**Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program**

**Communique steering group meeting 11**

**23 March 2018**

The 11th Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program steering group meeting was held in Townsville on 23 March 2018.

The monitoring program is the key mechanism to track the progress of the *Reef 2050 Plan* 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 received insight into current and upcoming activities, and provided strategic guidance on planned approaches to data management and systems, program design, and reporting.

The group noted:

* Updates to the program strategy document including a revised purpose, vision, mission and objectives, and additional details on the program’s underpinning framework. The group endorsed the changes subject to a few minor amendments. The strategy will be publicly available soon.
* Progress by the eight expert theme groups towards monitoring design recommendations for seagrass, coral, fish, megafauna, Indigenous heritage, human dimensions, catchment and estuaries, and the physico-chemical environment. The final monitoring design reports are due at the end of April.
* The amalgamation of three program working groups into one working group is assisting program management and delivery. The group will meet monthly to ensure alignment of program components.
* The data management and systems work required to support an operational program is underway and noted the program design work will be used to inform the final operational requirements.
* Progress in developing consistent approaches for data collection and management including protocols for sharing and handling culturally sensitive information.
* An update on the progress of the *Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan (*Reef 2050 Plan*)* mid-term review. A comprehensive review of the *Reef 2050 Plan* will be undertaken in 2020.
* A [communication tool](http://gbrmpa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=68cbaaff06c24d3e8e7f0686724d9ca6) 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.

Provided advice on:

* The program design trade-off ­analysis –– which will examine recommended designs against a number of management objectives and funding scenarios.

**Reporting and future meetings**

The next steering group meeting will be held in June 2018. Previous meeting [communiques](http://gbrmpa.e-newsletter.com.au/link/id/zzzz5a6fcaefa99b8649/page.html) are available online.

**List of attendees**

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| **Attendee** | **Position** | **Title/Organisation** |
| Russell Reichelt | Co-chair | Chairman, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority |
| Deb Callister | Member | Assistant Secretary, Department of the Environment |
| Paul Hardisty | Member | CEO, Australian Institute of Marine Science |
| Tim Moltmann | Member | Director, Integrated Marine Observing System |
| Ian Gordon | Member | Regional Manager, Queensland Department of Natural Resources  and Mining |
| Roger Shaw | Member | Chairman, Independent Science Panel |
| Greg Stuart | Member | National Manager, Bureau of Meteorology |
| Christian Roth | Member | Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation |
| Mark Jacobs | Member | Assistant Director-General, Department of Environment and Science |
| Damien Burrows | Proxy | Director, James Cook University |
| **Apologies** | | |
| Jamie Merrick | Co-chair | Director-General, Queensland Department of Environment and Science |
| Chris Cocklin | Member | Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, James Cook University |
| Elisa Nichols | Observer | Executive Director, Queensland Department of Environment  and Science |

**Observers/Experts**

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| **Attendee** | **Position** | **Title/Organisation** |
| David Souter | Observer | Research Manager, Australian Institute of Marine Science |
| Margaret Johnson | Observer | General Manager, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority |
| Angela Stokes | Observer | Director, Reef Delivery, Department of the Environment |
| Kirstin Kenyon | Observer | Director, Queensland Department of Environment and Science |
| Mel Cowlishaw | Observer | Assistant Director, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority |
| Chloe Schauble | Observer | Acting Director, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority |
| Nyssa Henry | Observer | Chief Scientific Officer, Queensland Department of Environment  and Science |
| Giles West | Observer | Assistant Director, Department of Environment |

**Secretariat**

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| **Attendee** | **Position** | **Title/Organisation** |
| Fergus Molloy | Secretariat | Assistant Director, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority |
| Dylan Horne | Secretariat | Assistant Director, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority |
| Jesscia Mead | Secretariat | Communications Project Manager, Great Barrier Reef Marine  Park Authority |
| Camille Conaghan | Secretariat | Project Manager, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority |