



Australian Government



Queensland Government

Reef 2050 Plan— Implementation Strategy

MAY 2015



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Updated on 26 June 2015

1. Summary

The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) was jointly released by the Australian and Queensland governments in March 2015. It is the key document that will guide management of the Reef over coming decades.

The Australian and Queensland governments are currently updating the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement, which is a formal and enduring intergovernmental collaborative agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, which has been in place for over 35 years. This is the highest level of agreement between the Commonwealth and State governments and an updated version which adopts the Reef 2050 Plan as a schedule to the agreement will be signed by the Prime Minister and the Premier of Queensland, reaffirming both governments' strong commitment to implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan in mid 2015.

The Reef 2050 Plan was developed and built on a strong foundation of collaborative action and a partnership approach. As we move from development of the Plan to implementation, the challenge is to continue this collaborative approach to deliver of the outcomes and targets of the Reef 2050 Plan and ultimately achieve our collective vision for the Reef which is to *ensure the Great Barrier Reef continues to improve on its Outstanding Universal Value every decade between now and 2050 to be a natural wonder for each successive generation to come*. We recognise the only way to achieve this is by working together.

This Strategy outlines the governance arrangements and engagement processes to ensure a continued collaborative approach to implementation across government and with stakeholders, underpinned by the best possible scientific and expert advice. It also provides a summary of the progress to date, including those actions that have already been delivered and identifies those actions that are due in 2015 and clearly allocates lead agencies and timeframes for their delivery. It identifies how progress will be monitored and reported, including a summary of progress on establishment of the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Key to implementation is clear accountability for actions. Each Reef 2050 Plan action will be assigned to a lead organisation or agency, with outputs coordinated by a joint secretariat and agencies accountable to Ministers.

In order to ensure effective independent input and oversight, two formal bodies with direct access to accountable Ministers will be established. One group comprising representative bodies with interest in Great Barrier Reef matters – the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee – and another, an expert group to provide independent scientific and expert advice – the Reef 2050 Independent Expert Panel.

Performance will be assessed and outputs monitored through formal annual reports outlining progress on implementation of actions and progress towards the Reef 2050 Plan targets, and where appropriate, towards the longer term objectives. A formal detailed progress report on the state of the entire property (through the Outlook Report) is to be delivered every five years from 2019.

This Strategy is designed to be an evolving document that is regularly reviewed and revised to capture new actions as they are prioritised as well as reporting on progress of actions underway.

2. Introduction

The Reef Plan was jointly released by the Australian and Queensland governments in March 2015 and submitted to the World Heritage Committee as a supplement to the 2015 State Party Report.

The Reef 2050 Plan sets a new benchmark for the protection and management of the iconic World Heritage Area and its catchments and coastal regions. The overarching vision of the Plan is:

To ensure the Great Barrier Reef continues to improve on its Outstanding Universal Value every decade between now and 2050 to be a natural wonder for each successive generation to come.

The Reef 2050 Plan draws on the scientifically based and independently reviewed Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014 and the comprehensive strategic assessment of the Reef. The Plan was jointly developed with current partners in Reef protection and management including Traditional Owners, local government, industry sectors, research organisations, natural resource management bodies and community organisations. The Plan was also subject to substantive technical review by experts from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. It builds on a 40 year foundation of management actions to protect the Reef for current and future generations.

The Reef 2050 Plan will be made a schedule to the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement* between the Australian and Queensland governments. This is the highest level of agreement between the Commonwealth and State governments and will be signed by the Prime Minister and the Premier of Queensland.

3. Purpose of this Strategy

The purpose of this implementation strategy is to:

- Articulate the governance arrangements and engagement processes to ensure a continued collaborative approach to implementation across government and with stakeholders, underpinned by the best possible scientific and expert advice;
- Provide a summary of the progress to date, including those actions that have already been delivered;
- Identify those actions that are due in 2015 and clearly allocate lead agencies and timeframes for their delivery; and
- Identify how progress will be monitored and reported, including a summary of progress on establishment of the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting System.

This implementation strategy is the first version of a rolling document that will be reviewed and revised during the first six months and updated again in December 2015 to capture new actions as they are prioritised as well as reporting on progress of actions underway. Updates will then occur every six months, in line with meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum. The integrated monitoring and reporting framework will measure achievement against the targets and objectives of the Reef 2050 Plan. Within the framework, the five yearly Outlook Report and the annual Reef Water Quality Report Cards are key elements in demonstrating delivery to domestic and international audiences.

4. Governance

The Reef 2050 Plan was developed and built upon a strong foundation of collaborative action and a partnership approach. Both governments recognise the need for this approach to continue through to implementation.

Lead government agencies for the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan are the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).

Given the range of delivery partners implementing the Reef 2050 Plan, a simplified and streamlined governance structure has consolidated previous advisory groups and functions. These arrangements are illustrated below followed by a summary of functions for each group. The terms of reference for each body can be found at Attachments D to G.

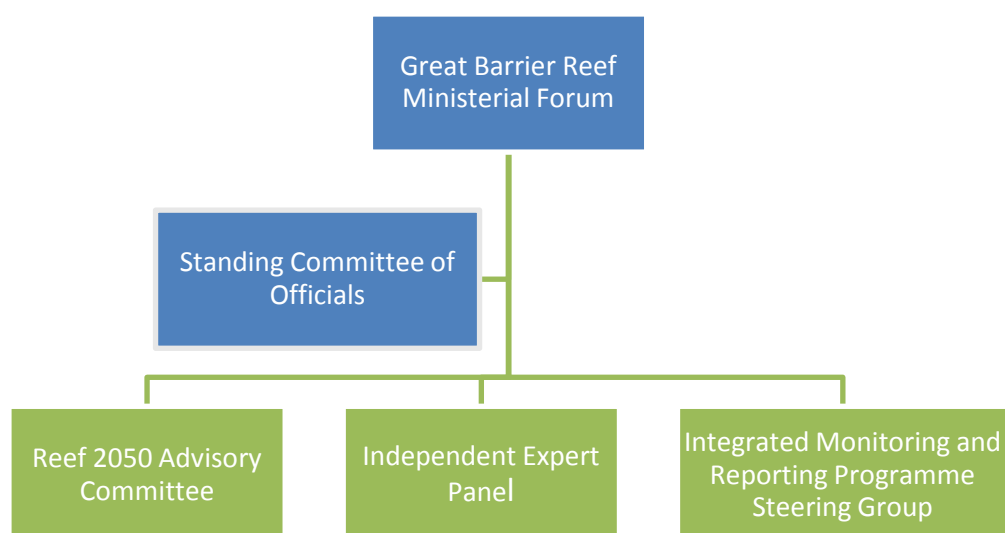


Figure 1: Overview of governance structure (decision making bodies blue, advisory bodies green)

Decision Making Bodies

Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum

The first formal agreement between the Australian and Queensland governments on the management of the Great Barrier Reef was the Emerald Agreement, signed in 1979. This was updated in 2009 with the signing of the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement. This Agreement is the highest level of cooperative agreement between a State and the Commonwealth and is given effect by the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Queensland. The Intergovernmental Agreement will shortly be updated to reflect the importance of the Reef 2050 Plan in managing the Great Barrier Reef into the future and to reaffirm the two governments' commitment to protection of the World Heritage Area.

In 2009 the Agreement established a Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum comprised of Commonwealth and Queensland government Ministers. The updated Agreement will outline a new key role of the Ministerial Forum to ensure effective implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan.

Standing Committee of Officials

The Standing Committee of Officials established under the Intergovernmental Agreement will perform the functions of the intergovernmental operational committee referred to in the Reef 2050 Plan.

Advisory Bodies

Reef 2050 Advisory Committee

In order to continue to effectively engage with key stakeholders and promote a strong partnership approach to implementation, the Reef 2050 Plan calls for convening a multi-sectoral Reef 2050 Advisory Committee to facilitate engagement with Traditional Owners, industry and the broader community regarding the

implementation and review of the Plan. The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will meet regularly to provide strategic advice on the implementation of Reef 2050 actions, stakeholder priorities, and highlight any emerging cross sectoral issues that need to be addressed.

Independent Expert Panel

The Independent Expert Panel will provide scientific and expert advice related to the Great Barrier Reef, including support for the implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Plan, Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and other matters, as requested. The Panel will also advise the Australian Government Minister for the Environment on funding priorities for the \$140 million Reef Trust. The inaugural Chair is the Australian Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb. The panel will interact closely with Queensland's Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce, Chaired by the Queensland Chief Scientist, Dr Geoff Garrett.

Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program Steering Group

The Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program is integral to the success of the Reef 2050 Plan. It will inform governments, the public and the international community about whether the Plan is on track to maintaining and improving the condition of the Reef's values and will also enable timely and suitable responses by Reef managers and partners to emerging issues and risks. A Steering Group of key end users and providers will guide the design and operation of the program.

5. Implementing the Plan's Actions

Implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan is already underway. A progress report on implementation is provided in the Attachments and covers:

1. Actions already completed (Attachment A)
2. Progress on actions to be completed by December 2015 (Attachment B)
3. Progress on 'ongoing' actions that will be reported on in the first annual report due in June 2016 (Attachment C). This includes key actions that will be delivered through programs such as Reef Plan and Reef Trust. These actions are clearly identified in Attachment C.

Traditional Owner involvement in the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan is of particular importance given the strong and continuing connection to land and sea country. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will lead the coordination with Traditional Owners, the Australian and Queensland governments in order to determine how to implement relevant actions.

Highlights of Success so far

- - Introduced to the Australian Parliament regulations which will enshrine in law the banning of a 100 year old practice of dumping capital dredge material in the Marine Park.
 - Commenced preparation of Queensland Ports legislation which, when given effect by the Queensland Parliament, will extend the ban on disposal of capital dredge material to the remaining entire World Heritage Area and give effect to the ports related actions in the Reef 2050 Plan.
 - Announced the Chief Scientist of Australia, Professor Ian Chubb AC as the Chair of the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel that will provide advice on investment priorities for the \$140 million Reef Trust and will also advise on the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan.
 - Queensland Government announced the establishment of a Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce, headed by the Queensland Chief Scientist.
 - Queensland Government has committed an additional \$100 million over five years towards water quality initiatives, scientific research and helping business transition to better environmental practices in the primary production and fishing industries.
 - Australian Government has announced an additional \$100 million towards Reef Trust.
 - Delivered more than \$15 million in funding from the Reef Trust to be directed towards remediating gullies in grazing landscapes to control erosion, a competitive tender to reduce fertiliser run-off from sugar cane farms in the Burdekin region and more funding to help control the outbreak of coral eating crown-of-thorns starfish on high value tourism reefs.
 - In the two months since the release of the Plan, six actions in the Reef 2050 Plan have already been implemented; eight more are on track to be implemented by December.

Financing the Reef 2050 Plan

The Australian and Queensland governments are committed to ensuring sufficient financial and other resources are available to achieve the Reef 2050 Plan outcomes. A projected investment of over \$2 billion in the coming decade will be spent by government for Reef related management and research.

Work on an investment baseline is due to be completed in June 2015. This baseline will outline all current federal, state, and local government expenditure as well as private and philanthropic investment in the Reef, providing a starting point for further investments and coordination of activities which support the outcomes of the Plan.

Building on the information gathered through the investment baseline, the Independent Expert Panel will advise on priorities for investment and action within the Reef 2050 Plan and Reef Trust. The outcomes of this process, along with associated investment decisions will be presented to the Ministerial Forum in December 2015.

Longer term, a body of work will be undertaken which looks to expand the current sources of private and philanthropic investment in the Reef to work alongside public investment will be a priority. By the end of 2015, mechanisms for enabling this diversification, based on input and advice from private, philanthropic and financial experts will be identified.

Implementation of actions beyond 2015

The Reef 2050 Plan sets out a clear process for prioritising actions. While a number of actions have been identified for early completion, all other actions will be considered in the prioritisation process.

The Independent Expert Panel, along with the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will provide advice on prioritisation. Their advice will be informed by the best available science, including the research partnership through the National Environmental Science Programme, water quality improvement plans, and analysis of matters of national environmental significance. Once the prioritisation process is completed, this implementation strategy will be revised and updated and more detailed implementation plans will be prepared for high priority actions, particular themes or sectors where necessary.

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum will be presented with the outcomes of the prioritisation exercise and associated investment decisions in December 2015, as along with an updated implementation strategy.

6. Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program

The Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program is integral to the success of the Reef 2050 Plan. The primary objectives of the Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program are to:

- improve the effectiveness of adaptive management through an improved understanding of the condition and trend of the Reef's values and processes together with the drivers, pressures and activities affecting them; and
- inform performance evaluation of management actions against Reef 2050 Plan targets, objectives and outcomes.

The Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment found that while there was significant expertise in monitoring available from a range of sources, there was a lack of an overarching strategy and coordination, and a lack of standardised procedures and protocols for data collection, handling and interpretation.

Implementation of an integrated monitoring, reporting and adaptive management program will inform management, as well as the national and international community, on whether the Plan is on track to maintaining and improving the condition of the Reef's values. It will enable timely and suitable responses by Reef managers and partners to changing their on-ground management practices to address emerging issues and risks.

The Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program will also increase the effectiveness of the Reef 2050 Plan by ensuring funding is directed to the key pressures impacting the Reef's values.

The Reef 2050 Plan has outlined the overarching objectives and targets for management of the Great Barrier Reef and, for the first time, has committed to developing a platform with research providers to allow full integration of monitoring programs to more effectively inform adaptive management.

The Program will include biophysical, heritage, social and economic monitoring relevant to management of the World Heritage Area, which represent the themes in the Reef 2050 Plan.

The primary focus will be on key monitoring programs which inform management within the World Heritage Area and their linkages to the adjacent catchment.

Work on the Program's establishment has commenced. It is being developed collaboratively with parties involved in research and monitoring, and protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Engagement with representatives from the research, modelling and monitoring community, relevant industries and community groups—together with all levels of government—has already occurred (Dec 2014, Feb 2015) to provide advice on Program's establishment. A Steering Group is being established to oversee the design and operation of the program.

The following timeframes are an estimate and will vary depending on resources and other external factors. Outcomes of working group tasks will be considered by the partnership group.

Estimated	Lead	Task
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Completion	responsibility	
December 2014	Secretariat (GBRMPA)	Inaugural meeting of partners to outline the purpose and scope of the Program.
February 2015	Partnership group	Program foundational objectives and requirements set. Establishment of working groups to inform Program development.
July 2015/December 2016	GBRMPA and Working groups	Delivery of work packages required to support the establishment of the integrated monitoring and reporting program
January 2017 – December 2018	GBRMPA and partners	Implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program to support preparation of Outlook Report 2019 together with informing the Reef 2050 Plan review

The Program is expected to be operational from January 2017. In the meantime, the range of existing monitoring programs will continue to be delivered and publicly reported. This includes a regular reef water quality report card on inshore marine condition and progress towards water quality targets within the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

7. Next steps

Implementation strategy

This implementation strategy is designed to be a living document that is updated 6 monthly and provided to the Ministerial Forum. The next update will be completed by December 2015 and will incorporate advice from the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee and the Independent Expert Panel.

