



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER**

Addendum to the Ministerial Statement of Expectations to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority issued 1 October 2025

Environment and Water Portfolio

Issued by Senator The Hon Murray Watt on 25 March 2026

The Ministerial Statement of Expectations (the Statement) was issued to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (Reef Authority) on 1 October 2025. This addendum to the Statement is issued to the Reef Authority to outline my additional expectations, as the Minister for Environment and Water, for how the Reef Authority will deliver the whole-of-government policy objective for Commonwealth regulators to better balance risk mitigation with efficiency, growth and dynamism.

Prioritising productivity

In delivering its regulatory functions, I expect that the Reef Authority will:

- Take a proportionate and risk-based approach to regulation to balance risk mitigation with efficiency, growth and dynamism.
- Consider the impact on productivity of regulatory activities, including:
 - adjusting regulatory posture where appropriate to create a regulatory environment that enables productivity growth.
 - proactively reducing unnecessary regulatory burden, encouraging innovation, and supporting regulatory enhancements, where relevant and applicable, while maintaining world class conservation standards on the Great Barrier Reef

Regulator performance best practice

In alignment with the Regulator Performance Resource Management Guide (RMG 128), I expect the Reef Authority to:

- Consider appropriate performance and service standards measurement for their regulatory activities, including in relation to any reform proposals, where appropriate.
- Align regulatory approach and implementation with the six principles of the Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework for the regulator's role, regulatory posture, specific legislative objectives, functions, and environment.
- Where relevant and required, identify and address international regulations and the global regulatory operating environment, and engage with international regulatory bodies relevant to the regulator's role, functions, and environment.

Supporting regulatory reforms

Established under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Marine Park Act), the Reef Authority is responsible for regulatory requirements that ensure ecologically sustainable use,

encourage engagement and participation in protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef, and that assist Australia to meet its international responsibilities for World Heritage.

The Reef Authority administers the Marine Park Act, the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019*, and a suite of other legislation, and operates under the Australian and Queensland governments' *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2024*.

In line with this, I expect the Reef Authority to support regulatory reforms and work with the Department of Finance, where relevant and appropriate, to implement and report on reform proposals to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden.

I expect the Reef Authority to continue leading policy design and ensuring strong governance of implementation for priority regulatory reforms.