

2026 field season grants for Queensland Marine Turtle Network members

Grant Guidelines



Acknowledgement of Country

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation extends its deepest respect and recognition to all Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef and its Catchments as First Nations Peoples hold the hopes, dreams, traditions and cultures of the Reef.

Questions can be emailed to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) PMO at grants@barrierreef.org.



Supporting Marine Turtle Conservation Across Queensland

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), Container Exchange (COEX) and the Queensland Marine Turtle Network (QMTN) are partnering to support local communities leading marine turtle conservation across Queensland with grants to fund practical, community-led action to protect turtles and the habitats they rely on.

The partnership combines the power of QMTN members' local community leadership, COEX's commitment to empowering Queensland communities to take positive environmental action and GBRF's experience enabling community-led conservation.

The Queensland Marine Turtle Network Community Grants Program provides small grants to support activities such as beach clean-ups, habitat restoration, turtle monitoring, nest protection, volunteer response equipment and community education, connecting local groups with resources to respond quickly to threats and protect turtles and their hatchlings.

The grants are available to Queensland Marine Turtle Network Traditional Owner and community organisation members. Since 2023, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation has supported the launch and development of the Network, strengthening opportunities for groups to share knowledge, build capability and grow collaborations. This grants program builds on that foundation, providing opportunities to support groups in delivering on-ground action with their communities.

1. About this Grant

The 2026 field season grants for Queensland Marine Turtle Network (QMTN) members Grant Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Grant Application Form and Grant Agreement template and reporting template.

Grant purpose

The Queensland Marine Turtle Network (QMTN) members' Grants Program provides direct funding support to frontline marine turtle community conservation groups protecting turtles and nesting habitats along Queensland's coastline.

This grant round responds to insights from the QMTN 2025 [Member Survey](#) which identified support needs for equipment and on-ground efforts for monitoring, education, threat mitigation and response work. The survey highlighted the critical role of community and Indigenous-led programs in marine turtle conservation in Queensland and the central role of volunteers in these efforts.

Funded activities are expected to support locally driven conservation action with clear outcomes for turtles and coastal ecosystems, and the local communities who care for them. Grants are open to QMTN members only.

QMTN members in the categories of Traditional Owner or Indigenous land and sea ranger groups, or community groups or organisation registration types can apply for funding to support:

- **Equipment purchase for new (or expansion) projects**– Equipment including turtle monitoring equipment, volunteer WHS protection equipment, volunteer response equipment
- **On-ground activities**
 - **Turtle protection activities** – new (or expansion) activities such as beach clean-ups ahead of nesting season, shading structures to reduce nest temperatures, predator exclusion, turtle habitat restoration activities that benefit nesting turtles and hatchlings, etc.
 - **Turtle monitoring activities** – new (or expansion) monitoring activities (including projects at sites in addition to those already monitored by the applicant group) that help fill key knowledge gaps and guide future on-ground activity to care for marine turtles.

- **Training and education activities** – new (or expansion) activities enabling community engagement in caring for turtles and strengthening relevant skills for volunteers.

Available funding

The total grant funding that can be applied for per member group is limited to \$10,000*(GST exclusive)

A total funding pool of \$120,000 is available for the 2026-27 turtle season grant round

**partial funding may be offered where the funding round is oversubscribed.*

Key dates

Call for grant applications	17 August 2026
Applications close	14 September 2026
Grant assessment completed and successful applicants notified	2 October 2026
Estimated date for grant funds to be dispersed	23 October 2026
Grant reports submitted	31 May 2027

2. Eligibility Criteria

Who can apply?

To be eligible to submit an application, applicants must have in place and provide evidence of as part of their application:

- Be a current member of the Queensland Marine Turtle Network, identified as a Traditional Owner group, land and sea ranger group, or community organisation in your registration type, and undertaking on-ground turtle monitoring and protection activities (including education, training and habitat restoration) in Queensland. Research and supporting members are not eligible to apply, although can be included in community applications as relevant.
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Hold the relevant association or business insurances: Public Liability, Professional Indemnity, Workers Compensation Insurance and Volunteer Insurance
- If applicable, permit details or QDETSI authorisation for activities are identified in the application.
- Active WHS policies and procedures applicable to the project

In addition to these requirements, applicants must complete all sections of the form including the conflict of interest declaration. Applicants must accept the terms and conditions of the application and the specified terms in the sample agreement templates. Incomplete applications, including missing evidence of eligibility, will be deemed ineligible.

