



*The Tropical Water Quality Hub Steering Committee (from left to right): Damian Wrigley (Dept of the Environment), Kerry Olsen (Dept of the Environment), Matt Kealley (CANEGROWERS), Sheriden Morris (RRRC), Marie Vitelli (AgForce), Julie Carmody (RRRC), Hub leader Damien Burrows (JCU), Chris Boland (QPA), Daniel Gschwind (QTIC), Committee chair Leith Bouilly, Liz O'Brien (Griffith University), Sean Hoobin (WWF), Elisa Nichols (DEHP). Absent: Melissa George (Indigenous sector), Russell Reichelt (GBRMPA), Rachel Parry (Reef Trust) and John Gunn (AIMS)*

The Tropical Water Quality Hub's diverse Steering Committee gives it a unique advantage.

The quality of Australia's tropical marine environments is critical to the health of natural icons like the Great Barrier Reef and by extension the wide range of industries that depend on it.

The TWQ Hub's steering committee includes representatives not just from research organisations and the Department of the Environment but also AgForce, Queensland Ports Association, CANEGROWERS, the World Wildlife Fund, Queensland Tourism Industry Council and the Indigenous sector.

The Hub Steering Committee recently met at the office of the Hub administering organisation, the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, in Cairns.

Hub Leader Dr Damien Burrows said having such a diverse range of representation on the Steering Committee meant the TWQ Hub could effect high-quality stakeholder engagement.

"One thing we try to do is to connect the brains trust of leading water quality scientists with the stakeholders who need their skills in a meaningful way," Dr Burrows said.

“Stakeholder engagement is absolutely critical in this space”.

“Because our Steering Committee has representatives from universities, the Department of the Environment and industry bodies like CANEGROWERS and AgForce, we know what outcomes are needed on the ground and how to go about delivering them. This is a primary objective of the National Environmental Science Programme.”