migratory species.
- The Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981 prohibits dumping of waste or other matter (including spoil) from any vessel, aircraft or platform in Australian waters unless a permit has been issued.

State legislation

Almost 50% of the State islands within the GBRWHA are National Parks under the (Queensland) Nature Conservation Act 1992. The tenure on the other islands is either leasehold, freehold or Deed-of-Grant in Trust (DOGIT) lands.

The Nature Conservation Act also deals with the protection of endangered, vulnerable, rare and common wildlife species prescribed by regulation.

In some areas within the GBRWHA, the tidal lands and tidal waters are declared as State Marine Parks under State Marine Park legislation (Marine Parks Act 1982) to complement the provisions of the adjoining Commonwealth Marine Park.

Other State legislation which is relevant within the GBRWHA includes:

- Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 - provides for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and management of the coast and coastal waters including its resources and biological diversity;
- Environmental Protection Act 1994 - the principal State Act addressing water and air quality and pollution including noise (and makes provision for approvals or licences to discharge);
- Integrated Planning Act 1997 - provides planning tools and an Integrated Development Assessment System for development activities on State or private land in and adjacent to the GBRWHA based on the principles of ecological sustainability;
- State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 - provides a framework for undertaking environmental impact assessments of major projects in and adjacent to the GBRWHA;
- Fisheries Act 1994 - the principal State Act addressing the management of most fisheries and fish resources in the GBR; and
- Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 - provides the framework for 'land use plans' and 'development plans' for all Queensland ports.

Comment

Replace first dotpoint: All Australian World Heritage properties are 'matters of national environmental significance' under national legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. By law, any action that has, or is likely to have a significant impact on any WH values must be referred to the responsible Minister for consideration. This includes impacts originating from outside the property. Many Queensland Acts have been updated or their titles have changed.

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The property had **no buffer zone at the time of inscription** on the World Heritage List

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

An **adequate** legal framework exists for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone, but **there are some deficiencies in its implementation** which undermine the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the property

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **acceptable** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies remain

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

Refer to the websites for more information: - outlines how zoning protects WH values - the protective measures and field management program for the GBRWHA; - various policies and guidelines to minimise impacts - how permits are applied to minimise impacts and conflicts between users

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

The Australian (= Commonwealth) Government coordinates management of the GBRWHA. The Commonwealth Government, through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority ('the Authority' or the Board) has responsibility for the Marine Park, and GBRMPA is the Commonwealth agency responsible for overall planning and management.

Day-to-day management (DDM) of the GBRWHA (which includes the GBR Marine Park, State marine parks and island national parks) is achieved through an agreement (the 1979 Emerald Agreement) between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments. DDM is predominantly delivered by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (a component of the Old Environmental Protection Agency), although it also utilises other State and Commonwealth agencies such as the Qld Boating and Fisheries Patrol, Queensland Water Police, Coastwatch, Customs National Marine Unit, and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Both Governments provide matching funds for the DDM program which primarily relates to enforcement, surveillance, monitoring and education/interpretation. The program is overseen by a Management Strategy Group and a Management Operations Group, both of which contain representatives from GBRMPA and QPWS. In addition, one

member of the four person Marine Park Authority is a Queensland Government representative.

This cooperative approach to DDM recognises the efficiencies to be made through the integration of marine park and island national park management, and through utilisation of existing Queensland Government infrastructure and resources strategically located in Queensland coastal centres.

Effective and integrated management is enhanced by a variety of means, including:

- a single independent agency (GBRMPA) with an Act which, if necessary, provides overriding powers;
- strong cooperation with the State (Queensland) Government through formal agreements, various departments, industry, research institutions and universities - especially through the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for the GBRWHA;
- complementary legislation for most adjoining State waters;
- a single DDM unit operating under both Commonwealth and Queensland legislation; and
- strategic zoning plans and site-specific management plans.