Annual reporting

Annual reports will be provided to the Ministerial Forum with the first report submitted in mid 2016. The annual report will capture progress against all actions and outline key contextual information surrounding achievement of the Plan's goals. As the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program matures, data will be made available to report progress against the targets, outcomes and objectives of the Reef 2050 Plan. These trends will be captured in the annual report, along with adaptive management actions to ensure continual improvement in the management of the Reef.

Attachment A: Completed actions

The following list includes actions which have already been completed.

Ecosystem health

ID	Action	Lead Agency	Outcome Description
EHA31	Communicate the findings of the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Ecosystem Assessment Framework – basin assessments and encourage their use in determining priorities for protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems and in taking actions likely to improve Great Barrier Reef health and resilience.	GBRMPA	<p>The findings of the <u><i>Great Barrier Reef Coastal Ecosystem Assessment Framework – basin assessments</i></u> were released in 2012 and can be accessed at http://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/handle/11017/828.</p> <p>In response to the findings of the <u><i>2009 Outlook Report</i></u>, and to enable the assessment and prioritisation of issues for better management of coastal ecosystems, GBRMPA developed a framework for assessing the importance of coastal ecosystems.</p> <p>The aim of this framework was to assess the ecological functions, the risks to these functions and the cumulative impacts at work across the catchment that are affecting the long-term health of the Great Barrier Reef in a holistic way.</p> <p>Analysis of the catchment was undertaken at different scales – catchment wide, natural resource management areas, basin scales and local scales. This information could then be used for natural resource management planning.</p> <p>The outcomes from the application of this framework by GBRMPA can be found in the report <u><i>Informing the Outlook for Great Barrier Reef Coastal Ecosystems</i></u> which can be accessed at http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/28257/Informing-the-Outlook-for-Great-Barrier-Reef-coastal-ecosystems.pdf</p>

Governance

GA1	Convene an intergovernmental operational committee comprising senior officials from the Australian, including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and Queensland governments to oversee implementation of the Plan, facilitate coordination of Reef-related activities and report annually to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.	DoE	<p>The role of the intergovernmental operational committee was adopted by the Great Barrier Reef Senior Committee of Officials on 14 May 2015. The Senior Committee of Officials supports the Ministerial Forum, and is comprised of senior officials from departments of members of the Ministerial Forum, as well as GBRMPA and the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet.</p> <p>The Senior Committee of Officials will oversee the implementation of the <i>Reef 2050 Plan</i> and report progress annually to the Ministerial Forum. These new responsibilities will be reflected in the updated <i>Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement</i>, which will be finalised in June 2015.</p> <p>The Senior Committee of Officials will provide an annual report to the Ministerial Forum on implementation of the Plan.</p>
GA2	Convene a multi-sectoral Reef advisory committee to facilitate engagement with Traditional Owners, industry and the broader community regarding implementation and review of the Plan.	DoE	<p>Terms of reference for the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee have been agreed and membership will include representatives from grazing, tourism, conservation, science and research, local government, ports, agriculture, resources and mining, commercial fishing, recreational fishing and natural resource management sectors, and Traditional Owners representatives.</p> <p>The Committee will provide advice on implementation of the Plan and the annual report from a community and sectoral perspective. Terms of Reference for the committee can be found at Attachment E. The committee will first meet in mid 2015 to discuss initial implementation of the Plan.</p>
GA3	Convene an independent expert panel with an independent chair to advise the intergovernmental operational committee regarding implementation and review of the Plan and associated Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program.	DoE	<p>An Independent Expert Panel was announced by Minister Hunt in March 2015. The panel is chaired by Australia's Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb and membership will include experts from the fields of agronomic and landscape processes, marine and freshwater biochemistry, ecology and modelling, water quality, ecosystem health, heritage, social and economic methodologies and information integration, synthesis, reporting and communication.</p> <p>The panel will provide advice on implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan from an expert and scientific perspective. Terms of reference for the committee can be found at Attachment F.</p>

GA4	<p>Convene a network to review, coordinate and align monitoring and reporting activities to inform development and operation of the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program.</p>	GBRMPA	<p>Engagement on the design of the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program with representatives from the research, modelling and monitoring community, relevant industries and community groups—together with all levels of government—has already occurred. The first meeting was held on 5 December 2014. The group is comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority [Chair] • Australian Government Department of the Environment • Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet • Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection • Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry • Queensland Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing • Australian Institute of Marine Science • CSIRO • James Cook University • Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence Integrated Coral Reef Studies • Reef & Rainforest Research Centre (National Environment Science Programme) • Great Barrier Reef Foundation (eReefs) • Integrated Marine Observing System • Australian Marine Park Tourism Operators • Queensland Seafood Industry Association • Queensland Ports Association • Natural Resource Management Bodies • Defence (Shoalwater Bay) • Recreational Fishers • Cane farmers • Cultural Systems Solutions. <p>A Steering Group is being established to oversee the appropriate design and operation of the program. Terms of Reference for the Steering Group can be found at Attachment G.</p>
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GA6	<p>As a priority the Queensland Government will consult with an advisory taskforce on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the best possible approach to achieving the 2025 targets for pollution run-off into the Great Barrier Reef the effectiveness and cost of robust regulations, a market-based trading mechanism, or a combination of both, in reducing pollution run-off — to report within a year of commencement. 	QLD	<p>The Queensland Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce was announced on 7 May 2015. The Taskforce Chaired by the Queensland Chief Scientist and comprised of experts drawn from the science, business, agriculture and community sectors. The Taskforce will provide an interim report by December 2015 and a final report by May 2016. Terms of Reference for the taskforce can be found at www.ehp.qld.gov.au</p>
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Attachment B: Actions to be completed by December 2015

The Australian and Queensland governments are committed to completing the below listed actions by December 2015.

Ecosystem health

ID	Action	Lead Agency	Outcome Description
EHA8	Develop a net benefit policy to restore ecosystem health, improve the condition of values and manage financial contributions to that recovery.	GBRMPA	A net benefit policy is being developed with a draft to be completed in 2015. The policy will guide decision making and actions required to deliver an overall net improvement in the condition of the values of the Great Barrier Reef. Net benefits will be focussed on actions to restore ecosystem health and resilience, as this is fundamental to protecting the Region's biodiversity and heritage values, and the community benefits they support.
EHA21	Protect greenfield areas by restricting new port development within and adjoining the World Heritage Area to within existing port limits fixed in regulation under the <i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i> (Qld).	QG	In 2015 the Queensland Government will introduce a Sustainable Ports Development Bill which will support the implementation of port-related actions outlined in the Reef 2050 Plan. This will include provision to restrict new port development within and adjoining the World Heritage Area to within existing port limits.

