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# Reef 2050 Plan

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## INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL – COMMUNIQUÉ 1 & 2 June 2023

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The twenty-fifth meeting of the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel was held over 1 and 2 June 2023 in Brisbane was conducted as a hybrid meeting.

The Panel was briefed on:

- Vegetation clearing in the Great Barrier Reef catchments
- The options to mitigate the risk of introduction of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease to Australian waters.

The Panel invited members of Reef Advisory Committee to join for a briefing and discussion on the Reef Futures Roundtables and draft synthesis report, which were undertaken by the Australian Academy of Science. The Panel extended their meeting to 2 June to continue discussing the Roundtables and draft synthesis report and how these would feed into advice from the Panel to Government anticipated to be delivered in the second half of the year.

The Panel received updates on:

- The progress of the Science Consensus Statement
- The status of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Blueprint for resilience
- Recent meetings of the Independent Science Panel
- Recent Reef Trust water quality investments
- World Heritage related actions since the release of the Reactive Monitoring Mission Report in November
- The Queensland Government's statutory review of the Reef protection regulations, Reef Assist, the Land Restoration Fund and the Reef Assist 2.0 program
- The Water Quality Improvement Program review process
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Monitoring Program, including a new interactive dashboard.

The next meeting of the Panel is proposed for November 2023.

## Panel members

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

Former Australian Chief Scientist

**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

**\* Professor Terry Hughes**

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 Rebecca Bartley**

Research Scientist

CSIRO Land and Water

\* Apologies

**Adjunct Associate Professor Stephan  
Schnierer**

Southern Cross University

University of Canberra

**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**

Queensland University of Technology

**Professor Matthew England**

Scientia Professor

Climate Change Research Centre

University of New South Wales

**Professor Tiffany Morrison**

The Australian Research Council Centre of  
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James Cook University

University of Melbourne

**Dr Mitchell Gibbs**

School of Geosciences

University of Sydney