

Calling for Expressions of Interest Reef Traditional Owner Member COTS Control Innovation Program Steering Committee

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation extends its deepest respect and recognition to all Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef and its Catchment as First Nations Peoples, recognising past, present, and future generations to come.

About this Expression of Interest

The Foundation recognises Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef as those people who, through membership in a descent or clan, have responsibility for caring for particular Sea Country within the [Great Barrier Reef Region](#). We are committed to meaningful collaboration and engagement with Reef Traditional Owners and are embedding Reef Traditional Owner Knowledge and leadership in the governance of programs across the Reef Trust Partnership.

This expression of interest (EOI) is to identify a Reef Traditional Owner to join the Steering Committee for the COTS Control Innovation Program (CCIP). The research program is entering its final year and the Committee will be focused on wrapping up the current projects and discussing next steps. This research program is funded by the Australian Government and aims to bring multi-disciplinary expertise to improve the approach to COTS control and surveillance across the Great Barrier Reef.

In recognition of the [Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Implementation Plan](#), CCIP seeks to strengthen Traditional Owner involvement and leadership opportunities in COTS research and management through this role. The role will provide a Traditional Owner perspective on the delivery of the research program and strengthen its approach to engagement and partnership-building with Reef Traditional Owners. The role will entail attending meetings, reviewing technical documents, and providing strategic advice to guide the Program in its final year.

Remuneration will be \$700 per day (\$350 per half day) for contribution to meetings, plus reasonable expenses to prepare for and to attend meetings. Meetings are held at least quarterly and are usually delivered online. The term of this appointment is until November 2024.

In terms of selection criteria, this Steering Committee member should be/have:

- Identify as a Reef Traditional Owner,
- Familiarity with Traditional Owner governance structures and aspirations as they relate to the Great Barrier Reef and its catchments,
- Experience working with Elders and senior personnel within major organisations, and
- Interest and/or experience in COTS research and management.

About the COTS Control Innovation Program

Outbreaks of coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) are a major cause of coral decline on the Great Barrier Reef and future COTS outbreaks are almost certain. Managing these damaging outbreaks is a critical priority to improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The Reef Trust Partnership (RTP) [Investment Strategy](#) includes \$57.8 million to address the COTS threat, by supporting the delivery of the existing on-water [COTS Control Program](#) while also launching a research program, [the COTS Control Innovation Program](#) (CCIP). The goal of the CCIP

is to bring together diverse scientific expertise and perspectives to improve the approach to COTS control on the Great Barrier Reef.

The CCIP is being delivered as a collaborative partnership with multidisciplinary teams focused on delivering a portfolio of 24 projects, with a total investment of \$9.8m through the RTP. The Program began in 2021 and is now in its final year.

About the Steering Committee

The CCIP is governed by a Steering Committee that oversees the design, progress, and delivery of the research and innovation program, including endorsing strategic and operational plans, budget allocations, and reports. The Committee also provides strategic advice on risks and opportunities related to the program and ensures program funds are spent in accordance with the collaboration agreement.

The CCIP Steering Committee is chaired by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (the Foundation) and consists of members from partner research institutions (Australian Institute of Marine Science, CSIRO, James Cook University, and University of Queensland), a Reef Traditional Owner, and the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre. Observers from the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and the tourism industry also sit on the Committee.

The Steering Committee meets at least once a quarter, and more frequently (e.g. every 6-8 weeks) as required during critical phases of program delivery. Meetings are typically held online using a video-conferencing platform and are usually 2 hours in duration.

Please express your interest in this role by sending your CV and covering letter addressing the selection criteria to applications@barrierreef.org.

If you have questions, please email grants@barrierreef.org. Frequently asked questions will be uploaded to the webpage here: [Grants and opportunities - Great Barrier Reef Foundation](#)

Applications close 11:59pm on Friday 23 February 2024.