

**MRS JUDY STEWART**

Managing Director, Great Barrier Reef Foundation

Judy Stewart, a lawyer, was appointed Managing Director of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation in 2004, after working as a director in a number of Australian performing arts companies, including the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Australian Festival of Music. She recently completed a term as a member of the Australia Council's Major Performing Arts Board.

While the transition from the performing arts to science on the Reef was not an obvious one to make, Judy was able to bring a fresh approach to the task of leading a national philanthropic body with strong links to business, philanthropy, government and a broad range of institutional stakeholders.

Established in 1999, the Foundation invests in research that will maximise the sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef. Judy's role is to encourage the private sector, with which the Foundation is well connected through its Board and Chairman's Panel, to fund strategic research projects on the Reef.

In her five years at the Foundation, Judy has brokered significant funding partnerships with some of Australia's largest companies, introduced programs through which Australian business and philanthropy can engage with both scientists and research projects on the Reef, sharpened the Foundation's focus on climate change as the dominant threat to be addressed through its research portfolio and launched a investment fund - called the ZooX Fund – for climate specific research on the Reef.

To underpin both investment and fundraising, she has worked with the Foundation's International Scientific Advisory Committee to develop an innovative research framework as the basis for developing projects. Meanwhile, with her own team, she has created Reef based employee engagement programs which are directly aligned to key sustainability goals in Australian workplaces. Through each of these avenues, and the companies that have committed to them, the Foundation now reaches large numbers of Australians to present the case for the Reef and how they can have an effect on its future.