

# Information Kit:

Traditional Owner Working Group (*Interim*)

Reef Trust Partnership

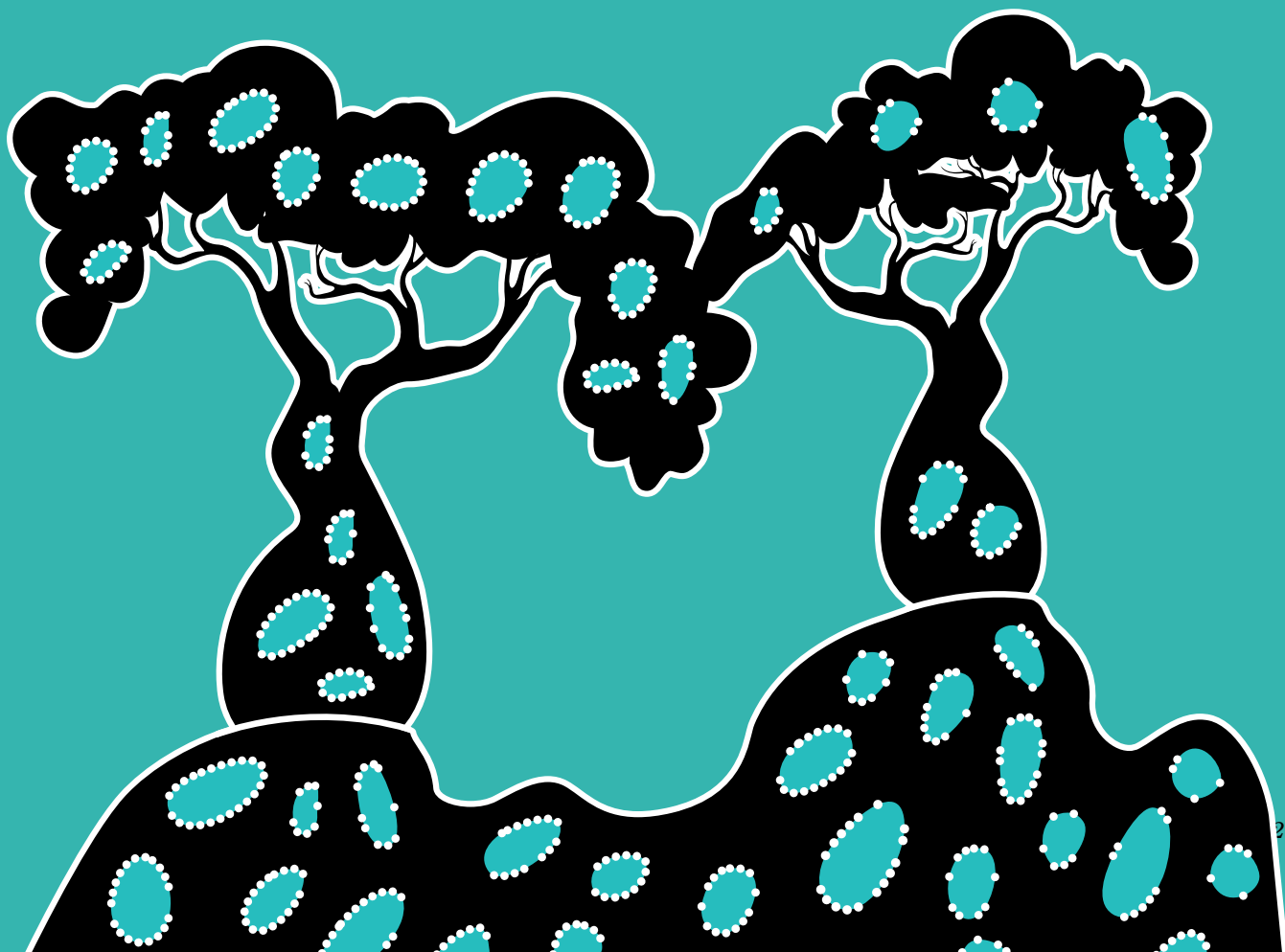


Great Barrier  
Reef Foundation

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# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communique

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The [Great Barrier Reef Foundation](#) (GBRF) is the lead charity for the Reef with an 18-year history of funding and delivering science and conservation projects for the benefit of the Great Barrier Reef.

We exist for one singular purpose – to ensure a Great Barrier Reef for future generations and our success is built on the quality of institutions and people we bring together – harnessing the best knowledge, science and technology to protect and restore this global treasure. The GBRF recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef (the Reef). That is, we acknowledge that Traditional Owners' rights, responsibilities and obligations exist in accordance with their customary Lores, traditions, protocols and customs; and that these protect, conserve and maintain the Great Barrier Reef and its coastal catchments, so as to ensure the sustainability of the

whole environment as an intricate mosaic of dependent ecosystems. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples the Reef is a living cultural landscape. But also a significant opportunity to leverage socio-economic outcomes for their communities through the active protection of the Reef.

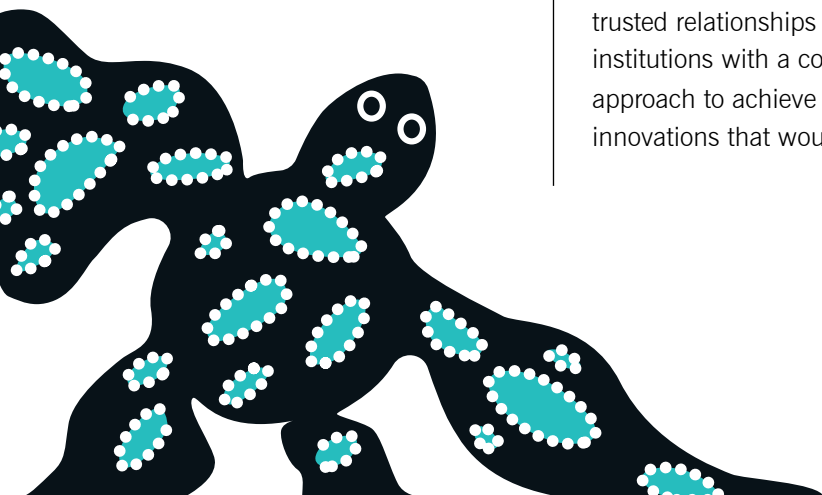
The GBRF regards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Traditional Owners, significant catchment land owners and key partners in the delivery of the [Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan](#) (Reef 2050 Plan) and the [Reef Trust Partnership](#).

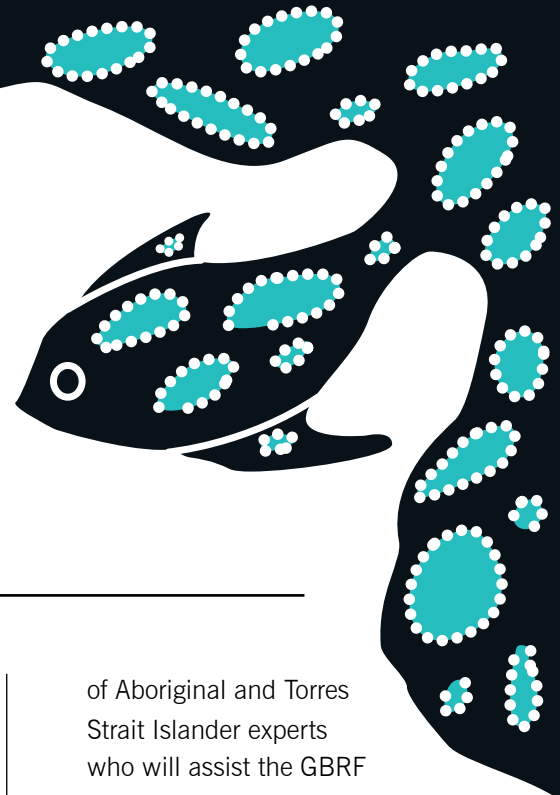
Climate change is the greatest threat to the Reef. The GBRF is the lead charity dedicated to protecting the Great Barrier Reef through funding solutions grounded in science, technology, engineering and on-ground action to ensure its long-term conservation. Since our inception in 1999 we have fostered trusted relationships and united key institutions with a cooperative approach to achieve outcomes and innovations that would not

otherwise have been possible, such as [RangerBot](#), [eReefs](#), the pioneering '[larval reseedling project](#)'; and the [Sun Shield for the Reef project](#).

