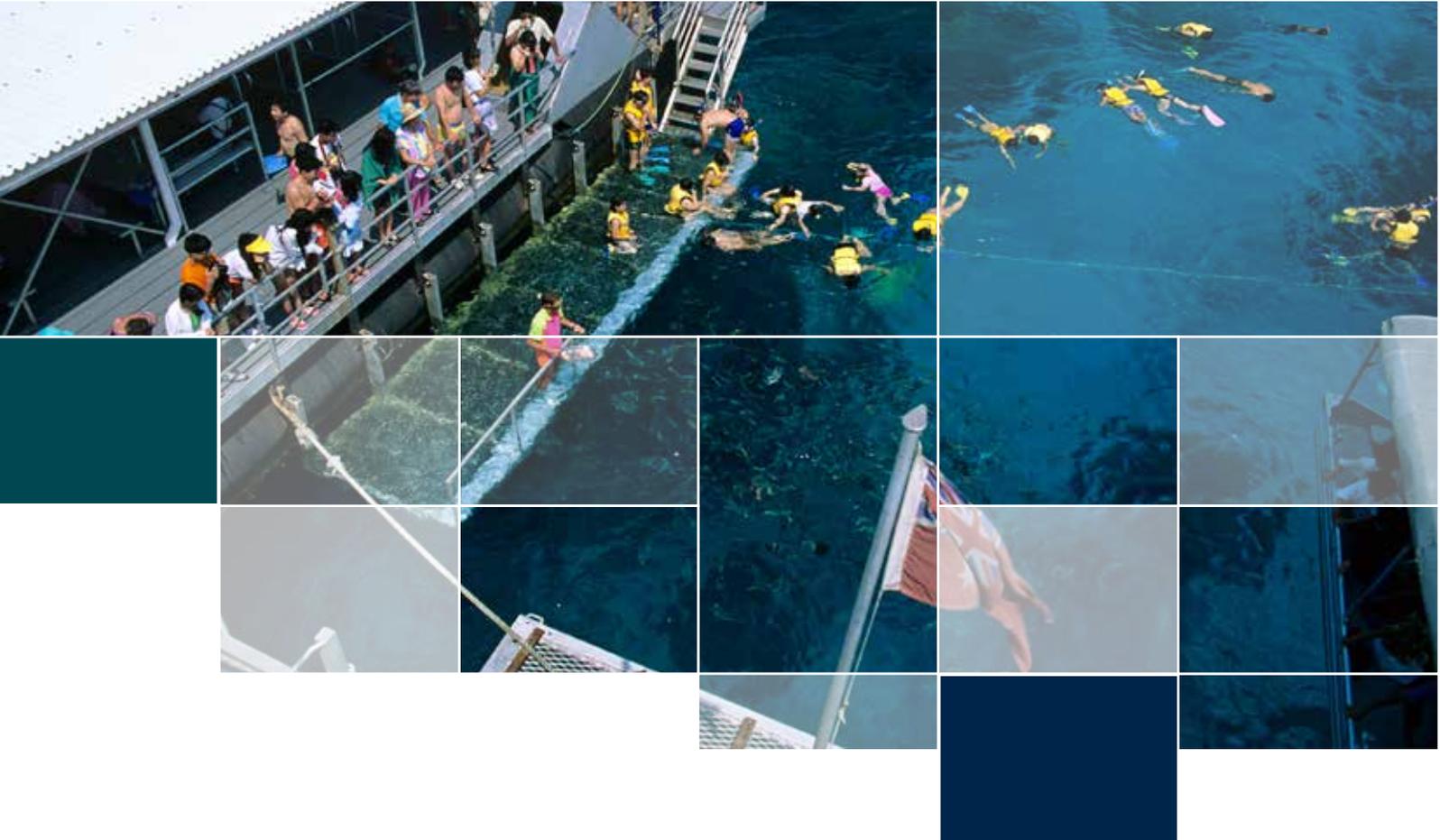




Australian Government



Queensland Government



Reef 2050 Public Consultation Summary Report

2021–2025

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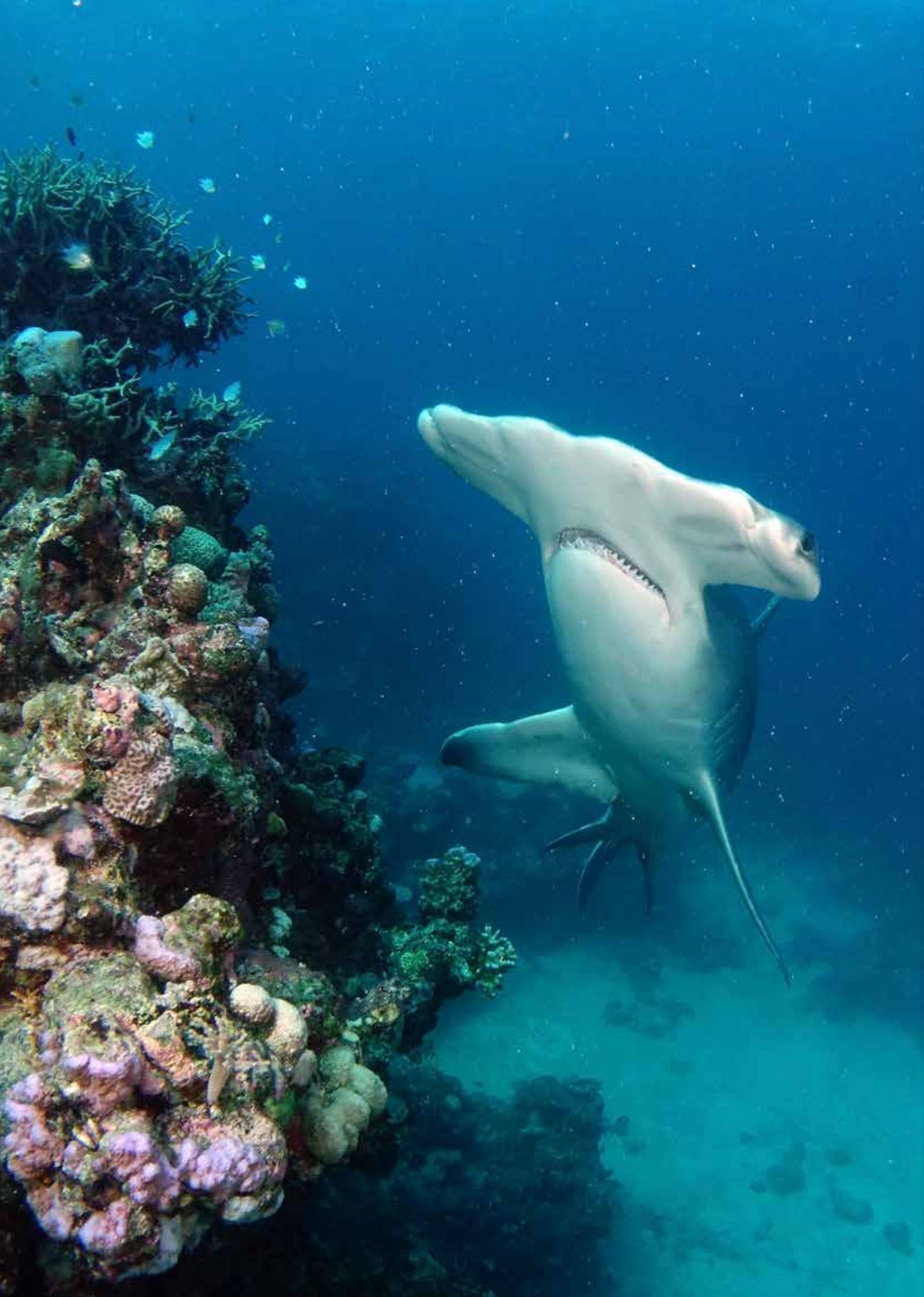
Our cover

Tourists on the Great Adventures pontoon moored on Norman Reef, snorkelling and feeding fish: J. Oliver
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Other images: Page ii: Hammerhead shark, at Knife Reef, in the Townsville region: C. Jones (© Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA)); Inside Back cover and cover: Aerial of Cape Gloucester, north Airlie Beach: Jumbo Aerial Photography (© Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA))

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Introduction

The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (the Plan) is Australia's overarching long-term strategy for protecting and managing the Reef to support its health and resilience.

The Plan was first released in 2015, with a five-yearly review cycle to update the Plan in response to new information, changing circumstances and emerging issues. In 2018 an initial mid-term review of the Plan was completed in response to the impacts of unprecedented mass coral bleaching events and future climate projections. The mid-term review provided a number of recommendations for work that would inform the 2020 review. The 2020 review is the first five-yearly comprehensive review and update of the Plan.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of consultation on the updated Plan in 2020, including a summary of the responses received during targeted and public consultation on the updated Plan, and government response to feedback.

The responses received as part of the public consultation process reflect considerable time and effort on the part of the responders. The submissions provided valuable information for finalising the 2020 review.

The opinions expressed in this report were presented by stakeholders during the public consultation period and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian and Queensland governments.

