**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 120

Hearing: Additional Estimates

Outcome: Agency

Programme: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA)

Topic: Reef Advisory Committee

Hansard Page: 27

Question Date: 23 February 2015

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Singh asked:

Senator SINGH: Just finally, the Reef Advisory Committees for 2015, can you provide the membership and the meeting schedule for the Reef Advisory Committee? I might have to take this on notice.

Dr Reichelt: I will do that, yes. We have two operating now—one established and another one coming. We have reviewed them recently and we are still looking at the best way for us to get those technical advices. We will give you a state of play with those committees.

Answer:

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is advised on Great Barrier Reef management issues through consultation with competency-based committees — known as Reef Advisory Committees. The Board of the Marine Park Authority appoints members of the Reef Advisory Committees. Committee details, including membership, are made available on the GBRMPA website.

Tourism Reef Advisory Committee (TRAC)

On 30 April 2014, the Marine Park Authority Board established the Tourism Reef Advisory Committee and appointed the membership. The three-year term will expire on 31 December 2017.

TRAC meetings are scheduled for 30 April – 1 May 2015 and then in September or October 2015 (date to be agreed at the April meeting).

Members of the TRAC are:

- Ms Glenys Schuntner: Independent Chair - Advocacy for regional economic development

- Mr Tony Baker: Marine tourism operations, including pontoons, northern region of the Great Barrier Reef

- Mr Tony Brown: Sailing and day tourism operations, central region of the Great Barrier Reef

- Mr Tony Charters: Ecotourism and tourism in protected areas, Ecotourism Australia

- Mr Mike Drake: International cruise shipping and marketing

- Mr Peter Gash: Sustainable tourism and aircraft operations, southern region of the Great Barrier Reef

- Ms Chrissy Grant: Indigenous affairs

- Mr Daniel Gschwind: Business acumen and economics, Queensland Tourism Industry Council

- Mr Gavin Herholdt: Island tourism resorts

- Ms Annie Judd: Bareboat operations in the Whitsundays and tourism marketing

- Mr Geoff Kent: Tourism management in the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park, National Parks, Sports and Racing (Queensland)

- Mr Daniel McCarthy: Charter fishing

- Mr Col McKenzie: Marine tourism industry and diving, Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators

- Mr David Morgans: Regional tourism development, Tourism and Events Queensland

- Ms Bianca Priest: Commonwealth Marine Reserves, Parks Australia (Australian Government)

- Mr Jason Stanfield: Recreational use, including fishing, Australian National Sportfishing Association (awaiting formal acceptance)

Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee (IRAC)

GBRMPA is in the process of re-establishing its IRAC and is currently considering membership. The first meeting is expected to be held by 30 June 2015.

Previous Reef Advisory Committees

The terms of GBRMPA's Catchment and Coastal Reef Advisory Committee and Ecosystem Reef Advisory Committee concluded on the 31 December 2013. GBRMPA is currently reviewing the role, structure and membership of these Committees.

Reef Advisory Group

GBRMPA's Great Barrier Reef Region Strategic Assessment Program Report and the draft Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan included an action to establish a peak Great Barrier Reef Advisory Group. This action seeks to address the gap of there being no peak cross-representational advisory body for the Great Barrier Reef. Its role is to provide high level advice on the implementation of GBRMPA's comprehensive management program and to facilitate engagement with industry and the broader community regarding the implementation and review of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan.

GBRMPA is in the process of establishing this Group.