Water Quality

WQA14	Restrict capital dredging for the development of new or expansion of existing port facilities to within the regulated port limits of Gladstone, Hay Point/Mackay, Abbot Point and Townsville.	QG	In 2015 the Queensland Government will introduce a Sustainable Ports Development Bill which will support the implementation of port-related actions outlined in the Reef 2050 Plan. This will include provision to restrict capital dredging for the development of new or expansion of existing port facilities to within the regulated port limits of Gladstone, Hay Point/Mackay, Abbot Point and Townsville.
WQA18	In 2015 legislate to ban sea-based disposal of capital dredge material in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and in the balance of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area from port-related capital	QG/GBRMPA	It is the Australian Government's intention that the regulation to ban capital dredge material disposal in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park will come into effect before 30 June 2015. The regulation will be established under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 1983.

	dredging.		<p>The proposal is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Authority cannot grant a permission for conduct that includes dumping of capital dredge material in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. • The ban applies to existing permits for uncontained disposal of capital dredge material in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park where the permits have not yet expired. • The definition of dumping should not include the burying of a cable, pipeline or tunnel for the purposes of critical infrastructure for islands, for example those for water, telecommunications or electricity. <p>The proposal was put out for public comment in March 2015. Nearly 100 individual submissions and more than 7000 campaign emails were received.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will introduce a Sustainable Ports Development Bill which will support the implementation of port-related actions outlined in the Reef 2050 Plan. This will include provision to the sea-based disposal of capital dredge material from port related capital dredging in the balance of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, to complement the Commonwealth ban in relation to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.</p>
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Governance

GA7	When reviewing relevant agreements, policies, plans, strategies and programs ensure they support the Plan's outcomes and targets. For example:	All	This action is ongoing and will be implemented on an ad hoc basis, as relevant agreements, policies, plans, strategies and programs require revision. The annual report will provide details of relevant revisions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fund and support ongoing joint field management activities 	GBRMPA/QG	<p>The Field Management Program (the program) is responsible for planning and executing field operations in the Commonwealth (including Commonwealth islands) and Queensland state marine parks and on island national parks within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. These activities are delivered over an area of 348,000 square kilometres that stretches approximately 2,300 kilometres in length and contains over 1050 islands.</p> <p>The program contributes to the resilience of the World Heritage Area in the face of current and emerging threats, including climate change impacts. Traditional Owner engagement and involvement in field management is an intrinsic part of program</p>

			<p>delivery.</p> <p>The Australian and Queensland governments have forecast resourcing, with annual allocations subject to confirmation and normal budget processes of both governments. The anticipated funding will remain at about \$17million each year for the next five years.</p> <p>Delivery of the program is principally through the GBRMPA and the Queensland Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing, with contributions from other Australian and Queensland government agencies, particularly in the area of compliance.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> create a Great Barrier Reef Plan Register with all management plans recorded to simplify understanding of management arrangements 	GBRMPA	<p>Both the Australian and Queensland governments have direct legislative responsibilities within the Great Barrier Reef Region and work in partnership to protect and manage the region - formalised through the <i>Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009</i>.</p> <p>The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is established by the <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975</i> and is the Australian Government agency responsible for management of the Marine Park. The <i>Great Barrier Reef Zoning Plan 2003</i> is the primary spatial planning instrument for the conservation and management of the Marine Park.</p> <p>Jurisdictional boundaries and management of threats to the Reef from outside the Marine Park mean a range of Australian, Queensland and local government agencies have responsibilities that may impact on the Reef. In 2015 GBRMPA will bring together a register of management plans which outlines these management responsibilities.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop a policy guideline for decision makers on how to take into account the vision, outcomes, objectives and targets in this Plan in relevant decision making 	DoE	<p>The policy guideline will be relevant to all officers making decisions under the EPBC Act, GBRMPA Act and relevant Queensland legislation. It will provide a practical guidance on implementing the principles in decision making outlined in the Reef 2050 Plan. A major milestone in the project will be the release of the draft guideline for public comment.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support cross-cultural training in relation to Traditional Owner culture 	GBRMPA	<p>The GBRMPA will be leading discussions with Traditional Owners in order to determine how to implement Traditional Owner focused action items. An update on</p>

	and perspectives.		progress will be provided in the annual report.
GA8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009 to explicitly include Outstanding Universal Value. 	DoE	The Australian and Queensland governments are working together to update the <i>Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement</i> to explicitly include Outstanding Universal Value. The Agreement is expected to be finalised in June 2015 and will be endorsed by the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Queensland.
GA9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan as a schedule to the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009. 	DoE	The Reef 2050 Plan will be appended to the <i>Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement</i> via the process described at GA8 above.
GA13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an investment baseline and associated investment framework to inform future delivery of actions under the Plan. 	DoE	<p>An investment baseline describing public and private investment in Reef activities for 14/15 is being developed and will be completed in June 2015.</p> <p>The investment baseline will complete phase one of the investment framework, and will be used to inform phase two investment prioritisation, described in further detail at section 3.</p>

Attachment C: Ongoing actions to be reported in the first Annual Report

The following actions are ongoing, and progress will be described in the first annual report due in mid 2016. Those actions that will be delivered through programs such as the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and Reef Trust can be identified by the inclusion of the program names in the action.

Ecosystem health

ID	Action	Lead Agency	Report on Progress
EHA7	Prioritise functional ecosystems critical to Reef health in each region for their protection, restoration and management.	GBRMPA	<p>GBRMPA is leading the development of the suite of coastal ecosystem tools. Partners include the Queensland Wetlands Program, Local government, Natural Resource Management organisations, and GBRMPA's Local Marine Advisory Committees. Local councils are investigating opportunities to incorporate the findings into the development of local government planning.</p> <p>Work to date has delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suite of coastal ecosystem tools (basin assessments, management case studies, connectivity mapping (blue mapping) and ecological calculator) that can be used to identify and prioritise areas for improvement in the functioning of, and connectivity between, coastal and marine systems; • Basin assessments in 12 of the 35 Great Barrier Reef basins and six case studies looking at a range of coastal ecosystem management issues, including connectivity mapping, regional, urban and water planning and pollutants. These provide a benchmark for coastal ecosystems and their management. • Connectivity maps for the Great Barrier Reef catchment which identifies the spatial and temporal links in the catchment that link the coastal ecosystem services to the Great Barrier Reef. • A partnership with Natural Resource Management groups to implement the ecological calculator through Wet Tropics, Mackay-Whitsunday, Burdekin Dry Tropics and Burnett Mary NRM plans. The ecological calculator is a method for identifying regionally significant coastal ecosystem ecosystem functions and processes for the Great Barrier Reef to prioritise protection, restoration and management effort. • These tools are being used in the development of regional Water Quality Improvement Plans which will guide investment in on-ground actions for

			protection, restoration and management of coastal ecosystems critical for Reef health.
EHA10	Improve connectivity and resilience through protection, restoration and management of Reef priority coastal ecosystems including islands through innovative and cost-effective measures.	QG	<p>Work undertaken to implement this action will include the development of extent and condition indicators for coastal riparian vegetation and natural wetlands, and a strategy developed to prevent further loss and to improve condition.</p> <p>Identifying priority locations for improving connectivity and resilience through protection, restoration and management</p>
EHA12	Reduce crown of thorns starfish outbreaks by continuing to improve water quality and undertaking a targeted control program as needed Improve integration and effectiveness of crown of thorns starfish research and management	GBRMPA	<p>The Australian Government has invested more than \$9 million since June 2012, to protect coral cover from active crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks in the Cairns/Cooktown region and support the viability of a \$5.1billion per annum tourism industry.</p> <p>GBRMPA works in partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the Reef and Rainforest Research Council and the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators to conduct a targeted crown-of-thorns starfish surveillance and control activities on reefs.</p> <p>The control program has culled more than 350,000 crown-of-thorns starfish including the single largest aggregation comprising 27,000 individuals at Arlington Reef (near Cairns).The data to date has shown that average coral cover has been maintained at 39 per cent (well above the critical level of 14 per cent) at the majority (88 per cent) of the 139 control sites, demonstrating resilience outcomes for coral reefs are achievable through direct crown-of-thorns starfish control.</p>
EHA14	Implement ecosystem health initiatives through the Reef Trust investment strategy.	DoE	There are a number of existing ecosystem health initiatives currently being undertaken through the Reef Trust initiative, including crown-of-thorns starfish control and marine debris programs. The status of these initiatives, along with any new initiatives announced, will be included in the annual report.
EHA18	Avoid, mitigate or offset impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems to restore Reef resilience and ecosystem health.	All	<p>GBRMPA is developing guidelines for the application of Great Barrier Reef offsets to maintain or improve the condition of the Marine Park, with a draft to be completed in 2015. This action is closely linked to EHA8 and the delivery of a Net Benefit Policy by GBRMPA.</p> <p>Offsets and net benefits will be applied in the avoid-mitigate-offset-net benefit-</p>