Development of the Plan for public comment

The public consultation draft of the updated Plan was developed through consultation with the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel, Reef 2050 Advisory Committee and a group of Reef Traditional Owners. Relevant government departments and agencies were also consulted. The development process involved or referred to the following items:

- Findings of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2019.
- The report Reef 2050 Plan Review Options, prepared by a consortium of experts, led by CSIRO, to advise on options for the 2018 mid-term review.
- A series of workshops to review the Plan's outcomes framework using a program logic approach, with members of the Reef 2050 advisory bodies: Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel and Reef 2050 Advisory Committee.
- Review and incorporation of continuing actions and priorities from the 2018 Plan into the revised outcomes framework.
- Recommendations from the report Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef: The Next Generation of Reef 2050 Actions (published June 2019).
- Traditional Owner Theory of Change for the Great Barrier Reef – Workshop (December 2018, Cairns).
- Draft targets and indicators workshops – with science and management experts involved in the design of the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Consultation process

Public consultation

The draft updated Plan was released from 19 August to 30 September 2020 for a six-week public consultation process through the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment’s “Have Your Say” web platform. Both survey responses and written submissions were sought. The Plan was accompanied by a supporting Reef 2050 Objectives and Management Goals document, outlining the measurable indicators for each of the objectives and management goals within the draft Plan. The aim of the consultation was to capture views on the updated Plan to ensure it contains the right priorities and actions to support the health and resilience of the Reef.

Stakeholder information sessions

Reef stakeholders and partners were invited to participate in a variety of information sessions on the updated Plan during the public consultation period. This included an offer for members of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee to facilitate information sessions for the stakeholder groups members represent.

A total of 21 information sessions were held for multiple Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) Local Marine Advisory Committees, the Local Government Association of Queensland, Natural Resource Management Groups, the Queensland Resources Council, CSIRO and the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan Independent Science Panel.

At the information sessions, attendees were briefed by officials on key elements of the draft updated Plan and given the opportunity to ask questions about the Plan and the consultation process more broadly.

Meetings with Reef 2050 advisory bodies

The Reef 2050 Advisory Bodies were invited to provide submissions as part of the public consultation process, both as collective bodies and from individual members.

Following the public consultation process, meetings were convened with the advisory bodies in November 2020. The members were briefed on the initial findings from public consultation and provided further opportunity for input.

Meetings with other advisory bodies and government agencies

Australian and Queensland Environment agencies and the Authority consulted with their key advisory bodies, agency experts and other relevant government agencies as part of the consultation and further drafting process.

Analysis of submissions

Alluvium Consulting Australia was contracted to conduct an independent thematic content analysis of the public comments received on the consultation draft of the Reef 2050 Plan. The purpose of the analysis was to understand overall public sentiment, identify emergent themes and explore relationships between themes and stakeholder groups to generate insights to inform the review of the Reef 2050 Plan. They prepared a detailed and a summary report of their analysis.

The Australian and Queensland government's Reef 2050 Joint Team also systematically reviewed the submissions to ensure that all comments were reviewed and addressed.

The summary consultation analysis, and a proposed approach for addressing them in updating the consultation draft of the Plan, were provided to the advisory bodies for discussion and further advice.

Overview of responses

Over the course of the six week consultation period there were 9,844 page views and 3,463 unique visitors to the consultation webpages. A total of 4,939 responses were received including:

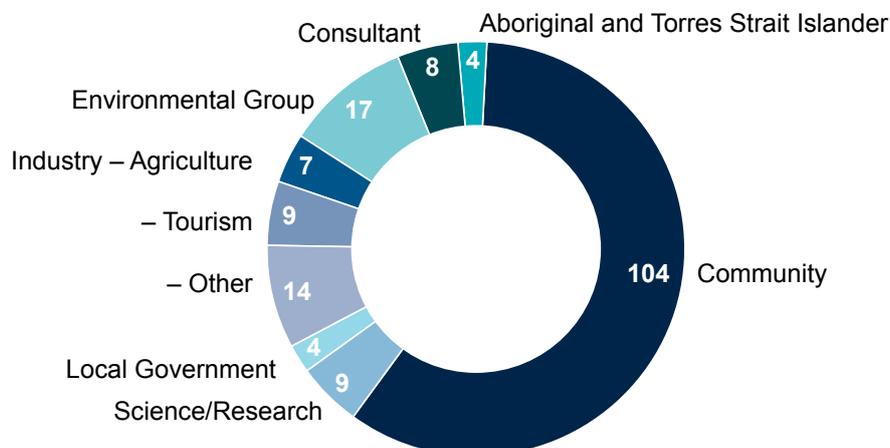
- 78 survey responses, including nine Climate Conservation submissions
- 56 written submissions, including one letter
- 38 Cairns Port development campaign submissions
- 4,767 Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) campaign submissions

Types of respondents

Respondents were asked to categorise themselves into groups to inform the analysis of the data (Figure 1). The largest proportion of the non-campaign responses came from community members (60%). Most of the community groups identified as a member of the public (70%), followed by recreational users (22%) and fishing (13%). A small number of the community responses were from members of the Authority's Local Marine Advisory Committees (6%).

Figure 1. Total submissions per group, excluding 4,767 AMCS campaign submissions (n=172).

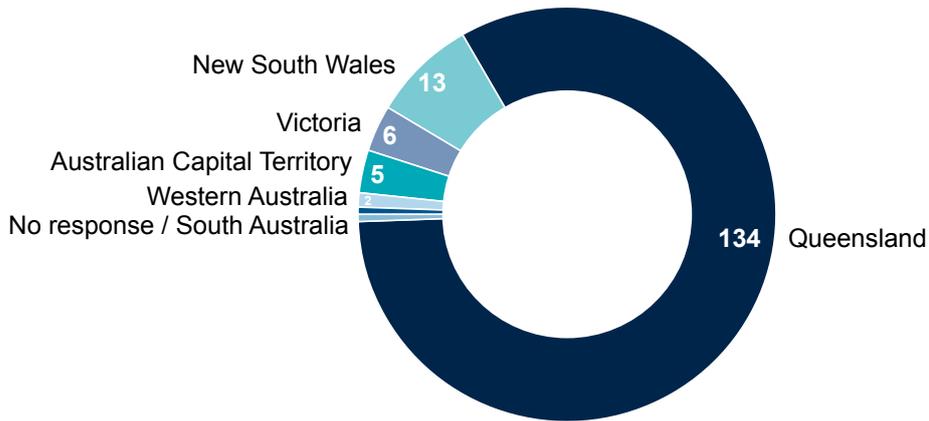
Note: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were also counted in the stakeholder group they selected.



Location of respondents

The majority of the responses (excluding AMCS campaign submissions) were received from Queensland residents (78%) (Figure 2). The remaining responses were received from other states (0-8%), with no responses received from Tasmania, the Northern Territory and overseas. AMCS campaign submissions indicated that some were received from overseas.

Figure 2. Total number of submissions by State, excluding the 4,767 AMCS campaign submissions (n=172).



Feedback received and Government response

This section outlines the main themes raised in the consultation stage and how these have been responded to in the final updated Plan.

1. General feedback

Excluding the AMCS campaign, around one-quarter of submissions specifically indicated that they believed the updated plan was an improvement. These expressions of support were specifically included in submissions without prompting from stakeholders and came from the full range of stakeholder groups, including Environmental Groups, Industry groups, Science/research and Community. The majority of respondents (excluding the Consultants group) felt the plan provided a good explanation of the Reef.

2. Vision

Responses were close to evenly split between those that supported the vision and those that did not feel the vision of the Plan aligned with their own vision for the Reef.

What did we do?

The advisory bodies were consulted extensively regarding the vision prior to the public consultation phase. The vision remains unchanged from the consultation draft.

3. Climate change

Climate change was the most consistent and dominant theme to emerge from the submissions. The large majority of comments in this theme were arguing that more could be done to incorporate climate action into the Plan, including requests to include programs, plans and actions to reduce emissions. Other responses were requesting that the Plan make a clear commitment to meet the 1.5 degrees warming limit and that fossil fuel projects need to be stopped. A further theme identified was related to calls for coordinated climate action policies and plans at all governance levels. A notable number of respondents expressed positive sentiment with regard to the Plan's "recognition that climate change is the most serious and pervasive threat to the Reef". The advisory bodies presented similar sentiments to the public about the inclusion of climate change in the Plan.

This theme was present across all submission types (including both the AMCS and climate conversations campaigns) and across all group categories. Of the 289 respondents that commented on climate change, 258 (89%) were from respondents in the Community stakeholder group.

What did we do?

The Plan reiterates that the biggest threat to the current and future health of the Reef is climate change. Strong management of local and regional pressures can help build the health and resilience of the Reef, and must be combined with concerted global action to

reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Amendments to the Plan have been made in response to feedback to further highlight the critical need to address climate change, in the context of Australia's policy commitments in relation to greenhouse gas reduction, in order to protect the Reef. The Ministers' foreword also emphasises the urgency and need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of a global effort.

The main description of climate change has been moved from 'Work Area 1: limit the impacts of climate change' (chapter 5 section 1) to 'What is threatening the Reef?' (chapter 1 section 3). In addition, the statement accompanying the vision (chapter 2) has been revised to more clearly highlight the need for urgent action.

The Plan better highlights that the impacts of climate change are already being detected. The introductory section for Work Area 1 has been shortened and tightened and additional references on climate change impacts and commitments have been added in relevant sections.

