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# Reef 2050 Plan

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## INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL – COMMUNIQUÉ 16 APRIL 2021

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The nineteenth meeting of the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel was held on 16 April 2021 by videoconference.

The Panel received an overview and provided advice on the process to develop the *2022 Scientific Consensus Statement on Land use impacts on Great Barrier Reef water quality and ecosystem condition*, including the definition of 'consensus'.

The Panel considered the outcomes of the Reef Water Quality Independent Science Panel's strategic planning meeting and provided advice on the frequency of Reef Water Quality report cards.

The Panel noted progress on the review of the Reef 2050 Plan, due for release in the first half of 2021. The Panel also commented on draft communication materials developed to increase public understanding of the Reef and the different elements of the updated Plan.

The Panel noted the report from the independent review of Reef 2050 governance arrangements, which concluded that existing arrangements are overall fit-for-purpose and informing implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan. The Panel provided feedback on the report's recommendations and discussed next steps.

The Panel received updates on:

- World Heritage matters
- the state of the Reef following the 2020/21 summer
- recent meetings of the Reef Water Quality Independent Science Panel.

The Panel will meet in May 2021 to discuss and provide advice on the Reef Trust Partnership Annual Work Plan 2021-22. The next full meeting of the Panel is proposed for August 2021.

## **Panel members**

\* Apologies

### **Professor Ian Chubb AC FAA FTSE FACE FRSN (Chair)**

Former Australian Chief Scientist

### **Dr Andrew Ash**

Research Consultant and Advisor

AJ Ash and Associates

### **Dr Richard Brinkman**

Research Program Director

Sustainable Coastal Ecosystems and Industries  
in Tropical Australia, Australian Institute of  
Marine Science

### **Professor Damien Burrows**

Director of TropWATER

James Cook University

### **Dr Romy Greiner**

Environmental Economist

Director, River Consulting

### **Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg**

Professor of Marine Studies

Deputy Director of the Australian Research  
Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef  
Studies

University of Queensland

### **Professor Terry Hughes**

Director of the Australian Research Council  
Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies

James Cook University

### **Professor Catherine Lovelock**

School of Biological Sciences

The University of Queensland

### **\* Professor Helene Marsh AO FAA FTSE**

Emeritus Professor

James Cook University

**Dr Russell Reichelt AO FTSE**

Environmental science and sustainable use

**Dr Britta Schaffelke**

Research Program Director

Australian Institute of Marine Science

**Adjunct Associate Professor Stephan  
Schnierer**

Southern Cross University

**Ms Jane Waterhouse**

Senior Partner, C2O Consulting

Senior Research Officer, TropWATER, James  
Cook University

**Dr Stuart Whitten**

Institutional and Environmental Economist

CSIRO Land and Water

**\* Professor Kerrie Wilson**

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