



Reef 2050 Plan

Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program

Communique

Steering group meeting eight, 27 April 2017

The eighth Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMReP) steering group meeting was held in Brisbane on 27 April 2017.

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 to enable timely and appropriate responses by Reef managers and partners to emerging risks and issues.

Outcomes

The steering group discussed the recent pressures, threats and cumulative impacts on the Reef and concluded that recent events must be taken into consideration for the program design. Recent events include consecutive coral bleaching, crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks, cyclone events and resulting widespread flooding. The group acknowledged that it's important to learn from these events and their implications for monitoring design, modelling and adaptive management. It is critical for this opportunity to be taken to ensure that RIMReP is a quality fit-for-purpose product.

The steering group agreed that the program should be designed to best fit management objectives and needs, and not to a pre-determined budget. A monitoring and evaluation strategy should be developed to more explicitly link the Reef 2050 Plan, RIMReP and reporting products.

Achievements

The final [report](#) for the dugong surveys, conducted in October-November 2016, in the southern Great Barrier Reef, Moreton Bay and Hervey Bay has been published. This critical monitoring, funded by the Program, indicates calf numbers for the southern GBR have increased from 0% in 2011 to over 10% of the population in 2016.

Two tender processes have identified suppliers to:

- a) work with Traditional Owners to develop protocols for managing culturally sensitive information, including negotiating data storage agreements and implementing appropriate storage and handing processes
- b) develop principles, protocols and characteristics of data management as well as doing a data audit. This will develop the 'rules of engagement' with monitoring providers and data custodians.

Actions

Other tasks being progressed include:

- the desktop study phase of the program design expert groups which will occur over the next few months. The studies will review current monitoring and modelling activities; evaluate the adequacy of these; identify gaps; examine new technologies; improve system understanding; and develop recommendations.
- the integration phase for the program design expert groups which will happen concurrently to the desk top phase, will ensure knowledge is shared, linkages and dependencies are identified and considered early.
- completing the market research project which is analysing how stakeholders are using existing report products, the purpose and need of identified reporting products, assessing ideal platforms for accessing and receiving information, and addressing any critical information gaps



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Reporting and future meetings

The next steering group meeting will be held in July 2017.

Attendees

Russell Reichelt	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Jim Reeves	Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Rachel Parry	Department of the Environment
John Gunn	Australian Institute of Marine Science
Damien Burrows	TropWater, James Cook University
Ian Gordon	Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mining
Mark Jacobs	Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation
Andy Steven	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation