


SUPPORTING THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Key message

- The Government is providing \$443.8million as part of the tied-partnership fund with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) to accelerate the delivery of the joint Australian and Queensland Government Reef 2050 Plan.
 - This investment is part of the Government’s package of programs to support the Great Barrier Reef (Reef) over the five years from 2017-18 and 2018-19, worth over \$500 million.
- This large upfront investment is expected to deliver economies of scale benefits for reef protection and dependent coastal communities, and will help to maintain the international reputation of the Reef, which is critical for future tourism and investment.

Key facts and figures

- The Reef is a \$56 billion asset. Deloitte Access Economics estimated that in 2015-16, it supported 64,000 jobs and contributed \$6.4 billion annually to the Australian economy.
- More than half the funding provided to the GBRF will support efforts to improve water quality (\$200.6 million) and enhance crown-of-thorns starfish control programs (\$58 million).
 - This is on top of the \$47 million the Government is investing in these programs in 2017-18 to provide immediate support to the Reef.
- The remaining funding for the GBRF will support Reef restoration and adaptation research (\$100 million); improve Reef health monitoring and reporting (\$40 million); engage Traditional Owners and the broader community to protect the Reef (\$22.3 million); and support administration costs to be supplemented by interest earned on the funding (\$22.5 million).
- Separately, the Government is providing \$22.3 million of additional funding to the Joint Field Management Program (with \$10.2 million ongoing from 2022-23), run by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), to enhance surveillance and risk monitoring of the Reef environment.
- s 34(3) 

Key sensitivities

- This funding package will address stakeholder concern over the short term funding arrangements for these programs and the Government’s commitment to delivering the Reef 2050 Plan.
- The programs provide immediate support to the Reef as it recovers from the mass bleaching events of 2016 and 2017 as well as looking to ensure the Reef’s long term sustainability.
- The GBRF is a trusted partner in managing the Reef environment and offers flexibility to support long-term contracts, autonomy to use the most efficient and effective pathways to

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achieve outcomes and increased fundraising power to generate opportunities for co-investment outside the General Government Sector.

- The Reef Trust is within the Department of the Environment and Energy (DEE). It consolidates investment from a range of sources to improve Reef health and resilience, and remains one of the Government's key intergovernmental vehicles for delivering on the Reef 2050 Plan.
 - The GBRF's Investment Strategy and Annual Activity Plans related to the funding will be informed by consultation with DEE, advisory bodies and other relevant agencies.
- GBRF will work closely with GBRMPA and DEE to maximise the benefits of this investment and minimise duplication of effort.
- In addition to Government funding, the GBRF will continue to seek philanthropic investment in its programs to aid the Reef environment.

Background

- The *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* was released by the Australian and Queensland governments in March 2015 as the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Reef until 2050, involving a joint \$2 billion funding commitment by 2025.
 - As of November 2016, 134 of 151 actions in the Reef 2050 plan were either complete or underway and on track.
- The Reef Trust provides innovative, targeted investment focused on priority on-ground actions to improve water quality, restore coastal ecosystem health and enhance species protection in the GBR region. Before this Budget, the Government had invested \$260 million in the Reef Trust. Some of this funding has been committed to projects, and some remains unallocated.
- In January 2018 the Government announced a \$57.8 million investment to boost the number of vessels targeting crown-of-thorns starfish, improve Reef water quality, increase funding for the Joint Field Management Program, as well as Reef Restoration initiatives run by the Australian Institute of Marine Science.
- The GBRF was established in 2000 in response to the World Heritage Convention's call for the creation of a national foundation to help protect World Heritage sites. It raises funds from private and public sources (including the Reef Trust) and invests in Reef research, restoration and on-ground conservation projects that align with Government priorities and investments.
- The arrangement will be governed by a funding agreement between the GBRF and DEE which will be consistent with PGPA Act requirements and the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines. This includes ensuring value for money and the highest ethical standards.

Contact: s 22

Treasury

(m) s 22

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GBR Options

The Reef Trust

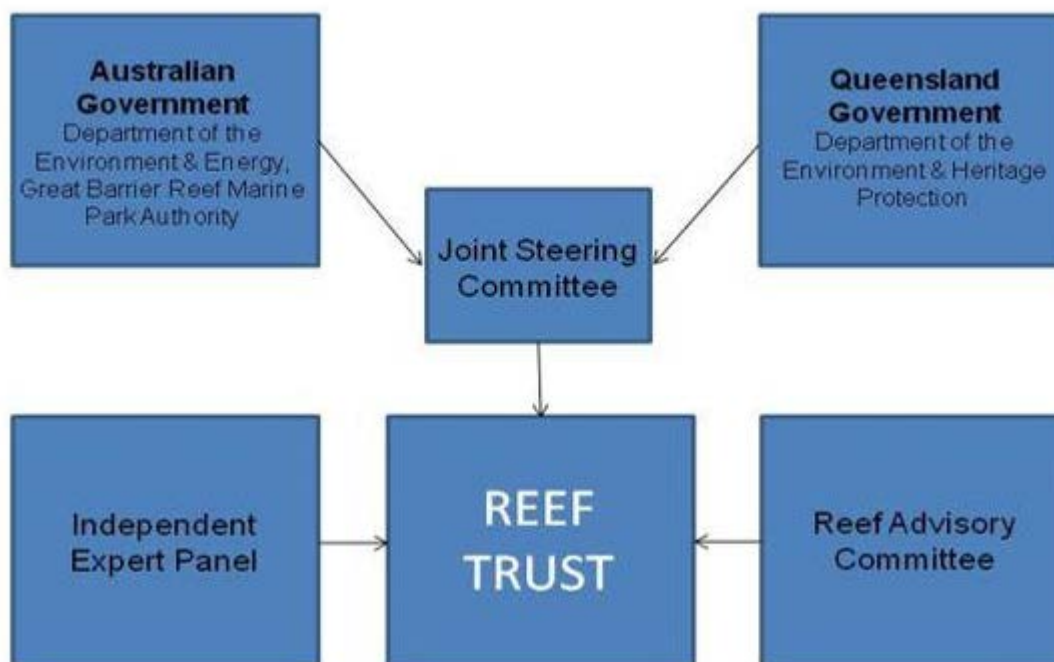
- Entity type: The Reef Trust is an initiative being delivered by the Australian Government, in collaboration with the Queensland Government, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.
- Principal activities:
 - The Reef Trust is one of the key mechanisms assisting in the delivery of the Reef 2050 Plan, focusing on known critical areas for investment—improving water quality and coastal habitat along the Great Barrier Reef, controlling the current outbreak of crown-of-thorns starfish and protecting threatened and migratory species, particularly dugong and turtles. The Reef Trust has a strong focus on evaluation and adaptive management, to ensure it effectively contributes to the long-term sustainable management of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Project investments:
 - The Australian Government has committed \$260 million to the Reef Trust.
 - The Reef Trust combines both Australian Government and private funds.
- Governance:

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- Financial Accountability:
 - Investment delivered through the Reef Trust, including the contracting and delivery of projects, is in accordance with the [Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 \(link is external\)](#), the [Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines \(link is external\)](#), the [Commonwealth Procurement Rules \(link is external\)](#) and [Guidelines for the Management of Special Accounts \(link is external\)](#).
 - The Reef Trust is administered through the [Reef Trust Special Account 2014 \(link is external\)](#) which was established by the Finance Minister through a Determination to the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.
 - The Determination prescribes the purposes for spending of funds through the Reef Trust, which must be for projects that improve water quality and coastal habitat, address threats, and protect, repair and mitigate damage to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
- Website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/reef-trust>

Queensland Government

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Great Barrier Reef Foundation

- Entity type: Not-for-profit / Charity
- Principal activities:
 - To support the protection and enhancement of tropical reefs (especially the GBR) and adjoining coral coasts for the benefit of the world community through the funding and provision of research, information and education.
 - New research focus around Reef Recovery: Building the Reef's resilience through innovations in monitoring, protection and restoration.
- Project Investments: At 31 Dec 2016, the Foundation had research investment contracts, in aggregate, totalling \$20,606,774.
 - Principal beneficiaries of research funding by Foundation include:
 - : Australian Institute of Marine Science
 - : Various universities
 - : BOM
 - : CSIRO
 - : QLD State Government departments
- Governance Arrangements:
 - International Scientific Advisory Panel
 - : Advises Foundation's board and management on the direction of the science and the progress of science investments.
- Website: <https://www.barrierreef.org/>
- 2016 Annual Report: <https://www.barrierreef.org/uploads/2016%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

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From: s 22
To: [SRG Environment: McDonald, Hamish](#)
Subject: FYI - GBR IDM 17 April - here's the lowdown [SEC=PROTECTED]
Date: Tuesday, 17 April 2018 4:28:10 PM

Hi All,

s 22 and I attended an IDM today at DEE on the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) tied grant from the Reef Trust. Please see details of the meeting below:

- Ministerial approvals and timing:
 - Discussions so far have focused on an expected announcement on 4th May (pre-Budget).
 - We indicated that approval by Treasurer would be needed. DEE are seeking to cover off in a letter to the PM, Treasurer and Finance Minister (amongst other issues – see below).
 - The Letter will include a high level notice of intent without commitment to provision of funds (noting DEE cannot yet make a financial commitment until the appropriation is passed).
 - s 34(3) [REDACTED].
 - It is expected that funding will be provided to GBRF by 29 June in line with Appropriation Bills 5&6.
- Development of the grant agreement – key issues:
 - Needs to remain compliant with the PGPA Act – guidance vs. legislative.
 - Changes to reporting and governance arrangements:
 - Need to determine whether the ministerial forum will ‘endorse’ or ‘review’ annual plans, and whether a commonwealth officer will be a ‘member’ (less likely) or ‘observer’ (more likely) of the GBRF board.
 - Need to confirm whether there are conditions or guidelines around investments of funds – Finance to confirm.
- Communication:
 - It is expected to be a joint media release with the PM
 - DEE are developing a 4 page glossy – will go up to MO next week – we indicated that they also need to be approved by the TO.
 - Other media activities include:
 - Short video with images, music and words.
 - Announcement – PM + GBRF spokesperson.
 - Social media content

Thanks,

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