



Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: IPNRC@parliament.qld.gov.au

The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee inquiry into the Planning Bills 2015

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority thanks the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee (the Committee) for the opportunity to provide comment in support of its inquiry into the Planning Bills 2015 (the Bills).

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems with a rich mosaic of environmental, social, economic and heritage values that are universally recognised as an amazing natural treasure. In addition to its Outstanding Universal Value as a World Heritage Area, the Reef is vitally important to communities and industries that depend on a healthy reef for recreation and livelihoods.

The Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014 found that the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem is under pressure, primarily from climate change, poor water quality from land-based run-off, impacts from coastal development and some forms of fishing. Even with recent management initiatives to reduce pressures and improve resilience, the overall outlook for the Reef is poor, has worsened since 2009 and is expected to further deteriorate in the future. The emerging success of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan in reducing land-based run-off to the Reef is encouraging, but we are far from meeting our targets and much more needs to be done. More than ever, a focus on building resilience by reducing all pressures on the Reef is important in protecting the ecosystem and its Outstanding Universal Value.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority supports the development of ecologically sustainable industries in the Great Barrier Reef and its catchment on the understanding that these industries commit to playing their key role in ensuring that Australia meets the targets and objectives described in the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan)*.

The *Reef 2050 Plan* is a schedule to the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009* which was updated in June 2015 and signed by the Prime Minister and the Premier of Queensland. The *Reef 2050 Plan* vision 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 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority encourages the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to examine how the inquiry into the Planning Bills could assist the Queensland Government in achieving the *Reef 2050 Plan* vision, and in meeting the specific targets and objectives described across seven themes, including water quality.

The Australian and Queensland governments are jointly developing a *Reef 2050 Plan — Policy guideline for decision makers*. This guideline will provide a step-by-step approach for decision makers who are developing or reviewing agreements, policies, programs or partnerships, to ensure they support the *Reef 2050 Plan* targets, objectives and outcomes. Government agencies revising or preparing relevant agreements, policies, plans, strategies and programs enabled through legislation should apply this guideline, to the extent permissible under the enabling legislation, if their decision is likely to interact with the Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The draft guideline is planned to be released for public comment in early to mid-2016.

Thanking you for your consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kirstin Dobbs
Acting General Manager
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use

13 January 2016