



# Reef 2050 Plan

## Reef 2050 Advisory Committee - Communiqué 16 November, 2022

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee (RAC) held its twenty-third meeting today, chaired by the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC. The RAC is one of two advisory bodies for the Reef 2050 Plan, established in 2015, to facilitate engagement with industry and the broader community on the implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Plan and provide strategic advice to the Australian and Queensland governments on reef policy, management and investment prioritisation.

The RAC welcomed presentations by the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water, the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP, and the Queensland Government Minister for the Environment and Science, and Minister for the Great Barrier Reef and Youth Affairs, the Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, and the opportunity for discussion with both Ministers. Members acknowledged the renewed spirit of collaboration between the two Ministers and the Federal and State governments and expressed appreciation for the announcements of new funding commitments and action on climate change. They welcomed also strengthened commitments to addressing cultural heritage and Traditional Owners' interests and more Ministers' recognition of the need for more rigorous assessment of the impacts of major projects on the Reef. RAC members expressed strong interest in providing advice on increasing ambition to protect the Reef.

The RAC provided comment on two reviews:

- the Wetlands in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment Strategy, led by the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Blueprint.

Members emphasised the importance of the role of wetlands for Reef health and the need to consider whole of catchment approaches to investment, guided by the Wetlands Strategy within the Reef 2050 Plan.

The RAC received informative presentations and updates on:

- The World Heritage Committee, the Reactive Monitoring Mission Report, and the review of the UNESCO Policy Document on climate action for World Heritage.
- The Reefonomics tool commissioned by the Queensland Government for water quality investment prioritisation.
- The results of an evaluation of a selection of Queensland Reef Water Quality Program projects undertaken by Alluvium Consulting.
- The Australian Government October budget commitments to Reef funding.
- The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act review by the Australian Government.
- The Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy implementation.



The RAC also received with appreciation presentations by three RAC members on current activities, key achievements and future priorities for their organisations, reaffirming their strong commitment to the objectives of the Reef 2050 Plan:

- The Great Barrier Reef Foundation
- Natural Resource Management Regions QLD
- Queensland Ports Association.

Committee members who had been able to attend an informal function with members of the Independent Expert Panel the previous day commented on the value of the networking and looked forward to future such opportunities.

RAC Members are: The Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators (AMPTO), the Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA), Traditional Owner groups in the GBR, Queensland Resources Council (QRC), Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF), AgForce, CANEGROWERS, Natural Resource Management Regions Queensland, Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), the Australian Committee of the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (ACIUCN), the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), CAREFISH, CSIRO, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), Local Marine Advisory Committees, Queensland Conservation Council (QCC), Queensland Ports Association and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

AgForce and CSIRO were not represented at the meeting.