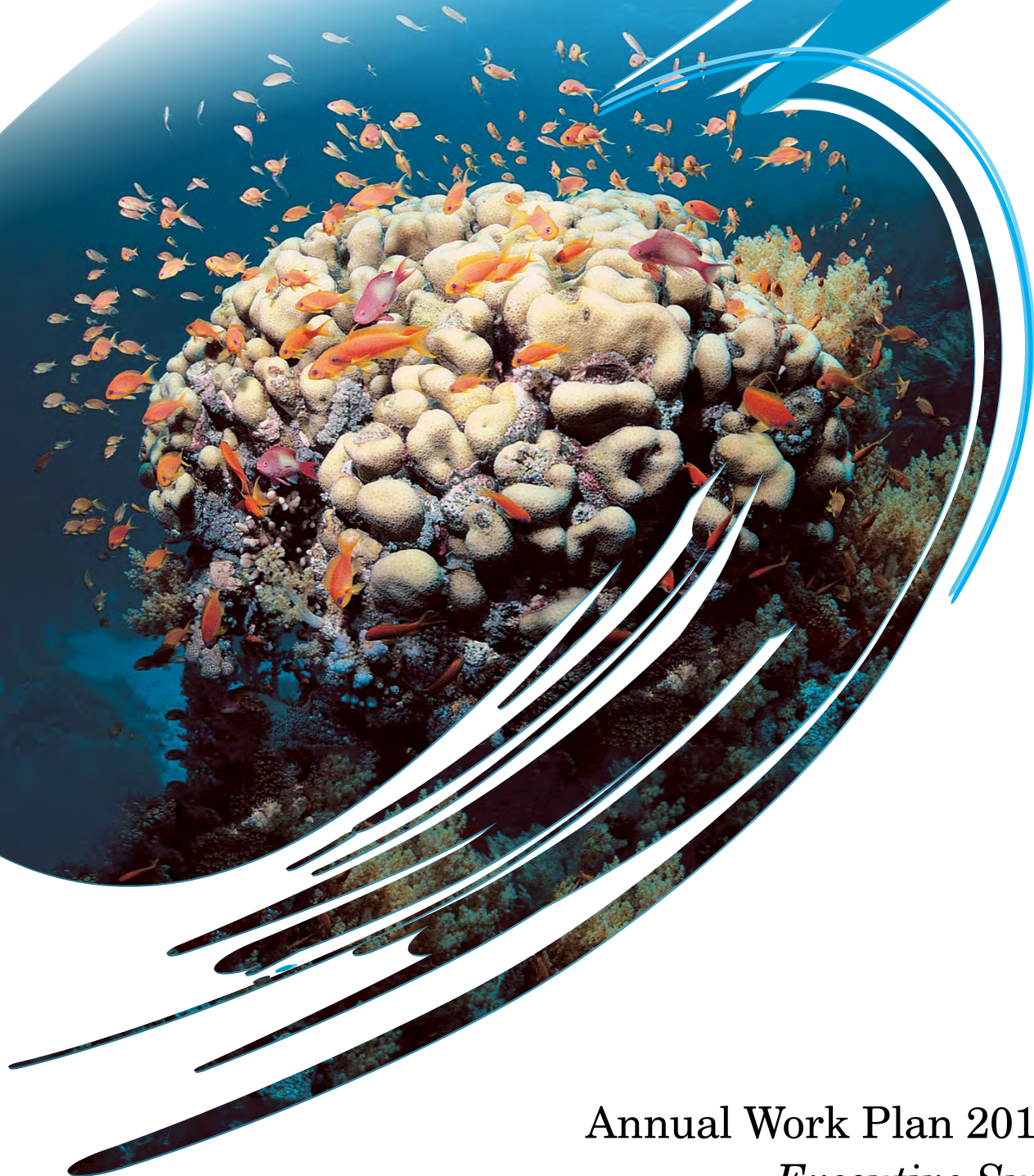


Reef Trust Partnership



Annual Work Plan 2019-2020
Executive Summary



Australian Government

REEF TRUST



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation

About the Reef Trust Partnership



The principal objective of the Partnership is to achieve significant improvement in the health of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the most spectacular natural wonders on the planet. Celebrated for its beauty and complexity, it has an inherent resilience that has allowed it to thrive and grow over hundreds of thousands of years. But that resilience is under threat. The accumulated impacts of climate change, poor water quality and crown-of-thorns starfish are having a dramatic effect on the state of the Reef and the recent IPCC Report¹ paints a grave future. There is no doubt that the Reef needs a global solution to climate change – the biggest threat it faces. Curbing temperature rises to the lowest thresholds in the Paris Agreement is essential, but the science tells us that in addition to global action we must take local action to build the resilience of the Reef.