			<p>adaptive management hierarchy.</p> <p>Offsets will only be considered in circumstances where all reasonable avoidance and mitigation measures have been applied and where residual impacts will not exceed relevant environmental standards, including thresholds for ecosystem health. Offsets will be required to apply to all residual impacts.</p>
EHA22	<p>Protect the Fitzroy Delta, including North Curtis Island and Keppel Bay, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extension and strengthened conservation zoning in the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park extension of the existing Fish Habitat area establishment of a new net-free zone under fisheries legislation <p>additional protections in associated intertidal and terrestrial areas</p>	QG	<p>The Queensland Government has committed to closing three areas to commercial fishing by introducing net free zones near Cairns, Mackay and in the area from Yeppoon south to the Fitzroy River. Up to \$10 million will be committed to this initiative. The government has also committed to protect the Fitzroy Delta, including North Curtis Island and Keppel Bay, by extension and strengthened conservation zoning in the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park; extension of the existing Fish Habitat Area; and establishment of additional protections in associated intertidal and terrestrial areas.</p>
EHA25	<p>Ensure Great Barrier Reef ports planning incorporates evidence-based measures to support protection, restoration and management of coastal ecosystems that contribute to Reef health and resilience.</p>	QG	<p>The Queensland Government will conduct a port master planning process for the priority ports of Gladstone, Abbot Point, Mackay/Hay Point and Townsville. The process will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a proposed master planning boundary for each priority port Developing an economic and environmental vision for each priority port Determining key interface matters that need to be addressed within the master planning area to achieve the economic and environmental vision Developing a regulatory instrument (called a port interest overlay) to give statutory affect about how interface matters will be dealt with consistently across the master planning area Developing Environmental Management Frameworks for the master planning areas in support of the environmental vision
EHA30	<p>Incorporate condition and resilience indicators for ecosystem health in the</p>	GBRMPA	<p>GBRMPA is leading, and providing secretariat support, for a steering group to review, coordinate and align monitoring and reporting activities to inform the development</p>

	Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program.		<p>and operation of the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program.</p> <p>There are currently over 65 monitoring programs operating in the Great Barrier Reef. Through the steering group, managing agencies and monitoring partners will coordinate, share and better align information gathered to management needs. This will enable adoption of best available information into management decisions and will be integral to monitoring and evaluating the success of the Reef 2050 Plan.</p> <p>Steering group meetings were held in December 2014 and February 2015.</p> <p>An Implementation Plan has been developed which includes the formation of three working groups to progress identified tasks and work packages. The working groups will commence in May/June 2015 with a focus on: Program Design; Synthesis and Reporting; Data Systems and Management.</p>
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Biodiversity

BA5	Further develop and implement dugong and turtle protection plans using the Reef Trust and associated initiatives.	DoE	<p>The dugong and turtle protection plan has a number of elements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting an Australian Crime Commission investigation into the poaching and transportation of turtle and dugong meat • Delivering a Specialised Indigenous Ranger Programme for marine conservation through strengthened enforcement and compliance in Queensland and the Torres Strait • Delivering marine debris clean-up initiatives • Supporting the Cairns and Fitzroy Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre to rehabilitate sick and injured turtles and return them to the marine environment • Working with Indigenous leaders towards voluntary 'no take' agreements • Developing a National Dugong and Turtle Protection Strategy (including a Marine Turtle Recovery Plan and guidelines for actions that may impact on turtles, dugong and seagrass habitat) • Introduction of legislation to triple penalties for poaching and illegal transportation of turtle and dugong meat (action completed February 2015) • The status of these elements will be reported annually until their completion
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			in 2017.
BA22	Continue implementation of the Raine Island Recovery project	GBRMPA/QG	<p>The Raine Island Recovery Project aims to conserve and maintain Raine Island as a viable green turtle breeding site and a viable seabird nesting and feeding site, and facilitating sustainable populations of those species</p> <p>It is delivered by a multi-agency team involving Queensland Environment and Heritage Protection, National Parks Sport and Racing and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, supported further by funding from the Department of the Environment and the Torres Strait Regional Authority.</p> <p>Outcomes to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dramatic reduction in the mortality of nesting green turtles that topple over exposed cliffs and die from exposure; • An increase in hatching success (a key measure of turtle beach productivity) from an average of only 25% in control areas to 45% in the trial area; • Improved understanding and interpretation of annual weather patterns, changes in the flora and fauna at the island. Information on weather, tide, wave height, water table and island topography is now collected automatically and, in the future, may be used to count nesting green turtles and seabirds; and • Safe anchorage for service and support vessels.

Water Quality

WQA2	Continue improvement in water quality from broadscale land use through implementation of Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013 actions.	DoE/QG	The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan is a collaborative program of the Australian and Queensland governments. Outcomes against the plan are delivered through coordinated projects and partnerships designed to improve the quality of water in the Great Barrier Reef through improved land management in reef catchments. Its primary focus is improving the quality of water entering the Reef through reducing diffuse source pollution from broadscale land use. A number of projects are currently underway as part of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan including water quality grants and partnerships, and systems repair and urban water planning grants. Progress on implementation of the Plan will be provided in the annual report.
WQA4	Implement innovative management approaches through the Reef Trust for improving water quality.	DoE	<p>There are many existing water quality initiatives currently being undertaken through the Reef Trust initiative, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gully erosion control in priority grazing landscapes • Wet Tropics Reef Trust Tender • Promotion of A-class grazing and management practices in the Burdekin and Fitzroy • Gully erosion control in priority grazing landscapes • Burdekin Reef Trust Tender • <p>The status of these initiatives, along with any new initiatives announced, will be included in the annual report.</p>
WQA16	<p>Develop a State-wide coordinated maintenance dredging strategy which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies each port's historical dredging volumes and likely future requirements and limits • identifies appropriate environmental windows to avoid coral spawning, seagrass recruitment, turtle breeding and 	QG	Queensland is currently developing the Terms of Reference for a consultancy that will identify, for each Queensland port, the relevant information required to develop a State-wide maintenance dredging strategy including dredging requirements, forecast dredge material volumes, relevant environmental windows, suitable on-land disposal sites etc. The consultancy will be required to consult with ports, scientific agencies such as the Australia Institute of Marine Science, Commonwealth and State regulatory agencies such as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Maritime Safety Queensland, port user groups and community organisations.

