



TOURISM REEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE

Meeting No. 25
23 October 2025

The current term of the Tourism Reef Advisory Committee (the Committee) was established in 2023 to provide advice to the Marine Park Authority Board, through the Reef Authority, on tourism matters. The Committee is appointed for a three-year term. The independent Chairperson of the Committee is Mr Daniel Gschwind.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson welcomed the Committee to the 25th meeting of the Tourism Reef Advisory Committee (TRAC) and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.

Reef Authority update

The Reef Authority provided updates including:

- the recent MPA Board meeting held in Brisbane and the appointment of Ms Patricia (Trish) O'Callaghan as the Queensland Government representative on the Marine Park Authority Board
- discussions and outcomes from the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress held in Abu Dhabi
- the upcoming 2025 Reef Forum
- Eye on the Reef pre-summer industry training
- the Annual Pre-summer Workshop and the Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control Program's annual workshop
- an overview on the redevelopment of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium.

Members discussed the timeline for the next World Heritage meeting, among other key points of interest following the update.

Member updates

Members provided broad-ranging industry updates including business trends and operations and site-specific Reef health information.

Some Members acknowledged the high-volume of bookings throughout June-July school holiday period, and extending into September and October 2025.

Reports on Reef health and recovery following impacts from ex-tropical cyclones were provided. Overall operators are seeing Reef recovery and some noted how spectacular sites are looking.

Reef health update

The Reef Authority and partners have a focus on Reef health year-round, with efforts stepped up over the high-risk summer period.

A forecast of reef conditions was provided to the Committee, and it was noted that our preparation includes an annual cycle of planning, responding, reporting, evaluating and improving.

An outline on management of Reef health assessments and responses was provided to the Committee. The Annual Pre-summer Workshop — which brings together Traditional Owners, Reef managers, tourism operators, scientists and researchers — is scheduled for November. Following this workshop, the COTS Prioritisation Workshop is held which supports the planning of response over summer.

Weekly Reef health updates begin in December 2025 and continue throughout Summer 2026.

2025 Reef Forum

An overview on the 2025 Reef Forum, including the agenda, was provided to the Committee.

The purpose of the Forum is to address the increased climate impacts on the Great Barrier Reef, through a resilience-based management approach, supported by government partners, Reef dependent communities, industries, and those with a strategic interest in the management and protection of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

A workshop was held with the Committee to test community and industry impacts under three difference climate scenarios and to inform the scenario cards which will be used at the Forum.

Reef 2050 Plan

An overview of the timeline and process for the Reef 2050 Plan review was provided. The update included an outline of the review focus areas for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the Reef Authority, and the Queensland Government.

The Committee noted that further updates, and consultation where possible throughout the review process, would be provided.

Marine Tourism Incident Response Group

The Committee discussed the Marine Tourism Coordination Framework and provided feedback on the currency of the framework.

It was acknowledged the framework remains important and supports industry. Updates were recommended reflect the evolution of some of the processes.

Reef Joint Field Management Program

The Reef Authority provided an overview of the Reef Joint Field Management Program's five-year business strategy. The Strategy is being supported by action plans and will inform business planning for the 2026–27 financial year.

Members discussed the strategy and the interconnections with fisheries and other Parks management activities.