

## **Protecting the Great Barrier Reef**

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### *Abstract:*

The Queensland government has committed to the protection of the Great Barrier Reef through the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan and the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan. In order to meet the ambitious water quality targets of reducing sediment by up to 50% and nutrients by up to 80% in key priority catchments, the government has recently accepted the recommendations of the Queensland Water Science Taskforce to undertake a range of programs, policy reforms and investment to contribute to the targets. This presentation will outline the actions that the Queensland government is undertaking.

*Keywords:* Great Barrier Reef, nutrients, Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan, Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, sediment, water quality.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Elisa Nichols is the Executive Director of the Office of the Great Barrier Reef in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, leading on the delivery of a major program of work to protect the Great Barrier Reef. She has been with the department and its former incarnations for twelve years, specialising environmental management policy and legislation and leading major reform projects.

Prior to joining the government, Elisa practiced environmental law as a solicitor in Queensland and New South Wales, representing clients in litigation under state and federal environmental legislation. Elisa has a Masters in Environmental and Resources Law.