

## Statutory requirements for the Outlook Report

### 54 Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report

- (1) The Authority must prepare and give to the Minister a report in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Region every 5 years. The first report must be given to the Minister by 30 June 2009.
- (2) The report must be prepared in accordance with the regulations (if any).

#### *Content of report*

- (3) The report must contain the following matters:
  - (a) an assessment of the current health of the ecosystem within the Great Barrier Reef Region and of the ecosystem outside that region to the extent it affects that region;
  - (b) an assessment of the current biodiversity within that region;
  - (c) an assessment of the commercial and non commercial use of that region;
  - (d) an assessment of the risks to the ecosystem within that region;
  - (e) an assessment of the current resilience of the ecosystem within that region;
  - (f) an assessment of the existing measures to protect and manage the ecosystem within that region;
  - (g) an assessment of the factors influencing the current and projected future environmental, economic and social values of that region;
  - (h) an assessment of the long term outlook for the ecosystem within that region;
  - (i) any other matter prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this paragraph.

#### *Peer-review*

- (4) The Minister must arrange for the content of the report to be peer reviewed by at least 3 persons who, in the Minister's opinion, possess appropriate qualifications to undertake the peer review. The peer review must occur before the report is given to the Minister.

#### *Report to be tabled in Parliament*

- (5) The Minister must cause a copy of each report to be tabled in each House of the Parliament within 15 sitting days of that House after the day on which the Minister receives the report.

#### *Definitions*

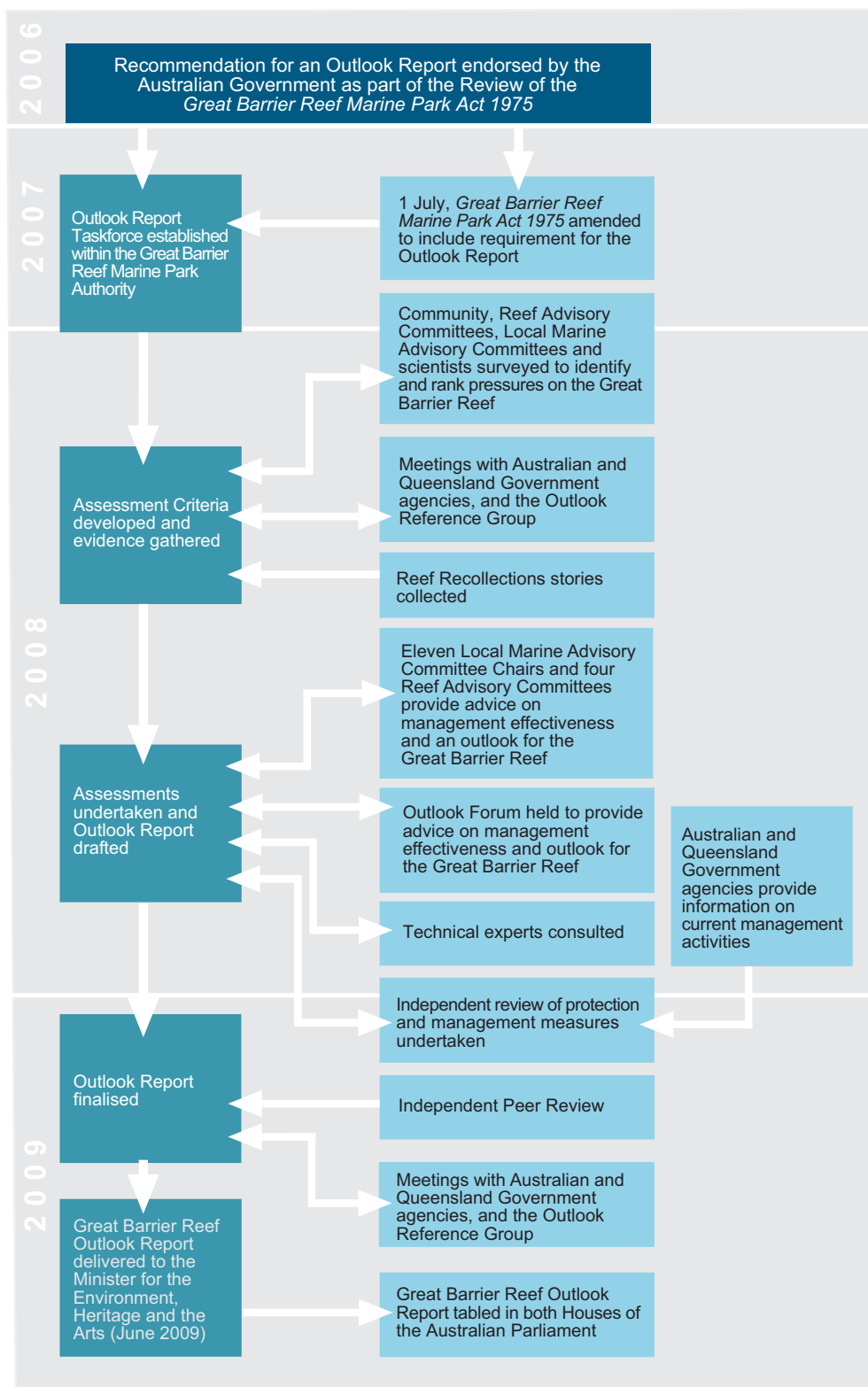
- (6) In this section:
 

**biodiversity** has the same meaning as in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

**ecosystem** has the same meaning as in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

*An extract from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*

## APPENDIX 2 Developing the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report



## Threats to the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem

Ideas on current and likely threats to the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem were gathered from a number of sources, including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's eleven regionally based Local Marine Advisory Committees and four issues based Reef Advisory Committees. The following final set of 41 threats were considered in the risk assessment (Chapter 8).

- Anchoring on coral by small vessels
- Artificial barriers to riverine and estuarine flow (e.g. dams, weirs, breakwalls and gates)
- Boat strike leading to death in species of conservation concern
- Clearing or modifying wetlands, mangroves and other coastal habitats
- Climate change induced altered ocean currents
- Climate change induced altered cyclone activity
- Death of discarded species during fishing or collecting
- Dredging and dumping of spoil
- Extraction of detritivores by fishing (e.g. prawns and sea cucumbers)
- Extraction of filter feeders by fishing (e.g. scallops)
- Extraction of herbivores by fishing
- Extraction of lower order predators by fishing (e.g. coral trout)
- Extraction of top order predators by fishing (e.g. sharks)
- Fishing in unprotected fish spawning aggregations
- Grounding of large vessels
- Grounding of small vessels
- Illegal fishing or collecting (foreign or domestic)
- Incidental catch during fishing of species of conservation concern
- Increasing sea temperature
- Ingestion of or entanglement in marine debris causing death in species of conservation concern
- Introduction of exotic species and diseases from aquaculture operations
- Introduction of exotic species and diseases through use of imported bait
- Introduction of exotic species and diseases through vessel ballast water discharge
- Introduction of exotic species and diseases through vessel hull fouling
- Large chemical spill
- Large oil spill
- Nutrients from catchment runoff
- Ocean acidification
- Outbreak of coral disease
- Outbreak of crown-of-thorns starfish
- Outbreak of *Drupella* species
- Pesticides (including herbicides) from catchment runoff
- Physical impacts of fishing
- Physical impacts of snorkelling and diving activity
- Poaching and illegal harvesting of species of conservation concern
- Sea level rise
- Sediments from catchment runoff
- Small chemical spill
- Small oil spill
- Traditional hunting of species of conservation concern
- Waste discharge from a vessel (including litter and sewage)

## APPENDIX 4 Criteria for ranking likelihood and consequence to the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem

A standard set of criteria allows the comparison of different types of threats within the one risk assessment, based on the likelihood and consequence of each threat.

Likelihood	
Category	Expected frequency of a given threat
Almost certain	Expected to occur more or less continuously throughout a year
Likely	Not expected to be continuous but expected to occur one or more times in a year
Possible	Not expected to occur annually but expected to occur within a 10 year period
Unlikely	Not expected to occur in a 10 year period but expected to occur in a 100 year period
Rare	Not expected to occur within the next 100 years

Consequence		
Category	Extent of the impact based on current management	
	Broad scale	Local scale
Catastrophic	Impact is clearly affecting, or would clearly affect, the nature of the ecosystem over a wide area.  Recovery periods greater than 20 years likely.	
Major	Impact is, or would be, significant at a wider level.  Recovery periods of 10-20 years likely.	Impact is, or would be, extremely serious and possibly irreversible to a sensitive population or community.  Condition of an affected part of the ecosystem possibly irretrievably compromised.
Moderate	Impact is, or would be, present at a wider level.  Recovery periods of 5-10 years likely.	Impact is, or would be, extremely serious and possibly irreversible over a small area.  Recovery periods of 10-20 years likely.
Minor	Impact is, or would be, not discernible at a wider level.  Impact would not impair the overall condition of the ecosystem, sensitive population or community over a wider level.	Impact is, or would be, significant to a sensitive population or community at a local level.  Recovery periods of 5-10 years likely.
Insignificant	No impact or if impact is, or would be, present then only to the extent that it has no discernible effect on the overall condition of the ecosystem.	No impact or if impact is, or would be, present then only to the extent that it has no discernible effect on the overall condition of the ecosystem.

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**Australian Government**

**Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority**

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