



# Reef 2050 Plan

## Reef 2050 Advisory Committee - Communique 6-7 August, 2019

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee (RAC) held its fourteenth meeting over two days in Townsville, at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and on Magnetic Island. The RAC, chaired by the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC, is one of the two advisory bodies established to provide strategic advice to the Australian and Queensland governments on implementation of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan).

The Committee received an update on progress with the development of the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMReP). In discussion, RAC members reaffirmed the critical importance of RIMReP for the effective implementation and tracking progress of the Reef 2050 Plan. The Committee also emphasised the importance of gaining a better understanding of funding requirements to deliver the program. The Committee urged GBRMPA to release publicly the RIMReP expert theme working group reports.

The RAC commended the decision of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to release a Climate Change Position Statement and welcomed its content.

The Committee received briefings on a number of recent and upcoming reports including:

- the AIMS annual summary report on coral reef condition
- the Reef Water Quality Report Card to be released by the Australian and Queensland governments
- the 2019 Outlook report to be released by the Australian Government
- the State Party Report on the State of Conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to be provided to the World Heritage Centre on 1 December, 2019.

RAC members expressed disappointment that, contrary to expectations, the presentations on the Outlook Report and the Reef Water Quality Report Card were limited because the reports have not yet been publicly released. This constrained the Committee's ability to provide advice on how the results of these reports should inform the 2020 review of the Reef 2050 Plan, the current priority of the Committee's work.

On the 2020 review, RAC members:

- welcomed the outcomes of the second joint RAC-IEP workshop held in May
- expressed broad support for the structure proposed for the revised plan
- recognised the need for further work on a number of areas, including definition of the outcomes – *Healthy Reef, Healthy People*, targets, proposed actions, investment priorities and how to address national and international action on climate change
- welcomed plans for a further RAC-IEP workshop to address these and other elements.



The Committee received a briefing on the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program, followed by a tour of AIMS research facilities, including its coral core collection, and the SeaSim experimental laboratory.

The first day of the meeting concluded with presentations from local representatives on community action projects including:

- the Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters
- Townsville City Council water quality improvement projects
- Townsville Local Marine Advisory Committee projects
- the Master Reef Guides Program.

On day two, following a welcome to Yunbenun (Magnetic Island) by Wulgurukaba Traditional Owner Ms Melissa George, the Committee received presentations on a range of Traditional Owner activities and interests including:

- catchment management in the Russell catchment from Mr Dennis Ah-Kee, a Wanyurr Yidinji Traditional Owner
- safeguarding Indigenous heritage and knowledge and the development of the *Strong People, Strong Country* framework within RIMReP from Ms Chrissy Grant, a Kuku Yulanji Traditional Owner
- the Traditional Owner component of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation – Reef Trust Partnership by Ms Liz Wren of the Foundation.

The Committee visited Geoffrey Bay and heard about its history from Wulgurukaba elder Mr Brian Johnson and Dr David Wachenfeld.

The day concluded with a presentation by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation on the Reef Trust Partnership Annual Work Plan. The Foundation expressed appreciation for RAC members' contribution to development of the Plan, and reaffirmed its commitment to working in the closest possible partnership with the RAC.

The next full meeting of the RAC is scheduled to be held on 12 November, 2019 in Brisbane.

Membership of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee includes the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, the Queensland Seafood Industry Association, Traditional Owners, Queensland Resources Council, Queensland Farmers Federation, AgForce, CANEGROWERS, Natural Resource Management Regions Queensland, Local Government Association of Queensland, Australian Committee of International Union of the Conservation of Nature, Australian Institute of Marine Science, CAREFISH, CSIRO, Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Local Marine Advisory Committees, Queensland Conservation Council, Queensland Ports Association and the World Wildlife Fund.

AgForce was not represented at the meeting.