

Position title	Engagement Officer - Cultural Heritage and Native Title
Position number	PN112
Classification	APS5
Location	Townsville, QLD
Salary	APS5 $88,833 - $96,829 PA (NB employees ordinarily start on the base salary and then advance to the top pay point over time as per the Enterprise Agreement)
Employment type	Ongoing/Non-ongoing; Full-time
Security level	Baseline
Section	Environmental Assessment and Protection
Branch	Marine Park Operations
Contact officer	Sandra Garvin, Assistant Director , Ph. 07 4750 0767

The Organisation

The Great Barrier Reef is a World Heritage listed tropical marine ecosystem of 3000 individual coral reefs, deep shoals, seagrasses and mangrove systems that support many thousands of marine species. Bigger than Italy, it stretches 2300 kilometres along Australia's Queensland coast. It is the Sea Country home for about 70 Traditional Owner groups whose connections with the Reef go back more than 60,000 years. The Reef inspires awe in two million tourists every year, supports approximately 64,000 jobs and contributes over $6 billion a year to the Australian tourism economy.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Reef Authority) is a Commonwealth non-corporate entity, and a statutory agency established by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 (Marine Park Act), reporting to the Minister for the Environment and Water. Our objective is the long-term protection, ecologically sustainable use, understanding and enjoyment of the Great Barrier Reef for all Australians and the international community through the care and development of the Marine Park.

The Position

We are seeking an enthusiastic engagement officer with strong communication and organisational skills to contribute to the agency's compliance with requirements of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the building of effective working relationships with Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners and other First Nations peoples.

The role is responsible for coordination of support services, especially with respect to the delivery of regulatory requirements of the Native Title Act and cultural heritage advice. This includes day to day support, advice and administration of cultural referrals and Future Act Notifications for the Permission System.

You will contribute to the delivery of projects under the Reef Authority's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Strategy to improve assessment of potential risks and impacts to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Indigenous heritage values through the Marine Parks permissions system.

Where the role fits

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. This includes partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners who have an inherent responsibility through spiritual connection and cultural authority (lore) to care for Sea Country. 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. The resilience of the reef and islands is enhanced by in park interventions such as the Crown-of-thorns Starfish (COTS) Control Program, the management of pest and weeds on islands and mitigation of impacts from extreme weather events and maritime vessel incidents.

Through the Permissions System, the Environmental Assessment and Protection section sets the priorities and strategic direction for delivering contemporary risk-based permit decisions and compliance actions. The work closely intersects 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.

Permits are a foundational Marine Park management tool critical to enabling sustainable use whilst providing for the long-term protection of the environment, biodiversity, and heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef Region. Complementary management arrangements and joint permitting bridges areas of State and Commonwealth jurisdiction and provides a streamlined process for applicants, where typically a single assessment and permit is decided by both the Reef Authority and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Person

The suitable candidate will be agile and adaptive in the way they work, open to change and willing to explore innovative ways of working. When you work for us, you understand that leadership exists at all levels, and you display this at all times. You work collaboratively to deliver results and display the personal drive and integrity expected of an Australian Public Service (APS) employee.

- ✓ You are culturally aware and can fostering collaborative partnerships that bring benefits and outcomes for both Traditional Owners and environmental management.
- ✓ You will have, or be able to quickly acquire, an ability to interpret and apply relevant legislation/policy, relevant to the Marine Park and Native Title Act 1993.
- ✓ You have excellent interpersonal and team skills, to work collaboratively across a range of internal and external stakeholders and drive a range of diverse projects.
- ✓ You are a problem solver with an eye for detail and proven ability to manage competing tasks and meet timeframes.
- ✓ You are supportive of strategic direction and can clearly articulate the organisation's goals.
- ✓ You have strong written and verbal communication skills, tailored to a range of audiences including high level government briefings and First Nations peoples.

First Nations People are strongly encouraged to apply for this role.

Duties

1. Interpret and apply relevant Commonwealth and state legislation, policy and procedures to meet obligations under *the Native Title Act 1993* for applications for Marine Park permissions.
2. Engage with Traditional Owners and relevant stakeholders on how the permissions system works within regulations and understand potential impacts to Traditional Owner cultural heritage values associated with proposed access and use of the Marine Park.
3. Contribute to the development or improvement of policies, guidelines and procedures related to native title and cultural heritage protection within the permission system.
4. Develop communication and support tools to assist internal and external stakeholders including First Nations peoples and organisations better understand the managing agencies policies.
5. Liaise, engage and negotiate with internal and external stakeholders and clients, and represent the Reef Authority as required.

As an APS employee you may be reassigned to a different set of duties at the same classification level at the discretion of the agency head (CEO), taking account of operational requirements in the agency.

Core Accountabilities

As an employee of the Reef Authority, you will have the following core accountabilities where:

1. You will take responsibility to ensure that you are fit for duty, taking reasonable care for your own health and safety and that your acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of others in the workplace. You will contribute to the effective implementation of the Reef Authority's work health and safety (WHS) Policy and Manual and comply with the WHS Codes of Practice and legislation.
2. You will uphold the APS Code of Conduct, the APS Values and the APS Employment Principles, comply with relevant legislation, and observe the policies and procedures of the Reef Authority as in force from time to time.

3. You will model and uphold the Reef Authority's behaviours that will deliver our ideal culture:



Eligibility requirements & qualifications

Applicants **must**:

1. be an Australian citizen at time of applying for position,
2. be able to obtain and maintain a Baseline security clearance, failure to do so will result in termination of employment.
3. be willing to provide identity documents and undergo an identity pre-employment check through a Document Verification Service, if you are deemed to be the successful candidate.

Desirable qualifications or **equivalent experience**

- An understanding of, or an ability to rapidly acquire an understanding of the *Native Title Act 1993* and other relevant legislation relating to Traditional Owner Cultural Heritage
- Experience in liaising with First Nations Peoples.
- Knowledge of or an ability to rapidly acquire knowledge of the multiple uses of, and the management framework for, the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
- Experience in risk based environmental management and / or regulatory decision making.

Preparing your application

Please ensure you read the instructions carefully, noting failure to address identified requirements may lead to your application being deemed ineligible.

You will be required to prepare a response document ("pitch") in MSWord or PDF format using standard margins and size 11 Arial font.

Please prepare a 'pitch', which does not exceed **two** pages, in relation to the advertised role, outlining:

1. how your experience, abilities, knowledge and personal qualities would enable you to perform the duties and meet the technical and behavioural capabilities of the role.
2. any specific examples or achievements that demonstrate your ability to perform the role.
3. how you meet the eligibility requirements and qualifications for the position.

When you include an example, you should explain:

- ✓ your personal role in the task.
- ✓ the methods you used.
- ✓ any barriers you were able to overcome, and
- ✓ the outcome.

When crafting your response, we encourage you to review '**Cracking the Code'** and the relevant **Australian Public Service Work Level Standards** which can be found on the Australian Public Service Commission website: www.apsc.gov.au

Your application must include:

1. your 'pitch' (as described above).
2. proof of Australian citizenship.
3. a current curriculum vitae (resume) that includes:
   - ✓ an outline of your career history.
   - ✓ qualifications and/or formal/informal training relevant to the position.
   - ✓ contact details for at least two recent referees, one of whom should be your current supervisor.

Applicants are advised to read further information provided on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Careers website.

To apply for this position, please see the vacancy listing on The Reef Authority's Career Portal.

PLEASE NOTE: - The panel may not consider additional information such as a cover letter or content exceeding the page limit.

Position description approved by:

Alicia Balanzategui

AD – Workforce Planning, Capability

28/10/2026