

Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Program – Grants information sheet

What are Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Program Grants?

The Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Grants Program (Sea Country Partnerships Grants Program) is administered by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). The program is part of the Australian's Government's Caring for our Country Reef Rescue Plan.

Sea Country Partnerships Grants will provide funding to Traditional Owner groups to undertake a range of activities that contribute to the Reef Rescue Land and Sea Country Indigenous Partnerships Program outcomes by:

- Expanding the Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRA) program across the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) catchment
- Developing sea country management plans
- Strengthening communication between local communities, managers and reef stakeholders
- Building a better understanding of Traditional Owner issues about the management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP).

How much funding is available?

During 2011- 12 a total of \$500,000 is available to fund projects between \$5,000 and \$50,000 (GST exclusive*).

Who can apply?

Traditional Owners across all geographic areas of the Great Barrier Reef catchment.

Traditional Owner groups must be a legal entity to apply for Sea Country Partnerships Grants

Eligible legal entities include Traditional Owner groups that are:

- An incorporated association
- A body corporate
- A company
- A cooperative society
- An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander corporation, council or incorporated association
- A trust duly constituted

What is a Sponsor?

If the Traditional Owner group is not a legal entity, funding can be applied for via a sponsor (that is a legal entity) that will submit a project on the Traditional Owner groups' behalf.

What is the role and responsibility of the sponsoring organisation?

The sponsor has contractual and administrative responsibilities and becomes the applicant required to enter into a funding deed with the Australian Government. By signing the funding deed, the sponsor becomes legally responsible for the project under the terms of the deed and will receive the project funding.

The sponsor is responsible for registering, completing and submitting the project, keeping appropriate accounting records, monitoring the activities and results of the project, and submitting the final report within the specified timeframe on behalf of the group.

The sponsor and Traditional Owner group should agree on the arrangements for distributing project funds. For example, the sponsor may decide the funds can be passed from them to the Traditional Owner group, or they may prefer they retain the funds and pay suppliers directly.

Sponsors **DO NOT** undertake or participate directly in project activities.

Examples of sponsoring organisations

These organisations can only apply for a sea country grant on behalf of a Traditional Owner group as a **sponsoring organisation** (ONLY if the Traditional Owner group is not a legal entity and a Traditional Owner group have initiated the project).

- Regional natural resource management organisations
- Non-government organisations (NGOs) with a national focus, peak industry groups or umbrella bodies
- Local government
- Educational institutions
- Organisations directly operating or appointed under state legislation, such as Livestock Health and Pest Authorities, and Committees of Management of Crown Land Reserves.
- Traditional Owners that are not from the GBR catchment

When do applications open and close?

The 2011-12 Sea Country Partnerships Grants Program will open for applications Wednesday, 16 November 2011 and close 5pm EST Friday, 17 February 2012.

How to apply?

Applications must be submitted using the 2012-12 Sea Country Partnerships Grants Program Application Form. Read the Applicant Guidelines before completing the Application form. Completed applications can be submitted electronically by email to indigenous_partnerships@gbmpa.gov.au or postmarked by 5pm, Friday 17 February 2012 and mailed to:

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Sea Country Partnerships Grants Program
2-68 Flinders Street (via courier) **OR** PO Box 1379 (via post)
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Late applications will not be accepted.

*EST = Eastern Standard Time

No access to the internet?

An application pack can be sent via post if you don't have access to the Internet. Call the Indigenous Partnerships Group at GBRMPA Toll free on 1800 990 177 for this request.

What types of project activities can be funded?

- Identification, recording and maintaining cultural values of sea country.
- Natural resource management activities (these can include seagrass monitoring, turtle and dugong monitoring)
- Coastal and wetland rehabilitation and maintenance (for those areas that have been affected by extreme weather will be a priority)
- Educational activities and those activities that raise community awareness
- Activities that provide training in other technical skills like natural resource monitoring (sea-grass, turtle, dugong monitoring skills), boat license attainment etc
- Womens' gathering activities – knowledge sharing
- Projects that focus on inshore biodiversity monitoring or management

Please refer to section 2.6 of the 2011-12 Applicant Guidelines for further information on eligible activities.

What types of project activities cannot be funded?

- Activities already funded under the previous 2010-11 Grants round for the Sea Country Partnerships Grants Program
- Supporting part of a devolved grant. (ie giving all or part of the grant to another group). *That is, a grant requested by one party with the purpose of distributing funds to other parties.*
- Activities which are considered an individual's, group's, or government's responsibility for sustainable management of resources under their control (eg .Activities specified in council by laws or regulation)
- Subsidies for commercial operations (the grant cannot be for activities or assets that support a business)
- Purchase of major capital items, including vehicles (bike), vessels (boats) is not allowed
- Activities required by law, such as managing or controlling certain weeds or pests
- Activities outside of Australia.

Please refer to section 2.7 of the 2011-12 Applicant Guidelines for further information on ineligible activities.

The applicant is responsible for completing the application

The application must be completed by the organisation which is a legal entity able to enter into a funding agreement with the Australian Government, known as the 'applicant organisation'. The applicant is either the Traditional Owner group or sponsor that receives and administers the grant.

Can Australian Government staff help with completing the application form?

Australian Government staff can clarify any issues there are regarding the application form and can talk over with you project ideas and concepts. When it comes to filling in the application form, they are unable to perform that role.

Can the GBRMPA sponsor a project?

No, the GBRMPA cannot be a sponsor to a project.

Can individuals apply if they have a sponsor and demonstrated community support?

No. As an individual you are not eligible to apply either with or without a sponsor. If you have community support you may, as a group, approach a legal entity to sponsor the application on your group's behalf.

Can newly formed groups apply?

Yes. New groups may also choose to partner with existing groups if they wish.

What if a Traditional Owner group applies once by itself and then also applies in collaboration with other Traditional Owner groups?

If all eligible applications are assessed and ranked for funding, and there is funding left over, a second application from the same Traditional Owner group may be considered.

Please refer to section 3.3 of the Applicant Guidelines for further information.

Can more than one application be submitted by the same Traditional Owner group?

Only one application should be submitted by each Traditional Owner group. If multiple applications are submitted by the same Traditional Owner group, the applicant will need to advise the Indigenous Partnerships group of the preferred application to be considered and assessed. However, organisations that are sponsoring other groups may submit one application for each Traditional Owner group they are sponsoring.

Please refer to section 3.3 of the Applicant Guidelines for further information.

Can funding be granted to projects already underway?

No. Applications should be submitted for new projects or further stages of an existing project which has been completed or is currently underway. There should be no duplication of funding between existing projects and new Sea Country Partnerships Grants Program applications.

Is accommodation considered as an eligible activity?

Yes, funds can be used for travelling as it relates to the project. All travel must be incorporated into the proposed budget for the project.

How much detail should be included in the budget? If something is left out can it be added in later?

Items that were not budgeted in the original application will not be funded. Applicants must consider all aspects of their project and ensure they include all relevant costs within their application. Additional funds are not available to meet costs which may have increased after the application was submitted.

Do quotes need to be provided?

No. By submitting the project proposal, the applicant certifies that all details provided are true and correct. However, GBRMPA reserve the right to clarify any details in the project proposal.

Does supporting information need to be provided?

Optional supplementary information (e.g. letters of support from stakeholders or other community groups) are encouraged and will be used by the Assessment Panel.

What notification will be provided when an application is received?

If an application is submitted via email, a confirmation email will be sent which acknowledges the application. If an application is submitted via post, a confirmation letter will be sent to the address provided.

What happens once an application is submitted?

The project will be considered in an assessment process. The first step will be to determine applications that are eligible. It is then anticipated that the announcement of successful projects will take place in April 2012.

Can changes be made to an application once it has been submitted?

No changes are permitted once applications have been submitted. Read the application carefully before submitting to ensure that every relevant section has been completed and that all the information is true and correct.

What are the assessment criteria?

Applications must address the following criteria and provide details which will form the basis of the assessment.

1. The project MUST be related to sea country management within the GBR and align with one or more of the Indigenous Land and Sea Country Partnerships Program priority areas.
2. Demonstrate the need for the project and potential benefits
3. Demonstrate the capacity of the organisation to deliver the project
4. Value for money of the project
5. Written authorisation from Elders of the Traditional Owner group/s (a copy of the authorisation must be attached to the application form) which support and approve the project being performed in the proposed area and other forms of support (ie letters from the

community, non-government organisations, politicians etc).

6. Ability to communicate project outcomes with Traditional Owners and the broader community
7. The feasibility of the project.

When can successful projects start?

Successful applicants will receive a funding deed that will need to be signed and returned. Any specified conditions of funding must be met before full payment for the project can be processed and the project commences. As soon as those are in place, funding can start.

When will the funding be in the bank?

The payment will be processed only when the successful applicant has accepted the terms of the funding by signing and returning the funding deed.

How much time is allowed to complete the project?

The end date for the project must be within 12 months of the project commencing (date on the funding deed). Projects must be completed by 30 June 2013.

As an applicant, what are the reporting requirements at the completion of the project?

The Australian Government places a high priority on monitoring and reporting for all Caring for Our Country projects. The monitoring and reporting requirements for the Sea Country Partnerships Grants Program are:

- Tracking of expenditure for acquittal
- A process to record project achievements
- A progress report of your project which outlines the activities that have been completed
- A final report on project outcomes and financial expenditure.

Note: Failure to meet the required reporting obligations within the given time frame may impact on your eligibility for future Caring for our Country funding

FURTHER INFORMATION

GBRMPA's website: www.gbrmpa.gov.au
Phone: +61 4750 0700
Toll Free: 1800 990 177
Fax: +61 4772 6093
Email: indigenous_partnerships@gbrmpa.gov.au