

Expression of Interest

Tourism Industry Observer

Steering Committee for the COTS Control Innovation Program

About the innovation program

Future COTS outbreaks on the Great Barrier Reef are almost certain and reducing the incidence or severity of these outbreaks is critical to reverse widespread and sustained declines in coral cover.

The Reef Trust Partnership [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 \$9.8 million research program, the COTS Control Innovation Program (CCIP), to accelerate the development of innovative new control and surveillance methods.

The CCIP is being delivered across two phases:

- Phase 1 – A feasibility and design phase (\$1.5 million over 12 months, 2020-2021), focused on assessing the feasibility (technical, social and regulatory) and modelling the costs and benefits of possible improvements and interventions. Applying a transparent and consistent scientific framework, this phase will lead to recommendations on priority areas that should be further investigated and developed;
- Phase 2 – A targeted research and innovation program (\$8.3 million over 36 months, 2021-2024), giving effect to the recommendations of the feasibility and design phase, and identifying pathways for implementation and integration of new control and surveillance methods into the COTS Control Program.

The CCIP is governed by a Steering Committee that oversees the design, progress and delivery of both phases of the research and innovation program (2020 to 2024), 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 GBRF and consists of members from core partner research institutions (AIMS, CSIRO, JCU, and UQ), a Traditional Owner member, an independent member appointed by the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, and Observers from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

About this Expression of Interest

This expression of interest (EOI) is to identify, via an open and transparent process, a representative of the Reef tourism industry to join the CCIP Steering Committee as an Observer. Although Observers on the Steering Committee do not have a right to vote on committee matters, they act as an information channel to the group they represent and provide important perspectives from industry.

The Steering Committee will meet at least once a quarter, and more frequently (e.g. every 6-8 weeks) as required during critical phases of program development and implementation. Meetings will be held in-person (where possible) and/or online using a video-conferencing platform.

The Reef tourism industry has long played an important role in COTS control on the Reef, with the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators (AMPTO) leading initial calls for Australian Government

support for COTS control and subsequently delivering dedicated COTS control vessel(s) to protect high value tourism sites from 2012 to 2020. Through this open call we seek to ensure that the Reef tourism industry continues to remain involved in COTS management.

Submitting an EOI application

Please express your interest in this role by responding to the following selection criteria:

- Demonstrated interest and/or experience in COTS management on the Great Barrier Reef, and
- Established relationships across the Reef tourism sector in order to serve as a link to industry.

Your application should be no more than 1-2 pages maximum and include your contact details.

Please send your completed application in PDF format to applications@barrierreef.org

For queries please contact the GBRF Grants Office by emailing grants@barrierreef.org

Applications close on Friday 23 October.



Australian Government



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation