

Reef Trust Partnership

Traditional Owner Partnerships



Expression of Interest (EOI) Guidelines: Technical Working Group Positions

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Contents

1. About the Great Barrier Reef Foundation	3
2. About the Partnership and Traditional Owner Component.....	3
3. About this Expression of Interest.....	3
4. About the COTS-RRAS and Healthy Water Technical Working Groups	4
5. Eligibility criteria	5
6. How applications are assessed	6
7. How to apply	6
8. Further information	7

Acknowledgment of Country

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation extends its deepest respect and recognition to all Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef and its Catchments as First Nations Peoples hold the hopes, dreams, traditions and cultures of the Reef.

Questions can be emailed to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) Grants Office at grants@barrierreef.org.

Applicants must not initiate direct contact with any other GBRF personnel regarding the Grant during the application or assessment phase. All enquiries about the application process must be via the GBRF Grants Office.

1. About the Great Barrier Reef Foundation

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation (the Foundation) is the lead charity dedicated to protecting the Great Barrier Reef (the Reef) by funding science, technology, engineering solutions, and on-ground action to ensure its long-term conservation.

The Reef Trust partnership (RTP) between the Australian Government and the Foundation is centred on a landmark investment of \$443.3 million to build the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. It commenced in July 2018 and was expected to finalise in 2024. However, the Traditional Owner component received an extension of 2 years to June 2026. See the Foundation's website [Great Barrier Reef Foundation](#) for more information.

2. About the Partnership and Traditional Owner Component

The Reef Trust Partnership investment is the largest single government investment in protecting the Reef and its Outstanding Universal Value. Importantly it has secured Australia's largest Traditional Owner Reef Protection Program, with \$51.8m of investment dedicated over the life of the Partnership. This investment aims to improve Traditional Owner engagement in the management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and Catchment and acts to catalyse and accelerate important activities that Traditional Owners have planned to look after Country. These activities maintain cultural practice and build strong foundations for the future.

3. About this Expression of Interest

This expression of interest (EOI) is to identify suitably qualified Traditional Owners through an open and transparent process, to fill vacancies in two of the RTP component Technical Working Groups (TWGs)—specifically the Crown-of-Thorns Starfish Control and Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science TWG (COTS-RRAS TWG) and the Healthy Water TWG (HW TWG).

These TWGs are part of the existing Traditional Owner governance structure that underpins the co-design and co-delivery of the Reef Trust Partnership Program. The TWGs were established in early 2020 in response to calls from Traditional Owners (during a Reef-wide co-design workshop in May, 2019) for leadership roles in the design and delivery of programs that directly impact on and enable Traditional Owners to care for Land and Sea Country. The role of TWG members is to contribute their lived experiences, diverse skillsets and professional expertise to identify and create outcomes that have co-benefits to Traditional Owners of the Reef and Catchment areas. The TWGs are not representative structures, and thus members do not represent particular Traditional Owner groups.

The roles of TWG members include:

- providing detailed input into the design and implementation of the annual operating plans related to the technical working group area
- active participation and leadership in working group meetings and regional workshops to ground-truth ideas and concepts informed by members' knowledge of the aspirations and directions of Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners
- providing technical advice and support to the GBRF Traditional Owner Partnerships team and Traditional Owner Advisory Group.

Key information about the commitment:

- The COTS-RRAS TWG and the HW TWG each hold at least four TWG meetings per year—with an aim to deliver two meetings online and two in-person.
- Members must be able to commit at least 20 days per year to the role. This is made up of:
 - preparation for and attendance at TWG meetings
 - participation in broader governance meetings and other activities related to the co-design and co-delivery of Traditional Owner led projects under the RTP Agreement

- The term of this appointment is until June 2026.
- Remuneration will be \$650 per day for contribution to meetings, plus reasonable expenses to attend meetings (including flights, accommodation and meals for in-person meetings).

Potential applicants should read these Guidelines in their entirety before deciding whether to submit an EOI.

Key Dates

Table 2. Key dates.

Call for Expressions of Interest open	Tuesday 4 June 2024
Call for Expressions of Interest close	5:00pm AEST, Tuesday 18 June 2024
Successful applicants engaged	1 July 2024

4. About the COTS-RRAS and Healthy Water Technical Working Groups

COTS-RRAS Technical Working Group

The COTS-RRAS Technical Working Group (TWG) was formed through a collaborative partnership between the Foundation and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). It is the role of its members to take active leadership in the co-design and co-delivery of the Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control and Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science (COTS-RRAS) components of the Reef Trust Partnership Agreement and to contribute to related broader research and development. The COTS-RRAS TWG provide advice and seek to improve the engagement of Traditional Owners in Crown-of-thorns Starfish control and reef restoration and adaptation programs and research. It also collaborates with and provides advice to the Foundation’s Traditional Owner Advisory Group, and technical support and guidance to its Traditional Owner Partnership team.