	<p>weather events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examines opportunities for the beneficial reuse of dredge material or on-land disposal from maintenance activities establishes requirements for risk-based monitoring programs. 		
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Economic Benefits

EBA4	Adopt the best practice principles identified in the Gladstone Independent Review reports and integrate into port planning and development.	QG	<p>The Queensland Government will conduct a port master planning process for the priority ports of Gladstone, Abbot Point, Mackay/Hay Point and Townsville, which will integrate the best practice principles identified in the Gladstone Independent Review. The process will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a proposed master planning boundary for each priority port Developing an economic and environmental vision for each priority port Determining key interface matters that need to be addressed within the master planning area to achieve the economic and environmental vision Developing a regulatory instrument (called a port interest overlay) to give statutory affect about how interface matters will be dealt with consistently across the master planning area Developing Environmental Management Frameworks for the master planning areas in support of the environmental vision
EBA11	Continue to refine and improve guidance and procedural requirements for avoiding, mitigating and offsetting impacts to the Reef from industry activities using standardised policies, procedures and guidelines.	GBRMPA	<p>Avoid, mitigate, offset guidelines are being developed with a draft to be completed in 2015. They are intended to provide guidance on the application of offsets and delivery of actions that will result in a 'net environmental benefit' or improvement in condition of the Great Barrier Reef Region's values.</p> <p>Offsets, and net benefits (refer EHA8), will be applied in the context of the avoid-mitigate-offset adaptive management hierarchy for the management of impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highest priority is given to avoiding impacts; Potential impacts that cannot be avoided must be minimised;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offsets will only be considered where impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated and where residual impacts will not exceed standards or thresholds for ecosystem health; • Net benefits will be required to deliver an overall improvement in the condition of the Great Barrier Reef; and <p>Adaptive management is critical to ensuring the maintenance and enhancement of the Great Barrier Reef over time.</p>
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Governance

GA10	Work with Traditional Owners, industry, regional bodies, local governments, research institutions, and the community to inform delivery of local and regional actions.	All	<p>Encouraging engagement in the protection and management of the Reef is one of the objects of the <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975</i>. This creates a strong foundation for maintaining a balance between protecting the Reef, managing competing demands and supporting sustainable use.</p> <p>GBRMPA will continue to work with Traditional Owners, the community, business, industry and government to influence best practice and find pragmatic solutions to achieve the long-term protection of the Reef, including through our:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee; • Tourism Reef Advisory Committee; • Local Marine Advisory Committees; • Reef Guardian schools, Councils, farmers, fishers and graziers; • Reef recovery program - involving adoption of regionalised cooperative management approaches; • Eye on the Reef program; • Education and community awareness programs; and • International engagement and capacity building activities.
GA12	Prioritise and develop specific implementation plans and reporting protocols addressing the Plan's targets and actions in consultation with the community.	DoE	The development of specific implementation plans will commence in 2015 through consultation with the multi-sectoral Reef 2050 Advisory Committee. Progress will be updated through the annual report.

GA14	Develop, implement and maintain mechanisms and policies to enhance investment in delivering on-ground activities based on good science and evidence that support the Plan's outcomes and targets. These will contribute to a net benefit policy to ensure the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the Reef is maintained or enhanced.	All	<p>Through the <i>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975</i>, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) has a clear and long-standing responsibility to protect and manage the Great Barrier Reef. Over the past three decades, GBRMPA has established a strong and comprehensive set of management arrangements to protect the Reef and adapted them in response to emerging issues and improved understanding.</p> <p>GBRMPA's comprehensive management program builds on the strong foundational management arrangements already in place to protect biodiversity and heritage values and provide for ecologically sustainable use. Ensuring the best available knowledge is captured and used to inform management decisions is a key strategy.</p> <p>GBRMPA's development of a net benefit policy was a recommendation of the Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment and has been confirmed as a priority in the Reef 2050 Plan – refer EHA8.</p>
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Attachment D: Intergovernmental operational committee Terms of Reference

Extended role of the Standing Committee of Officials as the Reef 2050 Plan intergovernmental operational committee

1. Background

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is special to all Australians and has been recognised globally for its Outstanding Universal Value. The Australian and Queensland Governments are committed to its protection and management.

The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) is the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef from 2015 to 2050. The Plan is a key component of the Australian Government's response to the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The Reef 2050 Plan has seven overarching themes reflecting the priorities for action — ecosystem health, biodiversity, heritage, water quality, community benefits, economic benefits and governance.

The Reef 2050 Plan draws together a number of key Australian and Queensland Government initiatives including the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and Reef Trust.

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum's role, which is established under the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement, signed by the Prime Minister of Australia and the Queensland Premier, is to provide an integrated and collaborative approach by the Commonwealth and Queensland to the management of marine and land environments within and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The *Reef 2050 Plan* includes an action to:

'Convene an intergovernmental operational committee comprising senior officials from the Australian, including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and Queensland governments to oversee implementation of the Plan, facilitate coordination of Reef-related activities and report annually to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum' (action GA1)

Given the membership of the Standing Committee of Officials meets these requirements, and this group already has a role in coordinating Reef-related activities, the Standing Committee has agreed to take on the role of the intergovernmental operational committee.

Schedule B of the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement* outlines the role of the Standing Committee, and will be updated to reflect this new role and the expanded membership. Operation of the Standing Committee remains unchanged. The additional intergovernmental operational committee responsibilities of the Standing Committee are outlined below.

2. Role

The Standing Committee of Officials facilitates coordination of Reef-related activities through its existing role to:

'Identify and assess strategic matters requiring joint policy development or coordination, relating to the long-term protection and conservation of the environment, biodiversity and heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef, including its Outstanding Universal Value' (Schedule B of the GBR Intergovernmental Agreement).

As agreed at the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee of Officials, this Committee also operates as the intergovernmental operational committee as outlined in the Reef 2050 Plan with the expanded responsibilities of:

- Preparing an annual report on the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan to submit to the Ministerial Forum.
- Providing the Ministerial Forum with an update on implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan where the annual report is not being presented.
- Highlighting critical items regarding the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan to the attention of the Ministerial Forum members out-of-session where necessary.
- Coordinating a review and update of the Reef 2050 Plan every five years, with a mid-cycle review in 2018.
- Considering the advice of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee and Independent Expert Panel in relation to:
 - Developing the annual report;
 - Reviewing and updating the Reef 2050 Plan;
 - Developing and updating Implementation Strategies for the Reef 2050 Plan;
 - Developing or reviewing other relevant Reef 2050 Plan implementation activities, as decided by the Ministerial Forum.

Membership

2.1. Chair

The Standing Committee of Officials is chaired by an official from the Department of the Chair of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.

2.2. Members

Membership of the Standing Committee of Officials includes senior officials from the departments of members of the Ministerial Forum, as well as from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and other relevant government departments. Membership when considering matters related to the Reef 2050 Plan includes:

- Australian Government Department of the Environment
- Australian Government Department of Agriculture
- Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Queensland Government Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
- Queensland Government Department of State Development
- Queensland Government Department of Natural Resources and Mines
- Queensland Government Department of Local Government Infrastructure and Planning
- Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Queensland Government Department of National Parks Sport and Racing
- Queensland Government Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games.
- Queensland Government Department of Transport and Main Roads

Appointment process

Members of the Standing Committee of Officials are nominated by their respective agencies.

3. Operation

The Standing Committee of Officials will meet as required to consider matters related to the Reef 2050 Plan, but at least twice a year.

Alternates or proxies will be permitted with the approval of the Chair. Senior officials of other Commonwealth and Queensland departments and agencies may be co-opted onto the Committee from time to time by agreement of Committee members.

3.1. Establishment of working groups

Working groups will be permitted for the following matters:

- Reef 2050 implementation group
- Reef Water Quality Protection Plan

The implementation working group will review, provide direction and develop activities associated with the implementation of the Plan to ensure objectives are met in a timely manner and to a high standard.

The water quality working group will provide advice to support the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (as per the existing Reef Water Quality Protection Plan IOC).

Other working groups related to the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan may be established only if agreed by the Standing Committee of Officials and as outlined in the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement.

4. Reporting

In addition to the reporting outlined in the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement, the Standing Committee of Officials will provide an annual report to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan.

5. Secretariat

The Secretariat for the Ministerial Forum and Standing Committee of Officials will be provided by the portfolio department of the Chair of the Ministerial Forum.

Secretariat support for the working groups established to implement and deliver the Reef 2050 Plan will be provided by a joint Secretariat from the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection .

The Secretariat will maintain records for the committee, circulate agendas, papers and minutes.

Reef 2050 Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

1. Background

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is special to all Australians and has been recognised globally for its Outstanding Universal Value. The Australian and Queensland Governments are committed to its protection and management.

