



Reef 2050 Plan

Reef 2050 Advisory Committee - Communique 15 October 2015

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee met for the third time today in Brisbane. The Committee is chaired by the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC, former Governor of Queensland.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee has been established to provide strategic advice to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on the implementation of Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee's principle task in the early stages of its work has been to prioritise the 139 actions in the Plan.

The Committee reviewed outputs from its workshop in August, which was specifically dedicated to this process, and endorsed the workshop outcomes which categorised actions as immediate (to begin by December 2016), medium (to begin by June 2018) and future (to begin by June 2020) priorities. The Committee agreed to group the immediate priorities into categories to facilitate an efficient and coordinated approach to implementation.

The results of the prioritisation process will inform the development of the Reef 2050 Investment Framework and the next update of the Implementation Strategy due to be released in December 2015. Committee members reiterated that additional funding is required to implement the Plan and achieve its outcomes and targets, acknowledging that this investment would need to come from a variety of sources.

The importance of advancing implementation of the Plan was emphasised.

The Committee provided comments on a number of draft documents, including a Policy Guideline for decision makers on the Reef 2050 Plan, and discussion papers on net benefits and offsets. These will be further developed in 2016 with comprehensive stakeholder consultation.

The Committee was provided with an update on the progress of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce which has been established by the Queensland Government to provide advice on investment priorities and policy guidance in relation to meeting the Reef 2050 Plan water quality targets. The Committee is looking forward to the Taskforce's interim report which is due to be provided to the Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef in December 2015.

The Committee also received an update from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on the establishment of the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program, a key element for reporting progress towards the Reef 2050 outcomes and targets.

The Committee was also briefed on the Reef Trust by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment.

Consultants engaged by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads to develop a maintenance dredging strategy briefed the Committee on the project and outlined the engagement process, including workshops with the Committee and members of the Independent Expert Panel.

The Chairman of the Reef 2050 Committee is scheduled to report to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum in December 2015 on the Committee's work and progress to date.



The Committee agreed to meet three times in 2016 and set a schedule of meetings.

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, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, 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.