



Reef 2050 Plan

INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL – COMMUNIQUÉ 29 JULY 2022

The twenty-third meeting of the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel was held on 29 July 2022 by videoconference.

The Panel received an update on the additional funding allocated by the Government towards reef restoration and preservation and the deferral of the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The Panel was addressed by the Minister for the Environment and Water, The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, who thanked the Panel for the valuable work and advice they have provided to the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and welcomed their advice going forward.

The Panel received an update on the development of the Scientific Consensus Statement (SCS) and related processes. The Panel discussed the SCS guiding principles and identified potential gaps, noting that they would submit nominations for both the SCS editorial and a peer review working group which would be established to support the SCS peer review and consensus process.

The Panel received updates on:

- recent meetings of the Reef Water Quality Independent Science Panel
- the Independent Review of the Agricultural Management Practice Adoption Target for the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan
- the Reef Trust Partnership (RTP) program evaluation, including an overview of how cost effectiveness is measured in the Water Quality Component of the RTP
- the RTP Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science component (Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program).

The Panel provided input into the draft forward workplan and timing for the remaining meeting in 2022. The Panel noted that process to fill vacancies was underway.

The next meeting of the Panel is proposed for November 2022.

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

**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

QUT