

To: Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

From: Steve Jacoby 19/3/15
A/Deputy Director-General
Service Delivery

Copy: Dr Brett Heyward *all 23/3*
Director-General

Endorsed: Lloyd Taylor
Executive Director Operations Support

Date: 12 March 2015

Snr Policy Advisor.....	OK
Chief of Staff	OK
Approved / Not Approved / Noted Further information required	
Minister.....	
Dated	/ /

Action Officer: Donna Robinson
Telephone: 3199 7769

COPY

Great Barrier Reef Foundation

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that the Minister:
 - **sign** the letter responding to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (the Foundation) (**Attachment 1**); and
 - **note** the information below, for a proposed future meeting with the Foundation, regarding the ReefBlitz initiative funded under the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Investment Program and the other independent work undertaken by the Foundation.

TIMING

2. Routine: Noting of the Briefing Note and signing of the letter is preferable by 31 March 2015 to allow a timely response to the Foundation.

KEY ISSUES

3. The Foundation has written congratulating the Minister on his appointment and sought to meet with the Minister to discuss independent work they have been undertaking.
4. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), on behalf of the State Government, have an agreement with the Foundation to contribute a total of \$150 000 (GST exclusive) towards three annual ReefBlitz events during 2014-2017.
5. The first ReefBlitz event was held on 24-25 October 2014 at Cannonvale Beach, Airlie Beach (refer to **Attachment 2**).
6. The Foundation also want to discuss with the Minister the possibility of him attending and launching the 2015 ReefBlitz event scheduled for October 2015.
7. At this stage no allocation of funding has been made from the Queensland Regional NRM Investment Program for ReefBlitz activities beyond 30 June 2017. It is unlikely the Foundation will raise the issue of additional funding with the Minister.
8. Projects funded from the final year of the Queensland Regional NRM Investment Program, 2017-18, would need to align to the priorities of the State Government and should be considered in conjunction with all applications that may be submitted under this Program.

BACKGROUND

9. On 19 December 2013, the former Minister approved \$150 000 (GST exclusive) to be allocated from the Queensland Government's \$80 million Regional NRM Investment Program to fund a 'Great Barrier Reef Sustainable Ecotourism in Central Queensland' project over 2014-2017 (refer to **Attachment 3**).
10. The State entered into a contract with the Foundation to provide \$50 000 (GST exclusive) per year for three annual ReefBlitz events in 2014, 2015 and 2016 as set out in the attached Project Agreement Schedule 2 (refer to **Attachment 4**).
11. This funding contributes to the ReefBlitz initiative which is being undertaken by the Foundation to promote citizen science and ecotourism opportunities with a view to improving water quality and coral health in the Great Barrier Reef.

12. ReefBlitz is an annual event that engages the community (including citizens, tourists, industry and government) in the collection and communication of reef data that is relevant to reef managers, users, policy makers, research and management on the Reef.
13. The Foundation developed the ReefBlitz initiative to help satisfy strong community interest in the protection and preservation of the Reef and to provide an opportunity for the community to contribute in practical ways that enhance the scientific and management outcomes. Further information about the development of ReefBlitz is provided in **Attachment 5 and 6**.
14. Objectives of the initiative include; building a committed community of trained volunteers who can contribute both on and off the Reef and engaging the broader community (and society generally) in the ReefBlitz effort through user-friendly tools and communication products.
15. The inaugural ReefBlitz event that was held in October 2014 attracted 389 participants from schools and the community. The event was officially launched by the former Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection.
16. The Foundation have submitted a report providing an overview of the 2014 ReefBlitz event (refer to **Attachment 2**).

CONSULTATION

17. This project aligns to the commitment to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

ATTACHMENTS

18. **Attachment 1:** Reply to Great Barrier Reef Foundation
Attachment 2: 2014 ReefBlitz Report
Attachment 3: Brief – CTS 30842/13
Attachment 4: Project Agreement with Great Barrier Reef Foundation.
Attachment 5: Involving Tourists and the Community in protecting the Great Barrier Reef
Attachment 6: ReefBlitz – Promoting Community Involvement in Reef Health

NEXT STEPS

Category 9 information - sch4p4(6) Personal information
Managing Director, Great Barrier Reef Foundation has indicated that she will be in contact with the Minister's office to arrange a suitable time for a meeting.

Steve Jacoby
A/Deputy Director-General
Service Delivery

Minister's Comments

Department of Natural Resources and Mines
MINISTER'S BRIEFING NOTE

CTS 02509/15

To: Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

From: Steve Jacoby 19/3/15
A/Deputy Director-General
Service Delivery

Copy: Dr Brett Heyward
Director-General

Endorsed: Lloyd Taylor
Executive Director Operations Support

Date: 12 March 2015

Snr Policy Advisor	OK
Chief of Staff	OK
Approved / Not Approved / Noted Further information required	
Minister	
Dated	25/3/15

Action Officer: Donna Robinson
Telephone: 3199 7769

Great Barrier Reef Foundation

RECOMMENDATION

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ATTACHMENTS

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Attachment 5: Involving Tourists and the Community in protecting the Great Barrier Reef
Attachment 6: ReefBlitz – Promoting Community Involvement in Reef Health

NEXT STEPS

19. Managing Director, Great Barrier Reef Foundation has indicated that she will be in contact with the Minister's office to arrange a suitable time for a meeting.

Steve Jacoby
A/Deputy Director-General
Service Delivery

Minister's Comments



Department of Natural Resources and Mines

TO: Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

TITLE Letters to Chairs of regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies outlining delivery arrangements for the Queensland Regional NRM Investment Program 2016-17.

ACTION REQUIRED Signing of letters

PRIORITY Urgent

CRITICAL DATE 11 February 2016

EXPLANATION OF CRITICAL DATE AND ROLE OF SIGNATORY

The signing of the letters by 11 February 2016 will allow the A/Executive Director, Operations Support to provide details of the program delivery at a meeting of regional NRM body CEO's on 12 February 2016.

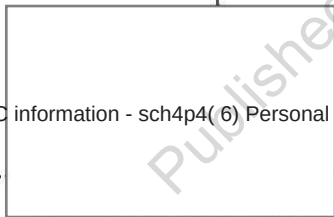
RECOMMENDATION

That the Minister:

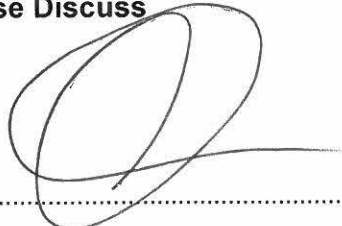
- Sign** the letters to the Chairs of the 14 Queensland regional NRM bodies outlining the arrangements, including approved funding of approximately \$8 million over 2016-2017, for projects to be delivered through regional NRM bodies under the Queensland Regional NRM Investment Program 2013-2018 (the program) (**Attachment 1**).

Signed / Not Signed / Please Discuss

Category C information - sch4p4(6) Personal information

Endorsed by:  APA
Office of the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Date: 11/2/16


The Honourable Dr Anthony Lynham
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Date: 11/2/16

☐ Add to reading pack (Minister's Office use only).

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Author:	Recommended - ED:	Endorsed - DDG:
Name: Philip Maher A/Manager Catchment Programs Phone: 3199 7824 Date: 8 / 2 / 16	Name: Lana Bartholomew A/ED O/S Phone: 3199 7857 Date: 9 / 2 / 2016	Name: Steven Jacoby A/DDG NR Phone: 3199 7742 Date: 9 / 2 / 2016

KEY ISSUES

1. The Minister approved the amount of available funding for projects delivered through regional NRM bodies under the Regional NRM Investment Program 2016-17 (CTS 27406/15).
2. Funding was approved conditional upon regional NRM bodies seeking reform of administration, further consolidation and a reduction in money spent on conferences and workshops.

NEXT STEPS

3. The signed letters will be sent to the Chairs of the 14 regional NRM bodies.

SENSITIVITY

4. Routine.

CONSULTATION – INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

5. Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection – Office of the Great Barrier Reef.

CONSULTATION – EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

6. Regional NRM Groups Collective (RGC).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

7. This funding will ensure on-going employment for regional NRM body staff employed through the program.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8. Establishment exists within the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to support delivery of the program over 2016-17.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

9. There is a potential media opportunity for the Minister to announce the program funding for the 2016-17 period.

PREVIOUS REFERENCE/S

10. Funding of Great Barrier Reef water quality outcomes under the Queensland Regional NRM Investment Program 2013-18 (CTS 27406/15).

BACKGROUND

11. Background is provided in briefing note CTS 27406/15.

ATTACHMENTS

12. **Attachment 1:** Letter to regional NRM body Chairs.
13. **Attachment 2:** Contact details for regional NRM body Chairs.

**Department of Natural Resources and Mines
MINISTER'S BRIEFING NOTE**

CTS 03445/15

To: Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

From: Rachael Cronin 6/3
Deputy Director-General
Service Delivery

Copy: Dr Brett Heyward
Director-General

Category Information - sch4p4(6) Personal Information
Chief of Staff
Approved / Not Approved / Noted Further information required
Minister
Dated 19/3/15

Action Officer: Rod Bourne
Telephone: 3199 7925

Endorsed: Lloyd Taylor Executive Director, Operations Support

Date: 4 March 2015

Great Barrier Reef — Current departmental NRM issues

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that the Minister:
 - **note** the information on current Great Barrier Reef (GBR) issues affecting the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM).

TIMING

2. Routine: There is no critical date associated with this brief, however noting of the brief by 13 March 2015 in preparation for any further activity in relation to the GBR is recommended.

KEY ISSUES

3. **To Discuss:**
 - DNRM's contribution to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan) and Saving the Great Barrier Reef;
 - the UNESCO consideration of the World Heritage conservation status of the GBR; and
 - the Queensland Audit Office performance Audit of Regional Water Quality impacting on the GBR.

BACKGROUND

4. **DNRM's contribution to the Reef Plan and Saving the Great Barrier Reef**
 - DNRM contributes approximately \$17 million annually towards the State Government's \$35 million commitment to implementing Reef Plan 2013. Of this amount approximately \$6 million annually is funded from the Queensland Regional NRM Investment Program.
 - **Attachment 1** provides details of the \$17 million funding that DNRM has expended in 2012-13 and 2013-14 and the minimum amount contracted or estimated to be expended on reef initiatives in 2014-15 and 2015-16 financial years.
 - The total expenditure for 2015-16 is yet to be fully identified, however DNRM has currently estimated \$10.6 million with the expected total for the 2015-16 fiscal year being approximately \$17.0 million. To date approximately \$2.5 million has been allocated for 2016-17 and \$2.075 million for 2017-18 with the remainder to be distributed through regional delivery in reef catchments.
 - Under the Saving the Great Barrier Reef ALP Policy January, 2015 the following election commitments have been made:
 - reinstating the nation-leading vegetation protection laws;
 - reintroducing riverine protection permits to guard against excessive clearing of native vegetation;
 - including the principles of ecological sustainable development in the *Water Act 2000* and ensure the proper regulation of water catchments leading to the GBR;
 - repealing water laws which have a detrimental effect on the GBR catchment systems and allow for the over allocation of water resources;
 - convene a high-level taskforce with representatives from regional communities, conservation organisations, industry groups (including primary producers, tourism operators and local government) and leading scientists to determine the best possible approach to achieve an 80% reduction in pollution run-off into the Great Barrier Reef by 2025;

- provide an additional \$100 million over five years towards water quality initiatives, scientific research and helping businesses transition to better environmental practices in the primary production and fishing industries.
- The Minister has advised DNRM to seek a lead role in the allocation and /or contracting of the additional funds. To this end briefing notes outlining DNRM's capacity in the management of project funds are under preparation.

5. The UNESCO consideration of the World Heritage conservation status of the Great Barrier Reef

- In 2011, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee (WHC) expressed concern about Australia's management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA).
- WHC subsequently asked that Australia undertake a Strategic Assessment of the GBRWHA; prepare a long-term plan for its sustainable development, and submit an updated report on the state of conservation of the GBRWHA.
- The Queensland Government has worked closely with the Australian Government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to comply with WHC's requests.
- The Minister for Natural Resources and Mines is a Queensland representative on the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum.
- In June 2014 WHC welcomed Australia's progress, but expressed concern that development in the World Heritage Area was proceeding in advance of the completion of a long term plan for the Reef's management.
- In June 2015, WHC's 39th session will consider Australia's responses to its requests with a view to decide whether to inscribe the property as "World Heritage in Danger".
- The main documents provided by the Australian Government that will inform the WHC's decision, and to which the Queensland Government has contributed, include:
 - a Comprehensive Strategic Assessment of the GBRWHA and adjacent coastal zone – completed in 2014;
 - the Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan – delivered to the World Heritage Centre in January 2015, the Plan builds on the strategic assessment and carries an overarching vision in support of the Outstanding Universal Value for which the Reef's World Heritage status was recognised in 1981; and
 - the Australian Government's State Party Report – outlining the condition, trends, pressures and outlook for the GBRWHA.
- This material will illustrate that Australia has addressed all requests made by the WHC; demonstrate that the Reef is in good hands and is intended to support Australia's position that there is no basis for inscription as World Heritage in Danger.
- The WHC Centre will publicly release its draft recommendation in mid-May 2015.
- Queensland's input has been coordinated by the Environment Taskforce within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
- The Australian Government has initiated a substantial diplomatic effort to support its position, and the Federal Environment Minister will travel to Europe in February 2015.

6. The Queensland Audit Office (QAO) performance Audit of Regional Water Quality impacting on the Great barrier Reef

- The QAO has initiated an audit with the objective of "to determine whether the impact of broad scale land use on the quality of water entering the GBR is declining." (refer to **Attachment 2**).
- The Queensland and Australian Governments have collaborated with a range of partners to deliver the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan to ensure that, by 2020, the quality of water entering the reef from broad scale land use has no detrimental impact on the health and resilience of the GBR.
- The audit will potentially make recommendations affecting the Departments of The Premier and Cabinet; Environment and Heritage Protection; Natural Resources and Mines; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts.
- The timing of the audit is sensitive, coming in the lead up to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's consideration on the status of conservation of the GBR, in June/July 2015.

- DNRM provided support to the implementation of Reef Plan 2013 equivalent to \$16.7 million in 2014-15. This support included:
 - oversight and administration of funding to regional natural resource management (NRM) bodies that undertake NRM projects which affect the quality of water entering the GBR;
 - delivery of monitoring and modelling for the 'Paddock to Reef' initiative to support annual Reef Report Cards;
 - provision of core data sets for monitoring and evaluation such as the stream gauging station network;
 - provision of planning and regulatory frameworks that support water quality outcomes such as vegetation management, water planning and the management of state land; and
 - the QAO's 'lines of enquiry' directly affecting DNRM accountabilities under Reef Plan 2013 include:
 - determining whether state programs attributed to the Reef Plan are improving water quality in GBR catchments;
 - determining whether modelling is used to effectively target Reef Plan investments; and
 - determining whether Reef Plan investment activities are coordinated.
- DNRM has been providing information to QAO in support of the audit.

ATTACHMENTS

7. **Attachment 1:** Details of DNRM GBR funding
Attachment 2: The QAO revised audit objective

NEXT STEPS

8. DNRM to continue to participate in State initiatives to maintain the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

Rachael Cronin
Deputy Director-General
Service Delivery

Minister's Comments

Department of Natural Resources and Mines
MINISTER'S BRIEFING NOTE

CTS 03690/15

To: Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

From: Steve Jacoby 19/3
A/Deputy Director-General, Service Delivery

Copy: Dr Brett Heyward
Director-General

Snr Policy Advisor.....	OK
Chief of Staff.....	OK
Approved / Not Approved / Noted Further information required	
Minister.....	
Dated 12/3/15	

Action Officer: Rod Bourne
Telephone: 3199 7925

Endorsed: Lloyd Taylor, Executive Director, Operations Support

Date: 12 March 2015

Auditor-General's performance audit on regional water quality impacting on the Great Barrier Reef

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that the Minister:
 - **sign** the response (**Attachment 1**) to the Auditor-General's letter dated 25 February 2015; and
 - **note** information on the audit and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines' (DNRM) role in the delivery of Reef Water Quality Plan.

TIMING

2. **Routine:** There is no critical date associated with this brief, however noting this brief and signing the letter to the Auditor-General is requested by 27 March 2015 to allow for a timely response to the Auditor-General.

KEY ISSUES

3. The Auditor-General is undertaking a performance audit on regional water quality impacting the Great Barrier Reef and the audit will reference DNRM's activity in this area.
4. Queensland's financial commitment to the protection of the Great Barrier Reef is approximately \$35 million per year.
5. DNRM's in-kind and financial contribution to this whole-of-government total in 2014–15 is approximately \$16.7 million.
6. DNRM's significant operations in this area are likely to be the subject of comment in the performance audit report.
7. DNRM has been cooperating fully with the Queensland Audit Office during conduct of the audit.

BACKGROUND

8. Programs committed to be delivered in 2014–15 and 2015–16 include:
 - \$1.64 million for the vegetation management program for delivery by DNRM.
 - \$2.75 million towards water resource program planning for delivery by DNRM.
 - \$0.35 million for catchment and regional planning projects for delivery by DNRM.
 - \$9.6 million for water monitoring program for delivery by DNRM.
 - \$7.314 million under the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program for delivery of the Paddock to Reef project by five regional natural resource management groups—Burnett Mary Regional Group, Fitzroy Basin Association, Reef Catchment, North Queensland Dry Tropics and Terrain
 - \$1.0 million to be contracted to the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation for catchment loads monitoring.
 - \$1.0 million for catchment loads modelling to be delivered by DNRM.
 - \$0.4 million to be contracted to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for the wetlands program.
 - \$0.2 million to be contracted to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for wetlands in agricultural landscapes.
 - \$0.4 million to Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation for wetlands mapping and assessment.

- \$1.2 million for administration by DNRM for the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program.
- \$0.4 million to Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation for groundcover and riparian assessment.
- \$0.25 million to be utilised by DNRM for spatial and scientific information data management for reef maintenance.
- \$0.5 million for the Enhanced Fitzroy monitoring program with the delivery mode through an external contractor.
- \$0.12 million for the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health as the Queensland Government contribution to reporting on river, estuarine and marine health.
- \$0.2 million for support from DNRM to the Commonwealth funded paddock scale monitoring and modelling program (\$5.5 million over 5 years).

ATTACHMENTS

9. **Attachment 1:** Response letter to Auditor-General.

NEXT STEPS

10. Continue to cooperate and provide information for the audit as requested.
11. Consider and respond to the Auditor-General on the draft audit report when available.

Steve Jacoby
Acting Deputy Director-General
Service Delivery

Minister's Comments

Department of Natural Resources and Mines
MINISTER'S BRIEFING NOTE

To: Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

From: Dr Brett Heyward
Director-General *ml 9/6*

Copy: Rachael Cronin
Deputy Director-General
Service Delivery

CTS 10409/15

Policy Information - sch4p4(6) Personal Information

Chief of Staff

Approved / Not Approved / Noted
Further information required

Minister
Dated 16/6/15

Action Officer: Rod Bourne
Telephone: 3199 7925

Endorsed: Lloyd Taylor, Executive Director, Operations Support

Auditor-General's draft Performance Audit on Managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that the Minister:
 - **note** the draft recommendations of the Auditor-General's Performance Audit on Managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchment; and
 - **note** the cross agency response to the Auditor-General prepared by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) on behalf of the Departments of EHP, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Premier and Cabinet, Natural Resources and Mines and Science, Information Technology and Innovation.

TIMING

2. **Urgent.** The tabling of the Auditor-General's report in Parliament was to be during the week commencing 1 June 2015. Tabling has now been delayed and is thought to be in response to Australian Government comments on the draft Auditor-General's report.

KEY ISSUES

3. The recommendations of the Auditor-General in the draft report dated 8 May 2015 (**Attachment 1**) which address the apparent weaknesses in the Queensland government's contribution to improving Reef Water quality were subsequently amended to the following:
 - The newly formed Office of the Great Barrier Reef be provided with sufficient and appropriate management and administrative authority, so that it can be properly made responsible and held accountable for Queensland's reef management strategies and programs.
 - The design and the implementation of the suite of programs attributed to the Reef Plan is reviewed to establish they are the most effective and efficient.
 - Catchment monitoring is expanded to aid in determining the effectiveness of practice management change and to enhance the confidence in modelled outcomes.
 - A rigorous verification process is applied to data on land management practice change, and deficiencies in model inputs be addressed, to improve confidence in, and the accuracy of inputs into catchment modelling.
 - Unambiguous references be included in tier one Reef Report Card which disclose the degree of uncertainty and levels of potential variability in the reported results.
4. While the report and recommendations have not yet been considered by Parliament the creation of the Office of the Great Barrier Reef on 11 May 2015 and the additional \$100 million in funding over the next 5 years largely puts in place recommendation 1.
5. Recommendation 2 if adopted, may affect the priorities of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (the department) Regional NRM Program, and other reef attributed activities including Vegetation Management, Water Resource Planning, Water Monitoring, Catchment and Regional Planning, Paddock to Reef and Catchment Loads Monitoring.
6. Recommendation 3 addresses the audit's criticism of the siting of monitoring sites which are alleged to not provide useful information on the targeting improvement programs beyond the regional level or an understanding of the effect of ecological processes.
7. A cross agency response to the Auditor-General was prepared by Mr Jonathon Black, Director-General of the EHP with assistance of the Office of the Great Barrier Reef (**Attachment 2**).

8. The response also affirms that the concerned departments are in agreement with the five recommendations.

BACKGROUND

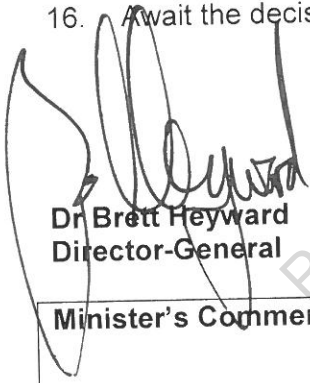
9. The Auditor-General initiated a performance audit on managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments commencing in the lead up to the UNESCO decision on the status of the Great Barrier Reef.
10. The department managed \$17.58 million of the \$36.84 million allocated by the Queensland Government for Great Barrier Reef water quality improvement activities in 2013-2014.
11. An End of Planning Brief (December 2014), an Audit Strategy (February 2015) and an End of Conduct Brief (March 2015) were released to the relevant departments including DNRM for comment.
12. Following a number of significant concerns expressed by relevant departments regarding the generalised statements not supported by evidence and the errors of fact in the preliminary reports, the draft report to Parliament entitled Managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef (8 May 2015) is considered a more focussed and substantiated document which made 6 recommendations.
13. It is reported that the report and recommendations were further amended following feedback from the relevant State departments.
14. The final report and recommendations are scheduled to be submitted to Parliament for consideration in June 2015.

