

Australian Government



Queensland Government

About the Great Barrier Reef

The iconic Great Barrier Reef is Australia's most valued natural asset for its rich biodiversity, cultural significance, ecological scale and great beauty.

Made up of almost 3000 coral reefs, it is the biggest coral reef system in the world. **But the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem comprises much more than just coral.** Spanning an area greater than New Zealand, it is a vast network of environments ranging from estuaries, seagrass beds, mangroves and wetlands, to deep ocean areas and vegetated islands. It is home to thousands of species including turtles, seabirds, dugongs, dolphins and whales – many of which are threatened.

The Great Barrier Reef and its catchment are rich in Indigenous heritage and are an intrinsic part of the Traditional Owners' culture. It also hosts many historic heritage sites such as shipwrecks, light stations and aircraft wrecks.

It is the interconnectedness of these different habitats and values, and how they work together, that makes the Great Barrier Reef so special.

Important internationally

The Great Barrier Reef is on the World Heritage List and is one of the richest and most remarkable ecosystems on Earth.

A place of wonder

The Great Barrier Reef is a place of great beauty and natural wonder that is close to the hearts of most Australians. Many communities along the Queensland coast and beyond use the Reef to boat, fish, sail, dive, snorkel and swim.

Supporting our economy

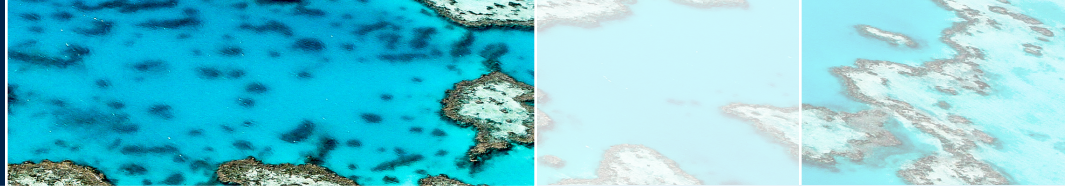
The Great Barrier Reef is an economic powerhouse, contributing more than \$6.4 billion each year to Australia's economy and about 64,000 jobs.

Figures reflect economic benefits before COVID-19 pandemic impacts on the international tourism industry.

Land use next to the Reef

More than a million people live in the Great Barrier Reef catchment, including small urban centres along the coastal strip. Industries that operate within the Reef (such as ports and shipping) or adjacent to it (such as agriculture) have an important relationship with the Reef.





Under pressure

The Great Barrier Reef is under pressure from a range of impacts. Climate change is the most serious threat to the Reef. Other threats include poor water quality due to run-off from the land, outbreaks of coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish, coastal development and direct human uses like illegal fishing.

A plan for action

The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan is Australia's overarching strategy for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef. It was developed in consultation with governments, scientists, industry, Traditional Owners and the community. Our vision for the Reef in 2050 is that: **The Great Barrier Reef is sustained as a living and cultural wonder of the world.**



Get on board

Protecting and caring for the Reef is a collective effort. Dive into the Reef 2050 Plan to learn more about how we are working together to help support the Great Barrier Reef.



Key Reef facts

