



Position title	Curatorial Senior Aquarist
Position number	PN1096
Classification	APS4
Location	Townsville, QLD
Salary	\$79,187 - \$87,314 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	Great Barrier Reef Aquarium
Branch	Major Projects
Contact officer	Ed Ung, Curatorial Manager, Ph. 0419 748 109

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 experienced aquarist/diver to join our team to assist in maintaining and developing our livestock and provide husbandry support for the animals in care. The position reports to the Curatorial Supervisor. Responsible for working effectively as a team member within the Technical Operations program area, the position assists with the maintenance of aquatic life support systems.

The position involves proactively managing duties so that both routine animal husbandry tasks and special project deliverables (e.g. coral propagation or livestock cultivation programs) are completed on time. Maintenance of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium's livestock is a 7-day-a-week operation.

The team member will be required to work a 37.5hr week, Monday to Friday. They may also be required to participate in a rotational weekend roster, which requires attendance onsite once every 4 weeks for 3 hours on a Saturday, and the occasional public holiday.

Where the role fits

The Major Projects Branch is focused on turning knowledge into impact - bridging science, people, and practice to drive confident action and real-world change. Our work is delivered in partnership with Traditional Owners, community, and key stakeholders to conserve the Outstanding universal values of the Reef and enable ecologically sustainable use of and access to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

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

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 have a passion for aquaria and marine animals.
- ✓ You will be experienced in captive aquatic animal husbandry, including nutrition and feeding techniques, disease control, and animal behaviour in an aquarium setting.
- ✓ You will have an understanding of water quality, maintenance, and filtration, including familiarity with a variety of life support systems.
- ✓ Be flexible and adaptable, including making the most of a challenging or unfamiliar environment, and the ability to act with urgency and respond positively to situations.
- ✓ Have the ability to problem solve, including understanding the issues, the cause of the issues, and making sound decisions to ensure the issues are resolved.
- ✓ You enjoy being part of a cohesive team.

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

Duties

1. Maintain living aquarium exhibits and life support systems in accordance with policy and procedures (including records and registers).
2. If appropriately qualified/trained participate in the dive/snorkel operations, coral propagation, animal handling and husbandry, feeding, system maintenance, animal transport, special project work, and systems check rosters as required.
3. Represent the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium for relevant social media and marketing activities as required.
4. Under the direction of the Curatorial Supervisor, and in consultation with the Technical Operations Team, contribute to the ongoing development of life support systems, husbandry and handling techniques, livefoods and livestock culturing, and the documentation of processes and procedures.

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:

We are **ONE GBRMPA**

We are an inclusive community of diverse individuals, working collaboratively with trust and respect to achieve the Authority's shared purpose.

We are **PROFESSIONAL**

We are committed, professional public servants who are accountable and transparent, always acting in the best interests of the Authority.

We **DELIVER**

We deliver meaningful and measurable outcomes by setting clear and achievable goals, managing risk effectively & accepting shared responsibility for results.

We **STRIVE** for **EXCELLENCE**

We bring our experience, skills and knowledge to everything we do and are committed to professional growth.

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.

Essential requirements

- Minimum 2 years of demonstrated experience in the husbandry and care of aquatic animals, predominantly marine species.
- Minimum 2 years of demonstrated experience in a role requiring the manipulation of water quality parameters and management of aquarium life support systems.
- Willingness and availability to participate on a rotating roster, including weekends and public holidays.

Desirable qualifications or equivalent experience

- Tertiary qualifications or equivalent experience in Marine Biology, Aquaculture, Zoology or related fields.
- Minimum dive qualification of Dive Master or ADAS Part 1 Diver (or training to AS/NZS 2815.1) or equivalent and maintain training requirements as per AS/NZS 2299.1:2015 Occupational diving operations – Standard operational practice or the ability to obtain this qualification.
- Aquaculture hatchery experience.
- Experience with coral propagation, or coral reef ecosystem management.
- Experience mentoring and providing informal staff training or coaching.
- Mechanical aptitude with workshop tools, equipment fabrication, or aquarium system construction.
- Current unrestricted Australian driver's licence.

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:

Craig Tozer

Assistant Director Workforce Planning, Capability & Recruitment

12/02/2026