



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

MAILED
TO *Chloe*
ON *15 / 5 / 15*

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Ms Christine McDonald
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald

Additional Estimates – Resumption Hearing – Monday 11 May 2015

I am writing in response to a request from the Senator for Tasmania, the Hon Lisa Singh, that officials from the Department of the Environment provide the Standing Committee on Environment and Communications with a copy of all documentation provided to delegates of the World Heritage Committee related to the Great Barrier Reef.

A list of documentation provided to delegates from World Heritage Committee member countries is attached. These documents are publicly available on the Department of the Environment website through the links provided.

Yours sincerely

Chris Johnston
Acting First Assistant Secretary
Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division

14 / 05 / 2015

Encl.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED TO THE DELEGATES OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE RELATING TO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

On 30 January 2015, Australia submitted a detailed State Party Report to the World Heritage Committee (the Committee) outlining the nature of the threats to the reef; what the Australian Government is doing to improve the resilience of the reef, and how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is being managed and protected. On 6 March 2015, Australia submitted an Addendum to the State Party Report on significant policy changes that have occurred since 30 January. These documents are available at:

- State Party Report on the State of Conservation of the World Heritage Area (Australia):
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/cb36afd7-7f52-468a-9d69-a6bdd7da156b/files/gbr-state-party-report-2015.pdf>
- Addendum to the State Party Report on the State of Conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/cb36afd7-7f52-468a-9d69-a6bdd7da156b/files/2015-state-party-report-addendum.pdf>

In March 2015, Australia submitted the *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050 Plan) to the Committee. The Reef 2050 Plan is the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef from 2015 to 2050. The Plan is a key component of the Australian Government's response to the recommendations of the Committee. The Plan was formally launched on 21 March 2015. The Plan and associated communications material is available at:

- Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/publications/reef-2050-long-term-sustainability-plan>
- Joint Press Release: Long-Term Sustainability Plan for Australia's Iconic Great Barrier Reef: <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/hunt/2015/mr20150321a.html>
- Joint Press Release: Additional \$100 million to protect the Great Barrier Reef: <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/hunt/2015/mr20150321.html>
- Highlights of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/publications/highlights-long-term-sustainability-plan>
- Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan Fact Sheet:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/c28bb0da-bd63-482b-a6f4-35cd35f6b30a/files/reef-2050-long-term-sustainability-plan-factsheet.pdf>
- Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan Frequently Asked Questions:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/c28bb0da-bd63-482b-a6f4-35cd35f6b30a/files/reef-2050-long-term-sustainability-plan-faqs.pdf>

The Reef Trust is one of the key mechanisms to assist in the delivery of the Reef 2050 Plan. Information about the Reef Trust is available at:

- Reef Trust Frequently Asked Questions:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/e40fbc03-3d32-4116-b7bf-fcad4702b2b4/files/reef-trust-faqs.pdf>
- Reef Trust Investment Strategy: Initiative Design and Phase 1 Investment:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/e40fbc03-3d32-4116-b7bf-fcad4702b2b4/files/reef-trust-investment-strategy.pdf>
- Reef Trust Phase II Investments Fact Sheet:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a263d4ee-8849-4483-a255-1eb5fb2d8cbf/files/factsheet-reef-trust-phaseii-investments.pdf>

The Reef 2050 Plan was informed by the outcomes of a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone. The assessment provided a big picture analysis of impacts on the reef and enabled planning for, and management of, existing and emerging risks. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority conducted the assessment of the marine component of the area and the Queensland Government focused on management arrangements in the Reef's adjacent coastal zones. The assessment components and associated material are available at:

- Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment Report:
http://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/bitstream/11017/2861/1/GBR%20Region%20SA_Strategic%20Assessment%20Report_FINAL.pdf
- Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment Program Report:
http://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/bitstream/11017/2860/1/GBR%20Region%20SA_Program%20Report_FINAL.pdf
- Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment – In Brief:
http://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/bitstream/11017/2866/1/SA_InBrief_finalv5.pdf
- Great Barrier Reef Coastal Zone Strategic Assessment Reports:
<http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/great-barrier-reef-coastal-zone-strategic-assessment-draft-reports.html>
- Great Barrier Reef Coastal Zone Strategic Assessment Fact Sheet – August 2014:
<http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/factsheet/gbr/gbr-coastal-zone-strategic-assessment-fact-sheet.pdf>
- Great Barrier Reef Coastal Zone Strategic Assessment Frequently Asked Questions – August 2014: <http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/factsheet/gbr/gbr-coastal-zone-strategic-assessment-faqs.pdf>
- Great Barrier Reef Coastal Zone Map:
<http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/map/gbr-cz-map.pdf>
- Great Barrier Reef Coastal Zone Strategic Assessment Report Infographic:
<http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/resources/map/gbr-cz-infographic.pdf>

Reef policy and programmes are informed by science, as illustrated in the following material:

- Science and the Great Barrier Reef:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/14b0dfbd-a616-4dea-a676-507bc1100225/files/gbr-science-factsheet.pdf>
- Science and the Great Barrier Reef – Infographic:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/publications/science-and-great-barrier-reef-infographic>

The Committee asked Australia to conduct independent reviews on institutional and management arrangements and development in Gladstone Harbour. They also asked Australia to develop an integrated approach to planning, regulation and management of ports and shipping activity, which is partially addressed by the North-East Shipping Management Plan. These documents are available at:

- Independent Review of the Institutional and Legal Mechanisms that Provide Coordinated Planning, Protection and Management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/8b9fd5af-99ce-4a18-9ca5-6bb1829fd9e1/files/gbr-independent-review.pdf>
- North-East Shipping Management Plan: <http://www.amsa.gov.au/forms-and-publications/Publications/AMSA439.pdf>
- Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone – Report Findings:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/ae7cbcf9-2963-47d7-9029-3aa1a065db51/files/gladstone-review-initial-report.pdf>
- Independent Review of the Port of Gladstone – Supplementary Report:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/ae7cbcf9-2963-47d7-9029-3aa1a065db51/files/gladstone-review-supplementary-report.pdf>
- Independent Review of the Bund Wall at the Port of Gladstone – Report on Findings:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/82279d41-cb4d-4bae-bcc4-c068577d0d31/files/report-findings.pdf>

In 2011, the Committee welcomed Australia's commitment to improve the Reef's resilience and its ability to adapt to climate change and other forms of environmental degradation following extreme weather events. This document outlines Australia's strategy to address the challenge of climate change for the Great Barrier Reef, and sets out our plan for action over the next five years:

- Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2012-2017):
<http://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/bitstream/11017/1140/1/GBR%20Climate%20Change%20Adaptation%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan%202012-2017.pdf>

Australia has responded comprehensively to all of the requests from the Committee and has taken strong action to address the Committee's concerns about the health and management of the Great Barrier Reef, as illustrated in the following material:

- **Great Barrier Reef – Australia's Progress in Responding to the World Heritage Committee:** <http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/publications/australias-progress-responding-world-heritage-committee-infographic>
- **Managing and Protecting Australia's Great Barrier Reef – Video (link is external):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZITQFWLdBo&feature=youtu.be>