



Reef 2050 Plan

INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL – COMMUNIQUÉ 1 AUGUST 2017

The eighth meeting of the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel was held today in Brisbane.

The Panel discussed the mid-term review of the Reef 2050 Plan. The Panel recognised the urgency of the Reef 2050 Plan mid-term review which will commence immediately. The Panel agreed that the revised Plan needs to consider the potential impacts of plausible climate and weather scenarios, and that reducing global emissions is the priority for the Reef's future.

At the request of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum, the Panel focused today's meeting on a workshop to define problem statements that could be tackled through an innovation challenge. This will call on the local, regional and global communities to put forward new solutions to the major challenges facing the Great Barrier Reef.

The Panel identified four challenge areas for focus: boosting coral recruitment, better managing water run-off, working with communities to manage reef use, and reducing crown-of-thorns starfish.

The Panel received updates on the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan review and the Reef 2050 Plan cumulative impact management and net benefit policies.

The Panel is scheduled to next meet in October 2017.



Panel members

Professor Ian Chubb AC (Chair)

Australia's former Chief Scientist.

Associate Professor Eva Abal

Program Director of the Global Change Institute's Sustainable Water Program.
Chief Scientific Officer of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Dr Andrew Ash

Chief Research Scientist.
CSIRO Agriculture.

Professor Damien Burrows

Director of TropWATER.
James Cook University.

Professor Bill Dennison*

Professor of Marine Science and Vice President for Science Applications.
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg

Director of the Global Change Institute and Professor of Marine Science.
The University of Queensland.

Professor Terry Hughes

Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies.
James Cook University.

Professor Helene Marsh

Dean of Graduate Research Studies and Professor of Environmental Science.
James Cook University.

Dr Russell Reichelt

Chairman and Chief Executive.
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Dr Britta Schaffelke

Research Program Leader.
A Healthy and Resilient Great Barrier Reef, Australian Institute of Marine Science.

Adjunct Associate Professor Stephan Schnierer

Southern Cross University.

Adjunct Professor Natalie Stoeckl

Division of Tropical Environments and Societies.
James Cook University.

Dr Stuart Whitten

Institutional and Environmental Economist
CSIRO Land and Water

* Apologies, Tuesday 1st August 2017.