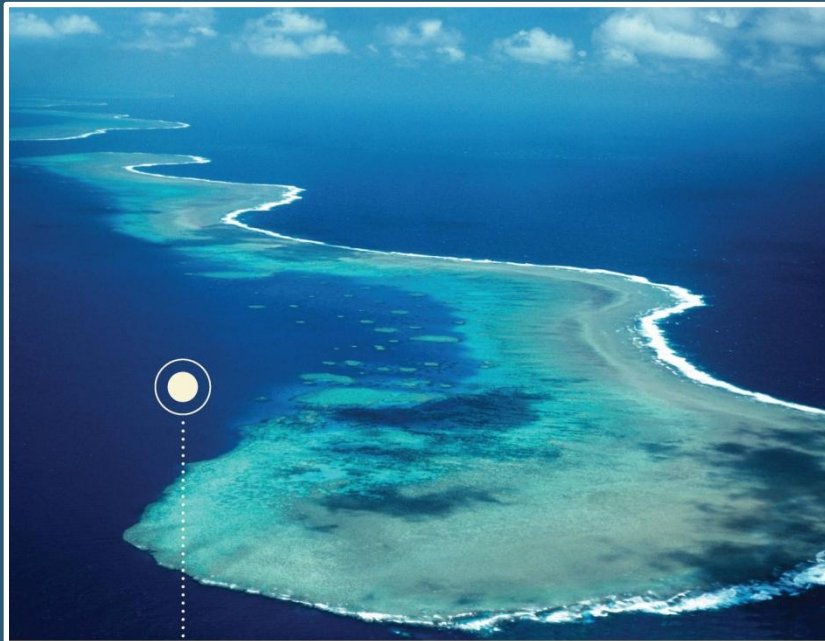




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GREAT BARRIER REEF  
**OUTLOOK  
REPORT 2009**

# Case Study: Assessing existing measures to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef Region

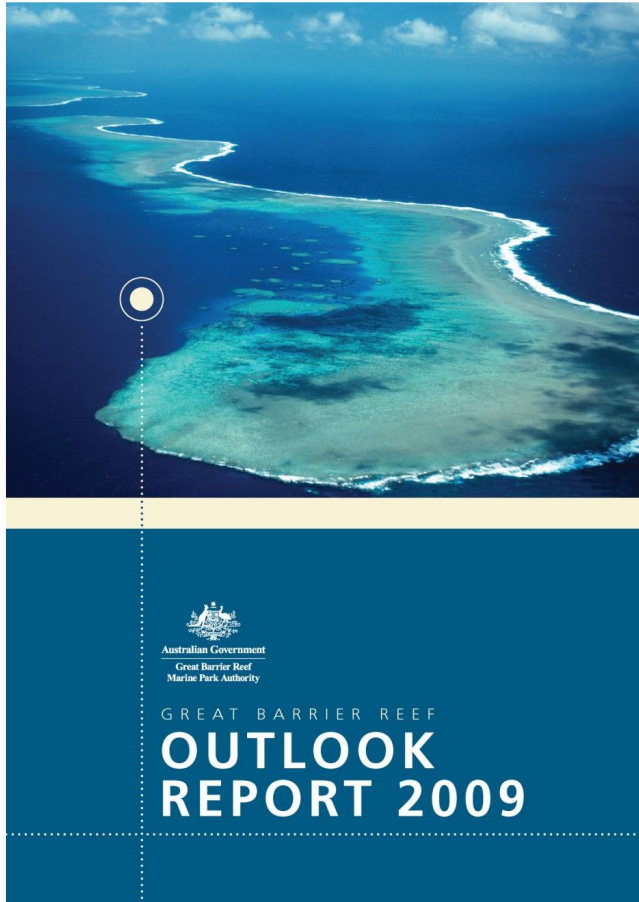
17 July 2012, International Coral Reef Initiative  
General Meeting, Cairns, Australia



# Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2009



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## Regular and reliable means of assessing performance in the long-term protection of the Marine Park

- overall condition of the ecosystem
- risk-based assessment of longer-term outlook
- accountable and transparent
- tabled in Parliament
- key input into zoning plans and consideration of broader issues by government

# Eight assessments

## - Values



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### VALUES OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

What are the current state and trends of the Great Barrier Reef's environmental, economic and social values?

