



# Reef 2050 Plan

## Reef 2050 Advisory Committee - Communique 19 May 2017

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee (RAC) held its ninth meeting today in Brisbane, chaired by The Honourable Penelope Wensley AC. The RAC is one of two advisory bodies established to provide strategic advice to the Australian and Queensland governments on implementation of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050). The other advisory body, chaired by Professor Ian Chubb AC, is the Independent Expert Panel (IEP).

The meeting was a dedicated workshop to consider the impact on the reef-and the implications for the Reef 2050 Plan- of the mass coral bleaching events of 2016 and 2017 and other pressures on the reef, linked to climate change, responding to a direct request from Ministers for advice from the RAC and IEP. The RAC workshop followed a similar workshop held by the Reef 2050 Independent Expert Panel (IEP) on 5 May, 2017. Following a presentation by Dr David Wachenfeld, Director, Reef Recovery, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) on the current state of the Reef, the impacts of the bleaching events and other pressures, linked to climate change, including Tropical Cyclone Debbie, RAC members were briefed on the discussions held at the IEP workshop, by IEP member, Dr Britta Schaffelke, Program Leader, Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). RAC members then broke into four groups to discuss possible responses to the changed circumstances of the reef within four themes: Ecosystem Health, Water Quality, Economic and Community Benefits and Biodiversity- the same four themes addressed by the IEP at its workshop.

RAC members accepted the Chairman's proposal that a paper be prepared, drawing together the principal advice elements and ideas to emerge from the workshop discussions, to be circulated to workshop participants for endorsement/comment, with a view to finalising key points of advice from the RAC by mid-June.

This advice, along with that of the IEP, and other sources of information such as the GBRMPA coral bleaching report and the GBRMPA Coral Resilience Summit scheduled for 24-25 May, will be presented to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum (MinFo), to be held in Brisbane on 13 July, 2017. The RAC and IEP Chairmen will attend the MINFO and report to Ministers on the work of the two Reef 2050 advisory bodies. Advice provided to MinFo is anticipated to influence the scope of the Reef 2050 Plan 2018 mid-term review.

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.