1. The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area has been subject to consideration at successive World Heritage Committee meetings since 2012.
2. At the 2021 World Heritage Committee meeting, it was recommended that the Reef be listed ‘in danger’, but the Committee did not agree and requested a Reactive Monitoring Mission.
3. The Mission visited the Reef in March 2022 and published its ‘Report on the Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Great Barrier Reef (Australia)’ in November 2022, which again recommended the Reef be listed in-danger.
4. In response to the Mission Report’s recommendations, new commitments were made by the Australian and Queensland governments in May 2023 in the lead up to the September 2023 World Heritage Committee meeting – 13 commitments grouped around the key issues of water quality, climate change and fisheries.
5. At the 2023 World Heritage Committee meeting, it was not recommended that the Reef be listed ‘in danger’ and the Committee requested that Australia provide a Progress Report on commitments by 1 February 2024 for consideration at the 46th meeting of the Committee in July 2024.
6. The Progress Report conveys progress against commitments made by the Commonwealth and State to protect the reef including climate change, water quality and fisheries reform.
7. Cabinet noted the Great Barrier Reef Progress Report will be submitted to the
Australian Government for the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP, Federal Minister for the Environment and Water to transmit to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.
8. *Attachments*
* [Great Barrier Reef Progress Report to UNESCO World Heritage Centre - February 2024](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2024/Jan/GBR/Attachments/Report.PDF)