

# Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Organisation Structure



Australian Government  
Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority



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# **Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Branch and Section Overview**

## **Strategic Policy and Partnerships Branch**

The Strategic Policy and Partnerships Branch synthesises knowledge and innovates to inform adaptive management and influence decision makers. The branch develops and implements key strategies and policies, undertakes strategic and tactical communications, connects internationally and delivers targeted education and engagement to support reef resilience. The branch is responsible for the Authority's strategic governance arrangements through the Marine Park Authority (MPA) Board and develops strong internal and external partnerships to deliver outcomes that support the Authority's corporate priorities.

### **Chief Scientist**

The role of the Chief Scientist is to provide high quality, science-based strategic direction, leadership and innovation across the Agency's plans, policies and programs. The Chief Scientist represents the Agency, particularly its role in resilience-based management of the Reef and the science under-pinning that management. The Chief Scientist coordinates and prepares complex high-quality advice and written material that is timely, practical, transparent and risk-based. As well as consult, and partner with stakeholders and partners on matters relevant to the Authority and lead engagement with research and development into intervention and restoration technology.

### **Communications**

The Communications section is a specialist team of qualified, experienced and creative communication professionals who provide strategic communication and marketing planning and expertise, media and issues management, and online channel management. Our key role is to ensure a consistent, coherent and professional approach to communication, both within the Authority and externally with our partners, key stakeholders, Reef visitors and the general public. Our section works to promote the Authority's role, the Reef's values, and efforts to protect this World Heritage natural wonder.

### **Reef Education and Engagement**

Through targeted education and engagement initiatives, the Reef Education and Engagement team work with internal and external stakeholders to inspire people to form a connection with the Great Barrier Reef and encourage them to take actions that will help protect it, now and into the future.

### **Strategic Governance**

The Strategic Governance section leads the development of the strategic direction for the Reef Authority, by managing and coordinating our strategic governance (including our Board and supporting committees) and through the development, coordination and implementation of strategies & partnerships on key priorities for the Reef Authority. This section is also responsible for developing and coordinating advice for the Minister and other government stakeholders.

### **Strategic Policy**

The Strategic Policy section leads the development of the strategic direction for the Authority, by managing the development, coordination and implementation of strategies & partnerships on key priorities for the Authority. This section also has a focus on providing advice that supports the Authority's lead on whole of government initiatives to ensure a coordinated approach across partners within the Authority.

## **Marine Park Operations Branch**

The Marine Park Operations Branch provides in-park management across the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to protect and rehabilitate reefs, islands and species and provide opportunities for people to enjoy the Great Barrier Reef. The Branch is critical in ensuring people who use the Marine Park respect and comply with laws, permits and cultural authority of Traditional Owners. The Branch delivers a risk-based permissions system and a Reef Joint Field Management Program in partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements and Sea Country values mapping are priority programs of the Reef Authority's partnerships with Traditional Owners.

### **Environmental Assessment & Protection**

Through the Permissions System, the Environmental Assessment and Protection section sets the priorities and strategic direction for delivering streamlined contemporary risk-based permit decisions and compliance actions, which is linked to dependencies with other key management strategies such as the Policy and Planning Strategic Roadmap, Reef Joint Field Management Program, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Strategy.

### **Field Management Operations**

The Field Management Operations section is essential to safeguarding the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area by detecting, deterring, and responding to illegal activity and maritime incidents. The section values its partnerships and collaborates to deliver efficient and effective work, ensuring the protection of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In addition, the section is dedicated to mentoring, supporting, and connecting with Indigenous Rangers.

### **Field Management Strategy**

The Field Management Strategy section delivers planning and reporting for the Reef Joint Field Management Program, Reef Conservation Actions on islands, reefs and supporting the species that rely upon these habitats and the compliance functions of planning, intelligence, case management and monitoring of electronic vessel tracking. The section works closely with other Reef Authority sections and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in delivering these activities in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The section includes personnel from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

### **Reef Interventions**

The Reef Interventions section implements key reef interventions and restoration activities to enhance the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. The section is responsible for design and implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Crown-of-thorns Starfish (COTS) Control Program leads Authority policy and advice on matters relating to COTS biology, outbreaks and their management. The section also coordinates the Reef Authority's work with the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program and other Reef restoration initiatives.

