



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



Great Barrier Reef

The threats are real and immediate, but if we respond now with action not apathy, there's hope.

Global Eco Asia Pacific Conference – 27 November 2017

Presented by Dr Russell Reichelt
Chairman and CEO
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park



AREA

344,400 km²

LENGTH

2300 km long

70 million
football fields

Roughly the
same area as...



ITALY



JAPAN



GERMANY



MALAYSIA

3000



coral reefs

600



continental islands

1625



types of fish

133



varieties of
sharks and rays

600



types of soft
and hard corals



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Greatest risks to the Reef:

- Climate change
- Poor water quality from land-based run-off
- Impacts from coastal development
- Remaining impacts of illegal fishing and poaching.



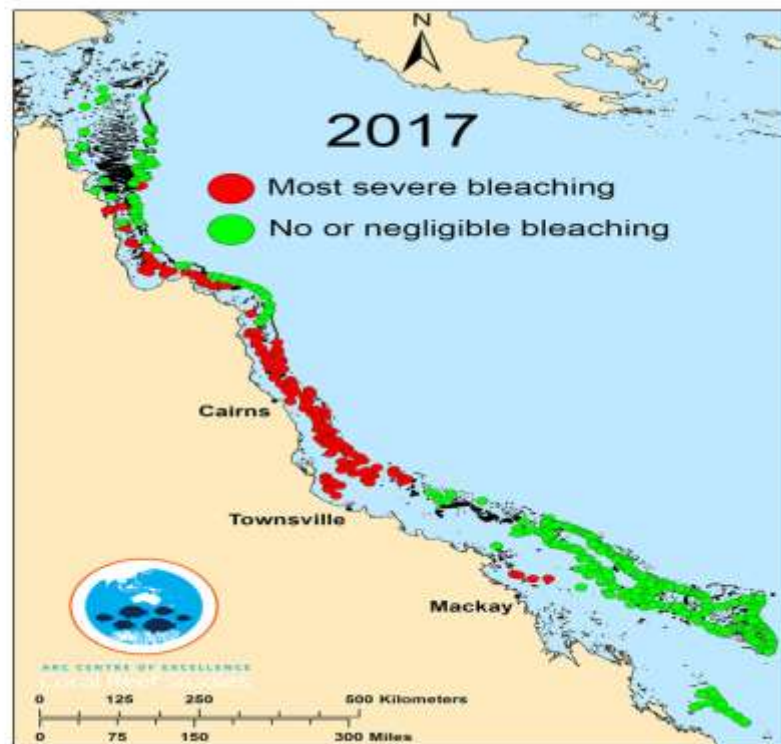
Mapping the Global Coral Reef Bleaching Crisis

The longest and most widespread global coral bleaching event on record began in 2014, causing reefs near at least 38 countries and island groups to turn ghost white—and in some cases killing them. The bleaching is ongoing, triggered by high ocean temperatures, and scientists say 38 percent of reefs have already been impacted. The Great Barrier Reef and reefs around Kiribati are among the hardest hit. The worst is likely yet to come for the Caribbean and Florida.



RCS: "Global Coral Bleaching 2014-2017" report by C.M. Eakin et al.; NOAA/Bernardo Vargas-Angel; XL Catlin Seaview Survey; InsideClimate News research

PAUL HORN / InsideClimate News





Great Barrier Reef Summit 2017

Managing for Resilience

Objective:

Develop a blueprint for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and its partners in response to mass bleaching and cumulative impacts on the Great Barrier Reef.

Key themes:

- protect, defend, restore
- start small, scale up
- identify policy enablers
- use tried-and-tested along with blue-sky.

Strong take away message was:

Together we can secure the future of the Reef we have to try harder, do more and act now.





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REEF BLUEPRINT

GREAT BARRIER REEF BLUEPRINT FOR RESILIENCE

Improving the capacity of corals and coral reefs to resist and recover from disturbance

Our approach is future-focused, our efforts collaborative, our actions targeted. Innovation and adaptation are central elements. And everything we do is within the context of a changing climate.



BUILDING A RESILIENCE NETWORK

- Identifying and protecting a resilience network



DELIVERING ON- GROUND ACTIONS TO ENHANCE RESILIENCE

- Dramatically enhancing compliance
- Ramping up crown-of-thorns starfish control
- Protecting key species for reef recovery
- Active, localised restoration



EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

- Accelerating actions to address climate change
- Fostering partnership for action and innovation

FOSTERING CHANGE

- Adapting policy and legislation
- Developing decision-support systems
- Building awareness and support

Our blueprint draws on the collective wisdom, knowledge and insights of marine park managers, Traditional Owners, the scientific community, industry, non-government organisations and individuals with deep connections to the Reef. It does not stand alone but builds on the strong foundation and legacy of forty years of world class management.

Great Barrier Reef Blueprint for Resilience

Improving the capacity of corals and coral reefs to resist and recover from disturbance

Initiatives:

1. Identifying and protecting a resilience network
2. Dramatically enhancing compliance
3. Ramping up crown-of-thorns starfish control
4. Protecting key species for Reef recovery
5. Active localised restoration
6. Accelerating actions to address climate change
7. Fostering partnerships for action and innovation
8. Adapting policies and legislation
9. Developing decision-support systems
10. Building awareness and support.