4. Urgency

The second most dominant or common theme was from submissions calling for urgent action. This urgent action was expressed both in general terms – to ensure the ongoing survival of the Reef – as well as in relation specifically to action on climate change and action on water quality. A number of respondents argued that the language used within the Plan did not accurately reflect the urgency of the problem. Most of these referred to climate action, but those related to water quality either referred to the urgent need to address land practices or to review water quality plans. Like the climate change theme, this theme was present across the majority of group categories and submission types including the AMCS campaign. Of the 150 respondents who made comments around urgency, 130 (87%) were respondents in the Community stakeholder group.

This was reiterated by the advisory bodies who recommended a statement about the level and urgency of effort required to meet the Plan's vision. The advisory bodies also recommended the Plan better highlight the need for innovation to respond to the scale and urgency of the challenge.

What did we do?

Amendments to the Plan have been made to more clearly highlight the need for urgent action to protect the Reef. This includes amendments to the 'In brief' version of the Plan, 'What is threatening the Reef', 'Work Area 1: limit the impacts of climate change' and new infographics. The updated Ministers' foreword also clearly indicates the need for action.

5. Agriculture and Water Quality

Many submissions highlighted support for initiatives and programs to increase water quality (WQ) and commended the Plan for the priority these are given in the Plan. However, the dominant theme related to water quality was first, recognition that water quality remains a serious issue. A number of these submissions highlighted that although mechanisms exist to enhance water quality these did not appear to be succeeding in improving water quality at the speed required to protect the Reef. Some respondents recognised the effective work done by land managers in reducing sediment and nutrient run-off, and gave a range of suggested improvements for addressing water. Several respondents questioned the equity in perceptions that farmers shoulder the burden of improving water quality, and a smaller number questioned the validity of underpinning evidence and science.

Some respondents discussed the perception that current ‘legislation’ was unfair and did not adequately reflect the efforts the agricultural industry is making regarding land stewardship. Specific issues which restricted farmers’ ability to improve land management voluntarily were also highlighted. Conversely, it was also raised that there was a need for increased legislation and enforcement of farming activities in conjunction with collaboration and education, rather than voluntary measures.

Several respondents expressed doubt or raised contention around water quality targets and responsibility for action, as well as concerns that the water quality targets found in the Plan were not realistic or achievable. Others commented on a perceived lack of urgency in reviewing Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan.

Many responses gave detailed suggestions for improvement on the Priority Work Areas and Actions related to water quality in the Plan, such as the inclusion of trigger points and enhanced compliance. While a dominant theme in terms of the number of coded responses, the majority of submission found in this theme came from either Industry - Agriculture, Environmental Groups or Community.

What did we do?

The Plan includes an acknowledgement that protecting the Reef is a responsibility shared by many different stakeholders and that there is a role for everyone in implementing the Plan. As the Queensland Government has responsibility for regulating land use, the Plan reflects the Queensland Government’s commitment to implement the Reef Regulations.

Substantial structural changes have been made to ‘Work Area 2: Reduce impacts from land-based activities’ (chapter 5 section 2) to respond to feedback in relation to water quality. There is now greater emphasis on implementing the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan to meet its targets, including undertaking a five-year review. This is now captured as strategic action 2.1 and includes plastic pollution reduction. This section also now references the commitment to an independent review of the agricultural land management practice adoption target.

New strategic action 2.2 gives prominence to implementing the Wetlands in the Great Barrier Reef Catchments Management Strategy in recognition that managing land-based run-off requires a more complete understanding of how the catchment functions in a whole-of-system sense. New strategic action 2.3 more directly addresses issues of human habitation and recreation in sensitive shoreline ecosystems. ‘Enabler B: Science and knowledge’ (chapter 5 section 7) has been revised to increase reference to the need for ongoing research, innovation and development, synthesis of multiple lines of evidence and strengthening collaboration between research providers, government and stakeholders to build trust and confidence in taking up knowledge.

6. Governance, monitoring and targets

The most common issue raised in this overarching theme was concerns and questions around governance of the Great Barrier Reef. These concerns were highly varied, ranging from requests to specify inclusion of different sectors into governance arrangements (such as the agricultural sector or Traditional Owners) or to strengthening governance (such as enhancing GBRMPA’s independence, as was highlighted in the AMCS campaign). This theme included responses raising concern around perceptions of a ‘top-heavy approach’ to governance, and a perceived absence of detail on roles and responsibilities for implementing the Plan objectives. The other sub-themes in this overall topic referred to the need for clearer targets, timeframes and reporting structures to be specified in the Plan to enable effective implementation as well as feedback related to the monitoring.

Finally, many respondents highlighted the benefits of collaboration, highlighted examples of effective collaboration and requested to continue collaborative activities in the future. The majority of comments in this theme originated from community (n = 19), Environmental Group (n = 12) and Industry – Agriculture, Science/research (n = 28) group categories.

What did we do?

