



# Reef 2050 Plan

## Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program Communique Steering group meeting four, 29 July 2016

The fourth Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program steering group meeting was held in Brisbane on 29 July 2016.

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 brings 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 scope for three of the data management and systems working group projects for the development of protocols for sensitive data and information.
- Agreed that improving the inshore marine water quality metric is a task for the program and should be undertaken in a phased approach.
- Received an update on the range of communication and engagement activities being undertaken to support the program, including the development of a website that shares information as it becomes available, an [e-newsletter](#), materials to assist members with promoting the program and an [animation](#) highlighting how the program will track the targets and outcomes of the Reef 2050 Plan.
- Noted the progress of the program including a risk assessment and an update on compressed timelines for projects due to the delay in funding.
- Noted the workshop with the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee exploring the methods for accessing information and data about the Reef.
- Noted the proposed investment by the Queensland Government in additional catchment monitoring and modelling in response to recommendations by the Water Science Taskforce.
- Discussed the need to explore funding models for monitoring programs and reporting products in line with the Reef 2050 themes.
- Noted that the program was using existing core programs as the foundation of integration and not waiting for the program design to be completed before moving ahead with integration.
- Noted that modelling is central to enabling adaptive management through a better understanding of changing pressures, environmental conditions and systems knowledge, and that the program would ensure close alignment with existing modelling efforts.
- Received an update from the Chair of the Independent Science Panel on the science behind the Reef Water Quality Report Cards and the work that is underway to improve water quality reporting.

### Reporting and future meetings

The next steering group meeting will be a teleconference on 7 October 2016 and following on from that they will hold a meeting in Brisbane on 28 November 2016.