This is where the Reef Trust Partnership (the Partnership) – a landmark \$443 million Commonwealth grant – is focused, delivering outcomes for the Reef across five key Components: Water Quality; Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) Control; Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science; Community Reef Protection and Traditional Owner Reef Protection; and Integrated Monitoring and Reporting.

Cutting across all five areas are science and innovation, sustainable financing, and communication and engagement – integral elements for the effective design, delivery and sustainability of the Partnership.

The goals and objectives of the Partnership are anchored within the Reef 2050 Plan – the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Reef until 2050.

The Reef Trust Partnership provides an unprecedented opportunity for supporting partnerships, collaborations and collective action, at a scale never previously possible. This collective approach will underpin the Partnership’s success and ensure meaningful and high impact outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef are achieved.

Partnership Progress to date

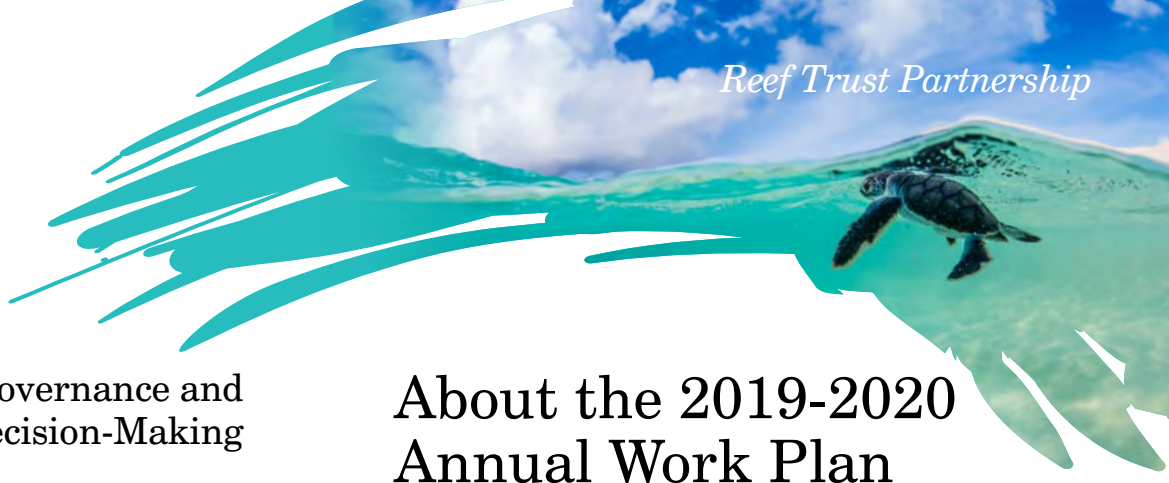
In accordance with the Partnership Grant Agreement, the first 12 months of the Partnership have focused on putting in place the planning, systems, processes, people and tools required to effectively design and administer a \$443 million Reef protection program. Key activities from a program delivery perspective have included establishing governance arrangements and engagement pathways, developing the Collaborative Investment Strategy to grow the total program by an additional \$300m to \$400m, designing the Monitoring and Evaluation framework and plan, and developing the Partnership Investment Strategy which provides the overarching Partnership priorities for the next five years (a full set of the 11 published Partnership plans described in Figure 1 can be viewed on the GBRF website).

In addition to the foundational planning activities described above, \$25 million worth of projects have been approved for funding in the 2018-2019 year across all components of the Partnership and are underway. These initial projects focus on building the capacity required for program implementation and maintaining momentum by providing continued support to projects that have demonstrated strong outcomes in key Partnership areas.

Figure 1. The 2019-2020 Annual Work Plan is one of a series of plans which underpins the Reef Trust Partnership



¹ IPCC (2018). Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [V. MassonDelmotte et al. (eds.)]. World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 32 pp



Best Practice Governance and Transparent Decision-Making

The Partnership is committed to best practice governance and transparent decision-making. The plan describing Partnership governance, including the overarching governance principles, is published on the GBRF website.

As the Partnership transitions into full implementation, fit for purpose governance arrangements at the component-, or project-, level are being put in place. These will leverage existing arrangements where appropriate and be consistent with the overarching governance principles and framework of the Partnership.

Rigorous conflict of interest (COI) and decision-making processes relating to Partnership investments have also been developed and implemented. These processes describe the Partnership's commitment to transparent end-to-end decision-making, from identifying Partnership investment priorities through to awarding funds for specific projects, including independent assessment processes. They also acknowledge that co-design and collaboration will play a key role in ensuring the success of the Partnership. Details of these processes are provided in the 2019-2020 Annual Work Plan on the GBRF website. These arrangements, and the transparency they bring, will ensure the Partnership remains continuously open to new ideas and new participants.

About the 2019-2020 Annual Work Plan

The 2019-2020 Annual Work Plan describes the activities and investments planned for each of the priority components described in the Grant Agreement. These activities are positioned in the context of the Partnership Investment Strategy published in January 2019.

Critically, the 2019-2020 Annual Work Plan signals the shift from planning, to doing, with the majority of funding allocated over this period invested directly into projects and implementation, rather than the Partnership-level design focus during the first 12 months of the Partnership.

Highlights include:

- establishing a Traditional Owner Reef Futures Fund
- commencing the world's most ambitious Reef restoration and adaptation effort
- developing regional community action plans to enhance coordination and impact of place-based community Reef protection activities
- supporting existing programs to control crown-of-thorns starfish while also exploring innovative new control approaches
- establishing a Technology Transformation Fund to test new Reef monitoring methods such as big data analytics, novel sensors and machine learning
- commencing roll-out of a targeted sediment and nutrient reduction program focused on practice change and landscape remediation across seven priority Reef catchments.

“ I just cannot bear the idea that future generations may not experience a coral reef. The mission is to start solving the problem, not just to study it.

Vale, Dr Ruth Gates • 1962–2018





Component	2019-2020 Activity	2019-2020 Budget
Water Quality	11 on-ground WQ projects that commenced in 2018-2019, spanning the Burnett Mary to the Wet Tropics regions.	\$8.9m
	Planning and establishing major new on-ground nitrogen and pesticide reduction programs in the Herbert, Lower Burdekin, Plane Creek, and Pioneer catchments, including on-ground work.	\$6.5m
	Planning and establishing major new on-ground sediment reduction programs in the Fitzroy, Burdekin (Bowen Bogie) and Mary River Catchments, including on-ground work.	\$4m
	Scoping options, costs and benefits of interventions aimed at conserving and preserving less disturbed catchments compared to restoring those that are highly degraded.	\$0.5m
	Open grant round related to Innovation and Systems Change.	\$1.8m
	Traditional Owner-led WQ activities. *This amount is also accounted for in the Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component.	*\$1.8m
	TOTAL	\$23.5m
Crown-of-Thorns Starfish Control	Independent review of the effectiveness of the current manual COTS control program to guide future program improvements.	\$0.1m
	Maintaining manual COTS control program at existing level based on integrated pest management strategy.	\$2m
	Convening a COTS forum to explore opportunities, identify gaps and share knowledge.	\$0.1m
	Scoping and developing a strategy for identifying long-term funding options for COTS control.	\$0.1m
	Convening a consortium to undertake a collaborative study into new potential interventions for COTS management and control, including addressing key knowledge gaps and conducting R&D activities to assess their feasibility (social, regulatory and technical) and modelled benefits.	\$1.5m
	Scoping community and citizen science opportunities for expanded delivery in COTS control.	\$0.03m
	Traditional Owner-led COTS Control activities. *This amount is also accounted for in the Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component.	*\$0.5m
	TOTAL	\$4.33m
Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science	Governance, engagement and policy – establishing governance, engaging key stakeholders and Traditional Owners, and assessing regulatory/policy frameworks and capacity/training needs.	\$2.1m
	Developing and refining models and decision-support systems to assess effectiveness and feasibility of potential intervention options.	\$0.6m
	Targeted ecological research to fill critical knowledge gaps and inform development of models.	\$0.6m
	Developing improved methods for coral aquaculture, cryopreservation and field-based coral propagation and restoration.	\$3.8m
	Proof of concept/assessment of approaches to potentially decrease solar radiation on reefs (e.g. creating shade through clouds, mist, fog, or surface films) including technical, environmental and regulatory considerations.	\$1.6m
	Scoping options for improving efficiency, cost-effectiveness and scalability of program outcomes through coordinated and integrated logistics and automated processes.	\$0.8m
	Traditional Owner-led RRAS activities. *This amount is also accounted for in the Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component.	*\$0.5m
	TOTAL	\$10m

