



# Reef 2050 Plan

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## INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL – COMMUNIQUÉ 28 February 2022

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The twenty-second meeting of the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel was held on 28 February 2022 by videoconference.

The Panel was briefed on World Heritage Committee matters, including the State Party Report on the State of Conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area which was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 February 2022, and on preparation for the joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Reef.

The Panel welcomed the release of the updated Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan in December 2021 and invitation by Ministers to provide further advice on additional actions to implement the Plan and address the concerns of the World Heritage Committee. Members agreed to write to Ministers with their advice.

The Panel received an update on the recently announced \$1 billion Australian Government investment package for the protection of the Reef. The Panel noted that planning is underway to determine the most appropriate delivery approaches.

The Panel discussed the proposed role of the Australian and Queensland Chief Scientists and their engagement with the Panel and the Reef Water Quality Independent Science Panel in providing additional assurance and advice regarding processes to develop the *Scientific Consensus Statement on land use impacts on Great Barrier Reef water quality and ecosystem condition*.

The Panel received an update on the development of the Scientific Consensus Statement and discussed key principles for the proposed peer review process. The Panel noted the approach to developing the consensus process and nominated members to contribute to a working group to progress the work.

The Panel received updates on:

- the State of Reef health from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- the November 2021 meeting of the Reef Water Quality Independent Science Panel.

The Panel provided input into the draft forward workplan and timing for remaining meetings in 2022. The Chair thanked the three Panel members who were not seeking reappointment at the conclusion of their current terms and acknowledged the valuable contribution they had made to the work of the Panel. The Panel noted that a process to fill upcoming vacancies was underway.

The next meeting of the Panel is proposed for July/August.

## Panel members

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

Former Australian Chief Scientist

**Dr Andrew Ash**

Research Consultant and Advisor

AJ Ash and Associates

**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

**Dr Romy Greiner**

Environmental Economist

Director, River Consulting

**\* Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg**

Professor of Marine Studies

Deputy Director of the Australian Research  
Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef  
Studies

University of Queensland

**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 Britta Schaffelke**

Research Program Director

Australian Institute of Marine Science

**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**

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\* Apologies