

Reef 2050 Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

November 2022

1. Background

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is special to all Australians and has been recognised globally for its Outstanding Universal Value. The Australian and Queensland Governments are committed to its protection and management.

The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) is the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef from 2015 to 2050. The Plan is a key component of the Australian Government's response to the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. It is reviewed and updated every five years in response to the findings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's five-yearly Outlook Reports.

The Reef 2050 Plan's vision is that the Great Barrier Reef is sustained as a living natural and cultural wonder of the world. The Plan draws together a number of key Australian and Queensland Government initiatives including the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan and Reef Trust.

The Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement, signed by the Prime Minister of Australia and the Queensland Premier, allows for an integrated and collaborative approach by the Commonwealth and Queensland to the management of marine and land environments within and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The Commonwealth Minister responsible for administering the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and the Queensland minister responsible for the Great Barrier Reef (Great Barrier Reef Ministers) provide oversight of the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement. The Great Barrier Reef Ministers actively seek advice from stakeholder groups and the science community on management of the Great Barrier Reef.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee is to facilitate engagement with industry and the broader community on the implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Plan. It may also be asked to provide advice on other Reef matters including the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan, Reef Trust, and other initiatives (including advice to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority where requested).

3. Role

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will provide advice to the Australian and Queensland Government Great Barrier Reef Ministers on strategic Reef policy matters.

It will have a particular focus on implementation and ongoing review of the Reef 2050 Plan, including providing strategic advice on:

- implementation of Reef 2050 Plan actions
- Reef policy issues that require collaborative action across sectors
- investment approaches and linkages across multiple investment sources
- communication and engagement plans to ensure information is provided to the community
- stakeholders' priorities for Reef research and monitoring
- reviews of the Reef 2050 Plan at five yearly intervals.

In doing so, the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will seek to ensure continued momentum and focus on water quality improvement through the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee may also be called upon to provide advice to the Australian Government on matters relating to the Reef Trust and to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on matters relating to its management program.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will also provide advice on other matters as requested by the Great Barrier Reef Ministers.

4. Membership

4.1 Chairman

The Chairman is independent and is appointed jointly by the Australian and Queensland Great Barrier Reef Ministers.

The term of the Chairman is 5 years, with reappointment possible. Please note this will commence from the end of the current Chairman's term (31 December, 2023).

The Chairman will convene meetings and report on behalf of the Committee directly to the Great Barrier Reef Ministers on stakeholder matters related to implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan.

4.2 Members

Members are appointed by the Australian and Queensland Great Barrier Reef Ministers to provide a representative view of sectors and organisations with a role in delivering the Reef 2050 Plan.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will include senior representatives from the below organisations:

- AgForce
- Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators (AMPTO)
- Australian Committee of IUCN (ACIUCN)
- Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)
- CANEGROWERS
- CAREFISH
- CSIRO
- Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Local Marine Advisory Committees
- Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)
- Queensland Ports Association
- Queensland Conservation Council (QCC)
- Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF)
- Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)
- Queensland Resources Council (QRC)
- Natural Resource Management Regions Queensland
- Traditional Owner groups in the Great Barrier Reef
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF-Australia)

The Australian and Queensland Governments will be observers on the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee.

4.3 Appointment

Organisations will be asked by the Secretariat to nominate senior representatives to participate in the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee.

Traditional Owner members and proxies are appointed independently through an open expression of interest process.

5. Operation

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will meet as required, but at least twice a year. The Committee is encouraged to hold a joint meeting with the Independent Expert Panel once a year to share experiences and knowledge and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Alternates or proxies may be permitted where appropriate and approved in advance by the Chairman.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will provide a forum for representatives of government, key organisations, and interest groups to discuss and resolve issues, and, as far as possible, should aim to reach consensus on matters.

The Chairman and members of the Committee will declare actual or perceived conflicts of interest; fairly represent the interests of their sector, provide advice in their areas of expertise to deliver management solutions, commit to finding common ground in implementation of actions for the benefit of the Great Barrier Reef and provide constructive guidance to support the Secretariat.

Members will not be remunerated for their participation, with the exception of Traditional Owners, representatives from wholly volunteer organisations, or otherwise agreed by the Joint Secretariat on a case-by-case basis. Reasonable costs associated with travel and accommodation will be paid on behalf of members.

Meeting agendas will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairman and circulated to members in advance of meetings.

The conduct of meetings, remuneration and other related administration of the Committee will occur as detailed in the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee Operating Protocols.

Any business transacted in the meetings including findings, conclusions and proposed recommendations prior to their release for public review or prior to endorsement by the Great Barrier Reef Ministers is strictly confidential unless otherwise stated.

5.1 Establishment of working groups

Working groups may be established for particular matters where approved by the Reef 2050 Executive Steering Committee (ESC) in consultation with the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee Chairman. The ESC must consider:

- a clear scope outlining the requirement, potential benefits, and duration
- whether a separate Terms of Reference is needed
- whether additional skills and expertise from outside the Committee will be required (i.e., to address a specific topic)
- costs of establishing a working group, including additional remuneration requirements.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will nominate members to the working groups. The Chairman of the working groups will be agreed by the Reef 2050 Executive Steering Committee, in consultation with the Chairman of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee.

6. Reporting

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will report, through the independent Chairman, to the Great Barrier Reef Ministers at least twice a year on matters relating to the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan and other matters discussed by the Committee as required.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will also consider and provide advice to the Reef 2050 Executive Steering Committee on implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan and the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan.

It may provide advice on other matters including membership and terms of reference for working groups or undertake other tasks as requested by the Reef 2050 Executive Steering Committee.

Working groups will be required to report back to the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee.

7. Secretariat

Secretariat support will be provided by a joint Secretariat from the Australian Government and Queensland Government departments with jurisdictional responsibility for the Great Barrier Reef as well as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Costs for the Secretariat and the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will be shared by the two governments.

The Joint Secretariat will maintain records for the committee and its working groups, including agendas, papers, and minutes.

8. Periodic review

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference will be reviewed every five years, or more frequently as required. Updates to the Terms of Reference will be approved by the Great Barrier Reef Ministers.