Component	2019-2020 Activity	2019-2020 Budget
Traditional Owner Reef Protection	18 Traditional Owner Reef protection projects that commenced in 2018-2019.	\$0.7m
	Establishing program governance including linkages to existing Indigenous Reef governance arrangements and to all Reef Trust Partnership components.	\$0.3m
	Strategic communication and engagement through regional planning workshops, a collaborative communication platform to share and celebrate Traditional Owner stories, and capacity building focused on women and youth.	\$0.6m
	Developing, testing and refining a Reef Traditional Owner co-design action framework to inform the co-design process that will underpin all work in this Component.	\$0.1m
	Scope and design a Traditional Owner Reef Futures Fund to support sustained funding for Traditional Owner engagement, governance and leadership activities.	\$10m
	Traditional Owner-led WQ activities focused on design and delivery of on-ground WQ programs, scoping of capacity building and training opportunities, and cultural mapping of waterways and Indigenous knowledge.	\$1.8m
	Traditional Owner-led COTS activities focused on identifying opportunities for increasing Indigenous participation in COTS control programs through existing or new training, service delivery and research partnerships.	\$0.5m
	Traditional Owner-led RRAS activities focused on identifying opportunities for Indigenous participation in Reef restoration including research scholarships, on-ground restoration activities and provision of biocultural advice.	\$0.5m
	Traditional Owner-led IMR activities focused on finalising and implementing the 'Strong People-Strong Country Framework' developed through RIMReP by the Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner Indigenous Heritage Expert Group.	\$1.8m
	TOTAL	\$16.3m
Community Reef Protection	25 citizen science and local action projects commenced in 2018-2019.	\$0.85m
	Grant round for local action place-based projects coordinated via the Local Marine Advisory Committee network.	\$0.15m
	Open grant round for community-led reef restoration activities.	\$0.5m
	Convene three regional planning and capacity building initiatives (in northern, central and southern Great Barrier Reef) to address key needs and opportunities for the tourism sector.	\$0.03m
	Capacity building activities focused on youth leadership and stewardship, and targeted initiatives to address needs in areas such as communication, community fundraising and monitoring and evaluation.	\$0.1m
	Working with local partners to develop at least five regional community action plans, providing a more coordinated and integrated approach to community-led local action with greater linkages to decision-making.	\$0.5m
	Developing a plan, partnership model and framework for a National Reef Protection Challenge to be launched in late 2020. This will have a strong focus on schools and an emphasis on communication and action.	\$0.35m
	Developing a story-bank showcasing the remarkable work of community Reef heroes.	\$0.024m
	Commission a Reef-wide audit and impact assessment of community projects. This will include an assessment of existing and emerging business models that could support more sustained funding for community groups.	\$0.13m
	TOTAL	\$2.6m
Integrated Monitoring and Reporting	Reviewing RIMReP recommendations and prioritising monitoring activities to be funded via the Partnership, with an emphasis on activities that contribute directly to the delivery of the Partnership, including monitoring activities.	\$2m
	Scoping user needs and initial design options for an operational Reef decision-support platform, including auditing existing decision-support systems.	\$0.43m
	Prioritising innovation needs, establishing Technology Transformation Fund and first round of technology transformation grants.	\$2m
	Traditional Owner-led IMR activities. *This amount is also accounted for in the Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component.	*\$1.8m
	TOTAL	\$6.23m