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Big, beautiful, diverse

Tourism presenting the Reef's outstanding values



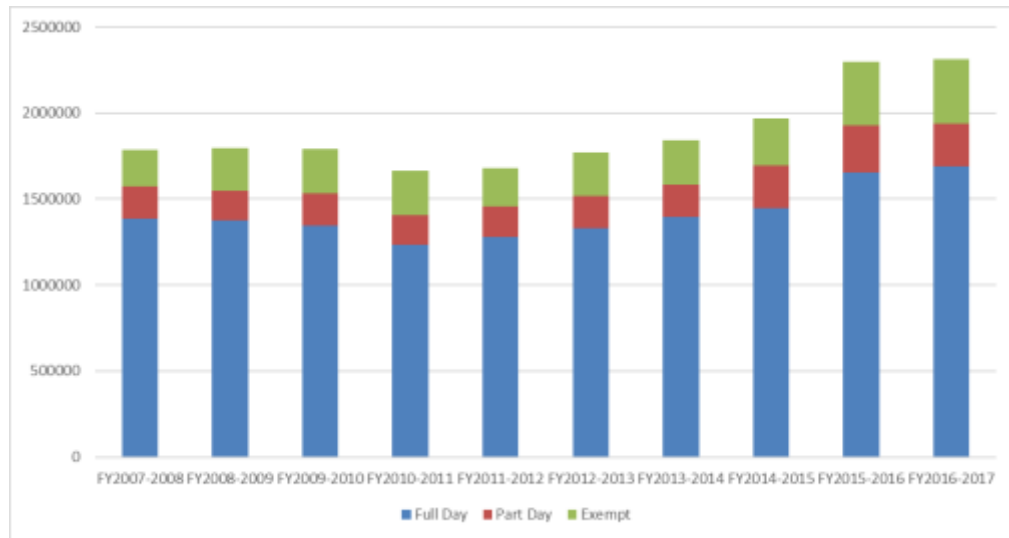
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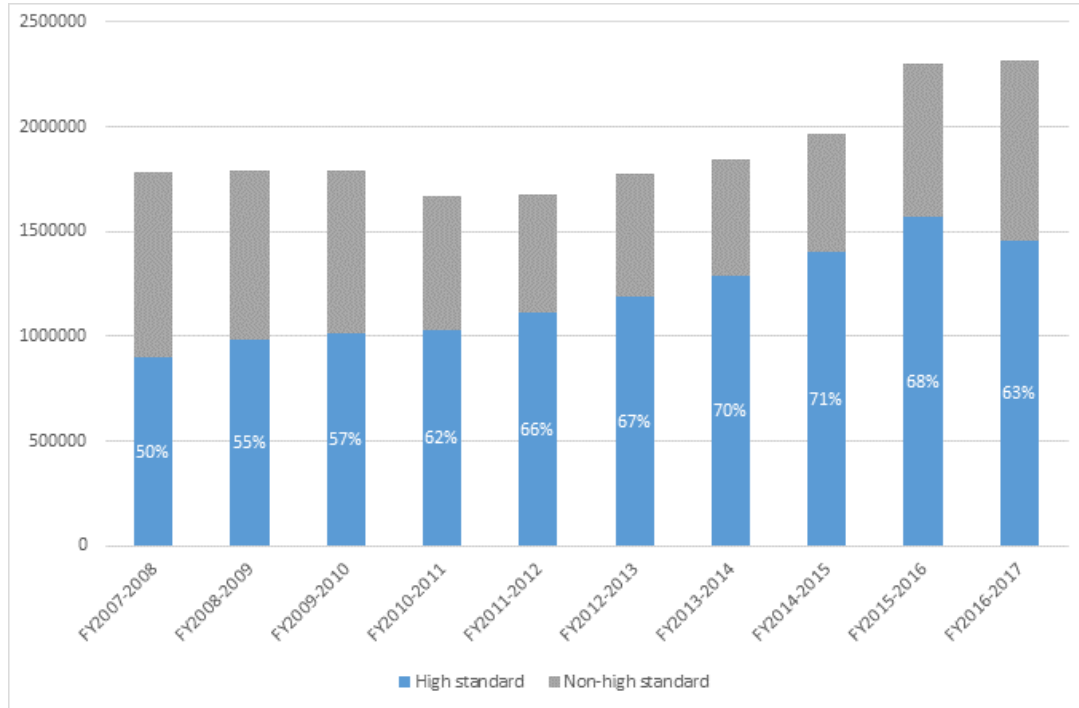
Visitation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park for the financial year ending 30 June 2017 was approx. 2.34 million visitor days



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Certified high standard tourism operations take over 1.47 million people to the Reef annually



Guests Benefit
World-class experiences

The Reef Benefits
*Ecologically sustainable
operations protect the Reef*

Tourism Operators Benefit
*A healthy tourism industry
relies on a healthy Reef*

The foundations of Reef Stewardship



EYE ON THE REEF

A Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority Initiative

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Stewardship in action: *Eye on the Reef*



Since the program began in 2009:

- 33,000+ surveys of Reef health loaded
- 15,000+ sightings of protected species and significant events loaded
- 500+ people trained in survey methods.



Promoting recovery and resilience: crown-of-thorns starfish



Photos by Matt Gurneck @ GBRMPA



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HOW TO

#LoveTheReef

REDUCE FERTILISER USE

Too many nutrients from fertilisers cause algae to grow, blocking sunlight.



DON'T LET YOUR LITTER BUG OUR REEF

Dispose of your rubbish properly and pick up debris from beaches and waterways.



ANCHOR AWAY FROM CORALS

Anchor on a sandy bottom, so anchors and chains aren't dragged across corals.



FOLLOW ZONING RULES

Don't fish in green (no-take) zones — they help protect the Reef's rich biodiversity.



PROTECT COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Places like mangroves and seagrasses are where many marine animals feed and breed.



REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Cut back on fossil fuels. Climate change causes ocean warming and ocean acidification, and is the biggest threat to the Reef.



LOOK, BUT DON'T TOUCH

When snorkelling, enjoy the corals and other marine life — but keep your distance.



See you on the Reef...



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