



## Reef 2050 Advisory Committee - Communiqué 19 July, 2023

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee (RAC) held its twenty-fifth meeting on 18 – 19 July in Cairns/Gimuy and on Green Island/Wunyami. The RAC, chaired by the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC, is one of two advisory bodies for the Reef 2050 Plan. Established in 2015, it facilitates engagement with industry and the broader community on the implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Plan and provides strategic advice to the Australian and Queensland governments on reef policy, management and investment prioritisation.

The Committee discussed a draft report by the Australian Academy of Science following a series of roundtable discussions held to support the Reef 2050 Independent Expert Panel in responding to a request for advice from the Minister for the Environment and Water, the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP. The RAC agreed that it should provide advice to the Australian and Queensland Government Ministers on actions and priorities to inform investment decisions and future reviews of the Reef 2050 Plan.

The RAC emphasised the importance of maintaining the Reef 2050 Plan as the framework for managing and addressing the challenges faced by the Reef. It acknowledged also the value and significant effort invested in the many programs and strategies delivered within the Plan's framework and the importance of maintaining momentum with their implementation. Members underlined that a sense of urgency remains essential to address climate change, water quality and other pressures on the Reef, working with local communities and Traditional Owners for regional action and catchment restoration. Grassroots action is a vital resource and opportunities to fund and nurture local action are important.

RAC members travelled to Green Island/Wunyami, holding part of its meeting there, welcomed by Gimuy Walubara Yidinji Traditional Owner Isaac Cassidy. Mr Cassidy also gave members a tour of the island, talking about the cultural heritage of the island. The RAC was shown the work of the Green Island Reef Rehabilitation Project by Master Reef Guide Phil Coulthard. The project is a joint initiative between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Mars Incorporated, Quicksilver Cruises and Big Cat Green Island Cruises, the Coral Nurture Program and Gunggandji Traditional Owners.

The RAC was welcomed to the second day of the meeting in Cairns/Gimuy by Yirrganydji Traditional Owner Gavin Singleton. The RAC received presentations on:

- Review of the Blueprint for Resilience by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Bioregional planning by the Department of Environment and Science.
- The work of Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) by RAC member Cr Jeff Baines, Chairman of the Hinchinbrook – Cassowary Coast LMAC.
- Progress with delivery of the Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Implementation Plan by RAC Traditional Owner members Ms Chrissy Grant and Mr Malachi Johnson.
- Progress on the update of the Scientific Consensus Statement by Ms Jane Waterhouse, C2O Consulting.



- Communications activities including an updated Queensland Government Great Barrier Reef website: [www.des.qld.gov.au/great-barrier-reef/](http://www.des.qld.gov.au/great-barrier-reef/)

The Committee was pleased to view a video message from the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water, who was unable to join the meeting in person, and to welcome Queensland Senator and Special Envoy for the Great Barrier Reef, Senator Nita Green. The Queensland Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable Leanne Linard MP had been due to join the meeting but was called away on urgent business elsewhere in the State. The RAC looks forward to Minister Linard attending a future meeting of the Committee.

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 was not represented at the meeting.