Comment

Note that Day to Day management (DDM) has been renamed 'field management'. There is also a new Intergovernmental Agreement to replace the Emerald Agreement (see). This also needs to be updated to reflect that: 1. QPWS is now a component of the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management; 2. There are now 5 members on the Marine Park Authority (one is still a Queensland Govt representative)

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Title	Status	Available	Date	Link to source
Tonga National Tourism Plan (Management of Marine Resources in the kingdom of Tonga, Technical Report No. 1)	N/A	Available	01/00/1992	
Agreement and Supporting Material for the Management Plan for the Hinchinbrook Area	N/A	Available	01/10/1996	
Port Hinchinbrook	N/A	Available	01/01/1996	
Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Progress report on 'Framework for management'	N/A	Available	01/01/2000	

Comment

Delete irrelevant reference to Tonga Nat. Tourism Plan
 Replace docs 2 and 3 above with following key documents: - Outlook Report 2009 - statutory Zoning Plan - 4 statutory Plans of Management - various site plans Also the Lucas et al report (1997) on OUV

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is **excellent coordination** between all bodies / levels involved in the management of the property

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully implemented** and monitored

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **most or all activities** are being implemented and monitored

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Fair
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Fair
Landowners	Fair
Visitors	Fair
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Good
Industry	Fair

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Indigenous peoples directly contribute to **some decisions** relating to management but their involvement could be improved

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is contact but only **some cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

Other key initiatives providing protection for GBRWHA include the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2009; the GBR Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2012; and the Reef Guardians Programs (with the Reef Guardian School and Reef Guardian Council programs being the most successful to date). The majority of Nat Park islands under Queensland jurisdiction have a Management Plan or other planning controls;

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 was amended in 2007 & 2008; key changes include: s. 2A (1) The main object of the Act is "the long term protection and conservation of the environment, biodiversity and heritage values of the Great

Barrier Reef Region". S. 2A (2) (c) Subject to (1) - assist in meeting Australia's international responsibilities in relation to the ... protection of world heritage (especially Australia's responsibilities under the World Heritage Convention)

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	
Governmental (National / Federal)	54%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	20%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	20%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	6%
Other grants	

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Comment

Not applicable

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **sufficient** but further funding would enable more effective management to international best practice standard

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is a **major flow** of economic benefits to local communities from activities in and around the World Heritage property

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **some** adequate equipment and facilities, but deficiencies in at least one key area **constrain** management at the World Heritage property

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

See following websites for more information about: - Annual Reports including all financial statements and audit reports - the Environmental Management Charge - visitor facilities

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Full-time	94%
Part-time	6%

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Permanent	85%
Seasonal	15%

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Paid	95%
Volunteer	5%

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Good
Promotion	Good
Community outreach	Good
Interpretation	Good
Education	Good
Visitor management	Good
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Fair
Tourism	Good
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Fair

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Medium
Promotion	Medium
Community outreach	High
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Medium
Visitor management	High
Conservation	High
Administration	High
Risk preparedness	Medium
Tourism	High
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Medium

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is **in place and fully implemented**; all technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, who are assuming leadership in management

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

See following website for more information about: - Annual Reports including staffing overview and training/staff development courses

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for most key areas **but there are gaps**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared widely** with the local, national and international audiences

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009 and especially the web links on Outlook On-line at:

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

See GBRMPA's 'Scientific Information Needs' at Also how these info. needs were determined

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In **many locations**, but **not easily visible** to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities / residents	Average
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Average
Local Indigenous peoples	Poor
Local landowners	Poor
Visitors	Average
Tourism industry	Excellent
Local businesses and industries	Average

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a **planned and effective** education and awareness programme that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has influenced education, information and awareness building activities, **but it could be improved**

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

Visitor centre	Excellent
Site museum	Poor
Information booths	Excellent
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Adequate
Information materials	Excellent
Transportation facilities	Adequate
Other	Not needed

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

See following websites for more information: - education www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/info_services/education - Reef Guardian programs - Local Marine Advisory Committees - regional engagement

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

Last year	Decreasing
Two years ago	Decreasing
Three years ago	Decreasing
Four years ago	Decreasing
Five years ago	Decreasing

