



Reef 2050 Plan

INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL – COMMUNIQUÉ 15 November 2022

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel was held on 15 November 2022 in Brisbane as a hybrid meeting.

The Chair welcomed the three returning Panel members and the four new Panel members who had recently been appointed by the Great Barrier Reef Ministers.

The Panel was briefed on Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease, including policy and scientific responses from the United States, and discussed the implications if the disease reached the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and potential steps to mitigate the risk of transmission, such as through biosecurity measures.

The Panel received updates on:

- the recent \$204 million Commonwealth investment package for the GBR
- the Government response to the draft mission report from the Reactive Monitoring Mission
- the Queensland Government's budget and major policy announcements
- recent meetings of the Reef Water Quality Independent Science Panel
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act reform.

The Panel received a demonstration of and provided feedback on the Reefonomics tool, which allows for the creation and financial comparison of optimised portfolios of water quality improvement actions within the GBR catchments at sub-catchment, catchment and GBR-wide scales.

The Panel was briefed on threats to Reef biodiversity from climate change. The Panel engaged in a cross-disciplinary exchange of ideas to consider an approach to develop a strategy to inform future policy, management and investment in climate resilience for key ecosystems and species on the Reef.

The next meeting of the Panel is proposed for March 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

**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
Excellence for Coral Reef Studies

James Cook University

University of Melbourne

Dr Mitchell Gibbs

School of Geosciences

University of Sydney

* Apologies