Assessment of  
**biodiversity**

Assessment of  
**ecosystem health**

Assessment of  
**commercial and  
non-commercial use**

**2**

**3**

**4**

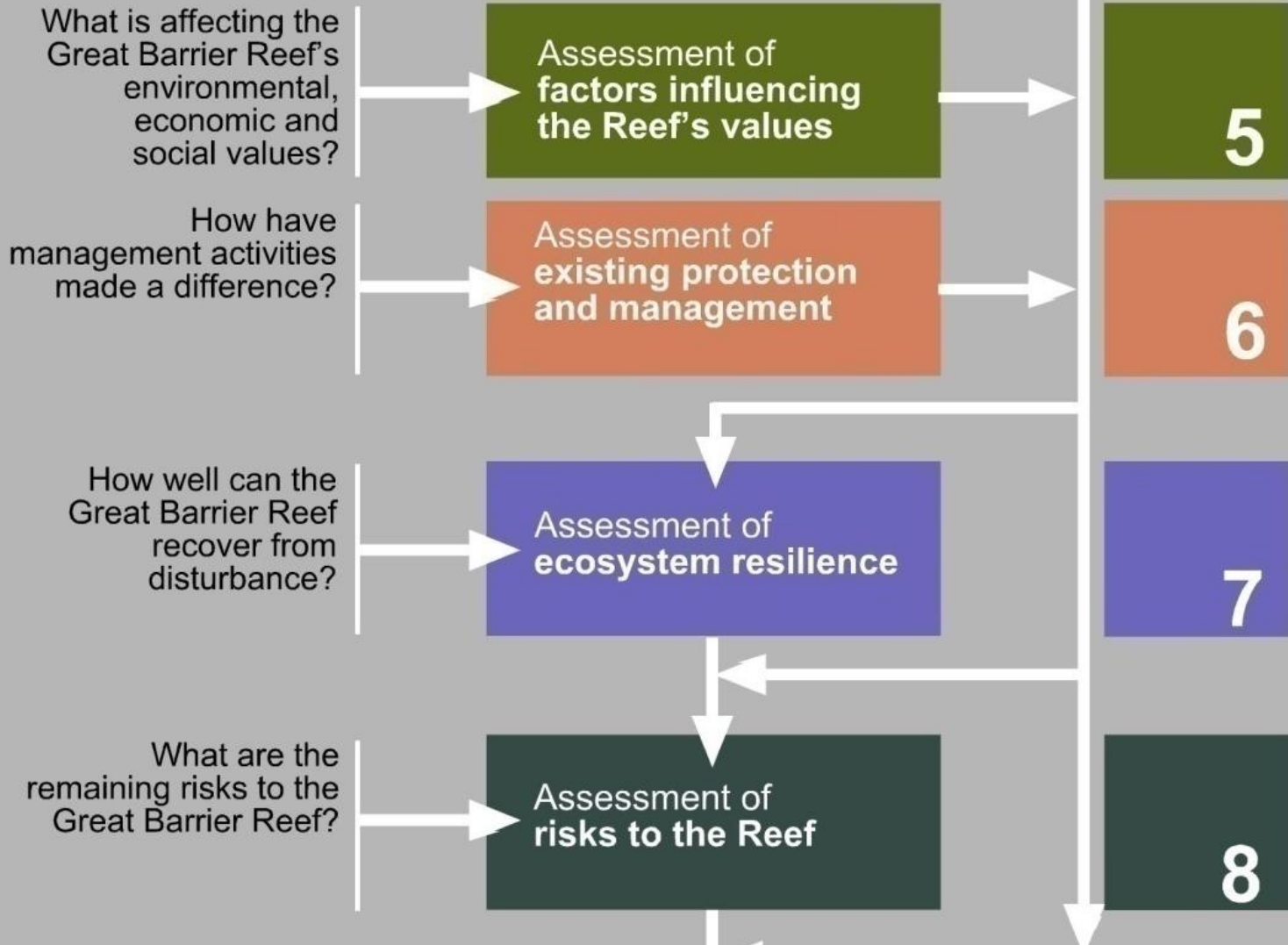
# Eight assessments

## - Pressures and responses



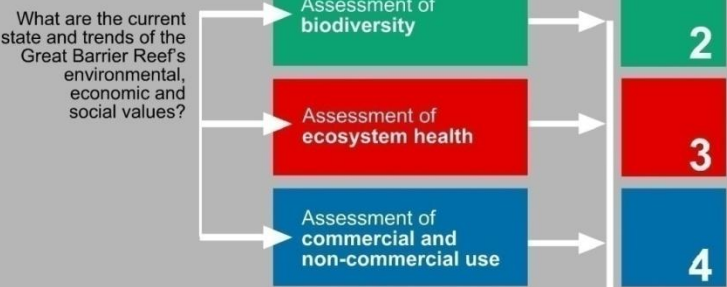
