

Reef 2050 Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

1. Background

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is special to all Australians and has been recognised globally for its Outstanding Universal Value. The Australian and Queensland Governments are committed to its protection and management.

The Reef 2050 Plan is the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef from 2015 to 2050. The Plan is a key component of the Australian Government's response to the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. It addresses the findings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Outlook Report 2014 and builds on the comprehensive strategic assessment of the World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone.

The Reef 2050 Plan has seven overarching themes reflecting the priorities for action — ecosystem health, biodiversity, heritage, water quality, community benefits, economic benefits and governance.

The Reef 2050 Plan draws together a number of key Australian and Queensland Government initiatives including the Reef Water Quality Improvement Plan and Reef Trust.

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum's role, which is established under the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement, signed by the Prime Minister of Australia and the Queensland Premier, is to ensure an integrated and collaborative approach by the Commonwealth and Queensland to the management of marine and land environments within and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee is to facilitate engagement with industry and the broader community on the implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Plan. It may also be asked to provide advice on other Reef matters including the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan, Reef Trust, and other initiatives (including advice to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority where requested).

3. Role

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will provide advice to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on strategic Reef policy matters.

It will have a particular focus on implementation and ongoing review of the Reef 2050 Plan, including providing strategic advice on:

- implementation of Reef 2050 Plan actions;
- Reef policy issues that require collaborative action across sectors;
- investment approaches and linkages across multiple investment sources;
- communication and engagement plans to ensure information is provided to the community;
- stakeholders priorities for Reef research and monitoring;
- reviews of the Reef 2050 Plan at five yearly intervals, the first due in 2020.

In doing so, the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will seek to ensure continued momentum and focus on water quality improvement through the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee may also be called upon to provide advice to the Australian Government on matters relating to the Reef Trust and to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on matters relating to its management program.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will also provide advice on other matters as requested by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum or the Standing Committee of Officials.

4. Membership

4.1 Chair

The Chair is independent and is appointed by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.

The Chair will convene meetings and report on behalf of the committee to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.

The Chair will attend meetings of the Ministerial Forum on a regular basis to report directly to Ministers on stakeholder feedback on implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan.

4.2 Members

Members will include senior representatives from:

- Traditional owner groups in the Great Barrier Reef
- AgForce
- Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators (AMPTO)
- Australian Committee of IUCN (ACIUCN)
- Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)
- CANEGROWERS
- CareFish
- CSIRO
- Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Local Marine Advisory Committees
- Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)
- Queensland Ports Association
- Queensland Conservation Council (QCC)
- Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF)
- Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)
- Queensland Resources Council (QRC)
- Regional Natural Resource Management Groups Collective
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF-Australia)

The Australian and Queensland Governments will be observers on the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee.

4.3 Appointment process

Organisations will be asked by the Secretariat to nominate senior representatives to participate in the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee.

5. Operation

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will meet as required, but at least twice a year. The Committee is encouraged to hold a joint meeting with the Independent Expert Panel once a year to share experiences and knowledge and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Alternates or proxies may be permitted where approved by the Chair.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will provide a forum for representatives of government, key organisations and interest groups to discuss and resolve issues, and, as far as possible, should aim to reach consensus on matters.

The Chair and members of the Committee will declare actual or perceived conflicts of interest; fairly represent the interests of their sector, provide advice in their areas of expertise to deliver management solutions, commit to finding common ground in implementation of actions for the benefit of the Great Barrier Reef and provide constructive guidance to support the secretariat.

Members will be reimbursed for reasonable costs associated with travel and accommodation but will not be remunerated for their participation.

The Chair will be eligible for sitting fees in accordance with the Australian Government's Remuneration Tribunal recommendation for Committee members of Cooperative Research Centres (\$1,229 for the Chair, as at 11 May 2015).

Meeting agendas will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair and circulated to members at least one week in advance of meetings.

Any business transacted in the meetings including findings, conclusions and proposed recommendations prior to its release for public review or prior to endorsement by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum is strictly confidential unless otherwise stated.

5.1 Establishment of working groups

Working groups may be established for particular matters where approved by the Standing Committee of Officials.

A standing working group will be permitted for the future review of the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will nominate members to the working groups. The Chair of the working groups will be agreed by the Standing Committee of Officials.

6. Reporting

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will report, through the independent chair, to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum at least twice a year and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as requested.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will also consider and provide advice to the Standing Committee of Officials on implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan and the Reef Water Quality Improvement Plan.

It may provide advice on other matters including membership and terms of reference for working groups or undertake other tasks as requested by the Standing Committee of Officials.

Working groups will be required to report back to the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee.

7. Secretariat

Secretariat support will be provided by a joint Secretariat from the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy and Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science.

Costs for the Secretariat and the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will be shared by the two governments.

The Secretariat will maintain records for the committee and its working groups, circulate agendas, papers and minutes.