To date, this TWG and its members have actively and critically:

- advised and supported the Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub
- contributed to the co-design and piloting of a Biocultural Risk and Assessment Framework led by CSIRO and AIMS
- co-designed the \$1.77m Healing Country Grants program (2022-2024) for Traditional Owner-led reef projects and the \$5.33 Helping Country Grants program (2024-2026), resulting in 27 grants altogether with 22 separate Traditional Owner groups
- guided and participated in the design and execution of the 2024 Reef Resilience Symposium including as key members of the organising and steering committees and plenary speakers
- co-designed a COTS Control Leadership program for young Indigenous people of the Reef
- provided guidance on Traditional Owner engagement in the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program
- provided guidance on the design and implementation of the RRAP Indigenous Futures Project – a micro-credentialling program for Traditional Owner rangers in reef restoration work
- provided advice to several research projects.

For the next two years, areas of focus for the COTS-RRAS TWG will include:

- developing recommendations following the completion of the COTS Control Leadership Program
- showcasing stories of impact from the Healing Country and Helping Country grants programs to demonstrate the power of Traditional Owner-led actions, partnerships and approaches to managing Sea Country
- ongoing guidance to the implementation of several projects listed above
 - RRAP Indigenous Futures Project
 - Biocultural Risk and Assessment Framework Pilot
 - Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub
- Participating in the co-evaluation of the Reef Trust Partnership program

Healthy Water Technical Working Group

The role of members of the Healthy Water TWG is to actively participate in the co-design and co-delivery of a water quality program of works delivered under the Reef Trust Partnership. This involves working collaboratively with and providing advice to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Traditional Owner Partnerships team on matters affecting, or of high importance to, Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef and its Catchment.

The work delivered under the Healthy Water component aims to improve Traditional Owner access to and active participation in water quality projects. To date this TWG has:

- Co-designed two grant rounds worth \$5.9 Million for Traditional Owner-led healthy water projects. These grant rounds have resulted in 27 separate projects with 22 Reef and Catchment Traditional Owner groups.
- Facilitated two Healthy Water Forums providing opportunities for all Healthy Water grant recipients to come together for peer-to-peer learning and networking.
- Written the Healthy Water Statement and presented this at the Water Quality Synthesis Workshop held in Cairns in November, 2022.
- Co-designed the Healthy Water Toolkit which aims to enable Traditional Owners to manage water on Country by ensuring they have the necessary skills, tools and connections.
- Presented at national and international conferences on Traditional Owner involvement in the water quality space.

Areas of focus for the next two years within the Healthy Water component will be:

- Showcasing impact stories from the Healthy Water grants program that places Traditional Owner voices at the centre of stories.
- Advocating for changed processes that see Traditional Owners involved and consulted in Water Quality planning processes at a State and Federal level, including the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan.
- Organisation of the next Traditional Owner Partnerships Program Forum.
- Delivering components of the Water Quality Toolkit.

5. Eligibility criteria

Who can apply?

To be eligible to submit an EOI, applicants need to meet the following requirements:

1. Identify as a Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner – or Great Barrier Reef Catchment Traditional Owner.
2. Have, knowledge, experience or interest in one of the three Reef Trust Partnership program areas (1) water, (2) crown-of-thorns starfish control, (3) reef restoration and adaptation.
3. Availability to work a minimum of 20 days per year, between July 2024 and June 2026
4. Ability to travel to meetings and workshops.
5. Have strong on-ground relationships within your community and amongst other Reef Traditional Owners and their partners.

6. How applications are assessed

The information provided in response to this EOI will allow the GBRF to assess the technical knowledge and capability of individuals to support the delivery across the portfolio of work, including with respect to assisting lead a co-design and co-delivery approach.

EOIs will be assessed through the following stages.

Stage one – Eligibility Assessment

Each EOI will be screened to check that the applicant is eligible to apply. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria (listed above) will not be progressed to Stage two.

Stage two - Capability Assessment

Eligible applications will be assessed by the GBRF based on the applicant's responses to the bullet points outlined in Section 7 below and taking into consideration the knowledge, experience and skills they would bring to the role.

Stage three – Notification of applicants

Applicants will be informed in writing whether their application was successful or not.

7. How to apply

Step 1:

Prepare an expression of interest (no more than two pages) outlining:

- Clear preference for which of the Technical Working Groups your application applies to. Please note that if you have a strong interest in multiple topics, clearly identify which TWG(s) you are interested in and your order of preference.
- How your knowledge, experience and interests would contribute to the TWG you are applying for.
- Description of your relationships within your community and amongst other Reef Traditional Owners and their partners.
- Your availability to commit to the minimum time requirements for the work of each of the Technical Working Groups (currently estimated at 20 days per year) and ability to travel to meetings and workshops.
- In your application please state your Traditional Owner group that exists within the Great Barrier Reef or Great Barrier Reef Catchment area. A letter of support from your Traditional Owner organisation or Elder will be highly regarded.

Step 2

Include a resume with two referees, one must be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who the GBRF may contact.

Step 3

Email your expression of interest to applications@barrierreef.org by **5:00pm AEST, Tuesday 18 June 2024**.

8. Further information

- [Traditional Owner Governance- Great Barrier Reef Foundation and the Reef Trust Partnership](#)
- [Reef Trust Partnership Annual Work Plan 2023-2024](#)
- [Summary Report from the Co-design Workshop in May 2019](#)

For any further questions applicants may contact the GBRF by reaching out to:

Katrina Beattie, Co-Director Traditional Owner Partnerships via email kbeattie@barrierreef.org.