



INDIGENOUS REEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE Meeting 1, 3 and 4 June 2015

The Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee (IRAC) was established in 2015 to provide advice to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) on Indigenous matters relating to the implementation of the key findings of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014, the Great Barrier Reef Strategic Assessment and Program Report and the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan. The IRAC is a competency-based committee with members providing a cross-section of expertise and interests in areas relevant to the Traditional Owners and Indigenous communities connected to the Great Barrier Reef. The Committee is appointed for a three year term from 18 March 2015 to 30 June 2018.

Attendance

There were eight Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee (IRAC) members in attendance and formal apologies were received from two members.

Introduction

Mr Phil Rist was nominated and endorsed as Chair.

Mr Phil Rist opened the meeting paid respect to the Bindal and Wulgurukaba Traditional Owners, past and present, of the Townsville area. He acknowledged all Traditional Owners and Indigenous communities connected to the Great Barrier Reef. As the IRAC Chair position was vacant, the members nominated and endorsed Mr Phil Rist to undertake the position for the full term of three years.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority operations

IRAC agreed to participate in a Machinery of Government workshop to be held with the next IRAC meeting.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) staff provided information on the roles and responsibilities of IRAC members, the requirements for members under GBRMPA's policy and the general function of the IRAC to provide advice to GBRMPA.

Each member explained the background and experience they bring to IRAC's capacity to advise GBRMPA on matters concerning the management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

As IRAC is entering into a new phase, the members discussed the need to gain a better understanding of the Machinery of Government to which the IRAC is connected. To facilitate this exchange of information, the members endorsed the convening of an induction workshop to be held in conjunction with the next IRAC meeting.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Indigenous Partnerships team overview

IRAC noted the report on GBRMPA.

The members were informed of GBRMPA's overall operations, its priorities and the major projects which are currently underway.

GBRMPA staff from the Indigenous Partnerships section provided a status report on the Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Programme 2013 – 2018 with presentations on the Indigenous Partnerships Program 2014/15, the Traditional Use of Marine Resources (TUMRA) Programme, the Indigenous Compliance Programme and the Cultural Knowledge Management System.

Special matters

IRAC noted the report on GBRMPA.

GBRMPA staff provided formal papers and presentations on the Long Term Sustainability Plan (LTSP), the Whitsunday Plan of Management Review, the Cruise Ship Policy and the Reef Recovery Programme.

The sessions provided the IRAC members with an introduction to the comprehensive details associated with each of the Projects. The committee sought clarification on a number of issues from GBRMPA staff and also provided them with feedback when the issue required input from an Indigenous perspective.

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Next meeting

The next meeting of the Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee will be held in September 2015.