

## RRAP Intervention Risk Review Group

Workshop, 17 – 21 July 2023

### Communique

The second in-person workshop for the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program's (RRAP) Intervention Risk Review Group (IRRG/the Group) took place from 17 – 21 July 2023 on Magnetic Island, Australia. The workshop provided the opportunity for the Group to meet and welcome recently appointed new member, Phil Rist, a Nywaigi Traditional Owner.

The main purpose of this second workshop was to further develop and build an understanding of the methodology that will guide the IRRG's risk review process. During the workshop the Group reinforced the importance of the independence of the IRRG – this being a foundational aspect of the methodology that will allow the Group to perform its quality assurance role in the reef intervention risk space. The Group explored the overall logic and structure of the methodology, unpacked various steps to identify the touchpoints for information exchange between the IRRG and RRAP, and agreed upon next steps and timelines for the risk review work.

The Group also continued its work on risk identification and knowledge review, unpacking the various risk categories, to ensure an understanding of the full scope of the risks and benefits of interventions. As a focus point, the Group was provided with hypothetical intervention deployment scenarios within which to frame their assessments. The early, coordinated engagement of Traditional Owners in the planning and conduct of interventions was recognised as an important risk mitigation and benefit realisation strategy.

The Group noted with concern the record high temperatures being experienced globally, the heightening expectations of an imminent El Niño declaration by Australia, and the results of "Business as Usual" modelling. Accordingly, the group reinforced its view that undertaking no interventions (no action) or proceeding too slowly with interventions represents a significant risk to the future of the values of the Reef.

As in the previous workshop, RRAP leaders and key scientists and engineers were available throughout the workshop to explain the intervention methods currently being researched, as well as broader aspects of RRAP and considerations for potential intervention deployment.

Following on from previous requests by the Group for closer engagement with Marine Park managers on reef interventions, key managers from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Authority were invited and attended for the duration of the workshop. This allowed the Group to provide Marine Park managers with full visibility of their methodology and process, whilst learning about management perspectives and roles in relation to enabling and responsibly managing any reef interventions within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Group highlighted that an understanding of Marine Park values and management objectives will be foundational to assessment of intervention risks and benefits.

The Group will continue this initial work through a series of online meetings and in-person workshops, to be held over the next 18 months. Task teams will be formed as necessary to take a deeper dive into specific risk areas, with systematic reporting back to the full Group.

For more information, see webpages on the [Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program](#), including the [intervention options](#) and the [Intervention Risk Review Group](#).