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### PRESSURES AND CURRENT RESPONSES

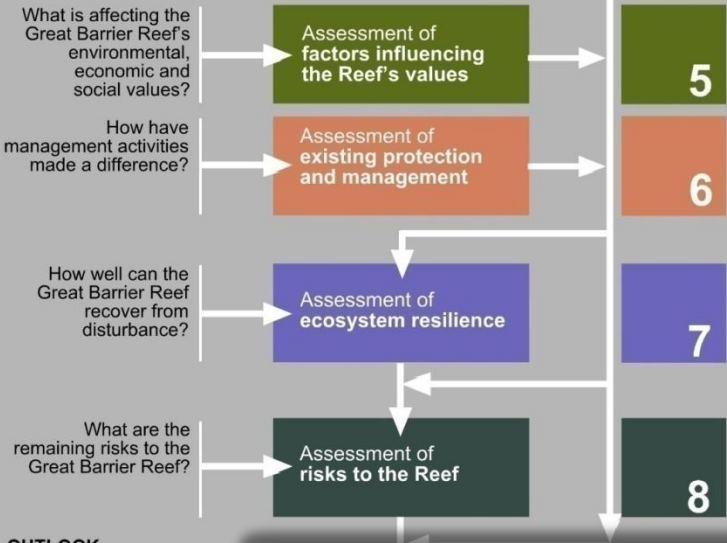




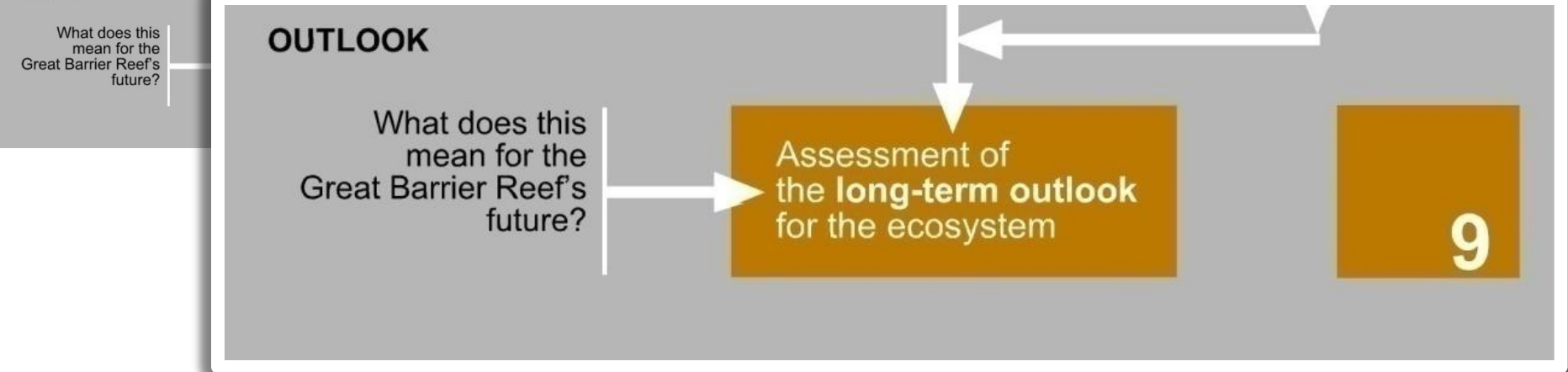
VALUES OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



