

THE REEF REVIEW
ITS IMPACT ON SHIP SOURCED OIL SPILL PREVENTION

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Following the grounding of the Malaysian container ship *Bunga Teratai Satu* on Sudbury Reef near Cairns in November 2000, the Commonwealth Minister for Transport and Regional Services commissioned a *Review of Great Barrier Reef Ship Safety and Pollution Prevention Measures*.

The Review Steering Committee was comprised of senior officers from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland Transport (Maritime Division).

The Great Barrier Reef is internationally recognised as a unique marine environment with environmental, cultural and economic significance.

The Terms of Reference for the Review included: consideration of extending compulsory pilotage, advancing emerging ship tracking technology, enhancing ship routing, traffic management and emergency response arrangements, constraining certain types of ships from operating in the reef, and improving legislative powers of intervention and enforcement

This was the most comprehensive and in depth review of shipping operations ever undertaken within the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait. Extensive consultation was carried out during the review process and the recommendations from the report take into account the views of major stakeholders including indigenous interests, environmental groups, coastal pilots and the shipping industry.

The 41 recommendations from the review identify a wide range of initiatives which will improve the overall safety of shipping operations and environmental protection in the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait.