

Reef sites

Extensive coral bleaching on the world's southernmost coral reef at Lord Howe Island, Australia

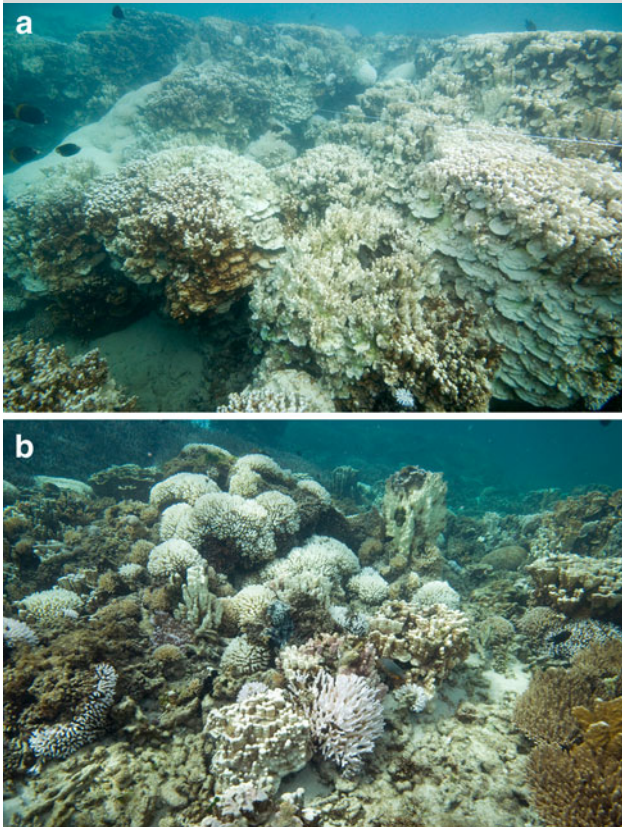


Fig. 1 Extensive bleaching of corals at Lord Howe Island lagoonal reefs in March 2010. **a** Sylph's Hole **b** North Bay (Photographs: P. Harrison)

demonstrates that even the highest latitude coral reef assemblages are also susceptible to bleaching stressors, which could limit future reef development and predicted range shifts to higher latitudes. Isolated reefs such as those at LHI, which lie more than 1,000 km south of the Great Barrier Reef, are likely to be slower to recover from severe disturbances due to their geographic and genetic isolation from other reefs that could potentially supply allochthonous coral larvae for recruitment (Harrison 2008).

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