

Catchments to Coral

Expression of Interest | Application Guidelines

Contents

1. About the Catchments to Coral Program	1
2. Program objectives	2
3. Project proposal guidelines	3
4. Who can apply	3
5. What can be funded	4
6. What can't be funded	4
7. Assessment criteria and process	5
8. Submitting an Expression of Interest	5

1. About the Catchments to Coral Program

The Catchments to Coral Program aims to improve the health and resilience of coastal habitats within the Great Barrier Reef catchments of eastern Cape York. Funded through the Australian Government's Reef Trust, the Program will support Cape York land managers to deliver land management activities that deliver positive outcomes for coastal ecosystems and species protection over the next three years (2021 – 2023).

Expressions of interest (EOI) are invited for projects that deliver land management outcomes within the Great Barrier Reef catchments of Cape York (Figure 1).

Land managers/ groups that have a willingness to undertake projects, but not necessarily the current capacity to do so, are encouraged to discuss project ideas with David Preece (Cape York NRM; 0418 464 487) to identify opportunities for capacity building, technical support and future project opportunities.

To submit an Expression of Interest, applicants will need to complete *the Catchments to Coral EOI application form* and email to david.preece@capeyorknrm.com.au by close of business on **23 July 2021**.

2. Program objectives

The Catchments to Coral Program will provide support to Cape York land managers to deliver actions that maintain or restore the high natural values of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) catchments.

Program objectives for the Cape York GBR catchments include:

1. Protect and improve the condition of significant wetlands and floodplains.
2. Protect and improve the condition of significant coastal vegetation.
3. Protect and improve the condition of nesting habitat for marine turtles.
4. Build the capacity of land managers to deliver land management activities to achieve objectives 1 to 3 (above).

Suggested project activities that will be funded to deliver on the Program objectives include:

- Pest animal control
- Weed control
- Fire management
- Controlling access (eg. Fencing/ bollards)
- Beach debris removal
- Training/ capacity building activities to assist with successful delivery of projects

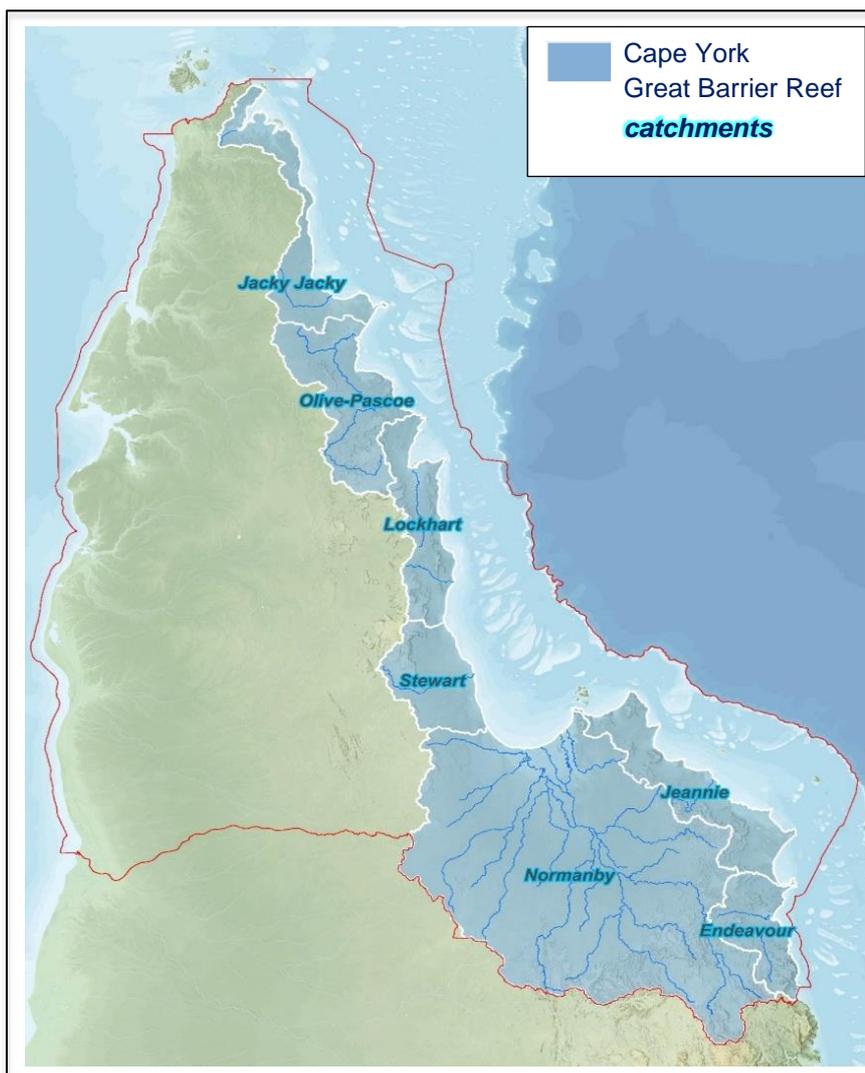


Figure 1. Catchments to Coral Program area. Cape York Great Barrier Reef catchments

3. Project proposal guidelines

The following guidelines are provided to assist with the development of Catchment to Coral project proposals:

