



Reef 2050 Plan

Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program Communique Steering group meeting one, 17 July 2015

The inaugural steering group meeting was held in Brisbane on Friday 17 July 2015. This meeting was co-chaired by the Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Director-General of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

The monitoring program is the key mechanism to track the progress of the Australian and Queensland governments' 35-year plan — the Reef 2050 Plan — to protect the Great Barrier Reef. It will bring together monitoring, modelling and reporting activities across the Reef and its catchment and will enable timely and appropriate responses by Reef managers and partners to emerging risks and issues.

The steering group:

- Endorsed the structure and membership of the three working groups. Working groups will provide advice on key aspects of the program's establishment, including:
 - program design;
 - synthesis and reporting; and
 - data management and systems
- Discussed requirements for the design and operation of an effective monitoring and reporting program for the Reef 2050 Plan.
- Provided advice on an overarching Program strategy.
- Recognised the need for greater clarity around the purpose of and linkages between existing monitoring programs and reporting products to avoid duplication and improve the efficiency.

Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Russell Reichelt said: *The Reef 2050 Plan is the overarching strategy for managing Great Barrier Reef. The Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program will be fundamental to its success by evaluating the Plan's performance and driving adaptive management of the Reef.*

Reporting and future meetings

A plenary session of the co-chairs will be held on 26 August 2015. The next meeting of the steering group will be in October 2015.