



# Cape Cleveland Statement

## Statement by Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef and others before us.

We want to ensure the voices of our people are not lost and the work that Traditional Owners have carried out over time is honoured.

The Reef is a living entity. The Reef is talking to us and crying. It is telling us it is sick and needs its people to heal.

All people and future generations need to understand the importance of Traditional Owners' spiritual connections to the Reef. For us and our Reef to be healthy we need to come together.

Too much time has been lost. We cannot afford to lose momentum.

**We want to work with good people with good hearts that will partner with us to create positive change. We support partners like the Great Barrier Reef Foundation who have listened to us and demonstrated to us that they are genuine and caring. This is what matters. As long as we have good people by our side, we can do anything.**

We want to establish an independent futures fund enabling Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners to lead with an authoritative voice on the safeguarding of our rights, responsibilities and obligations, cultural knowledge and customary lores.

We want the continuation of a Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner led co-designed framework with the broader community and implementing with partners to ensure equity and maximise co-benefits.

We insist that strategic investment across the Great Barrier Reef supports and empowers Traditional Owners at all skills levels, capacities and capabilities to actively engage in future management protection and benefit sharing.

Through the leadership of Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners, we will bring together Traditional and western knowledge systems to support people and Country to prosper.

We call on the political leaders and the Federal Government to meet with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation Traditional Owner Working Group.

15 May 2019

