



Reef 2050 Plan

Reef 2050 Advisory Committee - Communique 2 August, 2017

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee (RAC) met today in Brisbane, chaired by The Hon. Penny 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, the Independent Expert Panel (IEP), chaired by Professor Ian Chubb AC, met in Brisbane on 1st August.

The RAC and IEP were asked earlier this year by Ministers to provide advice on how to respond to the impact on the Great Barrier Reef of the coral bleaching events of 2016 and 2017 and of cyclone Debbie in March 2017. The advice of both advisory bodies was made available to Ministers shortly prior to the bi-annual Ministerial Forum on the Great Barrier Reef, (MINFO) held in Melbourne on 28 July, 2017. It has been published at <http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/reef2050/advisory-bodies>

The Chairman reported to the RAC on her attendance at the MINFO. Although Ministers are still considering the advice in detail, recognising the need for urgent action to respond to the deterioration in the state of the reef, they made a number of decisions, most notably to bring forward and commence work immediately on the mid-term review of the Reef 2050 Plan, scheduled for 2018.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/frydenberg/media-releases/mr20170728.html>

Accordingly, discussion of the mid-term review was set as the central element of today's RAC meeting. In a workshop facilitated by a consortium engaged by the Australian and Queensland governments to identify options for the scope of the mid-term review, comprising CSIRO, the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) James Cook University (JCU) and Eberhard Consulting, RAC members provided preliminary stakeholder advice on the scope of the review. Further discussion of the mid-term review is expected at the next meeting of the RAC in October.

In addition to the workshop, the Committee was briefed on the outcomes of the recent World Heritage Committee meeting, held in Krakow, Poland in July, 2017 and received updates on ongoing work and progress with implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan, including on:

- The Reef 2050 Communications Network.
- Development of the net benefits and cumulative impacts management policies.
- Implementation of the recently released Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy.

The Committee also received a briefing on the proposed management arrangements for the Coral Sea Marine Park.



The Committee also discussed the responses to a recent self-evaluation questionnaire and endorsed a number of recommendations for ways to enhance the effectiveness of the RAC.

The next meeting of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on 31 October, 2017.

Membership of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee includes the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, the Queensland Seafood Industry Association, an Independent Traditional Owner, 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.