



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Committee Secretary
Senate Environment and Communications References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I am writing to provide the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's response to a question taken on notice during the public hearing of the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee inquiry regarding the *Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program* on 21 September 2018.

The department's enclosed response clarifies the department's involvement in the interdepartmental task force established by the Department of the Environment and Energy in May 2017.

The department will continue to work cooperatively with the Committee as it completes its inquiry into the *Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program*.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Urquhart

28 September 2018

**Response to question on notice from the 21 September 2018 public hearing of the
Senate Environment and Communications References Committee inquiry into
the *Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program***

1. The time line we've been given is that the Department of the Environment and Energy established an interdepartmental task force on 15 May 2017 to develop proposals for consideration by the government. Was your department involved in that interdepartmental task force?

At the public hearing on 21 September 2018, Mrs Jane Urquhart, Head of Science and Commercialisation Policy Division in the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, interpreted this question about an interdepartmental task force as a reference to an interdepartmental meeting. This answer clarifies Mrs Urquhart's response at the hearing.

The interdepartmental task force established by the Department of the Environment and Energy on 15 May 2017 was an internal business unit within that department. It was interdepartmental in the sense that it accessed expertise from other government agencies through secondment arrangements. The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science facilitated a secondment to the interdepartmental task force of a marine science expert from the Office of the Chief Scientist.