We have an emerging track record for providing strong support to Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef, such as the [Raine Island Recovery project](#). This is a five-year, \$7.95m public private partnership between the GBRF, BHP, the Queensland Government, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Wuthathi Nation and Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation (Ugar, Mer, Erub) Traditional Owners to protect and restore the island's critical habitat to ensure the future of key marine species including green turtles (nam - the common language word for turtle) and seabirds.

The GBRF is committed to meaningful and authentic engagement with Reef Traditional Owners to co-design our policy, program and investment settings to ensure best practice approaches for protecting the Reef and its values.





Our vision is to actively partner with Traditional Owners to help us deliver innovative solutions that will increase the Reef's resilience. This will include involving Traditional Owners in all of our five funding partnership components:

1. water quality improvement;
2. crown-of-thorns starfish control;
3. reef restoration and adaptation science;
4. Traditional Owner and community reef protection activities; and
5. Integrated monitoring and reporting.

We are building on our previous successes by laying the foundations for enduring partnerships between the GBRF, Reef Traditional Owners and key stakeholders. We will do this through the following commitments:

- Undertaking cultural awareness training for the GBRF board and staff members. This is a

program of cultural capability development through sustained effort over time – not a one off occurrence. All GBRF staff are required to undertake this training and development as members of our valued team.

- Developing a set of Guiding Principles that will provide best practice standards to guide our approach to respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures and our engagement with Reef Traditional Owners.
- Engaging talented staff and advisors who can support the GBRF to deliver on our commitments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, as the Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Attracting and developing highly capable people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to join the leadership of our the GBRF.
- Establishing an interim Traditional Owner Working Group comprising a small group

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts who will assist the GBRF advance the co-design and implementation of the Reef Trust Partnership. This will include strategic advice that optimises benefits to Traditional Owners under the development and implementation of the GBRF's programs, policy and engagement approaches.

Over time we intend to formalise our suite of commitments into our inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan to assist us measure and report on our impact.

We look forward to working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Reef Partners on this journey to protect the **Outstanding Universal Value of the Great Barrier Reef**.

# Traditional Owner Working Group (*Interim*)

## Introduction

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The [Great Barrier Reef Foundation](#) (GBRF) recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef. We respect their connection to their lands and sea country as being continuing and enduring. We recognise and respect Traditional Owners inherent rights and interests to the Reef, through their Lore, customs and dynamic cultures.

Whilst the GBRF has provided support to Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef, including through implementation of the Raine Island Recovery Project, we are now looking to expand and deepen our relationship with Traditional Owners. This means we are building a core platform to incorporate a much stronger focus of brokering collaborative

partnerships with Traditional Owners, as one of our key partners, to meet the complex task of protecting and restoring the Great Barrier Reef.

The GBRF will implement a strong basis for collaborating with Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef. We want to ensure this partnership is authentic and appropriate; and that Traditional Owners are meaningfully engaged in co-designing policies, programs and investments throughout the delivery of the [Reef Trust Partnership](#). The Reef Trust Partnership represents an innovative collaboration with the Australian Government on delivery of the Commonwealth and Queensland governments' joint [Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan](#) (Reef 2050 Plan). We are

committed to achieving genuine co-design and co-delivery with Traditional Owners across key components of the Reef Trust Partnership.

To help us establish our approach in the most appropriate way we are setting up an interim Traditional Owner Working Group (the Working Group) as a matter of priority. The Working Group will provide critical strategic guidance to the GBRF in advancing the co-design and implementation of the Reef Trust Partnership.



# Is this you?

Do you have good ideas about how to keep Country, Culture and Traditional Peoples of the Great Barrier Reef strong and resilient?

Do you have drive and passion for sea country and want to make things happen?

We want people that inspire others. Are you well respected amongst your mob and community and are you known for creating positive change at a local, regional or national level?

Do you have a special interest and/or operational experience in water quality, controlling crown-of-thorns starfish, restoring sea country including its catchments, monitoring your country by looking for and recording changes, economic development or business enterprise?

Are you considered a young or emerging leader in your community?

## Members

Working Group members are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people 18 years and above. They are not appointed to represent particular regions, organisations or Traditional Owner groups. Members are selected based on expertise in Indigenous land and sea management, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, heritage management and economic development.

The GBRF may appoint a staff member to the Working Group as an Executive Officer and from time to time may seek expert external support for specific and technical matters.



# Role

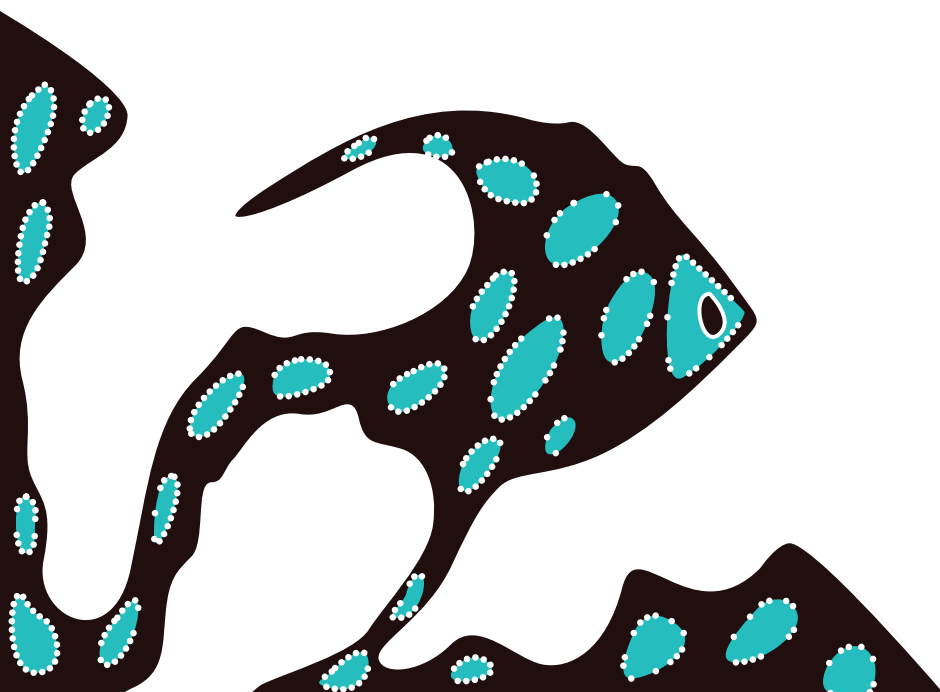
The Working Group will comprise a small strategic group of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander experts who will assist the GBRF advance its policy concepts and program design across all five components of the Reef Trust Partnership. This will include advice on the development and implementation of programs, policy and engagement approaches.

The Working Group is an advisory and not a decision-making body and is not a substitute for engagement with Traditional Owners or stakeholders. It does not advocate on behalf of specific Indigenous communities, Traditional Owner groups, stakeholders or funded proponents. It provides strategic advice to the GBRF on its Indigenous policy, program and engagement.

The Working Group's role will complement rather than duplicate or replace other Reef Traditional Owner advisory bodies.

## Meetings

The Working Group will meet at least twice a year and in its initial stages will likely meet more often. Meetings will be in person or via video or teleconference. Working Group business may also include out-of-session work. The Working Group will be supported by a Secretariat provided by the Foundation. All Working Group members will receive remuneration for their contributions consistent with the remuneration tribunal rates.



