



Reef 2050 Plan

Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program

Communique

Steering group meeting ten, 10 November 2017

The tenth Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program steering group meeting was held in Brisbane on 10 November 2017.

The monitoring program is the key mechanism to track the progress of the Australian and Queensland governments' 35-year plan — the Reef 2050 Plan — to protect the Great Barrier Reef. It brings together monitoring, modelling, and reporting activities across the Reef and its catchment to enable timely and appropriate responses by Reef managers and partners to emerging risks and issues.

Outcomes

The steering group discussed the program strategy and revision of the program's purpose, vision and mission. This included refining the program's objectives under three clear goals that the program should be "Effective, Efficient and Evolving". The objectives under these three goals have been split into development objectives up to June 2019 and implementation objectives beyond June 2019. The revised program strategy will be available in early 2018. The existing [strategy](#) is available on the Marine Park Authority's website.

They also discussed the implications for the program in regard to the midterm review of the Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan), this includes stronger consideration to climate change within the Plan. A full comprehensive review of the Reef 2050 Plan will be completed in 2020 following release of the 2019 Outlook Report.

The desktop reviews and workshops that are being undertaken by the eight expert working groups as part of program design are underway. The working groups are analysing the key components for monitoring under their respective themes and assessing adequacy of existing monitoring and identifying gaps. The themes include human dimensions, Indigenous heritage, coral reefs, seagrass, estuaries and catchments, physico-chemical, fisheries and megafauna. The desktop reviews are expected to be completed by 30 April 2018 and will be available on the Marine Park Authority's website.

Developing data sharing agreements and protocols — including developing protocols for sharing and handling culturally sensitive information — is underway. This work will progress until June 2018. Access to the key existing data sets for the program will be facilitated through this process.

A project to identify stakeholder and partners management needs was undertaken by a consultant. The group reviewed the management information needs reports and agreed that the report provided a good insight into the requirements for managers to implement actions and make decisions. The Marine Park Authority will be working with the program design expert groups to further clarify management information needs. The recommended hierarchical monitoring design for data collection could assist with regional aspects of needs.



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Members of the steering group agreed to restructure the existing three program working groups — data management and systems, synthesis and reporting, and program design — to become one integration working group. The integration working group will coordinate and provide strategic advice regarding program development and projects to the steering group.

Other program achievements and outcomes:

- Survey results of several thousand coastal residents, tourists, marine tourism operators, commercial fishers, and Australian residents around the country, have been gathered as part of the Social and Economic Long-term Monitoring Program ([SELTMP](#)) led by CSIRO. This represents the second data collection series as part of this monitoring (with the first conducted in 2013). This monitoring program assists to address an identified gap and has been funded by the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program. It is a critical link for Reef managers and stakeholders to better understand the social values, uses and perceptions of the Reef among different communities. To support this work, the research team are also developing an online tool (dashboard) to coincide with the release of the report which is due in February 2018. The dashboard for reporting on the human dimensions of the Great Barrier Reef Region will also feed into other program functions.
- A communication tool to showcase program development, provide program updates and information on monitoring and modelling programs has been created. It will be regularly updated as the program progresses. The online tool will be available in early 2018.

Reporting and future meetings

The next steering group meeting will be held in March 2018.



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Attendees

Attendees		
Attendee	Position	Title/Organisation
Russell Reichelt	Co-chair	Chairman Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Jim Reeves	Co-chair	Director-General Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Paul Hardisty	Member	Chief Executive Officer Australian Institute of Marine Science
Tim Moltmann	Member	Director Integrated Marine Observing System
Angela Cameron	Proxy	Acting Director, Reef 2050 Plan Department of the Environment and Energy
Ian Gordon	Member	Regional Manager Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Christian Roth	Member	Great Barrier Reef Coordinator CSIRO
Roger Shaw	Member	Chair Independent Science Panel
Mark Jacobs	Member	Deputy Director-General, Strategy and Innovation Department of Science Information Technology and Innovation
Greg Stuart	Member	Manager Coastal Information Services Bureau of Meteorology
Damien Burrows	Proxy	Director TropWATER, James Cook University; Science Leader NESP Tropical Water Quality Hub
Apologies		
Rachel Parry	Member	Assistant Secretary, Reef Branch Department of Environment and Energy
Chris Cocklin	Member	Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor James Cook University

Observers/Experts

Margaret Johnson	General Manager, Policy and Stewardship Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Roger Beeden	Director, Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
David Leverton	Chief Information Officer, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Fergus Molloy	Manager, Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Elisa Nichols	Executive Director, Office of Great Barrier Reef Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Kirstin Kenyon	Director, Office of Great Barrier Reef Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection



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Nyssa Henry	Manager, Office of Great Barrier Reef Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
David Souter	Research Manager, Australian Institute of Marine Science
Celeste Powell	Director, Reef Branch Department of Environment and Energy
Dylan Horne	Manager, Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Mel Cowlshaw	Assistant Director, Strategic Advice Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Secretariat	
Patricia Clive	Secretariat, Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority