1. The Government established an independent Taskforce to provide the best possible advice on working towards its ambitious water quality targets as set out in the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan (the Reef 2050 Plan) and recommend the priority actions for investing the new $90 million funding.
2. The Taskforce was established in May 2015 and was chaired by the Queensland Chief Scientist, Dr Geoff Garrett AO with an expert based membership, covering science, industry, economics and community engagement.
3. The Taskforce released an interim report in December 2015 and undertook comprehensive consultation on its initial findings and recommendations. The Taskforce refined its recommendations which were released in its Final Report in May 2016.
4. The recommendations include:
* the introduction of a staged regulatory approach/pathway to reduce pollution loads
* increased investment in communication and extension activities and finer scale water quality monitoring
* the establishment of an innovation fund
* the development of a strategic investment plan
* improvements to reef governance arrangements.
1. The Taskforce also recommended the undertaking of two major integrated projects using a mix of management tools in priority sub-catchments in the Wet Tropics and the Burdekin.
2. The Queensland Government accepts all of the Taskforce recommendations, noting that recommendations 5, 9 and 10 are agreed in-principle due to the recommendations requiring formal public consultation processes or working with the Australian Government. The three recommendations relate to regulation, investment planning and governance.
3. Cabinet noted the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce Final Report and recommendations.
4. Cabinet endorsed the Government response to the Taskforce Final Report.
5. *Attachments*
* [Membership of Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce](Attachments/Taskforce.PDF)
* [Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce Final Report](Attachments/Report.PDF)
* [Government Response to Taskforce Final Report](Attachments/Response.PDF)