



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Parliamentary Standing Committee report:

Report 3 2020 - National Education Centre for the Great
Barrier Reef, Reef HQ

JUNE 2020

Introduction

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) sought approval from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (the Committee) to proceed with proposed critical safety works for the continued safe operation of the National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef, Reef HQ. These works were announced in December 2019 as part of the Mid-Year-Economic-Forecast Outlook budget process.

The aim of the project is to 'address a backlog of Reef HQ asset replacement and management. The works are directed to address the existing structural, mechanical and electrical safety risks. The project also aims to ensure that the Authority meets its duty of care for both staff and visitors'.

The estimated cost of the project is \$26.9 million (excluding GST).

The project was referred to the Committee on 19 February 2020. A virtual site inspection followed by a public hearing occurred on 21 May 2020.

Response

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that Reef HQ is provided with additional funding for the purposes of updating its exhibits and technology to enable it to maintain its excellence in education and research, and tourism.

Response

Noted

Since the Committee's recommendation, Reef HQ received a further \$53.2 million to transform the aquarium into a global centre of excellence in tropical coral reef education.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives resolve, pursuant to Section 18(7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed works: Critical safety works for the continued safe operation of the National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef, Reef HQ.

Response

Agreed

Since the Committee's recommendation, an approach to market occurred and a Principal Contractor appointed in September 2021.