

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY



**Local Marine  
Advisory Committee**

# **TERMS OF REFERENCE 2021-2024**



**Australian Government**

**Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority**

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## Acknowledgement

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority acknowledges the continuing sea country management and custodianship of the Great Barrier Reef by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners whose rich cultures, heritage values, enduring connections and shared efforts protect the Reef for future generations.

## Background

The Great Barrier Reef (the Reef) is globally 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. It 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 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 Authority [Corporate Plan](#) sets the strategic direction for the agency and how it will deliver its work under four program areas:

- Program area 1:** Enhancing Reef resilience by providing expert knowledge to advise key decision makers on managing, reducing or avoiding significant threats to the Reef.
- Program area 2:** Enhancing Reef resilience through innovation, management and regulation of the Marine Park and our in-field presence.
- Program area 3:** Enhancing Reef resilience through partnerships, collaboration and education.
- Program area 4:** Supporting a high-performing organisation.

The 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 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 Reef 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 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 Authority has identified 12 regional locations where [Local Marine Advisory Committees \(the Committees\)](#) can be formed to provide a forum for local communities to discuss issues and provided locally specific input into Marine Park management arrangements.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Committees is to:

- provide advice to the 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 the Reef stakeholders, the Authority and management partners; and
- encourage, through local community networks, actions that reduce threats to the Reef and build resilience (as identified in the *Reef Blueprint*, *Outlook Report* and the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan*).

## Members and interest groups

The Reef and its catchment are rich in Indigenous heritage, which is fundamentally linked to the condition of land and sea. Strong social and cultural connections with the Reef are also evident among the scientific community and people who rely on, or use, the Reef for their livelihoods, recreation and wellbeing.

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

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)

## Committee member selection process

The Committee members are appointed every three years following a public call for nominations. The new three-year term commences on 1 July 2021 and will conclude on 30 June 2024.

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 their views. An organisation can only have one representative on each Committee to represent the organisation (alternates or proxies may be permitted where approved).

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. Multiple memberships will not be supported; stakeholder organisations that have regionally distributed offices may be represented on more than one Committee.

The Authority will consider each nomination, including the Marine Park compliance history of the nominee, and make a recommendation to the 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 is final. The Authority will notify applicants of the outcome of their nomination.

A Local Marine Advisory Committee will only be formed if a minimum of 10 members are selected. The maximum number of members on any Local Marine Advisory Committee will be 20.

## Authority and management partners

Each Committee is assigned a representative from the Authority to be a conduit to ensure tangible connection and reciprocal communication between the Committee and the Authority. State and Commonwealth government agencies, Traditional Owners and local governments are working together to achieve better outcomes for the Reef. The Authority will seek members from these management partners to attend the Committee meetings and contribute to discussions.

## Operation

The Authority will facilitate four meetings per year (generally scheduled for March, June, August and November) for the Committees to provide advice to the Authority, promote the exchange of information and encourage actions that reduce threats to the Reef and builds resilience.

There are four Committee meetings annually, two in-person and two virtual. Virtual connectivity will be enabled for scheduled in-person meetings to support Committee members who are unable to travel. Meetings are expected to run for no more than two hours. If Reef-wide advice is required on an emerging critical issue or initiative the Authority may facilitate an additional meeting. The Authority will provide regular updates to Committee members between meetings to ensure contemporary information relating to the Reef is shared.

At the first meeting of the three-year term, the newly appointed Committee members should elect a Committee Chair and Committee Secretary (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 10 hours. Payment of the fee will be subject to duties being sufficiently carried out.

Members of the Committee will declare actual or perceived conflicts of interest; fairly represent the interests of their interest group, provide advice in their areas of expertise 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 Authority.

During the Committee term, the Authority will facilitate two Committee chairs' meetings to bring together representatives from each of the 12 Committees. These meetings may be facilitated virtually or in-person. All costs associated with Committee chairs' meetings will be covered by the Authority.

## Reporting

Following each official Committee meeting, the Committee Chair, supported by the nominated Authority representative and Committee Secretary will provide to the Authority the outcomes of the meeting, any advice provided and planned actions to be taken. This will typically take the form of a meeting summary. Following each official Committee meeting, the 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.

Before the completion of the term, each Committee, supported by the Committee Chair, Authority representative and Committee Secretary will provide an end-of-term report to the Authority that provides:

- a summary of the Committees operations;
- an assessment of the Committees effectiveness against the Committee purpose;
- an evaluation of the membership and attendance; and
- feedback and/or advice on the Committee terms of reference.

Biannual updates will be provided to the Authority's board on issues discussed, locally specific advice provided and collective action taken through local community networks' actions to reduce threats to the Reef and build resilience. Information on Committees, such as meeting dates, main issues discussed or actions supported, may be included in the Authority's *Annual Report*.