Collaboration and partnerships, supported by sound governance arrangements, are critical to the effective delivery of the Plan. 'Enabler A: Collaboration and partnerships' (chapter 5 section 6) has been updated to clarify the role of different sectors, government agencies and Traditional Owners in the Reef 2050 Plan advisory bodies.

'Enabler A: Collaboration and partnerships' has been strengthened to highlight that the implementation of the Plan is a role for everyone and the shared belief that this is: our Reef, our responsibility.

Goals and strategic actions have been reworded to more clearly emphasise the importance of partnerships, education and stewardship for the protection of the Reef. A need to increase opportunities for Traditional Owner co-management, capacity and resourcing is also emphasised. The role of stakeholders in implementing the Plan is highlighted by the list of relevant policies and programs under each work area and enabler.

The explanation of the outcomes framework (chapter 4) has been revised to clearly define the terms used and make a distinction between what the Plan aims to achieve and what it will deliver and implement. The 'Principles for decision making' have been re-instated from the previous Plan to inform how decisions will be made when implementing the Plan.

The Plan explains that continued regular reporting through the [Reef Knowledge System](#) will provide transparency about what is being delivered and tracks progress toward achieving the Plan's objectives and goals. Updates to the objectives and management goals in response to the consultation are detailed below. The Plan also notes that as the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program is further developed, it will provide Reef managers with greater integrated access to information, to guide management decisions and help track progress against the Plan.

7. Funding and investment

A notable number of respondents commended the Plan for its inclusion of funding mechanisms and increased investment in the Reef by the Australian and Queensland Governments. However, while recognising these positive considerations, many more respondents specifically called for increased funding or investment. A perceived lack of funding to successfully implement the Plan was highlighted by a diverse range of groups, however, it was dominated by responses from the community (n=10) and Environmental Group categories (n=10).

Concerns were also raised by the advisory bodies regarding whether funding was adequate to fully implement the Plan.

Most comments were related to concern around whether the Plan could successfully achieve either climate or water quality targets without increased funding (for example, the AMCS campaign stated "There needs to be increased investment to reduce land-based sources of pollution to ensure the 2025 water quality targets are met.")

A smaller subset of these respondents called for funding to be effectively and fairly allocated. A collection of responses under this theme covered requests to specifically state, within the Plan, what funding was available and allocated over the implementation period of the Plan. The majority of these suggestions did not detail exactly which area of the Plan required more detail on funding. While some respondents expressed support for the focus on investment, effective future planning was seen as dependent on providing detailed funding for elements of the Plan. For example, some respondents suggested that each goal could be accompanied by an estimate of resources required, while another argued that the incorporation of a decision support tool to assess effective and efficient pathways for investment would be beneficial.

What did we do?

Investment supports the effective and successful delivery of the Plan. 'Enabler D: Investment' (chapter 5 section 9) was revised to provide clarity on funding priorities to meet the objectives of the Plan, including an updated list of eight investment priorities. Actions under 'Enabler D: Investment' are linked directly to specific investment priorities and split into delivering existing commitments, known future investments, identification of new investment opportunities and boosting investment through alternative sources. This allows for funders to consider priority areas for investment over the life of the Plan, taking into account the fact that funding is usually allocated for specific purposes, rather than for the Plan more generally.

8. Traditional Owners

Collected under this theme are statements expressing support for the inclusion of Traditional Owners and the recognition of the role that they play. In this theme, 28 of the 32 respondents expressed support for the increased focus on Traditional Owners in the Plan, and increased integration of Traditional Owner considerations throughout the document.

However, a small number of suggested actions, amendments and changes to the Plan were requested to enhance this theme, particularly related to governance, project or management issues. Similar to the climate change theme, submissions from a broad range of groups and submissions types provided feedback in relation to the Traditional Owner aspects of the Plan.

Some advisory body members expressed concern that efforts to engage Traditional Owners in the development of the draft Plan had been insufficient.

What did we do?

The updated Plan acknowledges the need for deeper engagement and partnership with Traditional Owners, respecting their inherent rights and responsibilities for the Reef. Opportunities for partnerships with Traditional Owners and commitments in support of aspirations have been integrated throughout the document, rather than as separate Indigenous heritage goals. The Plan draws on the range of Traditional Owner reports including the Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Theory of Change, the Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Aspirations Project Final Report and the Reef 2050 Indigenous Heritage Objectives and Targets workshop communique to identify actions throughout the Plan.

The Plan acknowledges the need for Traditional Owners to see their aspirations and opportunities in their language from their perspective and commits to supporting the production of a Traditional Owner Implementation Plan. This implementation plan will build on existing reports and studies and will be completed in a timeframe guided by Traditional Owners to ensure they have the time they need to consider, develop and implement this work.

The Plan's acknowledgement of Country has been revised to reflect a deeper recognition of Traditional Owners' connection to and management of the Reef.

Strategic actions have been strengthened to encourage all stakeholder groups to partner and collaborate with Traditional Owners, and enable Traditional Owners to continue to manage their Country. Additional targeted consultation with the Traditional Owner members of the advisory bodies has been conducted to ensure Traditional Owner aspirations are adequately incorporated.

9. Fisheries, coral and seagrass

The primary issue which arose within the theme of fisheries, coral and seagrass was the need to fully implement the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy: 2017–2027. Most of these respondents were in the environmental or community group category, and this was also one of the key points made in the AMCS campaign responses. Other submissions respondents the need for more data on fisheries, coral or seagrass, or specifically for the inclusion of more data into specific decision-making frameworks such as management of Crown-of-Thorns starfish.

What did we do?

Sustainable management of commercial and recreational fisheries and the full implementation of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017–2027 are included in 'Work area 3: Reduce impacts from water-based activities' (chapter 5 section 3). Strategic actions have been strengthened in collaboration with fisheries experts to minimise the impacts of fishing activities and improve fisheries management. Sustainable fisheries management has also been retained and highlighted as one of the eight investment priorities under the Plan (Chapter 5 section 9).

Strategic actions under 'Work area 5: Protect, rehabilitate and restore' (chapter 5 section 5) have been broadened to incorporate seagrass and other habitats rather than a focus on corals. The 'Reef 2050 Plan strategic research areas', listed in 'Enabler B: Science and knowledge' (chapter 5 section 7), also includes a revised priority regarding improving monitoring to underpin decision making systems, including decision about the management of fisheries and sensitive habitats.

10. Ports, dredging and shipping

While this was a major theme, nearly all submissions were from either Port representatives, environmental consultants or survey respondents using the Cairns Port Campaign material. There was a large diversity of responses within the dredging theme. In addition to the campaign responses, several respondents stated their preference for the ongoing development of Cairns Port or that smaller loader ramp facilities (with associated transshipping) should be specifically allowed within the Plan. In particular, a small number of respondents highlighted how the Plan would restrict the opportunities of some stakeholders to develop industries relying on loading facilities and transshipping routes. This was due to a perception that the Plan would not allow any smaller ports or loading facilities to be developed.

What did we do?

The Plan acknowledges that planning systems for ports had been subject to major reforms and shipping was one of the strongest areas of management effectiveness. The Plan maintains the restrictions on capital dredging, dredge spoil disposal and transshipping currently regulated through Australian and Queensland government legislation.

There have been minor edits to shipping related actions, for example managing impacts of underwater noise, marine pest biosecurity and the North East Shipping Management Plan. However, the intent of the actions have not changed.

11. General feedback on the overall Plan structure and language

Many respondents expressed support for the new strategic approach. Respondents highlighted their support for the new and improved vision and outcomes framework, inclusion of the 20 objectives and progress indicators, the 5-yearly review cycle and the focus on collaborative, collective effects to achieve positive outcomes. The advisory bodies also recommended that the Plan could be elevated to be more strategic.

The majority of comments on structure and language focused on the need to better define some terms, to restructure or better link elements of the Plan and the need to include simpler, plain language. Most comments regarding the need to restructure elements of the Plan were minor. For example, some respondents requested that better cross-referencing between Strategic Actions and Management Goals was required to ensure that the indicators were relevant to each. Other respondents suggested reconfiguring the Response Framework, or removing some text boxes to incorporate into other elements of the Plan. A more significant structural issue was raised by one respondent regarding the choice of separating land and water based impacts, as well as habitats and species.

A range of terms were highlighted for clarification or concern, including 'healthy', 'better', 'change' and 'good condition'. The request to use stronger language was primarily related to language around the urgency of addressing climate change. In addition, respondents commented on the consultation process, with the majority of these respondents expressing support for the consultation process. A smaller number suggested longer consultation times and argued that the consultation process was limited compared to the 2015 Plan. Finally three respondents argued that their previous consultation comments had not been incorporated into the updated Plan.

The advisory bodies supported the development of issue and sector specific communication products that could assist with public engagement and understanding of the Plan.

What did we do?

The Plan has been streamlined to make language clearer, concise, less bureaucratic and reflect a greater sense of urgency for action. The introductory chapters have been revised to improve the clarity of the Plan's outcomes framework and how it will be implemented. Infographics have also been updated to improve understanding.

The structure and logic has been updated to draw attention to the goals and strategic actions. The goals (previously management goals) have been reflected in the Work Areas

and Enablers linking them directly to strategic actions. The actions have been revised to ensure they are more measurable, resolve gaps and reduce replication.

The tables in the Work Areas and Enablers chapters have been restructured to include the new goals, strategic actions and the dot points related to delivery, with major policies and programs and threats grouped at work area level rather than repeated throughout the table. The introductory text for each Work Area and Enabler have also been reduced and simplified to improve readability.

The executive summary has been removed from the Plan and a separate ‘in brief’ document has been developed. This document is intended to explain the Plan in a more accessible form for readers who are interested in getting a broad understanding of the Plan, without going into all the detail. Additional stakeholder specific communications products have been identified to complement the Plan. These will be developed and released in a staggered approach.

12. Additional themes

Alluvium identified other themes through public consultation that were not considered to be “dominant” but were thought to be notable.

Pollution

This theme captured responses concerning plastics, microplastics, pesticides, noise and light pollution. The most common sub-theme was requests from respondents to include specific marine pollution interventions in the management goals or priority work areas and to give the prevention of marine debris in the Great Barrier Reef greater emphasis in the Plan. Other comments supported the inclusion of light pollution in the Plan, but recommended consultation with the relevant industry groups and/or highlighted a lack of research on the impacts of light pollution.

Community involvement, stewardship and education

Some responses highlighted how increased education programs or resources could be included in the Plan, either as an additional priority work area or as a focus throughout all priority work areas. Some respondents highlighted programs that they felt were worthy of mention, including stewardship programs and citizen science activities, and desired greater emphasis on the role of these programs and volunteers engaged in them within the Plan. The advisory bodies specifically raised concerns about the lack of clarity for stakeholders to identify relevant actions as the actions were too broad.

Biodiversity and habitats

A small number of responses provided feedback related to biodiversity or habitats, essentially calling on the Plan to do more to protect them.

Cumulative impacts

Some responses supported the renewed emphasis of cumulative impacts in the Plan and the focus on cumulative impacts of water-based activities. However, respondents requested more attention to be given to cumulative impacts accruing from coastal development and other land-based activities. In addition, respondents requested that cumulative impacts be specifically identified and linked to targets, as well as identification of how cumulative impacts will be reduced and measured.

What did we do?

The goals and strategic actions under work areas 2 (land-based impacts), 3 (water-based impacts) and 4 (international impacts) capture the need to manage various sources of pollution, including microplastics.

The importance of reducing cumulative impacts have been incorporated under the various work areas and relevant objectives and goals.

13. Refining the Objectives and Management Goals

Some respondents and advisory body members provided feedback on the supporting technical document developed with subject-matter experts that provided the draft indicators for measuring achievement of the objectives and progress towards goals.

There was overall positive feedback that the Objectives and Management Goals provides for effective monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the Plan. Feedback highlighted some areas where terminology and wording could be improved, and some suggested revisions to indicators were provided. Some responses noted gaps in knowledge and in monitoring required for some indicators, and commented on operational aspects.

The feedback was considered along with the advice provided by approximately 150 technical and management experts, partners and stakeholders that contributed to their development.

What did we do?

Comments received on the objectives and indicators through the consultation process were considered and informed the updating of objectives and goals in the Plan, and the supporting document, where appropriate.

Indicators or performance criteria for the newly revised goals are being developed. This work will be completed in 2021-22 and this commitment is reflected in the Plan's strategic actions C2.

A [report prioritising monitoring gaps](#) has been published. The need to improve monitoring, data management capability and integration across different programs is recognised. Addressing these and continuously identifying and addressing priority knowledge gaps will form a key aspect of work under the updated Plan.

The Plan indicates that the Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program, and its front end portal – the Reef Knowledge System – will help track progress against the Plan. Further work to operationalise the new reporting framework for the updated Reef 2050 Plan is underway.

Attachments

Have Your Say Survey

1. Name (optional)
2. Email address (optional)
3. Organisation (if applicable)
4. Please select the categories that describe you best
5. Are you a Reef Traditional Owner?
6. What state or territory do you live in?
7. Do the new vision and outcome provide a good description of a future you want for the Reef?
8. Do you have any additional comments on the vision or outcome?
9. Do you have any comments on the outcomes framework section (pages 17-22)?
10. Under the proposed priority work areas, are there major policies and programs or strategic actions that we have missed and that you suggest be included?
11. Under the proposed cross-cutting enablers, are there major policies and programs or strategic actions that we have missed and that you suggest be included?
12. In addition to any suggestions provided under other questions, are there any strategic actions that you or your organisation will undertake that could be included in the Plan?
13. Does the context section (pages 6-9) provide a good explanation of the Reef, what its value is and what is threatening it?
14. Do you have any additional comments on the context section?
15. Is there anything in the Plan that is difficult to understand, that you would like to see explained more clearly?
16. Can you suggest any improvements to the proposed approach?
17. Do you have any other feedback on the Plan?

