



# The Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Aspirations Project

## Key Messages Information Sheet

### **The Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Aspirations Project is a Traditional-Owner led driven project**

The senior Traditional Owner driving this project is Ms Melissa George, a Wulgurukaba Traditional Owner with connections to Magnetic Island and the greater Townsville region, Far North Queensland. Ms Liz Wren, the Project Leader, has extensive experience in Indigenous Project leadership.

Traditional Owner organisations who are resourced to provide leadership, involvement and support to the project are Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILMSA), supporting Melissa George and Cape York Institute (CYI), supporting Mike Winer.

Key Traditional Owner staff on the project include Duane Fraser (Wulgurukaba), Larissa Hale (Yuku Baja Muliku), Traceylee Forester (Lama Lama) and Leah Talbot (Eastern Kuku Yalanji).

Non-Indigenous organisations involved to provide support and assistance in science and policy include: Allan Dale, James Cook University (JCU); Ro Hill (CSIRO); Libby Evans-Illidge, Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS); and Sheriden Morris and Julie Carmody, Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC).

The Project is strongly committed to supporting Traditional Owner leadership at all levels.

### **The project is focused on:**

1. Culturally appropriate engagement of GBR Traditional Owners for delivery of the Reef 2050 Plan.
2. Traditional Owner engagement in monitoring, evaluation and reporting for delivery of the Reef 2050 Plan.
3. Adaptive management and options for sustainable delivery arrangements in the Reef 2050 Plan.

### **Traditional Owners are rights-holders in the Great Barrier Reef**

Recognition by governments of Traditional Owner rights and interests now extends over 60% of GBR catchments and almost 14% of GBR sea country, and the trend towards greater recognition is accelerating. Co-management of land and sea country is occurring through diverse arrangements including Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements, Indigenous Protected Areas and Joint Managed National Parks. Government, non-government, research and industry partners need to find different ways of working with Traditional Owners as rights-holders, not stake-holders.

### **Traditional Owners roles in the Reef 2050 Plan are recognised through specific objectives, targets and actions**

The Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) was released by the Australian and Queensland governments in March 2015 and is the overarching framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef until 2050. The Plan sets clear actions, targets, objectives and outcomes to drive and guide the short, medium and long-term management of the Reef. The Plan firmly responds to the pressures facing the Reef and will address cumulative impacts and increase the Reef's resilience to longer term threats such as climate change.

### The project gives Traditional Owners an opportunity to have a say on:

1. The design of the most effective governance and engagement framework for the future of the GBR in the Reef 2050 Plan.
2. How Traditional Owners want to be engaged in the monitoring, evaluation and reporting in the Reef 2050 Plan.
3. The design of a program of Traditional Owner and partnership works for the implementation of adaptive management in the Reef 2050 Plan.
4. How Traditional Owner caring for country can become a business with multiple benefits beyond government funding in the Reef 2050 Plan.

### The impacts sought from this project are:

1. That Traditional Owners' roles in caring for land and sea country results in a sustainable healthy reef for the benefit of the nation; and
2. That Traditional Owners have economic, social and cultural well-being that results in sustainable healthy people who contribute to the management of the Reef for the benefit of the nation.

### The project will make recommendations and advise government on Traditional Owners' aspirations which consistently include:

1. Co-governance arrangements between governments and Traditional Owners that recognise Traditional Owners' legal rights, responsibilities and authority.
2. Co-design between Traditional Owners and governments of policy and program design and delivery in sea country business.
3. Long-term and stable sea-country programs supporting Traditional Owner roles (e.g. IPA/TUMRA/WOC/ Indigenous Business).
4. Partners to have greater confidence, skills and the ability to engage effectively with Traditional Owners.
5. Traditional Owners have data acquisition and management systems that allow them to identify and fill key gaps.
6. Partners and Traditional Owners are able to negotiate data-sharing agreements that give both groups confidence in sharing data.
7. Traditional Owners are advancing their long-term aspirations for improving their environmental, social, cultural and economic outlooks.

### For more information about the project or to be involved contact:

#### Liz Wren

Reef & Rainforest Research Centre  
Mob: 0418 676 425  
Email: [liz.wren@rrrc.org.au](mailto:liz.wren@rrrc.org.au)

#### Michael Winer

Cape York Institute  
Mob: 0448 923 885  
Email: [mwiner@cyp.org.au](mailto:mwiner@cyp.org.au)

#### Duane Fraser

Reef & Rainforest Research Centre  
Mob: 0467 777 553  
Email: [duane.fraser@rrrc.org.au](mailto:duane.fraser@rrrc.org.au)

#### Larissa Hale

Yuku Baja Muliku Landowner & Reserves Ltd  
Mob: 0432 283 357  
Email: [larissa.hale@archerpoint.com.au](mailto:larissa.hale@archerpoint.com.au)

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Australian Government



Queensland Government

