



Reef 2050 Plan

Reef 2050 Advisory Committee - Communiqué 3 February, 2022

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee (RAC) held its twenty-first meeting today via videoconference, chaired by the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC. The RAC is one of two advisory bodies for the Reef 2050 Plan, established in 2015, to facilitate engagement with industry and the broader community on the implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Plan and provide advice to the Australian and Queensland governments on reef policy and management.

The RAC was pleased to welcome again the Queensland Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, the Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, and the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, the Honourable Sussan Ley MP. The Ministers reiterated the importance they place on advice from the RAC, particularly in preparing responses to the World Heritage Committee's concerns, and in determining investment priorities.

The RAC welcomed the release of the revised Reef 2050 Plan, published on 20 December, 2021, and discussed a request from Ministers for advice on additional actions that could be included to respond to the World Heritage Committee's concerns, and on priorities for the additional funding for the reef, of \$270 million from the Queensland government and \$1 billion from the Commonwealth Government.

On funding, RAC members welcomed the provision of substantial new money for the reef and the opportunity to provide advice on spending priorities and investment strategies. It emphasised, however, the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of past investments and also of transparency in sharing the results of such evaluations. RAC advice would be enhanced by its members having a better understanding of "lessons learned", of what was working well and delivering success and what was not. Noting that a number of analyses and evaluations had been commissioned, the Committee requested the sharing of these reports when available.

On additional actions, RAC members agreed that the subject of major infrastructure development in the reef catchment area, including plans for the construction of 10 dams and the impacts these could have on the reef, should be addressed; and that more generally, future development and expansion in the catchment needs closer monitoring to assess implications for the reef.

The RAC received a presentation on the state of the reef from Dr David Wachenfeld, Chief Scientist, GBRMPA.

The RAC was briefed on the submission on 1 February, 2022 of the State Party Report on the State of Conservation of the Great Barrier Reef, providing a comprehensive update on measures, actions and condition of the Reef since publication of the 2019 Outlook Report; and also on planning and preparation



for the proposed UNESCO and IUCN joint Reactive Monitoring Mission. Members reiterated their interest in offering support to and meeting with the mission participants.

RAC Members are: The Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators (AMPTO), the Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA), Traditional Owner groups in the GBR, Queensland Resources Council (QRC), Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF), AgForce, CANEGROWERS, Natural Resource Management Regions Queensland, Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), the Australian Committee of the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (AIUCN), the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), CAREFISH, CSIRO, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), Local Marine Advisory Committees, Queensland Conservation Council (QCC), Queensland Ports Association and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

AgForce was not represented at the meeting.