# Terms of Reference

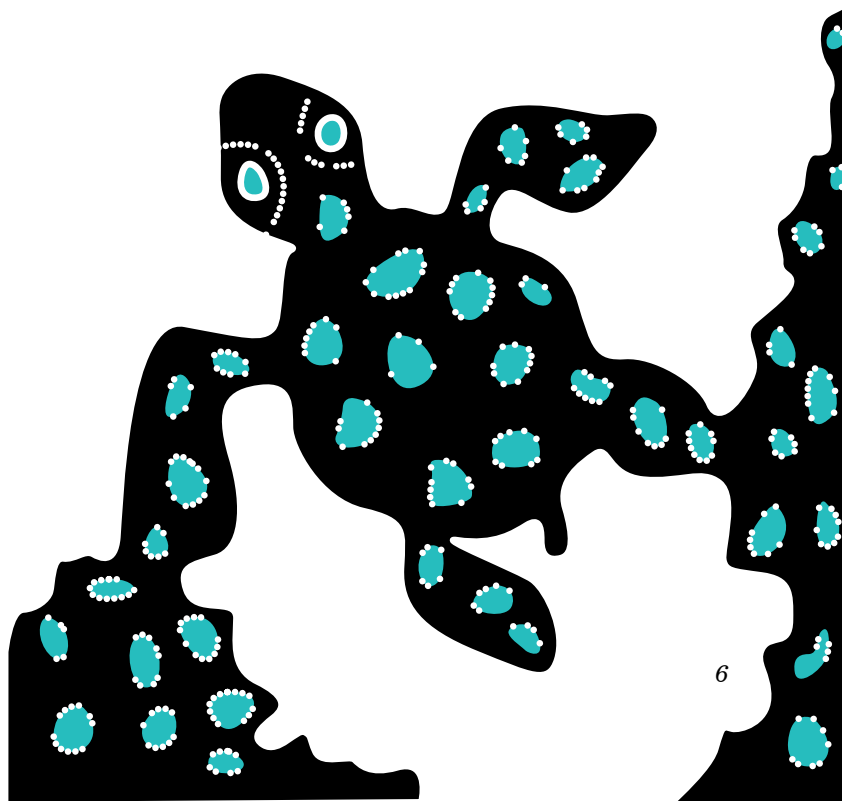
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The Working Group will assist the GBRF in the Reef Trust Partnership by:

- providing strategic advice to the Partnership Management Committee and GBRF Executive on matters relevant to operationalising and delivering actions in collaboration with Traditional Owners within the Reef Trust Partnership;
- ensuring the views and knowledge of Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners are reflected in the development and implementation of the Reef Trust Partnership;
- participating in strategic meetings, workshops and stakeholder forums to provide input and advice on matters affecting, or of high importance to, Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners; and
- communicating with Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners to ensure application of best practice approaches to respecting, recognising and engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are maintained.

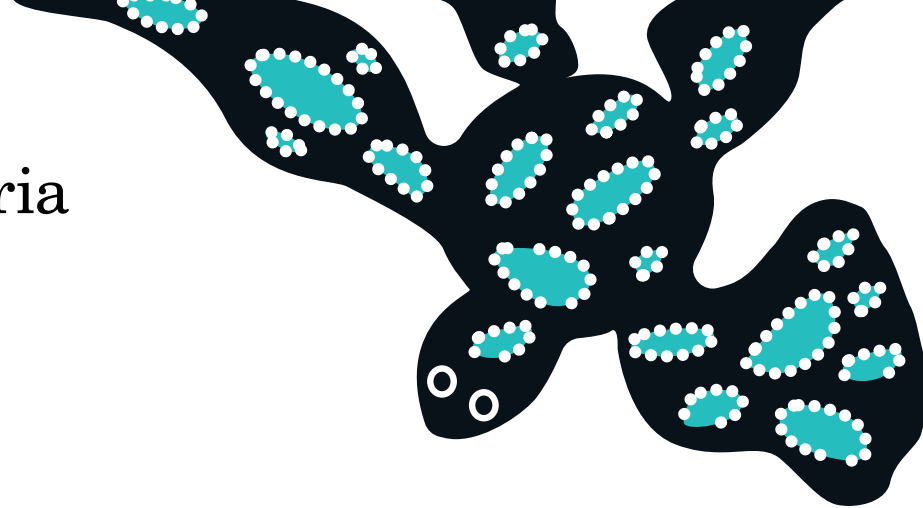
Members of this Working Group may participate in other Working Groups; advisory structures and committees as required and agreed.

*Do you have a special interest and experience in water quality, controlling crown-of-thorns starfish and restoring sea country and catchments?*





# Assessment Criteria



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Senior Indigenous leaders will work with the GBRF Executive to provide oversight on the selection of Working Group members. Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Understanding and/or experience in land / sea country management (caring for country) that demonstrates benefits for Traditional Owners - including one or more of the following areas:
  - a. Indigenous land and sea management, including (but not limited to) water quality; crown-of-thorns starfish control; reef integrated monitoring and reporting; reef adaptation and restoration; marine debris; country based planning and community benefits;
  - b. conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including (but not limited to) species management; compliance and education; on ground management activities and monitoring;
  - c. heritage management; mapping of heritage values; management planning and delivery; monitoring of heritage values;
  - d. economic development; business and enterprise development; and
  - e. governance and risk management
2. A demonstration of strong on-ground relationships within your community and amongst other Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners and their partners.
3. A demonstration of collaboration and relationship building at a community and partnership level.
4. Passion and drive to be involved.

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*Do you have drive and  
passion for sea country  
and want to make  
things happen?*

In selecting suitable candidates, the assessment panel will also consider the following, in consultation with your referees:

- Your track record in creating positive impact for Traditional Owners
- Your track record of attendance and participation in similar roles
- Your ability to translate ideas into action
- Traditional Owners from different regions across the Reef
- Gender and youth balance
- Demonstration of critical thinking, strategic approaches and knowledge of Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner priorities for delivery of the five components under the Reef Trust Partnership
- Complementary skills, experience, personal attributes and capabilities
- Ability to contribute as a collaborative member and a demonstrated track record of fostering a positive and constructive working environment
- The ability to effectively work together

# How to Apply

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## Step 1

Review this information pack (including the assessment criteria) and determine your interest and capability to be considered for a role as a Working Group member.

## Step 2

Prepare an expression of interest outlining why you are applying for the role, your relevant skills, experience and capabilities that you will bring to the role and briefly, how that expertise addresses the selection criteria. This can be in the form of a two-page written response or a one-minute video.

Your expression of interest should be accompanied by a resume with two referees one of whom must be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person that the GBRF may contact.

## Step 3

Include a resume with two referees, one of whom must be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person that the GBRF may contact.

## Step 4

Email your expression of interest to [projects@barrierreef.org](mailto:projects@barrierreef.org) by 5 October 2018.

## Questions?

Contact Dr Sarah Castine, GBRF Program Manager, on 07 3064 0874 or Email: [scastine@barrierreef.org](mailto:scastine@barrierreef.org) to discuss the opportunity or ask any questions.



# Q&A

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## 1. Will the Interim Working Group represent Traditional Owners?

No. Members of the Traditional Owner Working Group will be selected on the basis of expertise and their ability to establish, foster and maintain collaborative working relationships, rather than on a representative basis.

## 2. Will I receive sitting fees?

No. Working Group members will receive remuneration for their contributions in accordance with the remuneration tribunal [Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Public Office](#). All accommodation and travel related expenses will be covered by the Foundation.

## 3. How will the GBRF select Working Group members?

An assessment panel, comprising senior Indigenous leaders, will assess applications against the criteria and take into account a complementary mix of skills, attributes and qualifications.

*We want people who inspire others. Are you well respected amongst your mob and community and are you known for creating positive change at a local or regional level?*



# About the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and the Reef Trust Partnership

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The GBRF was established in 1999 following the first mass coral bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef in 1998, and in alignment with the United Nations World Heritage Convention, encouraging countries with world heritage sites to establish a national foundation with the purpose of inviting donations for their protection. The GBRF leads the collaboration of business, science, government and philanthropy – groups who would not otherwise come together – for the benefit of the Reef.

The Australian Government recently partnered with the GBRF by investing a landmark

\$443.3 million to build the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. This is the single largest investment by any government towards the protection of the Reef and its outstanding universal world heritage value. Over the next six years, this investment will support delivery of the Reef Trust Partnership with projects designed to be implemented from 2019.

The immediate work of the GBRF under this funding will be to build a fit for purpose program – that has five core components; water quality, crown-of-thorns starfish control; reef integrated monitoring and reporting; reef restoration and

adaptation science; Indigenous and community Reef protection. This is an ambitious program that will work across government, industry, Traditional Owners, researchers and the community to help build the Reef's resilience and ensure current and future threats to the Reef are addressed in an effective, efficient and appropriate manner.