The Reef 2050 Plan is the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef from 2015 to 2050. The Plan is a key component of the Australian Government's response to the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. It addresses the findings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Outlook Report 2014 and builds on the comprehensive strategic assessment of the World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone.

The Reef 2050 Plan has seven overarching themes reflecting the priorities for action — ecosystem health, biodiversity, heritage, water quality, community benefits, economic benefits and governance.

The Reef 2050 Plan draws together a number of key Australian and Queensland Government initiatives including the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and Reef Trust.

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum's role, which is established under the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement, signed by the Prime Minister of Australia and the Queensland Premier, to ensure an integrated and collaborative approach by the Commonwealth and Queensland to the management of marine and land environments within and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee is to facilitate engagement with industry and the broader community on the implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Plan. It may also be asked to provide advice on other Reef matters including the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, Reef Trust, and other initiatives (including advice to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority where requested).

3. Role

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will provide advice to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on strategic Reef policy matters.

It will have a particular focus on implementation and ongoing review of the Reef 2050 Plan, including providing strategic advice on:

- implementation of Reef 2050 Plan actions;
- Reef policy issues that require collaborative action across sectors;
- investment approaches and linkages across multiple investment sources;
- communication and engagement plans to ensure information is provided to the community;
- stakeholders priorities for Reef research and monitoring;
- reviews of the Reef 2050 Plan at five yearly intervals, the first due in 2020.

In doing so, the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will seek to ensure continued momentum and focus on water quality improvement through the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee may also be called upon to provide advice to the Australian Government on matters relating to the Reef Trust and to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on matters relating to its management program.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will also provide advice on other matters as requested by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum or the Standing Committee of Officials.

4. Membership

4.1 Chair

The Chair is independent and is appointed by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.

The Chair will convene meetings and report on behalf of the committee to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.

The Chair will attend meetings of the Ministerial Forum on a regular basis to report directly to Ministers on stakeholder feedback on implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan.

4.2 Members

Members will include senior representatives from:

- Traditional Owner groups in the Great Barrier Reef
- AgForce
- Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators (AMPTO)
- Australian Committee of IUCN (ACIUCN)
- Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)
- CareFish
- CSIRO
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Local Marine Advisory Committees
- Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)
- Queensland Ports Association
- Queensland Conservation Council (QCC)
- Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF)
- Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)
- Queensland Resources Council (QRC)
- Regional Natural Resource Management Groups Collective
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF-Australia)
- Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF)

The Australian and Queensland Governments will be observers on the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee.

4.3 Appointment process

Organisations will be asked by the Secretariat to nominate senior representatives to participate in the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee.

5. Operation

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will meet as required, but at least twice a year. The Committee is encouraged to hold a joint meeting with the Independent Expert Panel once a year to share experiences and knowledge and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Alternates or proxies may be permitted where approved by the Chair.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will provide a forum for representatives of government, key organisations and interest groups to discuss and resolve issues, and, as far as possible, should aim to reach consensus on matters.

The Chair and members of the Committee will declare actual or perceived conflicts of interest; fairly represent the interests of their sector, provide advice in their areas of expertise to deliver management solutions, commit to finding common ground in implementation of actions for the benefit of the Great Barrier Reef and provide constructive guidance to support the secretariat.

Members will be reimbursed for reasonable costs associated with travel and accommodation but will not be remunerated for their participation.

The Chair will be eligible for sitting fees in accordance with the Australian Government's Remuneration Tribunal recommendation for Committee members of Cooperative Research Centres (currently \$1,117 for the Chair).

Meeting agendas will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair and circulated to members at least one week in advance of meetings.

Any business transacted in the meetings including findings, conclusions and proposed recommendations prior to its release for public review or prior to endorsement by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum is strictly confidential unless otherwise stated.

5.1 Establishment of working groups

Working groups may be established for particular matters where approved by the Standing Committee of Officials.

A standing working group will be permitted for the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will nominate members to the working groups. The Chair of the working groups will be agreed by the Standing Committee of Officials.

6. Reporting

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will report, through the independent chair, to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum at least twice a year and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as requested.

The Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will also consider and provide advice to the Standing Committee of Officials on implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

It may provide advice on other matters including membership and terms of reference for working groups or undertake other tasks as requested by the Standing Committee of Officials.

Working groups will be required to report back to the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee.

7. Secretariat

Secretariat support will be provided by a joint Secretariat from the Australian Government Department of Environment and Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Costs for the Secretariat and the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee will be shared by the two governments.

The Secretariat will maintain records for the committee and its working groups, circulate agendas, papers and minutes.

Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel

Terms of Reference

1. Background

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is special to all Australians and has been recognised globally for its Outstanding Universal Value. The Australian and Queensland governments are committed to its protection and management.

The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) is the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef from 2015 to 2050. The Plan is a key component of the Australian Government's response to the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The Reef 2050 Plan has seven overarching themes reflecting the priorities for action — ecosystem health, biodiversity, heritage, water quality, community benefits, economic benefits and governance.

The Reef 2050 Plan addresses the findings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Outlook Report 2014 and builds on the comprehensive strategic environmental assessment of the World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone completed in 2014. The Plan focuses on developing Reef health and resilience in the face of a variable and changing climate.

The Reef 2050 Plan draws together a number of key Australian and Queensland Government initiatives including the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and Reef Trust.

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum's role, which is established under the Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement, signed by the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premier of Queensland is to ensure an integrated and collaborative approach by the Commonwealth and Queensland to the management of marine and land environments within and adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The forum actively seeks advice from stakeholder groups and the science community on management of the Great Barrier Reef.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Independent Expert Panel is to provide scientific advice related to the Great Barrier Reef, including to support implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Plan, Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, Reef Trust, and other matters, as requested, such as regional report card partnerships.

3. Role

The Independent Expert Panel will provide advice to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on Reef science matters as outlined below.

3.1 Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan

The Independent Expert Panel will advise the Australian and Queensland Governments on implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Plan, including its objectives and targets, knowledge gaps and science priorities for delivery. This will include:

- Providing expert advice on the achievement and review of targets and objectives;
- Providing scientific input into review of the Reef 2050 Plan implementation strategy;
- Providing scientific input into development of the Reef 2050 Plan investment framework, and the prioritisation of actions;
- Conducting scientific reviews where requested by the Ministerial Forum or Standing Committee of Officials;

- Providing advice on research and monitoring priorities;
- Providing advice on science communication activities to be delivered to ensure appropriate communication of reef science matters and implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan to both technical and non-technical audiences;
- Providing advice on integrated monitoring and reporting to ensure outcomes of investment can be measured and reported over time;
- Providing advice on emerging scientific matters related to the Great Barrier Reef, where requested by the Ministerial Forum or the Standing Committee of Officials;
- Providing input into the five yearly reviews of the Reef 2050 Plan, the first due in 2020.

3.2 Reef Trust

The Panel will also advise the Australian Government Minister for the Environment on funding priorities for the Reef Trust, which may include:

- improving the quality of water entering the Reef;
- improving the health and resilience of coastal habitat; and
- improving and protecting marine biodiversity, including the reduction of crown-of-thorns starfish and protection of listed threatened and migratory species.

Funding for projects may only be debited from the **Reef Trust 2014 Special Account** in accordance with the terms of the *PGPA Act (Reef Trust Special Account 2014) Determination 01* (the Determination) made by the Finance Minister - available here: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2014L01218> as updated or amended from time to time.

It will have regard to cost-effective delivery and innovative mechanisms for the disbursement of funds. Wherever possible, the Panel will take into account Reef investment priorities being considered in the Great Barrier Reef World heritage Area by other bodies, including the Queensland Government.

