

IRRG STATEMENT

Quality assurance review of RRAP Intervention Risk Assessment – Approach and methods

The Intervention Risk Review Group's quality assurance review of the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program's *Intervention Risk Assessment – Approach and methods* found that the process is fit-for-purpose for assessing the risks associated with proposed reef interventions.

The Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP) is a long-term research and development program focused on developing, testing and risk-assessing new reef interventions to help keep the Great Barrier Reef (the Reef) resilient and sustain critical Reef functions and values. A comprehensive understanding and evaluation of reef intervention risks is a key component of RRAP, including from ecological, social, economic, cultural and heritage perspectives. RRAP has developed the *RRAP Intervention Risk Assessment – Approach and methods* to guide the Intervention Risk Assessment of intervention deployment proposals.

A quality assurance review of the *RRAP Intervention Risk Assessment – Approach and methods* has been undertaken by the Intervention Risk Review Group (IRRG). The IRRG is an independent body established by the RRAP Board to assist it in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities in relation to the management of risks associated with interventions. IRRG works under its own Terms of References with secretariat support from RRAP. Senior officers from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority attend meetings of the IRRG as observers to provide advice on their priority information needs on intervention risks and on the policy, regulatory and management setting for the Great Barrier Reef.

Upon formation of the IRRG, the groups worked to develop the *IRRG Quality assurance process and methods*, in which it provided substantive guidance to RRAP for the development of the *RRAP Intervention Risk Assessment – Approach and methods*. There was ongoing dialogue between RRAP and IRRG to ensure this guidance was understood and reflected in RRAP's methods. The Intervention Risk Assessment of the base configuration of the Pilot Deployments Program provided IRRG with the opportunity to view the application of the *RRAP Intervention Risk Assessment – Approach and methods* to an intervention deployment proposal.

The IRRG concluded that the RRAP Intervention Risk Assessment process, if applied as intended by people with appropriate expertise, is fit for the purpose of assessing the risks associated with proposed reef interventions. The structure of the document follows the guidance outlined by IRRG and reflects upon the discussions between RRAP and IRRG to date. The rigour of the Intervention Risk Assessment process will be more strongly tested when applied to larger or more complex proposed reef interventions in the future.

In conclusion, IRRG's quality assurance review of the *RRAP Intervention Risk Assessment – Approach and methods* found that the process is fit-for-purpose for assessing the risks associated with proposed reef interventions, noting that there will be ongoing iterative development of this document.