What equipment or activities can be funded?

Only projects that clearly meet the purpose of this grant will be eligible for funding under the grant program. The Grant Purpose above outlines the types of eligible activities and equipment.

Whilst not exhaustive, the list below provides examples of the categories of activities and expenditures that would not be considered eligible for funding as part of an application under the grant program:

- Project proposals by the applicant with the purpose of distributing funds to other parties who are not contractors to the project and who have not been clearly identified in the grant application
- Activities that are likely to have an adverse environmental impact
- Activities for which the applicant does not hold the required permits or authorisation.
- Costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application (including this application) or related documentation

Other activities or specific expenditure may be ineligible because GBRF determines it does not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes of the project or they are contrary to the spirit and intention of the grant.

3. How Applications are Assessed

This application is a merit-based, competitive process with defined funding limits. Applications will be assessed through the following stages.

Eligibility assessment

Each application will be screened to check that the applicant organisation is eligible to apply. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be progressed.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criteria	Description of Criteria	Weighting
Capability & experience	The applicant has demonstrated experience in successfully implementing projects of a similar size/scope in the relevant region or in a similar setting.	35%
Project methods	The methodology outlined is robust, clear and sufficient to meet the requirements of the project. The activities should clearly deliver outcomes in monitoring, education, threat mitigation and response work during the 2026 turtle field season.	35%
Value for money	The project costs demonstrate value for investment.	20%
Benefits for local community	Project activities deliver clear benefits for local communities. This may include: supporting local businesses, enhancing social and cultural benefits for communities, applying socially and environmentally sustainable practices in how activities are run.	10%

Notification of applicants

Applicants will be informed in writing whether their application was successful or not after the conclusion of the assessment process.

4. How to Apply

Applicants are required to complete an application form and submit supporting documentation to applications@barrierreef.org by the closing date.

Applicant checklist

Applicants should take into consideration the guidance and rules provided in these Guidelines, and the Application Form.

Applicants are to ensure they:

- ☐ have read and understood the guidelines
- ☐ have read, understood, and accept the terms and conditions outlined within the guidelines and under the proposed agreement template
- ☐ complete the Application form in its entirety
- ☐ provide current and accurate information
- ☐ provided clearly labelled requested evidence as attachments (insurance and WHS documentation)
- ☐ provide confirmation that all actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest relating to the project have been declared
- ☐ have not contained information that is false or misleading (applications considered to contain false or misleading information may be excluded from further assessment).
- ☐ submit the completed Application to applications@barrierreef.org by the closing date

Incomplete or late applications

Late applications will not be accepted.

Applications that are incomplete, do not include the requested documentation, or do not address the assessment criteria may be deemed ineligible.

5. Successful Projects

Project reporting requirements

Upon completion of the project, successful applicants will need to submit:

- A short report describing the key achievements of the project, a brief project impact story, and key learnings and photos (template provided).
- 2-3 high-quality images.
- Template to be provided

Project acknowledgement requirements

Where successful applicants are communicating about the work funded through the grant program, including in publications, promotional materials, social media content or events, applicants must:

- Include the following acknowledgement:
This work is supported by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation through the Queensland Marine Turtle Network Community Grants Program.
- Tag GBRF in social media content (@GreatBarrierReefFoundation). If applicants would like to acknowledge GBRF's funding partners, including Containers Exchange, in any communications materials, first seek prior written approval from GBRF via media@barrierreef.org.
- Notify GBRF of any proactive or reactive media opportunities as soon as possible – ideally at least five days before publication – via media@barrierreef.org.

6. Further information

Applicants may consult with the GBRF PMO (Project Management Office) while preparing applications to ensure their proposal meets basic requirements. PMO staff will not be able to provide feedback on draft applications.

Answers to questions asked during the application period will be provided as 'Frequently Asked Questions' or Addendums to the Guidelines for the benefit of all potential applicants and will be distributed via GBRF.

Questions can be emailed to the GBRF PMO at grants@barrierreef.org

7. Privacy

GBRF will keep confidential all confidential information of the applicant which is obtained as part of the grant application process. However, GBRF may disclose confidential information to its personnel, contractors or advisors for the purposes of administering this grant program; or as required by law; or where GBRF is required to comply with any provision of funding agreements in respect of confidential information. By submitting an application you agree that your information will be used in accordance with [Great Barrier Reef Foundation Privacy Policy](#)

Disclaimer

This publication has been prepared as a guide only and all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate at the time of publication.