PRESSURES AND CURRENT RESPONSES



OUTLOOK



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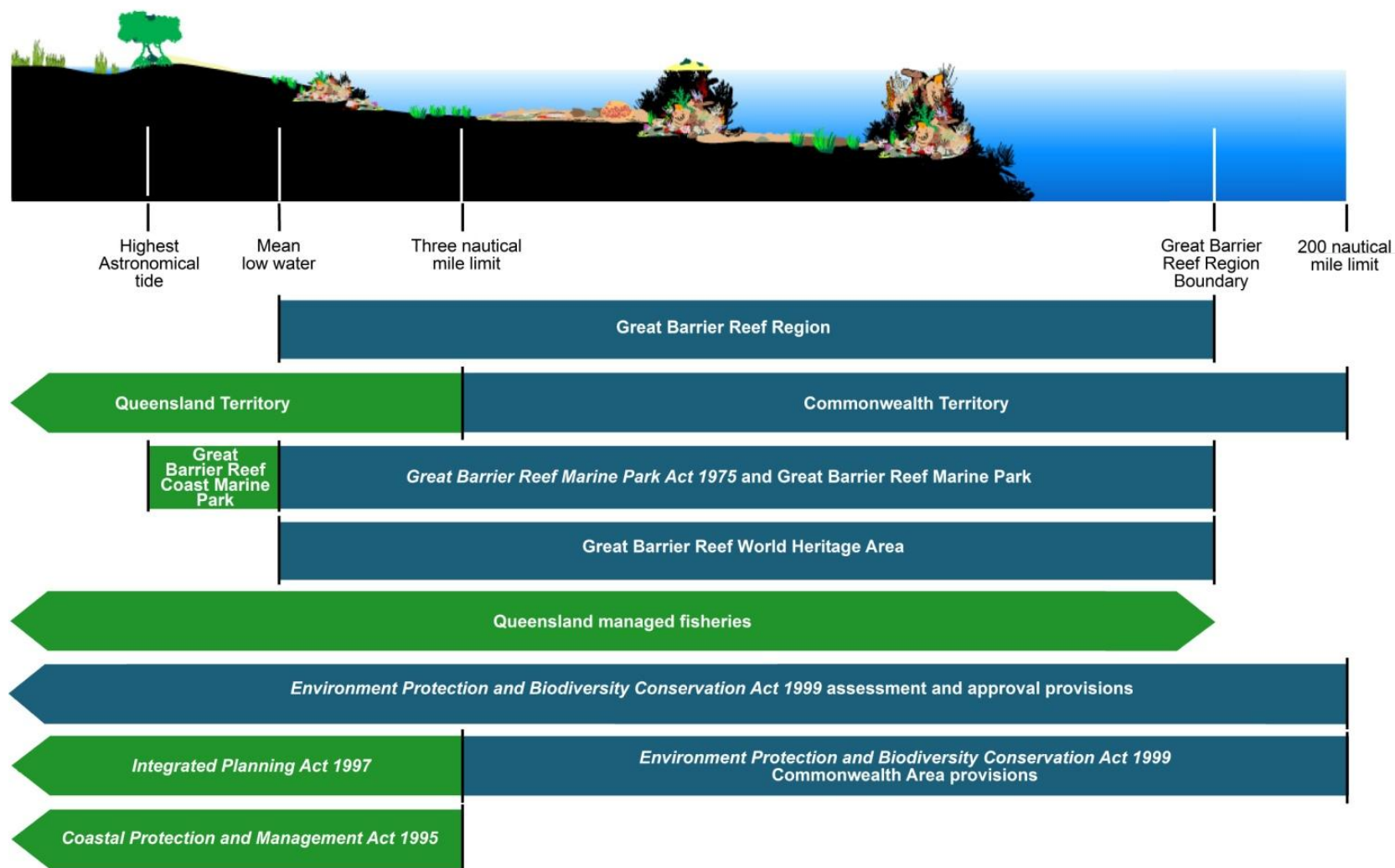
# OUTLOOK

