



Reef 2050 Plan

INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL – COMMUNIQUÉ 19 MAY 2020

The seventeenth meeting of the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel was held on 19 May 2020, by videoconference.

The Panel discussed:

- the 2020 coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef
- progress with the 2020 review of the Reef 2050 Plan and next steps
- the impacts of measures to handle the COVID-19 pandemic on Reef 2050 Plan delivery, Reef management and research.

The Panel discussed the Reef Trust-Great Barrier Reef Foundation (Foundation) Partnership draft 2020-2021 Annual Work Plan. The Panel agreed it would finalise and provide strategic scientific advice to the Foundation out-of-session and that the Panel Chair would provide an update on its advice to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.

The Panel received updates on:

- recent meetings of the Reef Water Quality Independent Science Panel
- new and proposed Reef protection projects to be funded under the Reef Trust.

The next meeting of the Panel is proposed for June/July 2020.

Panel members

Professor Ian Chubb (Chair)

Australia's former Chief Scientist

Dr Andrew Ash

Research Consultant and Advisor

AJ Ash and Associates

Professor Damien Burrows

Director of TropWATER

James Cook University

Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg

Director of the Global Change Institute and Professor of Marine Science

The University of Queensland

Professor Terry Hughes

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

James Cook University

Professor Helene Marsh

Emeritus Professor

James Cook University

Dr Russell Reichelt

Environmental science and sustainable use

Dr Britta Schaffelke

Research Program Leader

Australian Institute of Marine Science

Adjunct Associate Professor Stephan Schnierer

Southern Cross University

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