

# REEF TRUST PARTNERSHIP

## 2019-2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Making a difference  
to the Reef





The *Great Barrier Reef Foundation* extends its deepest respect and recognition to all Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef and its Catchments, as First Nations Peoples holding the hopes, dreams, traditions and cultures of the Reef.

More than 70 Traditional Owner groups have deep and enduring connections spanning the length of the Reef along the Queensland coastline and beyond, from the Torres Strait Islands in the north to Bundaberg in the south.

*'Reef Wonderland'* artwork by Melanie Hava, Mamu Aboriginal woman, Dugulbarra and Waribarra family groups, from the Johnstone River catchment of the Wet Tropics of Far North Queensland and the adjoining Great Barrier Reef sea country.

Cover: Tourism & Events Queensland

The principle objective of the Reef Trust Partnership is to achieve significant, measurable improvement in the health of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The *Reef Trust Partnership Grant Agreement* sets out the focus for investment in five priority areas. These are referred to as 'Components' throughout the delivery of the Partnership:



**Water Quality**

Address water quality improvement targets through activities such as improved farming practices, reduced fertiliser use and uptake of new technology and land management practices.



**Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science**

Conduct and implement science activities to deliver and support reef restoration and adaptation for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.



**Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control**

Expand efforts to control Crown-of-thorns Starfish (COTS) to reduce coral mortality from COTS outbreaks in order to protect high ecological and economic value coral reef.



**Integrated Monitoring and Reporting**

Support the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMREP) including *eReefs* and the *Paddock to Reef* monitoring and reporting programs, to improve health monitoring and reporting of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to ensure that monitoring and our reporting to *UNESCO* is scientifically robust and investment outcomes are measurable.



**Traditional Owner and Community Reef Protection**

Improve the engagement of Traditional Owners and the broader community in the protection of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.



Tourism & Events Queensland

This past year, Australians—and citizens around the world—were confronted with extraordinary challenges and forced to face a new normal. Climate change contributed to unprecedented bush fires and another round of severe bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef, while a global pandemic took a devastating toll.

These challenges have reminded us how vulnerable we are; how much we depend on each other, and how connected our lives are with the ecosystems we cherish and rely on.

While we have witnessed great hardship, this year has also shone a light on the determination of the human spirit and the ability of that spirit to seed a new level of cooperation and achievement.

Even during one of the most challenging years to date for the Reef community – from our tourism operators, local economies and not-for-profits to Reef managers, Reef Traditional Owners and governments – the impact being made to save the Great Barrier Reef despite incredible pressures is inspiring.

These themes are also the tenets of the Reef Trust Partnership, a landmark \$443 million Australian Government investment in response to the summers of 2016 and 2017 where we saw unprecedented coral loss due to climate change.

The Partnership is a platform for science, innovation and community to come together, with the right conditions and resources, to set a new pathway for Reef protection and recovery in Australia.

It's through continuing to work together with scientists, researchers, tourism, community leaders, Reef Traditional Owners, government, and other Reefdependent industries, that the greatest impact for the Reef will be made. Two years into the Partnership, and already a difference is being made along the Reef.

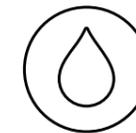
The Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) is proud to provide an update on the activities and progress of this remarkable program.

### The six-year Reef Trust Partnership was formed to deliver three key outcomes:

- Improved management of the Great Barrier Reef and relevant activities in the adjacent catchments
- Protection of attributes that contribute to the *Outstanding Universal Value* of the Great Barrier Reef, including species, habitats and Indigenous values
- Management of key threats to the Great Barrier Reef, including poor water quality and COTS outbreaks.

# PARTNERSHIP OUTCOMES

All activities and projects delivered under the Partnership will be measured and evaluated in line with these end-of-partnership outcomes:



## Water Quality

- An enduring reduction in the long-term end-of-catchment pollutant loads
- Innovative solutions for systems change in water quality improvement are available
- Maintenance of water quality in less disturbed catchments
- Increase in Traditional Owner-led water quality improvement projects

### Progress to date

End-of-paddock pollutant load reductions achieved: 134t of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN), 6.3kt of sediment, and 4.2kg of pesticides.



## Traditional Owner Reef Protection

- Traditional Owner co-design action framework is implemented across the Partnership to help build capacity
- Benefits to Traditional Owners engaged in Sea Country management improve
- Traditional Owner participation in governance arrangements for Reef protection and management is improved
- The first stage of a Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner Future Fund is in place and operating effectively
- Traditional Owner on-country activities contribute to Reef bio-cultural health
- Improved cultural awareness within Partnership projects and partners

### Progress to date

22 Traditional Owner governance positions embedded across the Partnership are supporting the co-design of Traditional Owner-led activities across the Partnership Components.



## Crown-of-thorns Starfish (COTS) Control

- Reduced coral mortality from COTS outbreaks at key reefs
- New methods to manage COTS at scale have been identified
- Expanded delivery partners involved in COTS management (Traditional Owner enterprises)
- Strategy for long-term funding is available for influencing/advocacy

### Progress to date

A new strategic partnership has been formed to deliver in-water COTS control for the next two years.



## Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science (RRAS)

- New pathways implemented for Traditional Owner education, employment and enterprises across RRAS research and delivery activities
- A toolbox of restoration and adaptation techniques ready for investment in their implementation at a range of scales
- Australia is recognised internationally as leading coral reef restoration science

### Progress to date

The RRAP Business Case was released and 2020-2021 Investment Plan endorsed. Establishment of an unincorporated joint venture between 7 partners is almost finalised.



## Integrated Monitoring and Reporting (IMR)

- Critical RIMREP data needs or gaps have been prioritised by the IMR Component and are met
- An integrated, tactical, strategic decision-support system is operational

### Progress to date

Three investments that contribute to both end-of-partnership outcomes are underway, with a further four identified and endorsed for delivery.



## Community Reef Protection

- Dynamic suite of tools for enduring funding and partnerships for community action are available
- Community action is more recognised, valued and celebrated for the range of benefits provided to support Reef resilience
- Community action is delivering more effective outcomes for the Reef and community (including Partnership outcomes)
- More targeted local action that aligns with strategic needs
- Shared knowledge and decision making enhances governance and delivery models

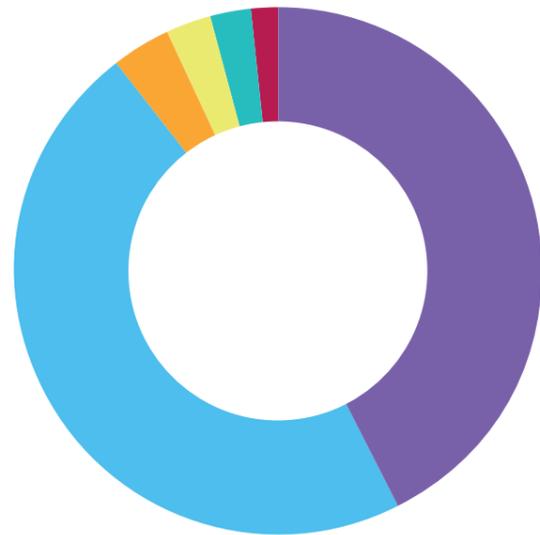
### Progress to date

The Partnership has developed three new program models, engaging >180 partners in delivering community Reef protection activities, supported through >8500 participant engagements.

# PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS

## Partnership Commitments To Date

**>\$64m** contracted across 80 investments (up from \$25m and 58 investments in 2018-2019)



**\$27.3m**

Water Quality: 22 investments

**\$30.2m**

COTS Control: 5 investments

**\$2.3m**

Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science: 3 investments

**\$1.8m**

Traditional Owner Reef Protection: 19 investments

**\$1.5m**

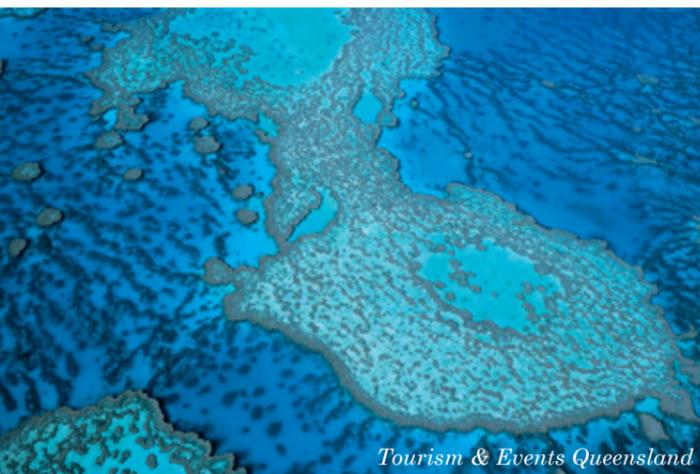
Community Reef Protection: 28 investments

**\$1m**

Integrated Monitoring and Reporting: 3 investments

## Regional Investment

The Partnership is investing in Reef communities all along the length of the Great Barrier Reef.



## Collective Impact

**>50**

Delivery Partners and over 200 partners involved in the Partnership to date

**80**

total investments to date across the Partnership portfolio

**6**

Community Action Plans commenced in 2019-2020 across regions from Bundaberg to Cooktown, led by 8 local partners

**>80**

Traditional Owners engaged across 35 Reef Traditional Owner groups

**>350**

project proposals assessed Partnership-wide

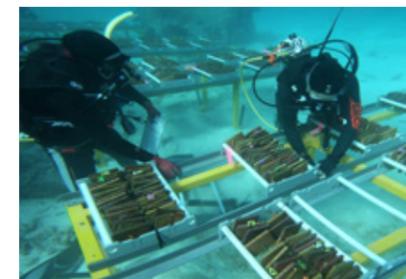
**22**

Traditional Owner positions embedded in governance across the Partnership

## Unlocking Innovation

### Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program

The world's largest coral reef restoration and adaptation program (RRAP) was launched in 2019-2020. During which the significant research and development effort required to test 43 potential intervention methods was outlined. Now with the first stage of the program funded through the Partnership, RRAP aims to give Reef managers and decision makers an innovative toolkit of safe, acceptable, cost-effective interventions to help protect the Great Barrier Reef from the impacts of climate change.



Installation of assisted gene flow corals on deployment racks at Davies Reef. Photo: Kate Green/AIMS

### Traditional Owner Reef Protection

Activation of a novel Traditional Owner-led co-design action framework is supported by 22 Traditional Owner governance positions across the Partnership.

### Water Quality

120 proposals were assessed to select a suite of 22 water quality innovation projects, totalling \$10 million, ready to start early in 2020-2021.

### COTS Control

The new \$10+ million COTS Control Innovation Program is a consortium of scientists and research institutions charged with accelerating the development of innovative control and surveillance methods, continuing to improve the efficacy and efficiency of current methods, and finding new ways to limit future COTS outbreaks and their impact.



The pioneering larval reseeding ('coral IVF') technique was piloted for the first time on the Great Barrier Reef in 2016 through the GBRF's support of Professor Peter Harrison's groundbreaking work.

**COMPONENT PROGRESS**

# TRADITIONAL OWNER REEF PROTECTION



Partnership allocated funding: \$51.8 million

> **80**

**13**

Traditional Owner Groups have led priority projects identified by Traditional Owners

Traditional Owners have been engaged across 35 Reef Traditional Owner groups

A Partnership-wide Traditional Owner Advisory Group, established early in the Partnership, continues to guide activity across the Partnership's portfolio.

**3** Traditional Owner Technical Working Groups are co-designing the Water Quality, Integrated Monitoring and Reporting, and Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science Traditional Owner-led activities.

> **500**

participants have been involved in junior ranger program activities

**6**

land and sea country-based planning projects

**5**

projects implementing existing country-based plans

**7**

junior ranger projects

*“Co-design is more than holding a participatory workshop. It is about the genuine willingness of agencies to fairly shift their behaviour and practices when ideas stretch them beyond their business as usual approach. This shifts mindsets from, ‘We can’t do that because it’s too tricky to let’s discuss pathways for change’.”*

Provided with permission, Traditional Owner Water Quality Technical Working Group member, May 2020



## Traditional Owner Investment

At the commencement of the Partnership, the Foundation developed an *Investment Strategy* to outline how Partnership funding would be invested across the key areas identified in the Partnership Grant Agreement.

In this strategy, the Foundation secured the largest single investment in Traditional Owner Reef Protection to date. On top of the \$12 million initially earmarked for Indigenous Reef Protection in the Grant Agreement, the Foundation allocated additional funding from across the Partnership Components to deliver \$51.8 million in total towards co-designed, Traditional Owner-led Reef protection.

This is intended to build on and scale up the work already being done by Traditional Owners along the Reef and its catchments, including more than 200 Rangers and 70 Sea Country groups.

## Project Snapshot

### Girringun maritime training program

The Girringun Aboriginal Corporation collaborated with key partners Jina Gunday and the Tribal Warrior Aboriginal Corporation to deliver a maritime training and education program as part of the Stage 1 Traditional

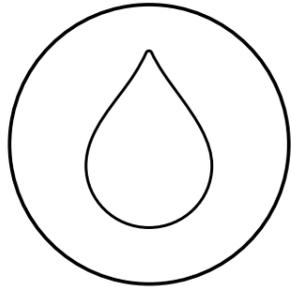
Owner grant round. Traditional Owners designed the project to increase awareness of Girringun’s Sea Country and build the boating skills and qualifications of their people. Elders and other interested Traditional Owners worked together early in the project to plan and design the best process to achieve the highest possible

completion rates for the training. The initial target included supporting 10 Traditional Owners through the training, but given the high interest and excitement in the project, 17 Traditional Owners obtained their Certificate 1 in Maritime Operations. To capitalise on the enthusiasm of participants from the first training round, the decision was made to bring forward the second round of training in Certificate II Maritime Operations, which was completed in September 2019, instead of early 2020 as planned. Eleven Traditional Owners signed on and completed this second level certificate.



*Left: Support for a Traditional Owner-led project with culturally grounded processes for delivering a training project has clearly resulted in high training completion rates and ongoing positive interest in the project.*

# WATER QUALITY



210

landholders and 289,165ha of land have demonstrated improved water quality practices to date (based on the *Paddock to Reef* framework)

> 500

landholders have been directly engaged through the Partnership

60

agriculture extension positions have been funded so far, building on and supporting the agriculture industry's continued transition to best practice management

Partnership allocated funding: \$200.6 million

\$50m

contracted (or in the process of being contracted as at 30 June 2020) to Regional Water Quality Programs, representing over a third of allocated funding to these programs (\$140.9 million)

4 of the 10 Regional Water Quality Programs (\$140.9 million) are now underway:

- *Reef Catchments* has been appointed to lead the management and project partner coordination of the \$22.7 million Mackay-Whitsunday regional program.
- *NQ Dry Tropics* will lead the same roles for the \$20.4 million Lower Burdekin regional program.
- *Fitzroy Basin Association* has been appointed to coordinate project partners involved in the \$19.6 million Fitzroy program.
- The \$9.4 million Mary River program is being delivered as a sole project led by *Burnett Mary Regional Group* with partners *Mary River Catchment Coordination Committee*, *Landcare* groups and *Alluvium Consulting*.

14 projects have been selected to commence early in 2020-2021 across the first four active regional water quality programs:

- The Mackay-Whitsunday program includes 8 projects that will prevent at least 26 tonnes of dissolved inorganic nitrogen and 215 kilograms of pesticides from entering the Reef's waters every year.
- The Fitzroy program includes 5 projects that will prevent 50,000 tonnes of fine sediment from entering the Reef's waters every year.
- The Mary River program (1 project) will reduce the amount of fine sediment from the Mary River that enters the Reef by 26,000 tonnes per year.
- More projects and programs are being finalised early in 2020-2021.



Above: *Fitzroy Soil Conservation on Cropping Lands* project is one of the 5 selected in the *Fitzroy Regional Water Quality Program*.



*Project Pioneer* supporting grazing businesses in *Emerald* to improve farm management capacity.

## Project Snapshot

### Project Pioneer (\$2.9 million)

Implemented by *Resource Consulting Services* (RCS), this project is supporting 50 grazing businesses from the Burdekin, Burnett, Fitzroy and Mary River catchments to improve farm management capacity, leading to the adoption of better land management practices and improved land condition.

From the businesses engaged in the project, 43 have already completed the RCS Next Steps Peer Mentor Program – a 6-month skills development program with a professional coach to help businesses implement changes on-farm. Businesses have also received – on-farm consultations around ground cover measurement, property

mapping and establishment of monitoring sites. The project aims to transition 300,000 ha of grazing lands to Class A land condition; stopping erosion through gullies and streambanks and reducing the amount of fine sediment reaching the Reef. To date, Project Pioneer has already reported a total of 440,203 ha under improved management.

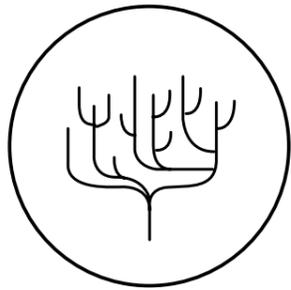


*“Project Pioneer has given us more tools than just managing grass and cattle, it has given us tools to manage communication.”*

Catriona Murdoch, project beneficiary

**COMPONENT PROGRESS**

# COMMUNITY REEF PROTECTION



**> 18,000**

volunteer hours to date

**180** training, education and awareness-raising initiatives and events

**15** citizen science projects have held 300 field days generating over 75,000 data points reporting on Reef habitat and wildlife

Planning has progressed to launch Australia's Reef Protection Challenge, encouraging all Australians to take part in climate change actions to support Reef protection. Evidence-based behaviour change research undertaken will support the national campaign.

Partnership allocated funding: \$10 million

**9** local action projects—championed through *GBRMPA's Local Marine Advisory Committees*—have focused on enabling local solutions to Reef threats, through a selection of community participation and capacity building initiatives, litter and marine debris source-reduction and local riparian restoration projects:

- More than 27,000 pieces of litter and 700 kg of pollutants (including almost 14,000 cigarette butts) prevented from entering the Reef through one project alone – the *Fitzroy Basin Association's* 'What's down our drains?' project – through the installation of drain buddies.
- 1500 native trees planted by the Whitsundays community to address erosion and water quality issues, by restoring the riparian vegetation along the popular local Twin Creek, that feeds into the Reef – led by *Whitsunday Regional Council*.
- The *Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers Cooperative*, through the #LessisMore project, has removed more than 17,000 plastic straws from local businesses and seen nearly 500 local teachers and students produce enough reusable beeswax food wraps to replace an estimated 38 kilometres of single-use plastic clingwrap over the next 12 months.



One of four community engagement events involving 66 community volunteers that counted and sorted debris from 12 gross pollutant traps under Reef Catchments' cigarette butt source-reduction project.



The drain buddy working group inspect drains as part of the 'What's down our drains?' project.



Some of the nearly 500 local students and teachers involved in the #LessisMore project.

## Project Snapshot

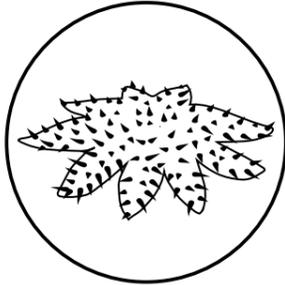
### Tourism-led citizen science

Several tourism-led citizen science projects demonstrated the power of citizen science as a platform for partnerships. *Lady Musgrave Experience* designed and launched a new reef health data collection, education and training program now embedded in their regular Reef visits. *Reef Teach* partnered with *GBRMPA*, *AIMS* and tourism operators to launch a new data collection and artificial intelligence analysis for a recently developed geo-tagged photo transect method to record changing coral condition *Reef Catchments* partnered with the *Whitsundays Charter Boat Industry Association* and *JCU* to train Whitsunday tourism operators to address a gap in water quality monitoring data at key tourism locations for use in the Regional Report Card.



**COMPONENT PROGRESS**

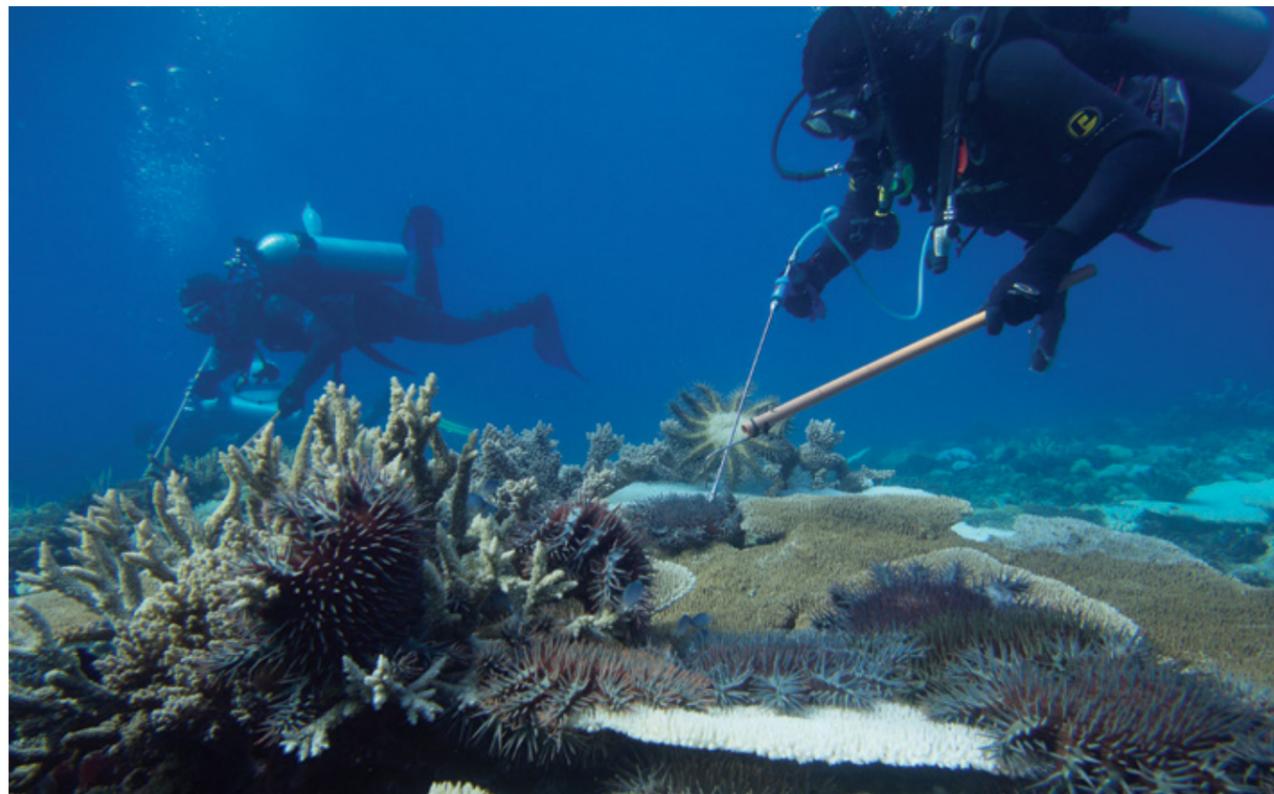
# COTS CONTROL



Partnership allocated funding: \$57.8 million

The COTS Control Innovation Program has engaged with over 50 technical experts as part of the initial work to deliver a collaborative feasibility study into opportunities for innovation in COTS control.

A new strategic partnership between *GBRF*, *GBRMPA* and the *RRRC* has been formed to deliver the in-water COTS control program for the next 2 years with 5 vessels.



Above and top right: Divers eradicating COTS from waters of the Great Barrier Reef. Copyright Commonwealth of Australia (GBRMPA), Photographer: D. Schultz

**COMPONENT PROGRESS**

# INTEGRATED MONITORING AND REPORTING



Partnership allocated funding: \$40 million

**4** monitoring and reporting opportunities were identified and endorsed for investment:

- Sustainable delivery of eReefs services including real-time marine hydrodynamic and water quality models, real-time catchment river flow models and visualisation products.
- Partnership funding will support the Great Reef Census, a *Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef* project delivered in partnership with the *University of Queensland*, *GBRMPA* and *AIMS*. It is funded by the Partnership, the *Prior Family Foundation* and the *RRRC*, and will trial innovative ways of capturing reconnaissance data from across the Reef using citizen science.
- Reactivating a Marine Monitoring Program (MMP) site in the Fitzroy priority region.
- Extending and improving on the foundations of the Social and Economic Long-Term Monitoring Program for the Great Barrier Reef (SELTMP), operationalising priority human dimension indicators and monitoring activity identified in RIMREP.

In partnership with *GBRMPA*, work has progressed on developing a decision support system that builds on the learnings from the first phase of RIMREP.

Foundational research to support Traditional Owners in the implementation of indicator monitoring under the Strong Peoples – Strong Country framework (RIMREP recommendation).

## Project Snapshot

### Strong Peoples – Strong Country framework

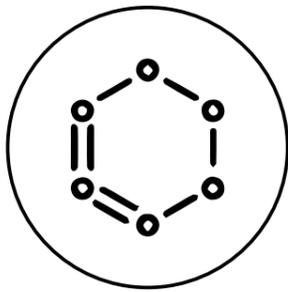
Phase 2 of the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* (SP-SC) framework builds on the important work undertaken in Phase 1 by the Indigenous Heritage Expert Group, being supported by *CSIRO*, and funded under the *GBRMPA*-led RIMREP program. Phase 2 work involves the development of a set of objective indicators, which aim to provide information and insight about the condition and trends in Indigenous heritage values in the Great Barrier Reef and its catchments. *GBRF* and *CSIRO* will support the Traditional Owner Technical Working Group to facilitate the design and implementation of the SP-SC framework through pilots in selected priority communities. This work will adhere to ethical research and follow Free, Prior and Informed Consent and be underpinned by negotiated data sharing agreements with each participating Traditional Owner community.



*Strong Peoples – Strong Country* framework for monitoring Indigenous heritage in the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program © Mallie Designs

## COMPONENT PROGRESS

# REEF RESTORATION AND ADAPTATION SCIENCE



The Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP) brings together leading experts to ensure that the Great Barrier Reef and coral reefs globally can resist, adapt to, and recover from the impacts of climate change.

A \$6 million feasibility study conducted with 150 experts from 20 international science organisations was submitted to the Australian Government in December 2019.

The feasibility study concluded that coral reef protection, restoration and adaptation is possible and—if we act now — we can double the likelihood of sustaining healthy coral reefs.

With the feasibility study completed, the Reef Trust Partnership is funding the first stage of the RRAP R&D Program — being delivered by a consortium of partners, including *AIMS*, *CSIRO*, *QUT*, *JCU*, *University of Queensland*, *Southern Cross University* and *GBRF*.

### Partnership funding allocated: \$100 million

The RRAP R&D Program is at the cutting edge of science and the results will have global impact for the world's coral reefs. Based on the benefits, costs and scale, 43 interventions have been shortlisted for further research and development:

### Protect

- Cooling and shading — These interventions provides us with the greatest opportunity to minimise species loss and save on future restoration costs. We will target reefs likely to suffer heat stress ahead of predicted bleaching events, with an aim to reduce the exposure of coral reefs to heat and light stress.

### Adapt

- Assisted natural adaptation — To strengthen corals' tolerance to climate change, we will facilitate the sharing of coral genetic diversity, transferring desirable traits between coral species and populations, such as using coral larvae already adapted to warmer conditions.
- Enhanced coral breeding — We will also use gene-editing approaches and synthetic biology to increase stress tolerance or other desirable traits.

### Restore

- Stabilisation — Healthy coral reefs have complex structures that support biodiversity and protect coastlines from erosion. These are weakened and damaged by ocean acidification and extreme weather events. By stabilising or adding new reef structures, we are able to help coral recover.
- Biocontrol — Coral predators like Crown-of-thorns starfish survive by eating coral, and their numbers are out of control. To give the Reef a fighting chance of recovery after bleaching events, we will scale up the most effective ways to manage coral predators and competitors.
- Field treatments — Like all animals, corals are inhabited by a microbial community. We will use probiotics, feeding, and medicines during the breeding and bleaching events, to increase coral survival and health.

Find out more about the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program at [www.gbrrestoration.org](http://www.gbrrestoration.org)

# DELIVERY PARTNERS

Since 2018, more than 200 partners — including Traditional Owners, NRM groups, Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs), schools, local and state government, agriculture organisations, not-for-profits, research institutions, GBRMPA and more — have been involved in projects being delivered under the Reef Trust Partnership.

The Delivery Partners for the Partnership as at 30 June 2020 are:

### Water Quality

- Alluvium Consulting
- BRIA (Burdekin River Irrigation Area) Irrigators Ltd
- Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM Ltd
- C2O Consulting
- Catchment Solutions Pty Limited
- CSIRO
- Farmacist Pty Ltd
- Fitzroy Basin Association Inc
- Greening Australia Ltd
- Mary River Catchment Coordination Association Inc
- NQ Dry Tropics Ltd
- Queensland Cane Growers Organisation Ltd
- Queensland Farmers Federation
- Reef Catchments Ltd
- Resource Consulting Services Pty Ltd
- Star Economics Pty Ltd
- Sugar Research Australia Ltd
- Terrain Natural Resource Management

### COTS Control

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Murdoch University
- Reef & Rainforest Research Centre

### RRAS

- Australian Institute of Marine Science
- CSIRO

### Traditional Owner Reef Protection

- Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd
- Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation
- Gidarjil Development Corporation Ltd
- Girringun Aboriginal Corporation
- Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
- Kiorion Pty Ltd
- Mandubarra Aboriginal Land and Sea Inc
- Radiant Life Education Ltd
- South Cape York Catchments Inc
- Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation
- Yuku Baja Muliku Landowner & Reserves Ltd

### Integrated Monitoring and Reporting

- CSIRO

### Community Reef Protection

- Cairns and Far North Environment Centre
- Earthwatch Institute
- Fitzroy Basin Association Inc
- Gidarjil Development Corporation Ltd
- Great Barrier Reef Legacy
- James Cook University
- Lady Musgrave Experience
- Reef Teach
- Port Douglas Daintree Tourism
- Reef Catchments Ltd
- Reef Check Australia
- Reef Ecologic Pty Ltd
- Science Under Sail Australia
- The University of Queensland
- Turtle Care Volunteers Queensland Inc
- Queensland University of Technology
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Bowen Tourism and Business
- Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers Cooperative
- South Cape York Catchments
- Whitsunday Regional Council

# LOOKING AHEAD

## 2020-2021 Annual Work Plan

The second Annual Work Plan released by the Foundation in July 2020 signalled the completion of Partnership building and planning, moving into full execution and on-ground implementation in 2020-2021.

To share the impacts being made by the collective effort that is the Partnership, an interactive dashboard will be launched to visualise and make accessible Partnership key performance measures.

By 30 June 2021, at the halfway point of the six-year Partnership, 65% of the grant (\$275 million) will be contracted to priority Reef projects.

## Partnership at full pace and scale

- Ongoing delivery of the regional water quality programs, the first round of Community Reef Protection citizen science and local action projects, and Traditional Owner Reef Protection projects.
- Launch the second round of Community Reef Protection citizen science grants.
- Progress the National Reef Protection Challenge – where all Australians will be inspired to take part in saving the Reef, with the impact measured.
- Collaboratively designing a Reef Hub in Cairns-Port Douglas that brings together tourism operators, community groups, citizen scientists,

Traditional Owners and scientists for a collaborative approach to local coral restoration stewardship.

- Commence a COTS in-water control training program for Reef Traditional Owners.
- Open the first phase of a Traditional Owner-led water quality program (\$4 million) and the second round of capacity-building grants supporting Traditional Owner participation across Partnership Components (\$2 million).

- Commence indigenous heritage monitoring pilot programs in at least four Reef regions.
- Scope the water quality \$10 million conservation and protection program to understand the costs and benefits of taking action in less disturbed catchments, as the basis for prioritising investments in those catchments.
- Continue development of the 6 Community Action Plans, led by 8 local partners.

## The Year of Innovation

- Formal commencement of the most ambitious reef science initiative of our time – the \$300 million Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program kickstarted by \$100 million from the Partnership
- Launch of the \$10+ million COTS Control Innovation Program
- Delivery of 22 water quality innovation projects (\$10 million) addressing innovation in finance, technology, data and planning
- Design and initiate a \$5 million technology transformation fund focused on step-change in reef monitoring
- Kick-off of new delivery models to support, strengthen and connect community-led Reef programs.

# LEVERAGING THE PARTNERSHIP

Australia's largest environmental fundraising campaign plan aims to grow the record government investment in the Partnership by an additional \$300 million to \$400 million. The *Collaborative Investment Strategy* outlines the overarching fundraising plan for this goal across the six-year Partnership, encompassing:

**\$100m**

Capital campaign target

**\$7m**

Individual giving target

**\$50m**

Corporate giving target

**\$200m**

Research and delivery partners target

Globally, charities are grappling with the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic.

Whilst the long-term impacts to fundraising revenue are not yet clear, the Foundation is determined to leverage the Partnership to further invest in the Reef's health. We remain focused on the delivery of the Collaborative Investment Strategy and committed to exploring additional strategies to unlock more funding for the Reef.



Tourism & Events Queensland

# GOVERNANCE

## Partnership Management Committee

The Partnership Management Committee, comprised of science, research, marine, industry and project management experts, is charged with overseeing the investment and tracking progress over the six-year program.

- John Gunn Co-Chair
- Steve Sargent Co-Chair
- Deb Callister
- Geoff Garrett AO
- Paul Greenfield AO
- Larissa Hale
- Ove Hoegh-Guldberg
- Jessica Hoey (from 13/02/20)
- Margaret Johnson (until 13/02/20)
- Wendy Morris
- Elisa Nichols
- Theresa Fyffe

## Working Groups

5 Working Groups, plus the Traditional Owner Advisory Group, provide independent expert guidance at a Component level, and across the Partnership:

- Water Quality Working Group
- Community Reef Protection Working Group
- Water Quality Traditional Owner Technical Working Group
- Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science Traditional Owner Technical Working Group
- Integrated Monitoring & Reporting Traditional Owner Technical Working Group



Tourism & Events Queensland

# ACRONYMS & GLOSSARY

|                                    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>AIMS</b>                        | Australian Institute of Marine Science.  |  |
| <b>Component</b>                   | One of the focus areas for investment identified in the Reef Trust Partnership Grant Agreement.  |  |
| <b>Contracted</b>                  | Referring to the total amount of funding that has been contracted for an investment  |  |
| <b>COTS</b>                        | Crown-of-thorns starfish.  | This native species to the Great Barrier Reef eats coral and can occur in great numbers ('outbreaks'), presenting a significant risk to the health of the reef.  |
| <b>CSIRO</b>                       | The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.  |  |
| <b>Delivery Partner</b>            | An organisation contracted under the Reef Trust Partnership to deliver an Investment/project   |  |
| <b>eReefs</b>                      | A multi-organisation reef forecasting and modelling program.   | The world's largest Reef forecasting and modelling program to track and predict the condition of the Reef, including water quality and bleaching.  |
| <b>GBRF</b>                        | Great Barrier Reef Foundation  |  |
| <b>GBRMPA</b>                      | Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority   |  |
| <b>GBRWHA</b>                      | Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area   |  |
| <b>Investments</b>                 | Include both project delivery and consultancies that support decision making   |  |
| <b>JCU</b>                         | James Cook University  |  |
| <b>LMACs</b>                       | Local Marine Advisory Committees   |  |
| <b>NRM</b>                         | Natural Resource Management groups   |  |
| <b>Outstanding Universal Value</b> | An assessment criteria of UNESCO regarding World Heritage properties.  | Cultural and/or natural significance which is considered so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. The Great Barrier Reef was World Heritage listed for its Outstanding Universal Value in 1981. |
| <b>Paddock to Reef</b>             | The Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program.  | The Paddock to Reef program provides the framework for evaluating and reporting progress towards Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan (Reef 2050 WQIP) targets through the Reef water quality report card.   |
| <b>Partner</b>                     | An organisation, group or individual that is involved in an RTP investment (for example a sub-contracted party, workshop participant, etc) |  |
| <b>Partnership</b>                 | Reef Trust Partnership   |  |
| <b>R&amp;D</b>                     | Research and development   |  |
| <b>RIMREP</b>                      | Reef 2050 Plan Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program  | This program is critical to inform reporting against the Reef 2050 Plan and enable resilience-based and adaptive management of the Reef.   |
| <b>RRAP</b>                        | Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program  |  |
| <b>RRAS</b>                        | Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science  | The Partnership's RRAS component essentially represents the launch of the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program, and is largely referred to interchangeably  |
| <b>RTP</b>                         | Reef Trust Partnership   |  |
| <b>UNESCO</b>                      | The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.  |  |



The Reef Trust Partnership is bringing together the Reef community in new and meaningful ways for the benefit of the Reef's long-term future.

More than 80% of Reef organisations and partners surveyed in March 2020 agreed that the Foundation is making progress in creating a platform for science, innovation and community to come together and set a new pathway for Reef protection and recovery.

