



Reef 2050 Plan

Reef 2050 Advisory Committee - Communique 9 March 2017

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee (RAC) met today in Brisbane-the eighth meeting of the Committee since its establishment in 2015. Chaired by The Honourable Penelope Wensley AC, former Governor of Queensland, the RAC is one of the two principal advisory bodies established to provide strategic advice to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on implementation of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050).

The Chairman reported to the committee the outcomes from the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum, held in November 2016. The Committee confirmed its interest in Ministers attending a 2017 meeting of the committee. The Committee noted the Ministerial Forum's request for advice from the RAC and IEP on action to respond to coral bleaching.

The Committee received a number of briefings and updates on ongoing work and progress relating to the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan including on:

- The Reef 2050 Communications Network and opportunities for RAC member communications.
- The development and plan for release for public comment on the policies for net benefits and cumulative impacts and the offsets guideline
- The ongoing progress in designing the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program and opportunities for RAC members to contribute to the program design
- The review of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and opportunities for input by RAC members
- The program design for the Major Integrated Protects and progress in implementing Reef Trust projects from Ms Carole Sweatman, Chief Executive Officer, Terrain, on behalf of natural resource management groups and the Reef Alliance.

The Committee received briefings on matters relating to coral bleaching and climate change including from:

- Dr David Wachenfeld, Director Reef Recovery, GBRMPA, on the extent of the coral bleaching and scenarios for ongoing climate impacts
- Ms Helen Wilson, First Assistant Secretary Domestic Emissions Reduction Division, Department of the Environment and Energy, on the Australian Government's climate change policies and actions
- Mr Simon Every, Head of Government and Stakeholder Relations on the Clean Energy Finance Corporation's financing opportunities
- Ms Georgine Roodenrys, Executive Director, Climate Change Policy, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, on the Queensland Government's climate change policies.



The Committee expressed their appreciation for the presentations and briefings provided. The Committee agreed to meet again in May 2017 for a workshop to evaluate current actions and strategic priorities to respond to the issues facing the Reef.

Following that workshop, the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet twice more in 2017, in August and October.

Membership of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee includes the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, the Queensland Seafood Industry Association, a traditional owner representative, Queensland Resources Council, Queensland Farmers Federation, AgForce, Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Groups Collective, Local Government Association of Queensland, Australian Committee of International Union of the Conservation of Nature, Australian Institute of Marine Science, CAREFISH, CSIRO, Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Local Marine Advisory Committees, Queensland Conservation Council, Queensland Ports Association and the World Wildlife Fund.