ATTACHMENTS

15. **Attachment 1:** Auditor-General's draft report on Performance Audit on Managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchment.
- Attachment 2:** Cross agency response to the Auditor-General on the report and recommendations.

NEXT STEPS

16. Await the decision of Parliament on the report and recommendations.


Dr Brett Heyward
Director-General

Minister's Comments



Department of Natural Resources and Mines

TO: Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

TITLE Development of Water Use Plans - Great Barrier Reef Catchments

ACTION REQUIRED For approval

PRIORITY Routine

CRITICAL DATE 23 August 2016

EXPLANATION OF CRITICAL DATE AND ROLE OF SIGNATORY

Approval of this brief is required as soon as possible to allow DNRM to commence inter-agency consultation to bring forward a more comprehensive proposal for a pilot water use plan.

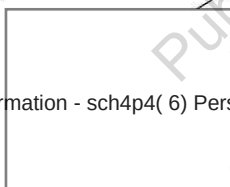
RECOMMENDATION

That the Minister:

- Note** that Water Use Plans (WUPs) may be an appropriate natural resource management tool to address the impacts of irrigated agriculture on water quality of outflows to the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Lagoon in the absence of a more holistic integrated landscape management framework.
- Endorse** inter-agency consultation with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP), Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and other relevant departments regarding the potential benefits and resourcing requirements associated with the preparation of a pilot WUP.
- Note** that Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) is preparing a cabinet submission titled Integrated Landscape Management, which will address DNRM's proposed approach to advancing an integrated approach to landscape / natural resource management to support the quality of water entering the GBR.
- Note** that DNRM is not currently resourced to develop WUPs and reprioritisation of existing priorities would be required.

Approved / Not Approved / Noted / Please Discuss

Category C information - sch4p4(6) Personal information



Endorsed by: CoS / SPA / PA / APA
Office of the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Date: 15/8/16

The Honourable Dr Anthony Lynham
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Date: 15/8/16

☐ Add to reading pack (Minister's Office use only).

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Author:	Recommended - ED:	Endorsed - DDG:	Approved - DG:
Name: Dainishi Latimer Principal Policy Officer Water Policy Phone: 3166 0125: 17 313	Name: Leanne Barbele Executive Director Water Policy Phone: 3181 5155:	Name: Liz Dann A/Deputy Director General Policy and Program Support Phone: 3199 7740 File A	James Purtill Director-General Department of Natural Resources and Mines Phone: 3199 8217
Date: 4 August 2016	Date: 5 August 2016	Date: 08 August 2016	Date: 11/8/16

KEY ISSUES

1. The GBR Water Science Taskforce Report (Taskforce Report), released 25 May 2016, recommended implementing staged regulation supported by extension, incentives, compliance, modelling and monitoring to accelerate progress toward water quality targets included in the GBR 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan (**Attachment 1**).
2. The Taskforce Report found that current regulatory and voluntary approaches, including Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIPs), even if fully implemented would not meet the targets.
3. WUPs are an existing but currently unused regulatory instrument under the *Water Act 2000* (Water Act), that address water quality degradation associated with water use i.e. irrigation.
4. EHP and conservation groups may call on DNRM to consider preparing WUPs for GBR catchments as a part of the Queensland Government's response to the Taskforce Report recommendations.
5. WUPs would complement other regulatory, extension and voluntary activities being delivered by government, industry, catchment groups and landholders to achieve better water quality outcomes.
6. WUPs set mandatory standards for on-farm water use practices; establish scheme or regional scale objectives for water use efficiency, water reuse and water quality; and set monitoring requirements for government and water users.
7. WUPs provide a flexible framework that support a variety of approaches to improving water quality, including as examples, mandating compliance with existing industry Best Management Practice codes or prescribing minimum standards for application of irrigation water and capture of irrigation water and contaminated run-off.
8. There are two identified areas where a WUP has high potential to be a suitable tool for addressing the impacts of irrigated agriculture on the water quality of outflows to the GBR Lagoon – the Wet Tropics and the Lower Burdekin.
9. Preparation of WUPs would be underpinned by technical assessments and community consultation in a process similar to the water resource planning process (see **Attachment 2**).
10. WUP requirements could be introduced according to an implementation schedule to provide a transitional period for compliance and to align with availability of any financial incentives. Staged implementation is a key requirement for success according to the Taskforce Report.
11. Despite this process, WUPs are likely to be contentious due to the increased regulation and on-farm costs associated with complying with standards set under a WUP.
12. It is proposed to rapidly develop a pilot WUP with an initial focus on addressing impacts on the GBR associated with nitrogen, pesticide and sediment run-off associated with irrigated agriculture.
13. Delivery of WUPs would require support and input from EHP, DAF, Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation, Department of Energy and Water Supply and Department of State Development, particularly in terms of drawing on expertise in extension, best management practice, water use (irrigation) efficiency and water science. An inter-departmental committee approach would be beneficial and work well with EHP maintaining the lead for overall delivery of GBR outcomes.
14. It is proposed to undertake an initial assessment of the timeframes and resourcing requirements for preparing a pilot WUP, including scoping the requirements for inter-agency collaboration and information sharing across Queensland Government agencies.

NEXT STEPS

15. Subject to Ministerial support, DNRM will work closely with EHP and other agencies in preparing a detailed workplan including governance arrangements and resourcing needs that support shared delivery of a pilot WUP.

SENSITIVITY

16. High - WUPs are expected to be contentious with affected landholders and industry.

CONSULTATION – INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

17. Preliminary consultation has occurred within DNRM, including through H2O and Water Policy (the two key water governance groups within DNRM). Subject to endorsement of this brief, inter-agency consultation will be undertaken to develop the concept further.

CONSULTATION – EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

18. Nil to date

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

19. No external employment opportunities have been identified at this time. However, improvements to the resilience of the GBR will help ensure the security of employment for those in industries dependent on its ongoing health such as tourism and related industries.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

20. A shared delivery model (shared between relevant agencies) is appropriate for preparation of WUPs as the relevant expertise is housed in a number of different departments.
21. DNRM is not resourced to undertake water use planning on top of existing priorities. Additional funding and / or reprioritisation would be required.
22. On 25 May 2016, the Queensland Government announced that it will allocate \$90Million over four years to deliver cleaner water for a healthy GBR informed by the recommendations of the Taskforce Report. There is a strong case for WUP costs across agencies to be funded through this stream.
23. There is likely to be ongoing resourcing required to support the implementation of WUPs through monitoring, compliance and landholder awareness activities.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

24. N/A

PREVIOUS REFERENCE/S

25. N/A

BACKGROUND

26. EHP is coordinating the Queensland Government's response to the recommendations in the Taskforce Report released on 25 May 2016.
27. A key recommendation of the Taskforce Report is to improve the regulation of land and water management in GBR catchments by implementing staged regulation supported by extension, incentives, compliance, modelling and monitoring, to accelerate progress toward water quality targets included in the GBR 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan.
28. The Taskforce Report found that current regulatory and voluntary approaches including WQIPs, even if fully implemented would not meet the targets.
29. The proposed government response to the Taskforce Report is to accept in full or in principle all of the recommendations. The government considered its response in late June and plans to publicly release its approved response in August.
30. Note that water use planning provisions are not exclusive to GBR catchments and have wider applicability. As an example, DNRM is investigating the potential for a water use plan to address rising groundwater issues in the Lower Burdekin.

ATTACHMENTS

31. **Attachment 1:** Taskforce recommendations
Attachment 2: Diagram showing water use planning process under the *Water Act 2000*



TO: Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

TITLE

Funding of Great Barrier Reef water quality outcomes under the Queensland Regional Natural Resources Management Investment Program 2013-18

ACTION REQUIRED

For noting and approval

PRIORITY

Urgent

CRITICAL DATE

24 December 2015

EXPLANATION OF CRITICAL DATE AND ROLE OF SIGNATORY

To meet the 1 July 2016 deadline for commencement of the final two years of the Queensland Regional Natural Resources Management Investment Program 2013-18 (NRM Program), approval of the final program guidelines and application and assessment process is needed by end of December 2015. As such, an approved approach to funding of Great Barrier Reef (GBR) water quality (WQ) outcomes under the NRM Program is needed by 24 December 2015 to allow timely communication of future program delivery requirements to potential proponents and other stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minister:

- a. Note that funding currently available for allocation over the final two years of the NRM Program is significantly less than anticipated due to drawing forward funds from the two out years of the program to fund identified NRM priority projects that were not considered in the first tranche of projects funded under the NRM Program.
- b. Note that the above issue impacts on the levels of available funding for NRM outcomes over 2016-2018.
- c. Approve the preferred approach:
 - Continued investment of \$6m per year to projects that improve water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef, delivering on Queensland's commitment to the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan) 2050 outcomes.
 - This approach will ensure the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) deliver on their agreed commitment to provide \$30M over 5 years to support reef outcomes.
 - Approximately \$12M over 2016-17 and 2017-18 for more general regional NRM outcomes funded against priorities detailed in the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Framework 2016-2018 (**Attachment 1**).
- d. Approve that the Deputy Director-General, Natural Resources (DDG NR) write to Chairs and CEO's of regional NRM bodies (**Attachment 2 and 3**), outlining the process going forward, noting that DNRM will be going through a prioritisation process for allocating available funds.

Approved / Not Approved / Noted / Please Discuss

e. Not Applicable.

Signed / Not Signed / Please Discuss

Endorsed by: CoS / SPA / PA / APA
Office of the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

The Honourable Dr Anthony Lynham
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Date: / /

Date: / /

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Author:	Recommended – ED:	Endorsed – DDG:	Approved – DG:
Philip Maher A/Manager Natural Resources Unit 3199 7801	Katrina Platt A/Executive Director Natural Resources 3199 7857	Rachael Cronin Deputy Director General Natural Resources 3199 7393	James Purtill Director-General DNRM 3199 8217
Date: 27 / 11 / 2015	Date: 30 / 11 / 2015	Date: 15 / 12 / 2015	Date: / /

KEY ISSUES

1. The NRM Program is a Queensland Government commitment of \$80M over five years to be invested in delivering natural resource management outcomes across the state. Currently, two years remain of the five year program.
2. **Attachment 1** outlines the priorities for the delivery of funds to support regional NRM projects including those that are delivering the Reef Plan outcomes.
3. This approach for funding the final 2 years of the Program includes funding for the Reef Plan outcomes ensuring the current Program commitment of a minimum of \$6M per year remains allocated to GBR.
4. This leaves approximately \$12M remaining for DNRM to make available over the final 2 years of the NRM Program for general NRM outcomes for delivery by the regional NRM bodies throughout Queensland.
5. DNRM is working closely with the Office of the GBR to develop evaluation criteria to ensure relevant projects funded through River Improvement Trusts (RITs) and the Rural Water Use Efficiency (RWUE) program are aligned to the agreed Queensland Government Investments supporting the outcomes of Reef Plan 2050.

NEXT STEPS

6. Advise the Great Barrier Reef Interdepartmental Committee (GBR IDC) of the preferred DNRM funding commitment for GBR WQ outcomes for the final two years (2016-18) of the NRM Program.
7. Write to the NRM bodies by end of December 2015 with the program guidelines and application and assessment process for the final two years of the NRM Program.
8. Over 2016 work with partner Agencies to prepare a way forward for continuation of an NRM Program following the close of the current five-year investment cycle in 2018.

SENSITIVITY

9. The matters outlined in this brief are of a sensitive nature as there are reduced levels of available funding for regional NRM bodies over 2016-2018 than initially proposed.

CONSULTATION – INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

10. DNRM has held officer-level discussions around investment priorities for the final two years of the NRM Program with relevant agencies – the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP), the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI).

CONSULTATION – EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

11. DNRM continues to hold discussions with NRM bodies in relation to changed priorities for investment and levels of available funding for the final two years of the NRM Program. NRM bodies are aware that negotiations with relevant agencies are in train in order to finalise these matters as soon as practicable. There is an informal commitment by DNRM to communicate the outcomes of these negotiations to the bodies by the end of December 2015.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

12. There is a potential risk of reduced employment of NRM bodies staff due to the reduced level of available project funding for the bodies.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

13. The long-term capability of NRM bodies to deliver on whole of government NRM priorities is likely to be reduced. Recent feedback from the Regional NRM Groups Collective and individual regional NRM bodies is that some bodies may cease to operate due to reductions in available funding.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

14. Corporate Communications will be informed of any potential opportunities.

PREVIOUS REFERENCE/S

15. **CTS03449/15** – Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program 2013-18
16. **CTS 16359/15** – Letter from the Premier regarding QAO report, 'Managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments'

BACKGROUND

NRM Program

17. The NRM Program supports natural resource management in Queensland with an allocated \$80m by the state for the five years 2013-18 (\$16M per year for five years), including \$30M (\$6m per year for five years) to protect the GBR.
18. The majority of the funding supports strategic projects delivered through Queensland's 14 regional NRM bodies (NRM bodies). Largely community-based, these organisations provide an important link between governments and communities. They also work collaboratively with volunteer and grass-roots organisations (e.g. Landcare), rural industry groups and landholders.
19. Funded projects implement on-ground activities that protect, improve and restore waterways and rangelands by addressing weeds and pests and improving soil, vegetation and WQ at a river catchment or other landscape level. Approximately 20 per cent of the funding is devolved to Landcare and other similar organisations.
20. The NRM program provides funds either through regional delivery (i.e. via NRM bodies, RITs or the RWUE program) or through 'state strategic projects' (i.e. delivered via state agencies and other delivery organisations, including NRM bodies).

GBR funding commitments and strategy

21. To support Reef Plan 2013, the Queensland Government committed to spending \$175M (\$35M per year for five years) on its implementation. This commitment was continued with Reef Plan 2050.
22. The preferred investment process allows DNRM to meet its commitment to provide \$6M per year to the GBR over the final two years of the NRM Program.
23. The total investment over the 5 years of the program exceeds the commitment of \$30M for GBR Water Quality Outcomes.

ATTACHMENTS

24. **Attachment 1:** Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Framework 2016-2018.
Attachment 2: Draft letter to the regional NRM bodies under DDG NR signature.
Attachment 3: Contact details for Chairs and CEO's of Queensland regional NRM bodies.

Category 6 Information - sch4p4(6) Personal Information	OK
Chief of Staff	OK
Approved / Not Approved / Noted Further information required	
Minister	OK
Dated	OK

To: Andrew Cripps
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

From: Dr Brett Heyward
Director-General
Natural Resources and Mines

Endorsed: 12/10. Sue Ryan, Deputy Director-General, Service Delivery
Lloyd Taylor, Executive Director, Operations Support

The Minister
will attend.

21 October 2013

37th Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum

Recommendation

1. It is recommended that the Minister:
 - note the copy of the letter from the Hon. Greg Hunt MP inviting the Minister to participate in the 37th Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum in his capacity as Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (refer to **Attachment 1**);
 - note that the 37th Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum is scheduled to be held on Friday 6 December 2013 with the Standing Committee of Officials to meet on Friday 22 November 2013; and
 - note the draft agenda for the 37th Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum (refer to **Attachment 2**).

Timing

2. Consideration of this brief is urgent; agenda item proposals from members of the Ministerial Forum are due to the Secretariat (via the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP)) *before Wednesday 24 October 2013*.

Background

3. The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum (Ministerial Forum) consists of four members including two Queensland Ministers appointed by the Queensland Premier.
4. Ministers appointed to the Ministerial Forum must have responsibility for matters relating to the environment and marine parks and may include ministers with responsibility for science, tourism and/or natural resource management.
5. Minister Cripps was nominated as a Queensland member of the Ministerial Forum along with the Environment Minister, Andrew Powell.
6. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines contributes to the management of the Great Barrier Reef through a number of initiatives including vegetation management, water resource planning, Regional NRM investment, catchment water quality and paddock monitoring and modelling, with an estimated departmental contribution of around \$16 Million per year.
7. The Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, has written to invite the Minister to participate in the 37th Ministerial Forum in his capacity as Minister of Natural Resources (refer to **Attachment 1**).
8. The 37th Ministerial Forum will be held in Brisbane on Friday 6 December 2013, with the Standing Committee of Officials to meet on Friday 22 November 2013.
9. The 37th Ministerial Forum will cover issues including the State Party Report 2014, the comprehensive strategic assessment, the long term plan for the Great Barrier Reef and the implementation of Reef Plan 2013 (refer to **Attachment 2**).

Attachments

10. **Attachment 1:** Signed invitation letter from the Hon. Greg Hunt MP
Attachment 2: Draft agenda for the 37th Ministerial Forum

Clearance

11. Does this have a budget or financial impact? **NO**
12. Does this have an impact for Service Delivery or any other area in DNRM? **NO**

Dr Brett Heyward

Action Officer: Nancy Esler, Director, NRM Programs
Telephone: 07 3199 7809

Minister - Natural Resources and Mines

Comments:

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RTI Act 2009

Department of Natural Resources and Mines
MINISTER'S BRIEFING NOTE – Dr Anthony Lynham MP

SUBJECT: Reef related matters raised in meeting with Mr Geoff Garrett, Queensland Chief Scientist and the Honourable Steven Miles, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef.

TIMING: Routine

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that you:

- a. **Note** that the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (the department) has been engaging with the Office of Great Barrier Reef (OGBR) in the development of Queensland Government responses to the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce and future funding arrangements for investment towards improving reef water quality.

KEY ISSUES:

1. The department is the largest individual contributor to the current Queensland Government commitment of \$35 Million (M) per annum through the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.
2. Due to historic patterns of expenditure from the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Investment Program, the department has needed to identify alternative programs supporting reef water quality outcomes to meet an indicative contribution of \$14M per annum towards the Queensland Government \$35M per annum investment.
3. The department recognises that the \$14M per annum includes resourcing of core activities which deliver on reef and other water and land management outcomes, including funding for programs such as NRM Investment Program, Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative and River Improvement Trusts, which deliver on-ground actions through community and regional organisations.
4. In negotiations with the OGBR it has been identified that key areas for the department's future role in protection of the reef, incorporating responses to the GBR Water Science Taskforce recommendations include:
 - Progressing a submission for the future NRM Investment Program as a priority Queensland Government investment in on-ground actions and capacity-building for sustainable natural resource management outcomes
 - Providing leadership in land, vegetation and water management and regulation that supports sustainable landscape management, inclusive of water quality outcomes for the reef (this is the subject of an Approval to Prepare (ATP) Cabinet Submission titled, "Integrated Landscape Management").
 - Providing leadership in the monitoring and evaluation of land, vegetation and water resources to support program evaluation and prioritisation of investments (included in the ATP).
 - Providing leadership in data and information management to support local, regional and state-wide decision-making in natural resource management (included in the ATP).
5. The department has previously recommended through the GBR Inter-Departmental Committee that governance across the Reef 2013 and Reef 2050 programs could be significantly rationalised.
6. While the CSIRO Flagships governance model (focussed on science, information and technology) warrants consideration, it is not clear if it can be translated to a program such as the current Reef programs where the outcome is to achieve on-ground change in practice and behaviour.
7. The department is supportive of a co-ordinated Whole-of-Government budget bid incorporating the current \$35M per annum plus the new \$100M four-year Queensland Government Reef Funding as this will provide the opportunity to clarify core agency activity supporting reef water quality outcomes as well as investments in a range of voluntary and non-voluntary programs through Government, Industry and Regional organisations.

Policy Advisor.....OK
 Chief of Staff OK
 Approved / Not approved / Noted
 Minister
 Dated...../...../.....

Author:	Recommended – ED:	Endorsed – DDG:
Name: Ian Gordon Title: Director Business Unit: Water Telephone: 3199 7950 Date: 07/09/2016	Name: Mandy Downes Title: Executive Director Business Group: Operations Support Telephone: 3199 7857 Date: 08/09/2016	Name: Bernadette Ditchfield Title: A/Deputy Director-General Division: Natural Resources Telephone: 3199 7742 Date: 16/09/2016

BACKGROUND:

8. On 17 June 2016, Cabinet accepted, with some in principle, all of the recommendations made by the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce Final Report. Key recommendations included:
- improving land and water management in reef catchments by investing in more effective, targeted and coordinated extension
 - establishing greater use of incentives
 - implementing staged regulation
 - improving modelling and monitoring systems and services.

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To: Andrew Cripps
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Copy: Dan Hunt
Director-General, Natural Resources and Mines

Endorsed: Neil Bray, A/DDG, PPS
Bernadette Ditchfield, ED LMP

Snr Policy Advisor	OK
Chief of Staff.....	OK
Approved / Not Approved / Noted Further information required	
Minister	
Dated	

10 September 2013

Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Strategic Assessment Ministers' Group (SAM Group)
1:00pm – 2:20pm, 12 September 2013, Room 5.30, Parliamentary Annexe.

Attendees for this meeting are:

Mr Jeff Seeney MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Mr Andrew Powell MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

Mr Scott Emerson MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Ms Jann Stuckey MP, Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and Commonwealth Games

Mr John McVeigh MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Recommendation

1. The suggested approach the Minister should take for this meeting is:
 - **Note** the Program Report and Strategic Assessment Report are nearing completion and that the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) has provided and will continue to provide input into the report through the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP);
 - **Note** that the forward commitments and proposed new measures for the Queensland Government (**Attachment 6** - Agenda item 2.2) are based on previously announced initiatives and programs, or are designed to provide greater alignment between Commonwealth and State approvals processes to assist future streamlining; and
 - **Endorse** the approval of an independent review of the draft Program and Strategic Assessment Reports (**Attachment 9** - Agenda item 4), in accordance with the GBR Coastal Zone Strategic Assessment's Terms of Reference.

Timing

2. Urgent – this briefing note is required by the Minister prior to his attendance at the meeting on 12 September 2013.

Background

3. The GBR SAM Group was established in 2012 to oversee the development of the Strategic Assessment of the GBR Coastal Zone. The group is chaired by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and also includes the Ministers for Environment and Heritage Protection; Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Transport and Main Roads; and Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games.
4. The strategic assessment will, in part, respond to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's decision of July 2012 for the Australian Government to undertake a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
5. There are two components to the strategic assessment – a marine component and a coastal component. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is responsible for the marine component, and the Queensland Government, through DSDIP, is responsible for the coastal component.
6. The coastal component will assess how Queensland's coastal management, planning and development framework manages environmental protection within the GBR region and will comprise two reports:

- a Program Report (the Program) describing Queensland's management, planning and development framework being assessed; and
 - a Strategic Assessment Report which assesses the potential impacts on matters of national environmental significance from the implementation of the Program.
7. DNRM has provided feedback to DSDIP on draft versions of the Program and Strategic Assessment Report. While DNRM has no significant issues on the content of the draft reports, information has been provided to reflect reform being implemented by DNRM, such as the changes to the vegetation management framework. DSDIP has advised the comments will be incorporated into the next revisions of the reports.

Key issues

8. The meeting on 12 September 2013 has been scheduled for the Ministers to discuss the progress of the reports and Queensland's ongoing involvement in the GBR Strategic Assessment.
9. DSDIP provided advanced drafts of the agenda and meeting papers to DNRM on 4 September 2013 however, the Deputy Premier's office sends the finalised agenda and meeting papers directly to the respective Ministers' offices prior to the meeting.
10. Below is a brief overview of the key items to be considered at the meeting.

Agenda items

11. *Agenda Item 1.2 Streamlining approval process – Approvals Bilateral (Attachment 2)*—provides an update on the current status of the Approvals Bilateral process and the renewed efforts to streamline environmental approval processes between the Queensland and Australian Governments.
12. *Agenda Item 2. Strategic Assessment (Attachment 5)*—provides an update on the significant progress made on the drafting of the Program and Strategic Assessment Report, which are nearing finalisation. Both reports are expected to be independently reviewed, prior to being finalised in November 2013, and forwarded to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment.
13. *Agenda Item 2.2 Forward commitments (Attachment 6)*—includes the table of forward commitments and proposed new measures based on previously announced initiatives and programs and are designed to greater align and streamline Commonwealth and State approvals processes. Forward commitments are outcomes based, to provide flexibility when considering implementation options.
14. The exact nature and scope of the proposed forward commitments and their implementation arrangements are to be determined following further consultation and feedback across government. Commitments that will impact on DNRM include participation in the joint Australian and Queensland Government's Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013, and the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program..
15. *Agenda Item 3. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA): Strategic Assessment (Attachment 8)*—provides an update of the progress of GBRMPA's marine component of the strategic assessment and the concerns raised by the Queensland Government in relation to certain aspects of the draft marine component report. The government's concerns relate to the prescriptive nature of GBRMPA's recommended improvements and their assessment of the condition of coral in the GBR. The government is continuing to liaise closely with GBRMPA to resolve these issues.
16. *Agenda Item 4. Independent review (Attachment 9)*—seeks the Minister's approval of the independent review of the draft Program and Strategic Assessment Reports, which is required under the Terms of Reference for the GBR Coastal Zone Strategic Assessment (Attachment 10). The purpose of the independent review is to provide a rigorous assessment of Queensland's reports and any relevant supporting documentation to ensure that the documents transparently and accurately describe and demonstrate the effectiveness of the Program.
17. The independent review would be expected to take approximately six weeks.
18. *Agenda Item 5. Public consultation process (Attachment 11)*—proposes an extended 12 week consultation period following completion of the independent review, and a joint Queensland Government and GBRMPA public consultation process.

19. The extended 12 week consultation process takes into account the simultaneous release of the reports, their complexity and length, and the overlap with the Christmas/New Year period. This extended consultation period is also supported by stakeholders.

Attachments

20. **Attachment 1:** DRAFT agenda.
Attachment 2: Agenda item 1.2 Streamlining approval processes
Attachment 3: Attachment 1 to Agenda item 1.2 Queensland position statement
Attachment 4: Attachment 2 to Agenda item 1.2 Deputy Premier letter to Minister for Environment (Cwth)
Attachment 5: Agenda item 2.0 Strategic Assessment
Attachment 6: Attachment 3 to Agenda item 2.0 Forward Commitments
Attachment 7: Attachment 4 to Agenda item 2.0 Indicative Timeline
Attachment 8: Agenda item 3.0 GBRMPA Strategic Assessment
Attachment 9: Agenda item 4.0 Independent Review
Attachment 10: Attachment 1 to Agenda item 4.0 Terms of Reference
Attachment 11: Agenda item 5.0 Public Consultation Process
Attachment 12: Attachment 1 to Agenda item 5.0 Proposed Communications Actions.

Clearance

21. Appropriate DNRM business groups have been consulted in the development of the GBR Strategic Assessment documentation and significant comment has been provided in relation to DNRM's jurisdiction.

Next steps

22. DNRM will continue to liaise closely with DSDIP on further revisions of both reports to ensure that DNRM's portfolio and responsibilities are reflected accurately and appropriately.

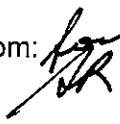
Neil Bray

Action Officer: Anita Haenfler
 Telephone: 3199 7353

Minister - Natural Resources and Mines

Comments:

To: Minister Cripps
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

From:  Dan Hunt
Director-General
Natural Resources and Mines

Chief of Staff	OK
Snr Policy Advisor	OK
Dated / /	
Approved	Not Approved
Further information required	
Minister.....	
Dated / /	

Endorsed:  Sue Ryan, Deputy Director General, Service Delivery
Lloyd Taylor, A/Executive Director, Operations Support
Nancy Esler, Director, Natural Resource Management Programs

5 December 2012

Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum, Meeting 35 on 11 December 2012 from 9.00am to 12 noon

Recommendation

- It is recommended that the Minister:
 - note** the information provided below and in the meeting folder (**Attachment 1**) for the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum (Ministerial Forum) on 11 December 2012; and
 - note** that Director-General, Department of Natural Resource and Mines (DNRM) and other senior officers will be briefing the Minister in person at 8.00am on 11 December 2012, to allow the Minister time to travel to the meeting venue at the Brisbane Marriott Hotel in Queen Street, Brisbane.

Timing

- Brief and folder (**Attachment 1**) to be provided to the Minister no later than 6 December 2012.

Background

- The Ministerial Forum provides relevant Australian and Queensland Government Ministers with the opportunity to meet periodically to discuss matters pertaining to the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Intergovernmental Agreement.
- Under the GBR Intergovernmental Agreement, the Australian and Queensland Governments are required to work together to manage marine and land environments within the GBR World Heritage Area.
- Minister Cripps has been invited, in his capacity as Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, to be a member of the Ministerial Forum, by the Honourable Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. A copy of this letter has been included in the folder (**Attachment 1**) under Item 4.1.
- The Ministerial Forum agenda papers, and key messages within, have principally been prepared by the Australian Government.
- The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) has prepared briefing papers for the joint Queensland Government response to the agenda items. Minister Cripps is not required to speak to these agenda items.

Key Issues

Declaration of Interest

- Minister Cripps may be asked to declare his interest as Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. An information brief has been prepared for the Minister's reference and included in the folder (**Attachment 1**) under agenda item 4.1.

Release of Second Report Card

- Agenda paper 7.2 recommends the Ministerial Forum endorse the Reef Plan Second Report Card 2010 and release in mid December 2012. The delay in release of the Second Report Card is due to challenges with the integration of a number of datasets from various organisations, departments and levels of government.
- DPC has prepared the Queensland Government's brief for the Ministerial Forum in which it reports that catchment load results are still to be finalised due to issues with the Australian

Government's Reef Rescue management practice dataset. This point has been included in the brief to ensure the responsibility for delays is not directed towards the Queensland Government.

11. DNRM has also prepared an information paper for Minister Cripps which has been included in the folder under agenda item 7.2 (**Attachment 1**). This includes further details explaining the delay to the release of the Second Report Card.
12. Minister Cripps may wish to also be a signatory to the media release for the Second Report Card.

Potential Ministerial Announcement of the next phase of Caring for our Country

13. It is possible that Minister Burke may make an announcement at the Ministerial Forum about the next phase of Caring for our Country, and in particular the regional natural resource management (NRM) body base level component. Any announcement would enable regional NRM bodies to plan and negotiate the first tranche of investments with the Australian Government in the first six months of 2012-13.

14.

15.

Category B information - sch3(2)(1)(b) Cabinet matter - Would reveal consideration of Cabinet/prejudice confidentiality

Attachments

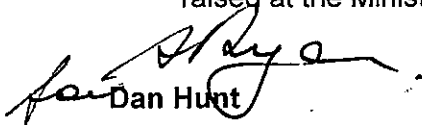
16. Attachment 1: GBR Folder – containing agenda papers and briefs.

Clearance

17. Not applicable.

Next steps

18. Departmental officers will attend a face-to-face briefing with Minister Cripps at 8am on 11 December 2012.
19. Follow up with Minister Cripps' office to ascertain the Minister's response to any issues raised at the Ministerial Forum.


Dan Hunt

Action Officer: Robert White
Telephone: 3166 0192

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Comments:

CTS 05157/13

To: Minister Cripps
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

From: John Skinner
Deputy Director-General
Policy and Program Support

Chief of Staff.....	OK
Senior Policy Advisor.....	OK
Dated / /	
Approved / Not Approved / Noted	
Further information required	
Minister	
Dated / /	

Endorsed: Bernadette Ditchfield
A/Executive Director
Land and Mines Policy
Warwick Squire
A/Director
Land and Mines Policy

Copy Dan Hunt
A/Director-General
Natural Resources and Mines

20 March 2013

Great Barrier Reef Strategy Assessment Ministers Group – Wednesday 20 March 2013, 4.00pm – 5.00pm. Room 5.30, Level 5, Parliamentary Annexe

Attendees for this meeting are: Deputy Premier (Chair), Minister Cripps, Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), Ministers for Environment and Heritage Protection; Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Transport and Main Roads; and Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games.

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Recommendation

1. The suggested approach the Minister should take for this meeting is:
 - **note** the information provided below in the key issues section of this brief that relate to the agenda items.

Timing

2. URGENT – the meeting is to be held on 20 March 2013.

Background

3. The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Strategy Assessment Ministers Group (SAM Group) was established in 2012 to oversee the development of the Strategic Assessment of the GBR Coastal Zone. The group is chaired by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and also includes the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection; Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Minister for Transport and Main Roads; and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games.
4. The Queensland Government has agreed to undertake a strategic assessment of the GBR coastal zone under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
5. The Queensland Government is committed to a timely and practical strategic assessment focusing on assessing the impacts of actions under Queensland's systems and planning processes to ensure these systems and processes adequately take into account matters of national environmental significance (MNES).
6. As part of the strategic assessment process, the Queensland Government will:
 - prepare a ports strategy for the GBR;
 - refine coastal planning, including the protection of areas of MNES;
 - prepare a timetable for the development of Statutory Regional Plans to better manage land use issues; and
 - conduct a review of the environmental offsets required of developments to ensure funds derived from the GBR region are used to tackle the most significant issues facing the reef.

7. The strategic assessment requires the preparation of two reports:
 - a Program Report which describes in detail the Queensland management, planning and development framework (the Program) being assessed; and
 - a Strategic Assessment Report which assesses the potential impacts on MNES from the implementation of the Program.
8. The meeting has been convened for Queensland Ministers to discuss the ongoing involvement of the ~~state~~ ~~State government~~ ~~Government~~ in relation to the GBR Strategic Assessment, which is nearing completion. The meeting will focus on discussions around the two key deliverables of the project – the Program Report and Strategic Assessment Report – drafts of which have been circulated for discussion at the meeting.

Key Issues

Agenda Item 2.1 Reports progress and review outcomes

9. The contents of the agenda paper include the following: any feedback from this SAM Group is requested to be sent through respective agencies to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) by Friday 22 March 2013. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) has provided relevant feedback to DSDIP during the drafting process.
10. The agenda paper also notes that an independent review is expected to occur of the Program Report and the Strategic Assessment Report; and a Stakeholder Reference Group workshop is scheduled to occur after these reports have been finalised.

Agenda Item 2.2 Forward commitments

11. The issues associated with the identification of forward commitments include the following:
 - ~~the~~ the Australian Government has indicated that it will require Queensland to commit to delivering specific outcomes for the MNES, before the Program can be endorsed; and
 - ~~that the the~~ Strategic Assessment has identified that the extent, condition and trends of MNES and the values that underpin MNES are generally poor and in decline.
- 11-12. Currently the only forward commitments identified in the Strategic Assessment Report are either aligned to those made in June 2012, current departmental activities, or other processes such as those agreed at the GBR Ministerial Forum.

Agenda Item 2.3 Consultation process

- 12-13. The paper seeks noting of the ongoing consultation with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in coordinating the consultation process, including that the consultation process will overlap with the commencement of the Federal caretaker period on 12 August 2013.

Agenda Item 2.4 Endorsement process

- 13-14. This paper outlines the processes for, and the issues associated with, endorsement of the Strategic Assessment, including the following:
 - endorsement of the (Strategic Assessment) Program by the Australian Government in relation to the Queensland program at the system level, does not equate to approval of classes of action under the EPBC Act; and
 - that it is the second step of the process – subsequent accreditation of classes of actions associated with the Queensland Program, which potentially allows development to proceed across a defined geographic area for a defined set of development types (classes of action) without further need for project-by-project Australian Government assessment and approval.

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Agenda Item 3- Queensland Ports Strategy

~~14-15.~~ This paper seeks noting of the scope and timing of the Queensland Ports Strategy (QPS) and its relationship with the Strategic Assessment of the GBR Coastal Zone, including it is proposed that the QPS:

- have a time horizon to 2040 to mirror the life of the Program for the strategic assessment (25 years);
- reaffirm the government's commitment to "restrict significant port development, within and adjacent to the GBR World Heritage Area, to within existing port limits for the next 10 years"; and
- support consistency in the identification and management of MNES in port land use planning.

Agenda Item 4- GBR Ministerial Forum – Long term plan for sustainable development

~~15-16.~~ This paper seeks the noting of the progress on scoping a long term plan for sustainable development plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

~~16-17.~~ While the long term plan for sustainable development is not part of the strategic assessment, the two are related. If completion of the strategic assessment is held up or deferred, there is no real benefit to Queensland in continuing with the plan, apart from helping to satisfy the request from the World Heritage Committee.

Attachments

~~17-18.~~ Attachment 1: Papers for the Meeting.

Clearance

~~18-19.~~ Appropriate DNRM business groups have been consulted in the development of the GBR Strategic Assessment documentation, and significant comment has been provided in relation to DNRM's jurisdiction.

John Skinner
Deputy Director-General

Action Officer: Warwick Squire
Telephone: 3405 3823

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Comments:
