

## Reef Futures Roundtables - Terms of Reference

The Australian Academy of Science (the Academy) has been engaged by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water to convene input to the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel that will assist in understanding differential impacts of climate change across the Great Barrier Reef under different climate scenarios, and in the context of emerging technologies and interventions.

### Purpose

The Australian Academy of Science (the Academy) will:

- Bring together cross-disciplinary experts, including scientists and other specialists, to understand better the impacts of climate change on species, habitats and ecosystems across the whole of the Great Barrier Reef (coastal, terrestrial & marine), and their implications for developing a hierarchy of interventions.
- Plan, arrange and facilitate three collaborative roundtables as follows:
  - Roundtable 1 – discuss latest scientific findings on the differential impacts of climate change on functioning of the Reef (including critical interactions between species, habitats and ecosystems and identifying key knowledge and data gaps).
  - Roundtable 2 – identify and evaluate technologies, interventions and new approaches to respond to key threats to the Reef.
  - Roundtable 3 – building on collated findings from Roundtable 1 and 2, develop a synthesis of available and emerging interventions, technologies and approaches under different climate futures based on potential direct and compounding benefits to the Reef.
- Develop future climate ‘storylines’ applicable to the Reef, based on plausible emissions scenarios, climate indicators and other lines of evidence to inform roundtable discussions.
- Synthesise outcomes from the roundtables through a final report to the Reef 2050 Plan Independent Expert Panel (IEP).
- Develop and publish a methodology report to document the approach.
- Develop optional public outreach communications products to be agreed upon with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

The design and content of roundtables and project outputs may change from the above description as the Academy, and DCCEEW refine project requirements.

### Out of Scope

The Academy will not:

- Provide policy advice or policy recommendations, explicit or implied
- Provide or analyse costing for any action or intervention discussed in the roundtables
- Provide a prioritisation of funding for programs or provide analysis of current funding programs and their effectiveness

## Roundtable Chair and Participant Selection

The Academy will select Chairs and up to 30 participants for each roundtable using the defined Academy process below, following nominations and comments from various stakeholders.

### Roundtable Chair selection process:

The members of the Reef Futures Roundtables Advisory Group (see below) will nominate roundtable Chairs. The suggested Chairs will be discussed at a meeting of the whole Advisory Group and considered on the basis of subject matter expertise, leadership and skills in facilitation, and considerations will be made based on diversity, geography and affiliation.

The Secretary Science Policy (Professor Ian Chubb who is also Chair Of the Independent Expert Panel), Australian Academy of Science, following input and discussion from the Advisory Group will make the final selection of Chairs. The final selection of Chairs will require approval from the Academy President.

### Roundtable participant selection process:

We strive for a diverse and inclusive science community that brings together the widest range of talents, backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences, and maximises scientific innovation and creativity.

Nominations will be sought from peak scientific organisations and other relevant bodies, with guidance from the Advisory Group. The selection process aims to generate a group of diverse participants with the best mix of relevant expertise to produce an informative and productive discussion.

Following receipt of nominations and individual-specific information from nominating organisations, roundtable invitees will be selected based on excellence, leadership and subject matter expertise in relevant disciplines.

The selection process will also consider:

- Institution (to ensure broad representation, including rural/regional institutions if applicable).
- Diversity attributes including gender and other under-represented groups
- Career level (to enable the participation of early- and mid-career researchers)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation

The Australian Academy of Science values diversity. Applicants will be assessed against the attributes described above. On the occasion that two candidates are equally well-qualified, the candidate with a diverse background that is underrepresented will be selected.

Participants will be assessed by Academy staff for the relevance of expertise, and the roundtable Chairs will then make final selections. For transparency, brief comments justifying why each participant has or has not been selected will be recorded.

Approval of the final list of participants will be made by Secretary for Science Policy and the Academy President.

## Advisory Groups

Members of the IEP will be invited to form a Reef Futures Roundtables Advisory Group. The advisory group will contribute to the agenda of the Roundtables, the nomination of participants and nomination of the roundtable Chairs.

The Advisory Group will meet via videoconference as required by the Academy and be offered the opportunity to provide written contributions should members be unable to attend. All communication and meetings with the Advisory Group will include the Reef 2050 IEP Secretariat as an observer.

The Advisory Group has no decision-making powers.

## Outputs

The Academy will provide a final report synthesising the roundtables outputs to IEP and DCCEEW following the final roundtable.

The Academy will publish a separate publicly available methodology report documenting the approach undertaken for the project.

## Secretariat

The Academy's Policy Team will provide secretariat support to the roundtable Chairs and participants for the duration of the project. Project management, research and analysis will be led by Manager Science Policy and Projects, Dr Hayley Teasdale, from the Academy secretariat for this project.

The Secretariat will maintain records for the project and its Advisory Groups, including agendas, papers and minutes.