



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority

# CHECKLIST

## Underwater Artwork

Application information  
Version 9 September 2020

The following information is required to be submitted for permit applications relating to the installation of underwater artwork.

### Background

1. The [Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019](#) require specific information to be provided with a Marine Parks application before the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) considers the application to be properly made.
2. The installation and operation of underwater artwork is deemed to be a facility\* for the purposes of relevant permissions within the Marine Parks. Further information on the permission application process and the assessment process of permit applications for installation of a facility can be found in the [Guidelines for Applications for Joint Permissions](#) and the [Guidelines for Managing Research in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park](#), respectively. \*Note: where applicable, there are specific limitations on the operation of tourist facilities stipulated by each of the Plans of Management.
3. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Department of Environment and Science (the Managing Agencies) do not support exclusive use of the Marine Parks. Public access and benefit are important factors to be considered in any assessment of underwater artworks.
4. The following checklist provides the minimum information requirements to be submitted with any application for permission to install underwater artwork. This checklist is not exhaustive and in some cases, the Managing Agencies may require further information from the applicant to address specific aspects of the proposal. Please note: information about the applicant (such as ACN if a company, ABN for a trading name, postal address, email address and phone number) is required when submitting an application.
5. Applications must be submitted through [Permits Online](#), however the information required can be included in an attached project summary.
6. Underwater artwork proposals within the Marine Parks will generally be considered artificial reefs for the purposes of the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*. A Sea Dumping permit is required for the placement of an artificial reef in Commonwealth waters in addition to a Marine Park(s) permit. [Applications for Sea Dumping permits](#) attract an application fee of \$10,000 (as of July 2020) and are submitted to the Authority under a separate process.
7. The assessment of artworks will consider the primary purpose, including whether the artwork(s) are for commercial tourism\*, restoration or any other purpose. An application for the installation of an underwater artwork for restoration purposes must also align with the Authority's guidelines for restoration/adaptation projects to improve resilience of habitats in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. \*Note: where applicable, there are specific limitations on the operation of tourist facilities stipulated by each of the Plans of Management.
8. New artworks in the Marine Parks are generally assessed under a public information package assessment approach because installation of a new artwork may impact the environmental values or the reasonable use of the Marine Parks by other users. For these reasons it is important that information packages regarding new artwork proposals,

for the public and relevant stakeholders to comment on, fully describe the proposal so that potential impacts or benefits are understood.

9. The Managing Agencies must take all public comments into consideration in the assessment process and the public has an expectation that, if granted, any permit will adequately mitigate risks identified to Marine Parks values and users. Further details can be found within the Authority's Guidelines for Applications for Joint Permissions in the Marine Parks.
10. You will be required to sign a deed of agreement, which may require the lodgment of a bond to ensure the artwork is appropriately maintained and to provide assurance that any necessary remediation work will be undertaken.

### Checklist – Underwater Artwork

1. Name and description of the proposed artwork.
2. Purpose of the proposed artwork's use, including whether it is intended to be commercial or non-commercial. Where relevant, provide details of associated commercial infrastructure and activities (existing and planned) in which you have an interest or may propose to install at the site (whether at the time of the application or in the future), for example, moorings, pontoons, tourist programs.
3. Proposed lifespan of the artwork.  
*Note: the Managing Agencies grant permission for temporary facilities only. All underwater artworks will be assessed as temporary and may be required to be removed at the end of the permit term. Permit duration is based on risk and will be informed by the certified drawings required under point 9. Permit requirements will be revisited prior to the expiry of the permit, if granted.*
4. Justification and site selection–
  - a. Why do you propose to install the artwork in the Marine Parks? What alternatives have been considered, and why have they been ruled out? Why is the proposed site preferred?
  - b. In which zone do you intend to install the artwork? The proposed facility must meet mandatory considerations under the Regulations, be consistent with the objectives of the zone under the Zoning Plans, and be compatible with relevant Plans of Management under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and relevant island national park management plans or statements.
  - c. What environmental, social or economic factors about the proposed site of installation make it appropriate for installation of this artwork? Consider the existing use of the proposed site.
  - d. Has the site experienced damage from threats such as bleaching, cyclone damage, or crown-of-thorns starfish?*Note: the installation of underwater artworks at relatively undisturbed sites is not considered to be for restoration purposes.*
5. Location of the proposed artwork, including:
  - a. ESRI files (preferred) or GPS coordinates.
  - b. Satellite imagery showing the proposed footprint of the artwork, using the highest resolution imagery practicable.
6. Details of existing or planned permitted moorings or pontoon sites in the vicinity of the proposed artwork (where applicable).
7. Details of any consultation/engagement already undertaken, or proposed to be undertaken, with Traditional Owners.
8. Details of any consultation/engagement already undertaken, or proposed to be undertaken, with other

- impacted stakeholders (for example, local tour operators, recreational and commercial fishers).
9. Design drawings certified by a suitably qualified Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (RPEQ) demonstrating:
    - a. Design life of the artwork, including durability and suitability of applied coatings to tropical marine environments.
    - b. Due consideration of Marine Safety Queensland requirements, particularly depth of structures in relation to vessels that may pass over them.
    - c. That the artwork can withstand, at a minimum, environmental conditions exerted by a category 4 cyclone.
    - d. That the artwork will maintain structural integrity through expected seasonal sea height and wave conditions.
    - e. That the artwork and all structural components are designed to prevent rust and leaching of contaminants or inert materials.
    - f. The dimensions and materials used in construction of the artwork, methods to attach the artwork to the substrate, and the footprint of the artwork on the seafloor.
  10. Consideration of whether the proposal is likely to impact Matters of National Environmental Significance protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. See the Australian Government's [Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 - Matters of National Environmental Significance](#) for more information.
  11. A Construction Environmental Management Plan, including (but not limited to):
    - a. Description of physical site characteristics including water depths, type of substrate, physical conditions (prevailing wave, wind, currents).
    - b. Description of the receiving environment, including reef health impact survey results relating to adjacent coral reefs.
    - c. Construction and installation schedule and methodology - proposed timeframes of the project, including relevant seasonal considerations, and expected design life of artwork.
    - d. A relevant material safety data sheet or a description of the materials to be used in construction, and demonstrated expected longevity of all proposed structures with specific reference to their materials. Note that details relating to the source of materials may be required to enable assessment of potential biosecurity risks.
    - e. Description of the methods to be used in transporting materials, installing the artwork, methods of attachment, controlling debris, managing access to the site during installation, and disposing of wastes.
    - f. Description of the activities proposed to take place on or around the artwork once operational, including any ancillary equipment or vessels required for public or commercial use of the artwork.
    - g. The values of the Marine Parks and adjacent island National Parks potentially impacted, the risks posed to the values and how the risks will be avoided, mitigated or offset to achieve no net loss of these values (see the Authority's [net benefit policy](#) for further details).
  12. A monitoring and maintenance plan, including (but not limited to):
    - a. Identification of any party (other than the applicant) responsible for monitoring, inspection and maintenance of the artworks after installation.
    - b. Inspection and maintenance schedule including description of how (logistically) the artwork will be serviced and frequency of inspections, including provisions for significant weather events such as cyclones.
    - c. Details of proposed monitoring programs (including background, construction, operational and long-term monitoring) and any associated research programs.

13. A decommissioning and removal plan.

14. Salvage quotes from at least 2 independent sources.

*Note:* a bond may be payable and would be calculated based on the potential cost of salvage and restoration of the site. See the Authority's [Assessment and Decision guidelines](#) for detailed information regarding deeds, bonds, and salvage quotes.