

To: Reef 2050 Long-Term Plan Submissions, Department of the Environment, GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia, GBRlongtermplan@environment.gov.au

Re: Formal submission regarding the Draft Reef 2050 long term sustainability plan.

Dear Commonwealth and Queensland Governments,

I would like to formally submit the following feedback regarding the Reef 2050 Plan.

As a resident of Far North Queensland I have a genuine affinity with the reef and a sincere interest in its long term protection. I commend the State and Commonwealth Governments on reacting to the concerns of UNESCO and producing this draft plan.

While I am broadly supportive of the outcomes put forward in the plan, I believe that there is much that can be improved. The Reef 2050 Plan must not be yet another plan to do more planning – in too many cases in the plan there is reference to additional planning and strategy development rather than concrete commitment to actions. It is crucial that the Reef 2050 Plan outcomes are imbedded into the broader legislative and policy agenda for environmental management. The Plan needs real commitments to change Qld's laws to give effect to the objectives and targets in the Reef 2050 Plan. Without such commitments, it represents a 'business as usual' approach.

The plan must include an outcome and targets that specifically address the prevention of negative water quality impacts in the Northern (Cape / Wet tropics) region. This target and associated actions must permanently protect sensitive coastal habitats from development, including Cape York.

The plan should clearly prohibit indefinitely, new dredging and dumping within and adjoining the World Heritage area, in line with the precautionary principle. We should not be undermining work being done to improve reef water quality through a reduction in run off from reef catchments, or the government funding being spent to do so, by funding and allowing new dredging and dumping.

A key concern of the World Heritage Committee is ensuring there is a cumulative assessment of impacts: however there are no commitments to ensure cumulative impact 'guidelines' will be given force of law.

The Outlook Report 2014 identified climate change as one of the most important threats to the GBR. However the Reef 2050 Plan does not contain a section on climate change, which is a glaring travesty. The Plan offers a massive opportunity to ensure that climate change causes and impacts are incorporated into all planning and legislative processes that may have any relation to the reef into the future.

The plan needs to clearly articulate the need for a more independent GBRMPA and outline with clear targets and actions how the Authority is to be better funded and allowed genuine independence in decision making and regulation of activities impacting on the reef.

Thank you for this opportunity to make comment on the Reef 2050 Plan. I hope that the finalised Plan will take into account the issues raised in this submission.

Yours Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Email Address: