

Statement from Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority:

The 2024 Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report is the fourth in a series of comprehensive five-yearly reports on the Reef's health, pressures, management, and potential future.

The Report, informed by 2172 scientific and technical references, is independently reviewed and draws on the most current and rigorous science from leading research institutions, Australian and Queensland government agencies, and industry experts.

The Outlook Report gives us both a diagnosis – what is happening on the Reef now – and a prognosis – what the future looks like for the Great Barrier Reef.

While recent recovery in some parts of the ecosystem, including coral cover and seagrass meadows, demonstrates that the Reef retains resilience, its capacity to tolerate and recover is compromised by the escalating impacts of climate change.

The Outlook Report findings include good news about the ability of coral reefs to recover from impacts, observed recently as increased coral cover. The Australian Institute of Marine Science's 2024 Annual Long Term Monitoring Program Report also highlights this increase in coral cover across the Great Barrier Reef.

But even this good news does not mean that the future of the Great Barrier Reef is certain.

The prognosis for the Great Barrier Reef is one of further degradation largely due to the impacts of climate change.

Climate change is not a distant threat; it is already impacting the Great Barrier Reef and all natural ecosystems worldwide.

Urgent action to deliver on international commitments that would limit temperatures to 1.5 degrees of warming, or as close as possible, remains critical.

Prioritising actions that support the recovery of the Great Barrier Reef, enhance resilience and mitigate further decline is not just important, it is essential for ensuring the Reef's long-term survival.