- Projects must be within the Great Barrier Reef catchments of Cape York (Figure 1) and can be on any land tenure; Freehold land, Aboriginal Freehold or CYPAL, Leasehold land, and/or National Park.
- Project proposals must deliver on at least one of the Catchment to Coral program objectives (Section 2).
- Proposed projects can be of any scale, but should be realistic in terms of budget and outcomes that are achievable by land managers within the project timeframe.
- Project proposals should contribute to achieving outcomes identified by local or regional management plans, such as healthy country plans, where these exist.
- Additional requirements for staff training, resources and technical assistance that are needed to achieve project outcomes should be considered and included in project proposals.
- Projects can be submitted as single-year projects; however, threat abatement projects are encouraged to be submitted as 2 to 3 year proposals that include follow up control and monitoring actions. Projects may commence from August 2021 and must be completed by June 2023.
- Applicants may submit joint project proposals that bring together a number of eligible parties, and joint applications to achieve regional outcomes are encouraged.
- Applications that leverage co-funding and/or in-kind support from other partners are encouraged. Co-funded projects should identify partners, their role in the project and willing to provide written confirmation of their support, contributions and capacity listed in the application.
- Eligible applicants may submit multiple project proposals.

4. Who can apply

Expressions of interest are open to all land managers, Traditional Owner land management groups, freehold or lease holders of land within the Cape York Great Barrier Reef catchments as shown on Figure 1.

To be eligible to apply for funding to deliver a project, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be operating in Australia and have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Declare all actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest relating to the project
- Hold or be willing to hold the required insurances: Workers Compensation; Public Liability (minimum required: \$20,000,000 per occurrence); Professional Indemnity Insurance, and Motor Vehicles and Plant and Equipment Insurance (if applicable).

Traditional Owner land management groups must also meet the following criteria:

- Be a Traditional Owner group for the area the project is proposed (or have culturally appropriate permission where the project may be over multiple estates)
- Be a legal entity* :
 - Incorporated association
 - Body corporate
 - Company
 - Cooperative society
 - Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander corporation or incorporated association, or
 - Constituted trust

*Traditional Owner groups that are *not* legal entities are still encouraged to discuss project ideas and alternative modes of project delivery with Cape York NRM.

5. What can be funded

- Activities that deliver on the Program Objectives, or build land manager capacity to do so, in the Cape York Great Barrier Reef catchments as detailed in section 2.

Activities with funding limitations:

- Administrative support and operational expenses (including office accommodation, office equipment hire, phone/internet costs, electricity costs, printing/photocopying, insurance costs) will only be supported up to 10% of the total requested project funding.
- Hire or lease of vehicles will be permitted only where it can be demonstrated that this is essential to completing specific project phases or outputs detailed in the project plan.
- Purchase of plant and equipment may be considered for funding only where essential to the achievement of project outcomes.
- Salary expenses will only be funded where these expenses are attributable to a discrete project with measurable outcomes detailed in a project plan. Funding for salaried positions related to the normal ongoing operations of an organisation will not be funded. Applications may include requests for funding to engage consultants or contractors with relevant knowledge and/or specialist expertise needed to complete the project. Where an application is made for funding of salaries and/or labour expenses the application must demonstrate value for money and include a description of the activities to be undertaken by the project personnel, consultants or contractors and the skills and qualifications required for the role.
- Reasonable travel costs are available to support travel where this is complementary to the outcomes of the project. Costs associated with overseas travel will not be funded.

6. What can't be funded

A project will be deemed ineligible if:

- The project does not address Catchment to Coral Program objectives
- The grant requested by the applicant is for 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
- The grant requested by the applicant is to cover actions which have commenced before grant funding is allocated under this grant program
- The project involves major construction work or an acquisition of land or other real property
- The project relates to activities wholly outside of the Cape York Great Barrier Reef Catchments
- Project activities that are likely to have an adverse environmental impact
- The grant requested by the applicant is a duplication of funding with other investors for delivering the same activities by the same applicant (complementarity of effort achieved through other programs or projects is encouraged, however).

The following activities and expenditures cannot be funded:

- Asset purchases over \$5,000 including the purchase, lease or transfer of a property.
- The repatriation of human remains and significant objects from international and Australian museums and institutions.
- Funding to support the public display of objects (such as museum facilities or displays within cultural centres) will not be funded. The construction of cultural centres involving major capital works also will not be funded.

- Native Title and Cultural Heritage work; heritage surveys and connection reports conducted specifically in support of native title claims will not be funded. Heritage surveys or site clearance in relation to development proposals will not be funded.
- Activities that are completed or have commenced (NB. extension activities linked to projects underway, and with a proven track record of success are eligible).
- Activities that would be considered part of a local, territory or state government's normal responsibilities.

7. Assessment criteria and process

Eligible EOIs submitted will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Contribution to the Catchment to Coral Program Objectives
- Demonstration that the project is well designed and technically feasible
- Demonstrated capability to successfully deliver the project in the chosen location(s), on time and within budget
- Value for money

The *collection* of eligible EOIs submitted will also be assessed with regard to:

- delivery across all four Program objectives (section 2)
- diversity of geographic distribution across the Cape York Great Barrier Reef Catchments

Please note that this is an expression of interest only. The submission of an EOI application does not guarantee that your project will be funded. Successful EOI applicants will subsequently be required to work with Cape York NRM to develop a detailed project plan including monitoring, reporting and contract milestones.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the EOI assessment process by 13 August 2021.

8. Submitting an Expression of Interest

To submit an Expression of Interest, applicants will need to complete the *Catchments to Coral EOI Application Form* and email to **david.preece@capeyorknrm.com.au** by close of business on **23 July 2021**.

If you have any questions, need support or would like to discuss your application, please contact:

David Preece

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