## What does this mean for the Great Barrier Reef's future?

# Management in the GBR



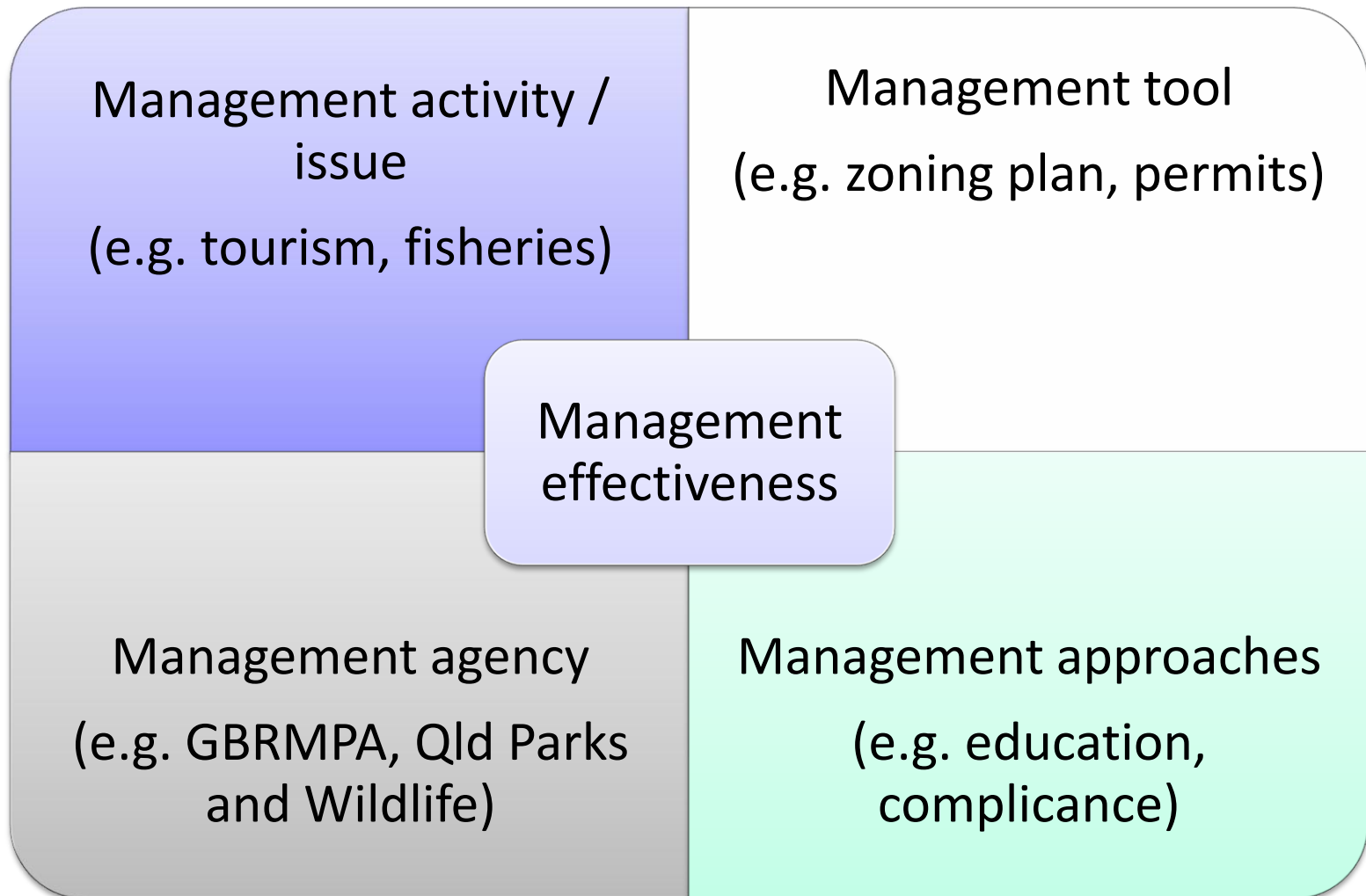
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# How to assess management?



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# Principles used



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1. To use a 'best practice' framework that was:
  - a. Applicable to range of Queensland & Federal agencies
  - b. Repeatable
  - c. Comprehensive – apply to all relevant issues
  - d. Transparent
  - e. Readily understood by decision makers & stakeholders
2. To assess overall management of activities/issues of all relevant Queensland and Federal agencies
  - Not just GBRMPA's
3. To consider management including some outside the GBR Region
4. To conduct the assessment using independent assessors