4. Membership

4.1 Chair

The Chair is independent and is appointed by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.

The inaugural chair of the Panel is the Australian Government Chief Scientist.

The Chair will convene meetings and report on behalf of the committee to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.

The Chair will attend meetings of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum on a regular basis to report directly to ministers on scientific and technical matters related to implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan.

4.2 Members

The Independent Expert Panel will have a skills-based membership which will provide a cross-section of scientific expertise in areas relevant to managing the impacts on the Great Barrier Reef.

The Independent Expert Panel may include members with expertise in the following areas:

- Agronomic and landscape processes;
- Marine and freshwater biochemistry, ecology and modelling;
- Ecosystem health and biodiversity;
- Water quality
- Target-setting and monitoring;

- Information integration, synthesis, reporting and communication;
- Coastal ecosystems and connectivity
- Traditional knowledge;
- Social and economic methodologies; and
- Heritage.

Other expertise may be co-opted as required. Officials from the Australian and Queensland governments will be observers to the Independent Expert Panel.

4.3 Appointment process

Members of the Independent Expert Panel will be appointed by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.

5. Operation

The Independent Expert Panel will meet as required, but at least twice a year. The Independent Expert Panel is encouraged to hold a joint meeting with the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee once a year to share experiences and knowledge and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Alternates or proxies will not be permitted. Additional observers with particular expertise may be invited as needed.

The Chair and members of the Independent Expert Panel will declare actual or perceived conflicts of interest; apply good analytical skills, objectivity and judgment; express opinions frankly; and ask questions that go to the fundamental core of an issue.

Members will be reimbursed for reasonable costs associated with travel and accommodation. Non-government members will be eligible for sitting fees in accordance with the Australian Government's Remuneration Tribunal recommendation for Committee members of Cooperative Research Centres (currently \$1,117 for the Chair and \$922 per member per day).

Meeting agendas will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair and circulated to members at least one week in advance of meetings.

Any business transacted in the meetings including findings, conclusions and proposed recommendations prior to its release for public review or prior to endorsement by the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum is strictly confidential unless otherwise stated.

5.1 Establishment of working groups

Working groups may be established for particular matters where approved by the Standing Committee of Officials.

A standing working group will be permitted for the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

The Reef Water Quality Protection Plan Working Group will support the Panel in relation to providing advice on the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and the Reef Trust. To help facilitate a nested approach to monitoring and reporting within the Great Barrier Reef, the water quality working group may also be asked to provide advice to regional monitoring partnerships (such as the Mackay Whitsunday Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership) as requested by the Standing Committee of Officials.

The Independent Expert Panel will nominate members to the working groups. The Chair of the working groups will be agreed by the Standing Committee of Officials.

All requests for advice to other partnerships must be accompanied by a separate Terms of Reference that includes provision for remuneration of non-government members. These requests must be approved by the Standing Committee of Officials, who will have regard for:

- the potential benefits of providing advice for integrating water quality monitoring and reporting processes and products
- any other potential benefits for water quality outcomes.

6. Reporting

The Independent Expert Panel will report, through the independent chair, to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum at least twice a year on those matters relating to the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan.

The Independent Expert Panel will also consider and provide advice to the Australian Government on matters relating to the Reef Trust.

It may provide advice on other matters including membership and terms of reference for working groups or undertake other tasks as requested by the Standing Committee of Officials.

Working groups will be required to report back to the Independent Expert Panel.

7. Secretariat

Secretariat support will be provided by a joint Secretariat from the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Those matters relating to the Reef Trust will be supported by the Australian Government Department of the Environment.

Costs for the Secretariat and the Independent Expert Panel will be shared by the Australian and Queensland governments.

The Secretariat will maintain records for the committee and its working groups, circulate agendas, papers and minutes.

Attachment G: Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program Steering Group Terms of Reference

Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program Steering Group

Terms of Reference

1. Background

The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is special to all Australians and has been recognised globally for its Outstanding Universal Value. The Australian and Queensland Governments are committed to its protection and management.

The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) is the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef from 2015 to 2050. The Plan is a key component of the Australian Government's response to the recommendations of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The Reef 2050 Plan has seven overarching themes reflecting the priorities for action — ecosystem health, biodiversity, heritage, water quality, community benefits, economic benefits and governance.

The Reef 2050 Plan addresses the findings of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Outlook Report 2014 and builds on the comprehensive strategic environmental assessment of the World Heritage Area and adjacent coastal zone completed in 2014. The Plan focuses on developing Reef health and resilience in the face of a variable and changing climate.

The Reef 2050 Plan draws together a number of key Australian and Queensland Government initiatives including the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and Reef Trust.

The Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program is integral to the success of the Reef 2050 Plan. It will inform governments, public and the international community about whether the Plan is on track to maintaining and improving the condition of the Reef's values and will also enable timely and suitable responses by Reef managers and partners to emerging issues and risks. It will also help facilitate more strategic targeting of resources to the key pressures impacting the Reef's values.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program Steering Group (the Steering Group) is to guide the development and operation of an effective, Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Reef 2050 Plan. The Program will measure and report progress towards achieving the outcomes, objectives and targets, and guide adaptive management.

3. Role

The Steering Group will provide advice to the Ministerial Forum on monitoring and reporting requirements for the Great Barrier Reef (this includes monitoring of activities in the catchments as they relate to the Great Barrier Reef such as runoff).

Reef 2050 Plan

The Steering Group will help support the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan, by:

- Steering the establishment of the Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program, building upon and integrating the existing monitoring and reporting systems.
- Ensuring robust design of the program in a way that achieves the requirements of the Reef 2050 Plan;

- Ensuring the program meets the needs of different audiences and end users (eg international community, local community, managers, stakeholders and monitoring delivery agents);
- Agreeing on the synthesis and reporting products that will suit the purposes of the Reef 2050 Plan and other needs (eg Outlook Report, Reef Report Card, regional report cards);
- Promoting consistency in methods and approaches across the GBR to better facilitate integration of data collected by different partners and to provide better reporting of trends over time;
- Exploring ways of better incorporating citizen science;
- Identifying and implementing a data management for the Program that can help facilitate integration of existing datasets stored in multiple locations.

4. Membership

4.1 Chair

The Steering Group will be co-chaired by the Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Director General responsible for the Queensland Government delivery of the Reef 2050 Plan (currently the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection).

4.2 Members

Other members of the Steering Group will include senior officials from:

- the Australian Government Department of the Environment,
- Australian Institute of Marine Science
- CSIRO
- James Cook University and
- the Integrated Marine Observing System
- Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation
- Department of Natural Resources and Mines

5. Operation

The Steering Group will meet as required and agreed by the Group, but at least twice per year.

Alternates or proxies will be permitted by agreement of the Co-chairs. Senior officials and experts from the member agencies may be co-opted onto the Group from time to time by agreement of the members.

5.1 Establishment of working groups

Working groups will be formed to address aspects of program establishment including program design, Synthesis and reporting as well as data systems and management where approved by the Standing Committee of Officials.

A network of organisations who use or generate monitoring data or reporting products will advise on the initial development of the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program. This group will meet approximately once per year to review progress and provide advice to the Steering Group.

Working groups will be required to report back to the Steering Group.

6. Reporting

The Steering Group will report through the co-chairs, to the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.

Outputs from the group may be reviewed by the Reef 2050 Independent Expert Panel.

The Steering Group may provide advice on other matters including membership and terms of reference for working groups or undertake other tasks as requested by the Standing Committee of Officials.

7. Secretariat

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will provide secretariat support for the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program Steering Group. The Secretariat will maintain records for the Group and any sub groups, circulate agendas, papers and minutes.