



TOURISM REEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE Meeting 7 – 22 June 2017 – Townsville

The current term of the Tourism Reef Advisory Committee was established in 2014 to provide advice to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on tourism matters relating to implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014, the Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment and Program Report and the Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan. The Tourism Reef Advisory Committee is competency-based with members providing a cross-section of stakeholder expertise and interests in areas relevant to tourism and recreational use of the Great Barrier Reef. The Tourism Reef Advisory Committee is appointed for a three-year period and Ms Glenys Schuntner is the independent Chair. Membership details and earlier communiques are available on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's [website](#).

Feedback on the Great Barrier Reef Summit – Managing for Resilience

The Chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority provided the Tourism Reef Advisory Committee with an update on the state of the Great Barrier Reef, feedback received from the Reef Summit, and operational review currently being conducted within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority.

Tourism Reef Advisory Committee review of the Summit's 'blueprint for innovation'

The Tourism Reef Advisory Committee strongly endorsed the seven focus areas and stressed the importance of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority continuing to act quickly, to harness people's energy for the benefit of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and for relevant funding to be sought to support such work supported relevant funding is sought.

Incorporating tourism actions into the blueprint

The Tourism Reef Advisory Committee discussed incorporating current and potential tourism actions, and other actions beyond tourism, into the blueprint, including:

- All-out assault on Crown-of-thorns starfish
- Protecting the bright spots/refugia – find them and fix them
- Active, localised restoration
- Protect herbivores and other key species
- Build/enhance partnerships for local action
- Dramatically enhance compliance
- Policy on climate change

Clear, consistent and persuasive communication

The Tourism Reef Advisory Committee discussed ideas on how the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority could establish trust, credibility and empower people to act.

Ecotourism Australia – Improvements and Tools

The Chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority thanked Members of the Tourism Reef Advisory Committee for their insights and advice throughout discussions. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority indicated the Tourism Reef Advisory Committee would be invited to have a representative on a communications working group that arose from the Reef Summit.

Other Committee Business

The Tourism Reef Advisory Committee was advised that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority was considering extending the Tourism Reef Advisory Committee term which is due to expire 31 December 2017 to 30 June 2018. This would be in line with the Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee term. Members were generally supportive.

It was noted the draft cruise ship policy had been released for comment. The draft policy had not changed significantly in intent to the earlier draft policy endorsed by the Tourism Reef Advisory Committee in 2014. It specifically included the advice relating to the Environmental Management Charge. It was agreed that the draft policy would be re-circulated and Members would make comment in order for a formal Tourism Reef Advisory Committee submission to be made by 14 July 2017.

