



Reef 2050 Plan

Reef 2050 Advisory Committee - Communique 23 November 2020

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee (RAC) held its seventeenth meeting today, in Brisbane and by videoconference, chaired by the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC. The RAC is one of two advisory bodies established in 2015 to facilitate engagement with industry and the broader community on the implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Plan and to provide strategic advice to the Australian and Queensland governments on reef policy matters.

A draft Reef 2050 Plan was released for a six week public consultation period ending on 30 September 2020. The RAC was briefed on the overarching results of qualitative analysis of the submissions made, and the proposed approach for amending the revised Plan in response to the feedback. While broadly endorsing the proposed approach, RAC members identified some gaps and put forward a number of suggestions for specific additions and enhancements.

RAC members reiterated their advice that climate change policy, urgency of action, opportunities for innovation and level of investment need to be commensurate with the ambitions stated in the Plan, expressing concern that the Plan will be insufficient in its current form. While the overarching form of the Plan was broadly endorsed, more detail of how the stated objectives and goals will be achieved is needed. The RAC also advised that more effort is required to make the content of the Plan relevant to broad audiences, reiterating that reflecting and motivating community action is essential to accelerating progress.

The Committee received a presentation from Prof Pete Mumby on the findings of a report on climate change trajectories and management intervention benefits for the Reef. RAC welcomed the presentation and acknowledged the significant effort invested in the work to produce it, noting that it offers a platform from which to build further understanding of implications for the Reef's future management.

RAC was briefed on the independent review of Reef 2050 governance bodies and discussed opportunities to strengthen the role of the RAC and its reporting to Ministers.

The Committee also received updates on:

- Reef health and the 2020 mass bleaching event
- The results of the Queensland State Election and Reef election commitments
- World Heritage Committee processes, including progress on the World Heritage climate change policy
- Progress with the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program.

RAC Members are: The Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators (AMPTO), the Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA), Traditional Owner groups in the GBR, Queensland Resources Council,(QRC) Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF), AgForce, CANEGROWERS, Natural Resource Management Regions Queensland, Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), the Australian Committee of the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (AIUCN), the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), CAREFISH, CSIRO, the Great Barrier Reef



Foundation (GBRF), Local Marine Advisory Committees, Queensland Conservation Council (QCC), Queensland Ports Association and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

AgForce was not represented at the meeting.