



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Environment  
and Water Resources**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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The Reef & Rainforest Research Centre Ltd (RRRC) has been successful in securing a Forum at Science in Parliament in Canberra on the future of the Great Barrier Reef which is conducted through the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS).

The title of the Forum is 'The Great Barrier Reef in 2050' and is being held this Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 4:00pm (for approximately one hour) in the Main Committee Room of the House of Representatives.

Ms Sheriden Morris, Managing Director of RRRC, said "The Forum titled 'The Great Barrier Reef in 2050' is a significant event for RRRC and Far North Queensland. The 'Science in Parliament' is an annual event and usually four forums are conducted, but this year only one forum was selected and the Reef & Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) were the successful applicants!

"The Great Barrier Reef is one of our greatest environmental and social challenges and this Forum will give politicians the opportunity to hear first-hand from Australia's best known reef scientists their concerns about the future of this great Australian icon and World Heritage listed area and will be able to discuss potential solutions.

"We are pleased at the interest from Queensland Members of Parliament and Senators and look forward to being able to showcase the valuable work being undertaken in our region" said Ms Morris.

The speakers at the Forum "The Great Barrier Reef in 2050" are:

- **Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg** (University of Queensland)-Climate impacts on the future of the Reef
- **Professor Iain Gordon** (CSIRO)-Water quality issues for the future of the Reef
- **Dr Peter Doherty** (Australian Institute of Marine Science)-Zoning and the values of Marine Protected Areas to the future of the Reef
- **Professor Terry Hughes** (James Cook university)-Building the ecological and socio-economic resilience of the Reef
- **Dr Russell Reichelt** (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)-Summary and future look.

Ms Morris stated that the issues which will be addressed include:

- The impact of pollutants entering the reef from land
- How resilient are the organisms living in the reef?
- How effective are Marine Protected Areas in protecting the reef from over-fishing?
- The latest research on the impact of climate change on corals

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The Reef & Rainforest Research Centre represents the Australian Government's Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTRSF) and is part of the Commonwealth Environmental Research Facilities Program. The aim of MTRSF is to ensure the health of North Queensland's public environmental assets – particularly the Great Barrier Reef and its catchments, tropical rainforests including the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, and the Torres Strait – through the generation and transfer of world-class research and sharing knowledge.

The Forum is being web cast direct from Parliament House and journalists will be able to join the event online. Please contact the Australian Science Media Centre on [www.aussmc.org](http://www.aussmc.org) <<http://www.aussmc.org>> phone: (08) 8207 7415 or email at [info@aussmc.org](mailto:info@aussmc.org)

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