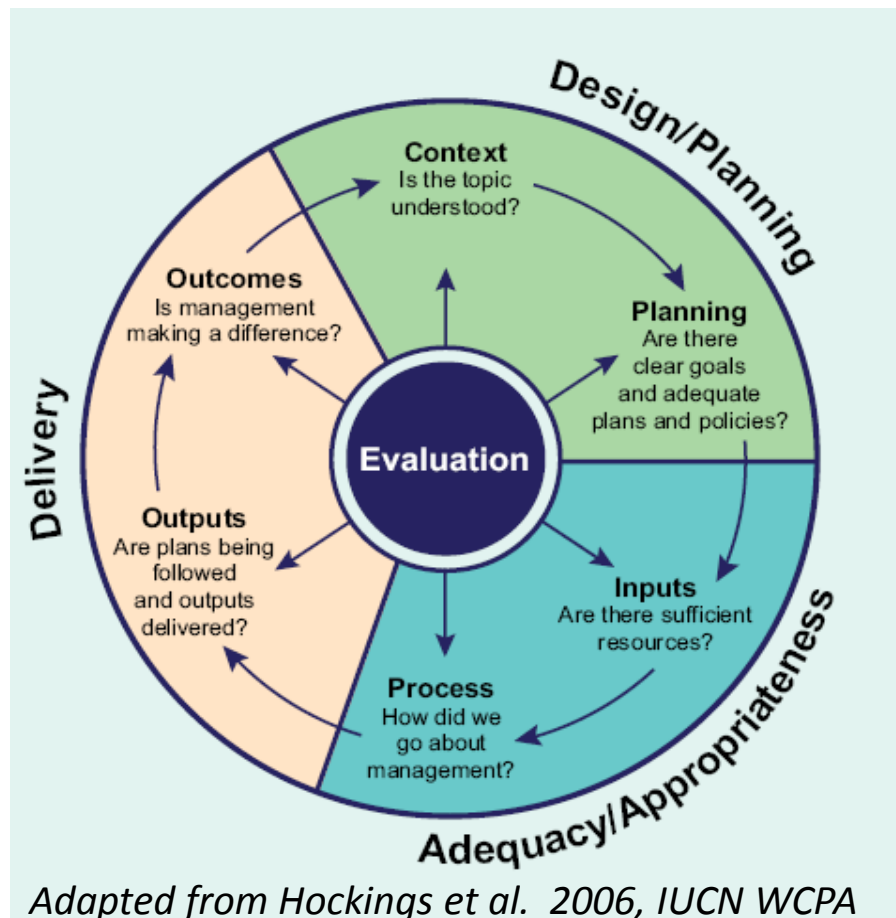


# Method



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- Independent assessment (by 2 internationally recognised experts)
- Input from Queensland and Australian Government agencies (4 workshops)
- Assessment criteria for 6 elements (48 in total)
- Scoring System



*Adapted from Hockings et al. 2006, IUCN WCPA*

# Management topics



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- **biodiversity protection**
- **heritage**
- **water quality**
- **climate change**
- **coastal development**
- **commercial marine tourism**
- **defence**
- **fishing (commercial and recreational)**
- **ports and shipping**
- **recreation (not including fishing)**
- **scientific research**
- **traditional use of marine resources**

# Conclusions



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- Least effective - those management topics which are broad in scale and complex socially, biophysically and jurisdictionally
  - (e.g. climate change, coastal development, water quality and fishing)
- Most Effective - issues that are limited in scale, intensity or complexity
  - (e.g. defence and scientific research)
- Addressing cumulative impacts and the application of socioeconomic and Indigenous knowledge were problematic for most issues.

# Summary by the 6 elements



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Assessment criteria	Summary	Assessment Grade			
		Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor
Understanding of context	Understanding of values, threats, national and international influences and stakeholders is strong for all management issues assessed. This reflects a solid information and research base and a very mature understanding of the key values of the Great Barrier Reef in both a national and international context and the actual and potential threats to those values. Understanding of stakeholders is consistently strong across all issues (in fact, it shows the strongest performance across the entire range of assessment criteria).				
Planning	Planning performance tends to be strongest where there are few organisations or levels of governance involved in the planning process. There are well developed planning systems in place for all issues except for coastal development where the fractured nature of the planning regime causes problems. Lack of consistency across jurisdictions is the weakest aspect of planning.				
Financial, staffing and information inputs	Adequacy of inputs is quite variable across the management issues, being particularly strong for defence, climate change and research and weak for coastal development. Adequacy of socio-economic and access to relevant Traditional Owner knowledge is a problem for most issues and one of the worst performing criteria across the whole assessment.				
Management systems and processes	Management processes are particularly strong for defence, tourism and research and weakest for coastal development and water quality. Performance monitoring, addressing cumulative impacts and application of socio-economic and Traditional Owner knowledge are a problem for most issues. The extent to which cumulative impacts are being addressed is the weakest indicator across the entire assessment. Stakeholder engagement and application of biophysical information are amongst the strongest aspects of management across all issues.				
Delivery of outputs	Delivery of desired outputs is weakest for coastal development and water quality and strongest in relation to defence, tourism and research. The knowledge base of the management agencies and community has consistently improved. While the majority of management programs are progressing satisfactorily (with the exception of coastal management and water quality), timeframes frequently slip and it is not yet clear that the programs are achieving all their desired objectives.				
Achievement of outcomes	Achievement of desired outcomes (values protected, threats reduced, long-term environmental and economic sustainability) is very variable across issues. Objectives in relation to community understanding of issues and development of effective partnerships are being achieved. Overall, greatest concern in relation to achievement of desired outcomes relates to climate change.				

- **Strongest**
  - **Understanding of context**
- **Weakest**
  - **Financial, staffing and information inputs**
  - **Achievement of outcomes**

# Summary by management topic

- Worst

- Coastal Development
- Water Quality
- Fishing

- Best

- Tourism
- Defence
- Scientific Research

Management topic	Scale	Complexity			Summary	Effectiveness of existing measures to protect and manage					
		Social	Biophysical	Jurisdictional		Context	Planning	Inputs	Processes	Outputs	Outcomes
Coastal development	Coastal catchment areas and mainly inshore waters	major	major	major	A lack of integrated planning, resources and enforcement in managing coastal development is compromising protection of the Great Barrier Reef.						
Water quality	Great Barrier Reef catchment and mainly inshore waters	major	major	major	Substantial resources are being provided to improve the water quality of the Great Barrier Reef, but progress is slow and patchy.						
Fishing	Region-wide but variable in intensity	major	major	moderate	A lack of information and coordination, plus variable uptake of best practice management, is limiting the effectiveness of fisheries management.						
Climate change*	Region-wide	major	major	major	The broad threats to the Great Barrier Reef from climate change are understood and management emphasis is on adaptation and improving resilience to change.						
Traditional use of marine resources	Region-wide but variable in intensity	major	moderate	moderate	Improvements are being made in the management of traditional use, including joint resource use agreements, but progress is slow.						
Recreation (not including fishing)	Region-wide but variable in intensity	major	moderate	moderate	Management of recreation is generally indirect and coordination is lacking.						
Biodiversity protection	Region-wide	minor	major	moderate	Many biodiversity protection measures, for example zoning plans, are making a difference, but there is no overarching framework to guide and coordinate management actions.						
Heritage	Region-wide	moderate	minor	moderate	There is strong awareness of heritage values and protection arrangements are in place.						
Ports and shipping	Concentrated around ports and shipping lanes	moderate	moderate	moderate	Comprehensive management and coordination has minimised shipping incidents. Ports management appears to have protected natural values, but there is a lack of overall strategic planning.						
Commercial marine tourism	Region-wide but variable in intensity	major	moderate	moderate	Coordinated and professional management of tourism ensures a sustainable industry that contributes to Marine Park management.						
Defence	Limited in area and duration	minor	minor	minor	Thorough assessment, coordination and planning mean that defence activities are well managed in the Great Barrier Reef.						
Scientific research	Region-wide but limited in intensity	minor	moderate	minor	Research activities are environmentally sustainable and are enhancing community understanding.						
						Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor		



# Influence of approach



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- Responding to Management Effectiveness Report
  - Knowledge management systems (underway)
  - Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (in development)
  - Recreation Management Strategy (finalised June 2011)
  - Tourism Management Strategy (in development)
- Australia's National State of Environment Report 2011
- Strategic Assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area

# Lessons



Australian Government  
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Marine Park Authority

- **Methodology** – independent assessment, incorporation of cumulative concepts
- **Presentation** – results of all 6 elements important, not just outcomes
- **Participation** – workshops between government staff and independent assessors
- **Implementation** – interpretation of results
  - good management vs good luck
- **Conclusion** – worked for GBR; model can be applied with less complexity depending on individual situations