



LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE
2024 - 2027





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Acknowledgement

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority acknowledges the expertise, wisdom, and enduring connections that have informed the guardianship of the Great Barrier Reef for millennia. We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners as the first managers of this Land and Sea Country, and value their traditional knowledge which continues to inform the current management and stewardship of the Great Barrier Reef for future generations.

Background

The Great Barrier Reef (the Reef) is recognised for its spectacular beauty and diversity of marine life. In addition to its outstanding universal value as a world heritage area, the Reef is integral to Australia's identity, to the lifestyles and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders.

The Reef has unique cultural values for its Traditional Owners who have a special and continuing connection with the area.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Reef Authority) is established under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and is the Australian Government statutory authority responsible for protecting and managing the environment, biodiversity and heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef Region.

The Reef Authority's primary purpose is to *"provide for the long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef for all Australians and the international community through the care and development of the Marine Park."*

Through targeted partnerships, education and stewardship programs, the Reef Authority works to establish mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations People, local, state and Australian government agencies, reef-dependent industries, schools, community groups, and the public more broadly. These programs aim to genuinely collaborate, raise awareness, influence best practice, foster innovative actions, build a sense of collective responsibility to care, and empower others to contribute to the Reefs protection and resilience.

Like tropical coral reefs around the world, the Reef is under pressure from a range of impacts including climate change, declining water quality, coastal development, and illegal fishing. Everyone's actions to reduce threats and help build the Reef's resilience - whether big or small - will improve its outlook.

Against this backdrop, it is more important than ever that catchment communities and the Reef stakeholders work together to protect the Reef. As Australia's lead manager for the Reef, the Reef Authority sees engaging with and empowering stakeholders and local communities as an essential part of managing the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (the Marine Park).



The Reef Authority has identified 11 regional locations where [Local Marine Advisory Committees \(the Committees\)](#) may be formed to provide a forum for local communities to discuss issues and provided locally specific input into Marine Park management.

Purpose

The purpose of the Committees is to:

- provide advice to the Reef Authority on Marine Park issues and management proposals which support the long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef.
- promote the exchange of information between Reef stakeholders, the Reef Authority and management partners; and
- encourage, through local community networks, actions that reduce threats to the Reef and build resilience (as identified in the *Blueprint 2030*, *Outlook Report* and the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan*).

Members and interest groups

The Reef and its catchments are rich in Indigenous heritage, which is intrinsically linked to the condition of land and sea.

Strong social connections with the Reef are also evident among people who rely on, or use, the Reef for their livelihoods, recreation, and wellbeing, including the scientific community.



The Committee may include representatives from the following interest groups:

- Agriculture
- Aquaculture
- Business
- Charter boat / fishing guide
- Commercial fishing
- Conservation
- Diving / snorkeling
- Education
- Industry
- Natural and cultural resource management
- Ports / shipping
- Recreational fishing
- Research
- Sailing / boating / kayaking
- Tourism
- Other (regionally specific Reef interests).

The Committee members may have an affiliation with more than one interest group, this allows the Reef Authority to ensure there is broad interest group representation on the Committees.

Committee member selection process

Committee members are appointed every three years following a public call for nominations. The new three-year term commences on 1 July 2024 and will conclude on 30 June 2027.

The Committee membership aims to achieve a representative diversity of each region's communities and stakeholder groups.

Nomination for Committee membership is on an individual basis; however, an individual may be endorsed by an organisation to represent the organisation. Any individual organisation can only have one representative on each Committee (alternates or proxies may be permitted).

Applicants must submit a Committee Member Nomination Form which identifies their interest group/s and details their ability to contribute to the purpose of the Committee. Given that the Committees represent regional interests, members should only be associated with one Committee at any one time. Organisations that have regionally distributed offices may be represented on more than one Committee.

The Reef Authority will consider each nomination, including the Marine Park compliance history of the nominee, and make a recommendation to the Reef Authority's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with the goal of achieving a diverse membership that represents the local community.



Recommendations and final selection of the Committee members is discretionary, and the decision of the CEO. The Reef Authority will notify applicants of the outcome of their nomination.

A Local Marine Advisory Committee will only be formed if a minimum of ten members are selected. The maximum number of members on any Local Marine Advisory Committee will be twenty.

Operations

The Reef Authority will facilitate four meetings annually (scheduled for March, May, August and November) for the Committees to provide advice to the Reef Authority, promote the exchange of information and encourage actions that reduce threats to the Reef. The meetings will consist of two in-person and two virtual meetings. The meetings run for two hours, and the agenda should reflect this.

Members of the Committee will:

- declare actual or perceived conflicts of interest,
- fairly represent the interests of their interest group,
- provide advice to support Marine Park management solutions,
- commit to finding common ground in actions for the benefit of the Reef, and
- provide constructive guidance to support the work of the Reef Authority.

During the Committee term, the Reef Authority will facilitate two Committee Chairs' meetings to bring together representatives from each of the 11 Committees. These meetings may be facilitated virtually or in-person. Costs associated with attendance at the Committee Chairs' meetings will be covered by the Reef Authority.

Each Committee is assigned a representative from the Reef Authority to be a conduit to ensure tangible connection and reciprocal communication between the Committee and the Reef Authority.

If the Reef Authority requires Reef-wide advice on an emerging critical issue or initiative, they may facilitate an additional meeting. The Reef Authority will provide updates to Committee members between meetings, as required.

Role of Chair and Secretary

Before the first meeting of the term, an expression of interest will be sort for the role of Chair and Secretary. Those interested in either role are to submit a small biography for the Committee to consider.

At the first meeting of the term, the newly appointed Committee members should elect a Committee Chair and Committee Secretary, via a secret ballot process.



The fee payable to the Committee Chair is \$150 per meeting and Committee Secretary is up to \$275 per official meeting, determined by the number of hours worked in the role (up to a maximum of 10 hours).

Reef Authority management partners

State and Commonwealth government agencies, Traditional Owners and local governments are working together to achieve better outcomes for the Reef. The Reef Authority will seek members from these management partners to attend the Committee meetings and contribute to discussions.

Reporting

Following each official Committee meeting, the Committee Chair, supported by the nominated Reef Authority representative and Committee Secretary will provide to the Reef Authority the outcomes of the meeting, any advice provided and agreed actions. This will typically take the form of a meeting summary. Following each official Committee meeting, the Reef Authority's representative and management partners will provide feedback to their respective Committee. This will include consideration given to, and action taken on the meeting outcomes in accordance with jurisdictional responsibilities.

An update report is provided to the Marine Park Authority Board biannually. This report includes the issues discussed at meetings across the LMAC network, locally specific advice, and collective action taken through local community networks.

Information on the management of the Committees, such as meeting dates, matters discussed or actions supported, may be included in the Reef Authority's *Annual Report*.