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

Entry tickets and registries
Tourism industry
Visitor surveys

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

See following websites: - Plans of Management for high use areas - site plans for specific localities - Whitsunday Visitor strategy - Tourist Operators Handbook

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but **improvements could be made**

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **excellent co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

The fee is collected and makes a **substantial contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

See also following websites: - visitor trends - analysis of use & impacts - management of tourism - recreation 'best practice' examples

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient and key indicators have been defined but **monitoring the status of indicators could be improved**

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Poor
Local communities	Poor
Researchers	Excellent
NGOs	Average
Industry	Average
Local indigenous peoples	Poor

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

Implementation is **complete**

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

July 1999 - a SOC report on the GBRWHA "requested ACIUCN and State Party to review the 29 recommendations listed in the ACIUCN report and elaborate a more focused set of recommendations and develop a detailed plan for implementation and monitoring ..". The Framework for Management was the result.

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

Key monitoring programs include: water quality Long term reef monitoring - key species - fish monitoring

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

		World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure						
3.2.3	Marine transport infrastructure	Criterion ix - attributes affected include coral colonies espec. the inshore coral communities of southern GBR; and a number of the marine faunal group that occupy the inshore areas Criterion x - habitats for species of conservation significance	There are 10 major trading ports within the GBRWHA (see Chapter 4.5 and Fig 4.16 in Outlook Report) hosting both domestic and international shipping with a range of cargo. Most of the waters within the ports are excluded from the GBR Marine Park.	Monitoring is undertaken at all ports, especially when new works are undertaken such as dredging or spoil disposal. Monitoring of any introduced invasive marine pests or oil or chemical spills also occurs, and incursions dealt with effectively.	Over the past 10 years exports and import through GBR ports has increased. Expansion of ports and associated shipping are expected to continue (Chapter 5 in Outlook Report) although recent shifts in global activity are expected to slow growth.	Five Port Authorities, which are Queensland Government-owned corporations, manage all the ports within the GBRWHA. Port activities are governed by local, state, national and international statutory requirements for environmental protection.	All ports in the GBR are essential for regional economies, providing numerous centres along the GBR coast with food, fuel and consumer goods. Some introduced invasive marine pests have been detected in ports due mainly to international shipping
3.4	Pollution						
3.4.3	Surface water pollution	Criterion ix - attributes affected include coral colonies espec. the inshore coral communities of southern GBR; and a number of the marine faunal group that occupy the inshore areas Criterion x - habitats for species of conservation significance	A variety of actions are underway under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (RWQPP) ; examples of actions are shown at	A comprehensive monitoring program is underway	The RWQPP commenced in 2003 as a joint initiative of Australian and QLD Governments; it was updated in 2009. The immediate goal is to halt and reverse the decline in water quality entering the GBR by 2013, with expenditure estimated at over \$500M.	The GBRMPA and Queensland Dept of Premier & Cabinet are joint lead agencies; a range of stakeholders are involved	See Some major activities include water quality improvement plans, improved planning and wetland protection - see
3.5	Biological resource use/modification						
3.5.1	Fishing/collecting aquatic resources	Criterion ix - attributes affected include fishes (between 1200 and 2000 species from 130 families, with high species diversity and heterogeneity; and many by-catch (no target) species Criterion x - habitats for species of conservation significance	Fishing is managed with the aim of being ecologically sustainable. Considerable improvements have been made in recent years to improve sustainability, eg. the 2003 Zoning Plan, other legislated measures (eg. fisheries managt plans and Regs, DPAs)	Monitoring is mainly by Fisheries Queensland but other monitoring also occurs	The only specific time-frames for fisheries management are the periodic assessments required under the Federal 'Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries' (generally 3 yearly)	Fisheries Queensland is the lead agency; they work collaboratively with the Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC) and GBRMPA to ensure sustainable fishing.	More information on fishing in the GBRWHA is available at
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events						
3.10.5	Changes to oceanic waters	Criterion ix - attributes affected include coral colonies espec. the inshore coral communities of southern GBR; and a number of the marine faunal group that occupy the inshore areas Criterion x - habitats for species of conservation significance	The 'GBR Climate Change Action Plan' outlines a 5-year program designed to develop strategies to give the Reef, and those who depend upon it, the best chance of coping with climate change. The plan identifies strategies for direct action.	A large-scale, integrated program is being coordinated by RRRRC aimed at understanding how climate change will impact the GBR, how resilient the species are, and minimising the risks of climate change	Climate change is a on-going global issue. The GBR Climate Change Action Plan outlines a five-year program funded with an \$8.9 million 5-year allocation under the COAG National Climate Change Adaptation Framework.	The GBRMPA, in partnership with the Federal Department of Climate Change, is implementing the GBR Climate Change Action Plan funded with an \$8.9 million 5-year allocation under COAG. AIMS, UQ and JCU are also heavily involved.	The 'GBR Climate Change Action Plan' is at Refer also to the 'Vulnerability Assessment for climate change in the GBR' (copy online).
3.10.6	Temperature change	Criterion ix - attributes affected include coral colonies espec. the inshore coral communities of southern GBR; and a number of the marine faunal group that occupy the inshore areas Criterion x - habitats for species of conservation significance	The GBRMPA has prepared a 'Coral Bleaching Response Plan'	ReefTemp is the first sea-surface temperature monitoring and mapping product in Australia tailored specifically for coral bleaching	Climate change is a on-going global issue. The GBR Climate Change Action Plan outlines a five-year program funded with an \$8.9 million 5-year allocation under the COAG National Climate Change Adaptation Framework.	Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO are the lead agencies working collaboratively with UQ, AIMS, GBRMPA, NOAA and JCU.	The GBRMPA has a major focus on an early warning and assessment system for thermal stress on the GBR

		World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.10.7	Other climate change impacts						

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones							
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment		
4.1.4	The boundaries of the World Heritage property are not known by local residents / communities / landowners	Given the constitutional constraints, little can be done about the landward boundary despite its shortcomings (see comments). While public and stakeholder education about the location of the boundary is required, this is not a high priority.	Public and stakeholder education is required; however this is not a high priority action.	GBRMPA is the lead agency (will work with QPWS where necessary to raise public awareness).	The landward WH boundary ("coastline at low water") is difficult to define and virtually impossible to mark. It is usually covered by water, frequently moves with erosion and accretion, with differing definitions applied by Federal & State Govts		

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

Not applicable (for sites inscribed exclusively under criteria vii to x)

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

The GBRWHA is the most comprehensively protected coral reef ecosystem in the world; its ecosystem-based management approach and adaptive management are widely-recognized as being 'best practice'. This is aided by strong cooperative partnerships or formal agreements between the Australian Government, the Queensland Government and relevant agencies, industries, users and research institutions.

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Very positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	No impact
Recognition	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	No impact
Funding for the property	Positive
International cooperation	Positive
Political support for conservation	Very positive
Legal / Policy framework	Very positive
Lobbying	Very positive
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	No impact
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff
Non Governmental Organization
External experts
Advisory bodies

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

The ability to insert hyper-links (eg website addresses) into the comment boxes would be useful - this enables comprehensive and accurate information to be provided as part of the Periodic Report but would negate the need to type out long website addresses.

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO	Good
State Party Representative	Good
Advisory Body	Good

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

All required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The concept of Integrity and / or Authenticity
Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Satisfactory
State Party	Satisfactory
Site Managers	Satisfactory
Advisory Bodies	Satisfactory

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

• **Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance**

Reason for update: A Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been prepared and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in February 2011, awaiting World Heritage Committee approval in June 2012.

• **Geographic Information Table**

Reason for update: Coordinates are fine; however we recommend the area of the GBRWHA be listed as 34

778 000 ha (pls note this is not due to any change in area but rather due to an improvement in the accuracy of mapping, rounded to the nearest 1 000ha).

6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise

Overall a much simpler format and easier to answer compared to the first periodic report