



# Reef 2050 Plan

## Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program

### Communique

### Steering group meeting six, 28 November 2016

The sixth Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program steering group meeting was held in Brisbane on 28 November 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 to enable timely and appropriate responses by Reef managers and partners to emerging risks and issues.

#### Outcomes

The steering group discussed the proposals for the program design expert theme groups to develop indicators to measure condition and impacts on Reef health. Indicators will be developed for each of the seven themes of the Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan and will build on and integrate with existing programs where available.

Acknowledgement of the value of the research, being funded by the National Environmental Science Program, assisting the development of an integrated monitoring, modelling and reporting program and improving understanding of Reef health.

It was also noted that the Australian Research Council has provided a number of grants related to the Reef that will be beneficial to the Program.

#### Achievements

The Program continues to fund critical monitoring activities. Preliminary results of the inshore zoning monitoring were presented by James Cook University.

Modelling is a core component of the Program as it is essential for measuring and predicting change. CSIRO and AIMS presented models for catchment run-off that will improve understanding of impacts in the marine environment from land-based activities.

#### Actions

The steering group discussed actions that are underway or to be started prior to the next meeting in April 2017. The actions include:

- managing the market research project that aims to understand how key stakeholders and partners are using information that reports on the health and management of the Great Barrier Reef to make adaptive management decisions. The researchers will interview and survey Traditional Owners, partners and stakeholders.
- conducting a tender process and identifying a supplier to develop protocols for handling culturally sensitive information



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## Reporting and future meetings

The fifth Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program steering group meeting was a teleconference held on 7 October 2016. The steering group discussed the progress of the Program and supported the Program co-funding the development of the water quality metric with the National Environmental Science Program and the Department of the Environment and Energy.

The next steering group meeting will be held in April 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
Tim Moltmann	Integrated Marine Observing System
Damien Burrows	TropWater, James Cook University
Ian Gordon	Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mining
Paul Lawrence	Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation
Mark Baird	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation