

TRADITIONAL USE OF MARINE RESOURCES AGREEMENTS (TUMRA) PROGRAM

For more than 20 years, the Reef Authority has created enduring partnerships with Traditional Owners across the Great Barrier Reef catchment, underpinned by Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs).

TUMRAs, developed and led by saltwater Traditional Owners and clan groups, are instrumental in managing their Sea Country estates and are designed with clear strategic direction, governance structures, and strong leadership.

There are 10 accredited TUMRAs, co-designed with the Reef Authority and Queensland Government, covering 43 per cent of Reef coastline, with a further three groups working towards a TUMRA.

Each Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement has a steering committee to manage the agreement and Traditional use of marine resources in their Sea Country, including Traditional take (if any) of important species such as dugongs and turtles. Their management of Traditional use is based on both cultural lore and contemporary science and are also used for broader Sea Country planning and management.

TUMRAs also provide a framework for Traditional Owners to engage meaningfully with the Reef Authority's programs such as the Crown-of-thorns

Starfish Control Program and Reef Guardian stewardship initiatives through local councils and schools.

They recognise and uphold Native Title rights, capturing the interests and responsibilities of Traditional Owners who possess an intrinsic spiritual connection to the Reef. There are some 70 Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner groups across the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; all of whom have been actively supporting and protecting their Sea Country for thousands of years.

TUMRAs have also supported the development of the Indigenous Ranger program and facilitated Traditional Owner collaboration with other government agencies, the private sector, and local communities.

Moreover, students in year 11 and 12 across Queensland high schools now explore TUMRAs as part of their marine science curriculum, where applicable.

We look forward to the next decade and beyond of increasing co-management, as we deepen our relationships with Traditional Owners to keep Sea Country strong, safe and healthy.



Scan the QR code for more information on the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRA) Program.

