



# Reef 2050 Plan

## Reef 2050 Advisory Committee - Communique 14 August 2015

The inaugural meeting of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) Advisory Committee was held today in Brisbane, chaired by the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC, former governor of Queensland.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee has been established to provide strategic advice to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on the implementation of Reef 2050 Plan. The committee builds on the momentum of the work of the Reef 2050 Partnership Group, which was established in 2014 to ensure stakeholders helped shape the Reef 2050 Plan.

Membership of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee includes the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, the Queensland Seafood Industry Association, a traditional owner representative, Queensland Resources Council, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland Farmers Federation, AgForce, Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Groups Collective, Local Government Association of Queensland, Australian Committee of International Union of the Conservation of Nature, Australian Institute of Marine Science, CareFish, CSIRO, Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Local Marine Advisory Committee representative, Queensland Conservation Council, Queensland Ports Association and the World Wildlife Fund.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee acknowledged the importance of the Plan to improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef into the future. The Committee recognised the need to make substantial progress in implementation of the commitments in the Reef 2050 Plan and is aware of the substantial public and international interest in this work.

Committee members discussed how to prioritise the 139 actions listed in the Reef 2050 Plan which cross seven key themes: ecosystem health, biodiversity, heritage, water quality, community benefits, economic benefits and governance.

Members reiterated that the Reef 2050 Plan represents the best chance for the long term health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef and organisations all expressed a strong commitment to contributing to implementation of the Plan.

The first meeting also discussed the key issues for each sector, and helped identify emerging cross-sectorial issues that need to be considered by the group over the next 12 months. Challenges around funding, clear prioritisation of effort and the need for improved research and monitoring were identified and acknowledged.

Members provided advice on how governments will report progress on delivery of actions within the Reef 2050 Plan to ensure transparent public reporting on whether implementation is on track. The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will be an important group to assess progress and identify any key barriers to effective implementation.

The Chairman of the Reef 2050 Committee will report to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum twice a year. The next Reef 2050 Advisory Committee meeting will be in September 2015.