### **TUMRA**

The TUMRA section is responsible for leading collaborative partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners through the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement and Sea Country Values Mapping programs across the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. A key focus for the section will be to build and establish new relationships with emerging Traditional Owner groups, and relying on a long-standing partnership with Traditional Owners to drive innovative and contemporary co-design approaches on prioritising the inherent responsibility, spiritual connection and cultural authority (lore) of Traditional Owners to care for Sea Country. The section will share this responsibility with all areas of the Reef Authority to provide a clear and consistent partnership approach that protects Sea Country for future generations.

## **Major Projects Branch**

The Major Projects Branch is a new Branch in the Reef Authority, that focuses on the delivery of priority projects, often with larger funding commitments. Sections in the branch include: Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, Marine Park Planning and Policy, Science for Management, Charging Structure Review and Douglas Shoal Remediation. Projects are delivered in partnership with Traditional Owners, community, and key stakeholders.

### **Charging Structure Review**

The Charging Structure Review section is undertaking a comprehensive review of the existing charging structure in place for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The review is complex, and the section is responsible for ensuring adequate consideration is given to stakeholder sentiment, the requirements of Australian Government Charging Framework, and opportunities through innovation and technological advancement.

### **Douglas Shoal Remediation**

The Douglas Shoal Environmental Remediation section aims to clean-up environmental damage to Douglas Shoal after the grounding of a bulk cargo ship in 2010. The project is one of the most ambitious and large-scale coral reef clean-ups ever undertaken globally.

### **Marine Park Planning and Policy**

The Marine Park Planning and Policy section is responsible for Marine Park planning and Marine Park policy and regulation. In particular, the section is responsible for delivering a contemporary policy, planning and regulatory framework that protects key values and enables ecologically sustainable use in the Marine Park.

### **Reef HQ**

The Reef HQ Great Barrier Reef Aquarium section manages the operations, infrastructure and assets that support the National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef, Reef HQ Aquarium.

### **Science for Management**

The Science for Management section covers a diverse range of functions, focusing on increasing the Agency's access to knowledge (socio-ecological) about the Reef through monitoring, interactive knowledge systems and evidence-based science communications. The section works to ensure strong, coordinated partnerships between the science and management community. Resilience-based management is supported by the section through delivery of an interactive online knowledge system to increase an understanding of the Reef and human interactions thus enabling better management decisions.

## **Corporate Services**

The Corporate Services branch provides efficient, effective and contemporary services in key function areas such as Finance, Legal Services, Technology and Digital Services, People Services, and Business Operations. The branch works collaboratively with other Reef Authority branches to enable them to deliver on their work tasks.

### **Business Operations**

Business Operations is responsible for the Sustainability Office, Property and Security services and the Program Management Office (PMO) which oversees portfolio, program and Project management support services for the Reef Authority including the Agile ways of working.

### **Finance**

The Finance section provides financial frameworks, systems and support. It covers three main areas: Financial accounting - which is responsible for accounts payable, cash management and statutory reporting; Management accounting - which is responsible for accounts receivable, budgets, forecasting and management reporting; and financial governance - which is responsible for travel, procurement and financial policy.

### **Legal Services**

Legal Services is responsible for providing in-house legal services to the Reef Authority including advice on commercial matters (such as contractual and leasing matters); advice on administrative law matters (such as freedom of information, privacy law and administrative decision making under Marine Park and related legislation); statutory interpretation advice on Marine Park and related legislation; management, oversight and interpretation of the delegation of powers under Marine Park and related legislation; and dispute resolution services (including the management of litigation arising from the Reef Authority's activities). Legal services also provides legal awareness training and guidance material for Reef Authority staff.

### **People Services**

The People Services team provides services, advice and support in relation to all people activities including, but not limited to, employee relations, attraction and recruitment, payroll, workplace health and safety (including dive), leadership and capability development, workforce planning and organisational culture.

### **Technology and Digital Services**

The Technology and Digital Services section provide support, management, and guidance for all matters related to the organisation's digital services requirements with a specific focus on positioning the Authority to be a more agile and responsive organisation into the future. The areas of responsibility include end user support, desktop/laptop/mobile fleet management, technical infrastructure management, digital network and telecommunications services, data management and data analytics services, geospatial services, information services management, record management, information security management, technical risk management, ICT service resilience management, technical project management and support services, and ICT strategic planning.

The Technology and Digital Services section also have a Geospatial Services team who are responsible for the coordination and maintenance of all core spatial datasets for the Reef Authority. In addition to geospatial data management the position they are also responsible for the management and administration of the Reef Authority Portal for ArcGIS (Portal) and ArcGIS Online (AGOL) instances.