

Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program

RRAP INTERVENTION RISK REVIEW GROUP (IRRG) – TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. General

1.1. Background

The Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP) is a collaboration of Australia's leading experts to create an integrated group of reef interventions that is safe, acceptable and at a scale to be effective to help protect the future of the Great Barrier Reef, other Australian reefs, and coral reefs globally.

Program risk needs to be managed in relation to the delivery of the program itself, but also in a broader decision support context, as the nature and timing of future deployments of interventions will be driven by the balance between the risk of not intervening versus the real or perceived risk of intervening.

Intervention Risk is defined as the risk associated with RRAP interventions at their targeted scale, in relation to the deployment of interventions as well as the risk associated with uncertainty of outcomes and undesirable impacts of intervention research and development (R&D).

1.2. Purpose

The RRAP Intervention Risk Review Group (IRRG) was established by the Board of RRAP to assist in fulfilling the Board's oversight responsibilities in relation to the management of Intervention risk.

2. Constitution

At a meeting of the Board held on 20/09/2022, the Board resolved to adopt this Terms of Reference which sets out the roles and responsibilities, structure, and membership requirements of the IRRG.

3. Powers

The decisions of the IRRG are recommendations only and do not oblige any RRAP Partner or the Board to accept or act upon any decision of the IRRG.

The IRRG does not have authority or power to act for or bind any RRAP Partner or the Board to any agreement, obligation, or liability.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The key role of the IRRG is to consider matters related to, and provide guidance and advice on, the assessment and management of Intervention Risk. It is not the IRRG's role to determine or make statements about the acceptability of Intervention Risk.

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The roles and responsibilities of the IRRG include:

- a) reviewing the interventions being developed under RRAP and identify intervention risks across environmental, economic, social, cultural and regulatory dimensions,
- b) comparing risks identified under a) with risks already identified by RRAP teams through program management and subprogram activities,
- c) assessing whether current R&D subprograms are likely to generate the required knowledge to assess and quantify each of these risks, and making recommendations to address any significant gap,
- d) using their own knowledge and that provided by the R&D subprograms (including outputs from modelling activities), independently assess the magnitude of intervention deployment risks as a function of their scale of deployment,
- e) advising on intervention risk management,
- f) with support from the RRAP Risk Management Coordinator, interfacing with relevant R&D subprograms,
- g) reporting, as required and instructed by the Board or Executive Director, to the RRAP Steering Committee, the RRAP Risk Sub-Committee of the Board and the RRAP Board.

5. Membership

Each IRRG member is appointed and/or removed by the Board at its discretion.

All IRRG members are initially appointed for twelve (12) months. IRRG members may be re-appointed for additional specified-length term(s).

IRRG members may resign from the IRRG at any time through written notice to the RRAP Executive Director or RRAP Board.

The IRRG will comprise:

- a) Independent IRRG Chairperson
- b) RRAP Risk Management Coordinator (ex officio)
- c) Independent expert members with skills that encompass:
 - Coral reef ecology, population dynamics, climate change impacts
 - Genetics and evolution, coral biology, symbiosis
 - Adaptation to climate change, natural processes and assisted evolution
 - Large scale project implementation
 - Emerging diseases, disease management
 - Traditional Owner cultural values and Indigenous heritage expertise
 - Risk modelling in natural ecosystems, modelling ecological and evolutionary responses
 - General risk and uncertainty assessments, decision systems

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- Social risk, licence/acceptability and community perception, socio-economic methodologies, ecosystem services
- Environmental management and regulation
- Specific knowledge of Great Barrier Reef

To cover the above skills, the IRRG is likely to require ten (10) to twelve (12) members. This number and the mix of skills may be adjusted over time to align with priority interventions under consideration and address different dimensions of risk as needed.

A member of the IRRG may be elected by IRRG members to act as deputy Chairperson.

6. Observers

The IRRG can hold closed meeting sessions that are only to be attended by IRRG members and support staff as required to allow for IRRG deliberations, and for collaborative work on specific activities and deliverables.

With the exception of closed meeting sessions, any RRAP Board member, Risk Sub-Committee member, the RRAP Executive Director and the RRAP Program Director can attend IRRG meetings, and they shall be given notice of each IRRG meeting confirming the venue, time, and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed.

The IRRG may from time to time invite other individuals to attend IRRG meetings, either:

- a) in an observer status; or
- b) in an advisory capacity, to provide information or make other specific contributions as required,

either on an ad hoc or standing basis.

7. Reporting

The RRAP Risk Management Coordinator shall report any findings and recommendations to the Risk Sub-Committee at the next subsequent Risk Sub-Committee meeting, and a copy of IRRG meeting minutes shall be provided to the Risk Sub-Committee. All papers of the IRRG shall be available to all Board, Risk Sub-Committee and Steering Committee members on the RRAP program management site.

The IRRG shall deliver communiqués (or other agreed written products) that summarise the group's advice and supporting evidence.

8. Meetings

8.1. Quorum

The quorum necessary for the transaction of business at a regular meeting of the IRRG is six (6) members including a minimum of five (5) independent members. In the absence of

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the IRRG Chairperson or deputy Chairperson, members shall elect an IRRG member to act as Chairperson for that meeting.

8.2. Frequency

The RRAP Risk Management Coordinator shall convene regular meetings, indicatively every six (6) to ten (10) weeks, to progress the group's activities, or more frequently if required.

The Risk Management Coordinator may also convene occasional IRRG workshops, particularly for the purposes of: 1) gathering information from non-IRRG experts, managing agencies and others as relevant, 2) deliberations by group members, and 3) collaborative work on specific activities and deliverables.

8.3. Notice

Unless otherwise agreed by all IRRG members, notice of each meeting confirming the venue, time, and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed and information papers relevant to such items, shall be sent to each member of the IRRG and any other person required to attend, no fewer than five (5) business days prior to the date of the meeting.

8.4. Participation

An IRRG member may validly participate in a meeting through any suitable technology means, provided that all persons entitled to attend the IRRG meeting are able to hear and speak to each other throughout the meeting. An IRRG member participating in this way is deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be counted in the quorum (if applicable).

8.5. Minutes

The RRAP Risk Management Coordinator shall keep minutes of proceedings and resolutions of all IRRG meetings, including the names of those present and in attendance, together with copies of supporting papers. These records shall be available to any IRRG or Board member via the RRAP program management site.

Minutes of IRRG meetings shall be circulated to all members of the IRRG. Minutes shall be confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting at the next subsequent meeting of the IRRG.

8.6. Conflict of Interest

IRRG members must adhere to the RRAP Conflict of Interest Policy.

9. Review

The IRRG Terms of Reference shall be reviewed on an annual basis.

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