



Reef 2050 Plan

Reef 2050 Advisory Committee - Communiqué 31 October, 2017

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee (RAC) held its ninth full meeting today in Brisbane, chaired by The Honourable Penelope Wensley AC. The RAC is one of two advisory bodies established to advise the Australian and Queensland governments on implementation of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050). The other advisory body, chaired by Professor Ian Chubb AC, is the Independent Expert Panel (IEP). The IEP last met in Brisbane on 24 October, 2017.

The meeting began with a series of presentations by all sectors and organisations represented on the Committee on their current priorities, areas of focus and activities relevant to Reef 2050, underlining the diverse range of stakeholder interest in and involvement with the Great Barrier Reef, and the extensive level of activity underway in support of the Reef 2050 Plan.

The key focus of discussion at the meeting was the mid-term review of the Reef 2050 Plan, scheduled for delivery by mid-2018. RAC members reaffirmed the importance of the mid-term review reflecting the changed nature of the Reef and the importance of addressing the issue of climate change in the Plan. The Committee agreed that the Plan should outline the case for mitigation of climate change to protect the Reef and its Outstanding Universal Value, and include additional actions to support the Reef's resilience.

The Committee welcomed the work completed by the Consortium of CSIRO, AIMS, JCU and Eberhard Consulting to inform the scoping of the mid-term review. The Committee placed emphasis on the future trajectories for the Reef under climate scenarios and recommended expansion of this work to provide ecological, economic and social trajectories. The Committee reaffirmed the priority of addressing water quality to support Reef resilience and reiterated its advice that additional funding is required urgently to meet the targets. It supported the consolidation and refinement of existing actions and proposed a number of new actions for inclusion in the revised Plan.

The Committee received a number of briefings and updates on ongoing work and progress in a number of key areas:

- The Draft Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan.
- Innovation challenge.
- Cumulative Impact Management and Net Benefit policies.

The Committee endorsed the formation of a working group to develop a collaborative communication campaign to capitalise on the opportunity presented by the 2018 International Year of the Reef and nominated representatives to participate.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet again on 13 February 2018.



Membership of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee includes the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, the Queensland Seafood Industry Association, an Independent Traditional Owner, Queensland Resources Council, 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, Local Marine Advisory Committees, Queensland Conservation Council, Queensland Ports Association and the World Wildlife Fund.