**Queensland Water Directorate (*qldwater*)** ***e-*flash**

**Information for Water Industry Managers and Practitioners in the Queensland Water Industry**

**(Issue #277 – 18 December 2015)**

**1.   GBR Taskforce Interim Report Now Available for Comment**

**2.   Merry Christmas from all of us at *qldwater***

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**1.   GBR Taskforce Interim Report Now Available for Comment**

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The [Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce](http://www.gbr.qld.gov.au/taskforce/) has released an Interim Report which sets out initial recommendations to the Queensland Government on how to deliver substantial reef water quality improvements. The Taskforce has made a range of conclusions and recommendations in the report which was delivered to the Government in December 2015. The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum meeting was held earlier this week and the findings and recommendations of the Taskforce were presented to Minister Hunt, Minister Miles and Senator Colbeck (see press release at <https://environment.gov.au/minister/hunt/2015/mr20151215.html>).

There is no silver bullet solution or intervention; rather, a mix of tools and approaches will be needed. Initial scoping has been undertaken to inform the investment priorities and an indicative funding range is provided. A range of high-level recommendations have been made and will be further developed by the Office of the Great Barrier Reef in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Comments are now being sought on the Interim Report including what type of tools should be used and what the funding priorities should be. There is a short executive summary of the recommendations and a longer, but still concise summary of the issues and the Taskforces findings (see  <http://www.gbr.qld.gov.au/taskforce/interim-report/>). A short animated video to summarise the Department’s approach to the GBR has also been developed (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TkauKA-exg&feature=youtu.be>).

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**2.   Merry Christmas from all of us at *qldwater***

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Our office will be closed from COB Thursday 24 December 2015 and will reopen on Monday 4 January 2016.  Phones will be diverted if urgent assistance is required.

We would like to thank you all for your support this year and wish you all the best for a safe and relaxing Christmas and a very happy new year.

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