



# MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 21 March 2016

## Dramatic new pictures of coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef

Dramatic new video and still shots of coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef's Lizard Island show the sort of damage that has prompted the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to lift its response to Level 3 – the highest response level.

The video was shot by a CoralWatch team led by Professor Justin Marshall from the University of Queensland and the stills were shot by XL Catlin Seaview Survey.

Three weeks ago Lizard Island was suffering the worst bleaching in 15 years and it has deteriorated further since then.

WWF spokesperson Richard Leck said the increased surveying and monitoring announced by GBRMPA was a positive step but we must also address the climate crisis– fuelled by the burning of fossil fuels - that is driving coral bleaching.

"The new video and stills are very concerning and show large sections of coral drained of all colour and fighting for survival," he said. "This is the worst coral bleaching event ever to hit this most pristine part of the Great Barrier Reef"

"As the IPCC has stated coral bleaching is the most widespread and conspicuous impact of climate change.

"We can turn this around. The Reef can recover but we must speed up the shift to clean, renewable energy and we must build reef resilience by reducing runoff pollution from farms and land clearing"

"Australia must speed up the transition to clean energy – like solar and wind - by setting a target of 100% renewable electricity by 2035 "And a legal cap on chemical pollution running into the Reef's waters would build Reef resilience and help it survive while the world tackles climate change," Mr Leck said.

### **For access to the video contact Mark Symons**

In addition a [gallery of images](#) (high quality) are available **but these still shots must be credited to XL Catlin Seaview Survey if used.**

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