



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

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

Dear Secretary

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science welcomes the opportunity to respond to written questions on notice received from the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee on 14 August 2018 regarding the *Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program*.

The department's enclosed response clarifies the involvement of the department and its science agencies in the \$443.3 million grant to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

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

Dr Heather Smith PSM

6 September 2018

**Response to written questions on notice from the Senate Environment and  
Communications References Committee inquiry into the *Great Barrier Reef 2050  
Partnership Program***

**1. When was the Department informed that the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (the Foundation) would receive the Partnership funding?**

The department was informed on 24 April 2018 by the Department of the Environment and Energy that an announcement of funding for the Great Barrier Reef through the Foundation would be made on the weekend of 28-29 April 2018.

**2. Did the Department have any involvement with the Foundation or any other government agency over the development and/or decision-making process for the Partnership? If so, please provide all relevant information including dates of meetings, those officers who attended and matters discussed.**

The department was not involved in the development or decision-making process for the Partnership.

**3. Was the Department or any agency within the portfolio consulted on a draft version of the Grant Guidelines? If so, please provide details.**

The department received a draft of the *Reef Trust – Great Barrier Reef Foundation Partnership Grant Guidelines* on 3 May 2018. The department received a final version of the grant guidelines on 15 May 2018.

**4. The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) is responsible for the Reef Restoration and Adaption Program. Was AIMS consulted about the five main components of the Partnership? If so, please provide all details.**

The five main components of the Partnership Program relate directly to the Department of the Environment and Energy's *Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan*. The department's science agencies provided input to the Reef 2050 Plan during its development and recent re-write.

**5. Has the Department had previous dealings with or provided any funding to the Foundation? If so, please provide details.**

The department's previous interactions with the Foundation are as follows:

- On 16 March 2018, officers from the department met with Ms Anna Marsden, Managing Director of the Foundation, and Ms Theresa Fyffe, Executive Director of Projects and Partnerships at the Foundation, in Brisbane. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the scoping phase of the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program, in which the Foundation is a partner.
- On 7 July 2017, Mr Bill Ferris, Chair of Innovation and Science Australia (ISA), convened a roundtable discussion on reef restoration and adaptation in the context of the ISA 2030 Plan. Attendees included Dr John Schubert, Chair of the Foundation, Anna Marsden, Managing Director of the Foundation, and Sue Weston, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.
- Other identified past dealings with the Foundation relate to grant applications under *Unlocking Australia's Potential* (2012) and the *Inspiring Australia* program (2014, 2015 and 2016). The Foundation's 2014 application was successful and it was provided funding of \$15,400 (GST inclusive).