



The Hon Greg Hunt MP

Minister for the Environment

PDR: MS15-000467

Mr Kishore Rao
Director, World Heritage Centre
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
FRANCE

09 MAR 2015

Dear Mr Rao

Further to my letter of 30 January 2015 submitting Australia's 2015 State Party Report on the state of conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, I am pleased to now submit Australia's *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan*.

Australia's management of the Reef is collaborative and relies on a close working relationship between the Australian and Queensland governments.

Following a state election in late January 2015, a new Queensland Government was confirmed in mid-February 2015. As you would appreciate this has meant that the finalisation of the Reef 2050 Plan has taken longer than we had advised in the State Party Report.

The *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* is a milestone document.

It outlines concrete and consistent management measures for the next 35 years to ensure the Outstanding Universal Value of the Reef is preserved now and for generations to come.

The Plan further strengthens Australia's response to issues raised by the World Heritage Committee.

Prepared in a consultative and participatory manner, the Reef 2050 Plan builds on the outcomes of the comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and the Outlook Report 2014. The Plan firmly responds to the pressures facing the Reef and will address cumulative impacts and increase the Reef's resilience to longer term threats such as climate change.

To highlight our commitment and ensure its delivery, the Plan will be made a schedule to the *Great Barrier Reef Intergovernmental Agreement 2009*. This will provide a strong governance framework for Australian and Queensland Government actions to protect the Reef.

Progress against the Plan will be overseen, driven and monitored by Ministers of both Governments through the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum, which I chair.

The Plan sets clear actions, targets, objectives and outcomes to drive and guide the short, medium and long term management of the Reef and includes a number of significant new commitments from both the Australian and Queensland governments.

These include:

- a **permanent ban** on disposal of capital dredge material in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- **restricting capital dredging** for the development of new, or expansion of existing, port facilities to within the regulated port limits of Gladstone, Hay Point/Mackay, Abbot Point and Townsville
- **prohibiting the sea-based disposal** of material into the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area generated by port related capital dredging
- ensuring that any new development inside the port limits of Gladstone, Hay Point/Mackay, Abbot Point and Townsville is also consistent with the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act*, the *Queensland Marine Parks Act*, their regulations and zoning plans
- a commitment by governments to ensure sufficient resources are available to achieve the Plan's outcomes, and for implementation of the Plan to be underpinned by a robust **investment** framework
- an **additional \$100 million** commitment by the new Queensland government over five years to add to the more than \$2 billion of government funding projected over the next decade and,
- the appointment of a **Queensland Minister for the Great Barrier Reef** as a demonstration of the importance placed upon the protection and management of the Reef.

The attached *Addendum to Australia's 2015 State Party Report* provides updates on these and other key policy areas and supplements the Report submitted by Australia at the end of January 2015.

Australia appreciates the global interest in the conservation and sustainable use of the Reef and the role of the World Heritage Committee in further focusing our collective efforts to manage the Reef.

Along with the 2015 State Party Report and this Addendum, the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* demonstrates Australia's commitment to address the concerns of the international community by delivering strong positive outcomes for the Reef.

We remain determined and committed to protect the Reef now and for generations to come.

Yours sincerely



Greg Hunt

6 March 2015

regards & many thanks
for all of the advice &
assistance, 