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GREAT BARRIER REEF  
ISLAND RESORTS  
REJUVENATION FUND

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# REJUVENATE





*Lizard Island, courtesy of Tourism Tropical North Queensland.*

07/2018

Cover image courtesy of Tourism Tropical North Queensland.

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The Queensland  
Government is  
investing \$25 million  
to rejuvenate  
Great Barrier Reef  
Island Resorts

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# BACKGROUND

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The Great Barrier Reef contributes over \$6 billion to the Australian economy and supports 64,000 jobs.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of Queensland's most celebrated attractions and a fundamental ingredient in the State's tourism future. Island resorts are an iconic part of the tourism offering and essential to attracting new and return visitors to the Great Barrier Reef.

The Queensland Government is investing \$25 million to deliver infrastructure for the Great Barrier Reef Islands to rejuvenate island resorts and offer world-class experiences to visitors. This investment will assist in maximising economic opportunities for the Great Barrier Reef, while also addressing issues with ageing infrastructure.

## Strategic Links

The Queensland Government is working together on advancing Queensland by focusing on the following priorities:

- » Create jobs in a strong economy
- » Give all our children a great start
- » Keep Queenslanders healthy
- » Keep communities safe
- » Protect the Great Barrier Reef
- » Be a responsive Government.

The priorities are underpinned by the *Growing Tourism, Growing Tourism Jobs: Putting Queenslanders First Policy 2017*.

*Growing Tourism, Growing Tourism Jobs: Putting Queenslanders First* is delivering targeted programs that will contribute to the Queensland Government's capacity to achieve the key strategic outcomes of *Advancing Tourism 2016-20 Growing Queensland Jobs*.

The Fund also complements current Queensland Government priorities and policies including:

- » *Advancing Tourism in North Queensland 2016-20*
- » *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan*
- » *Advancing Small Business Queensland 2016-20*
- » *Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy*
- » *Jobs and Regional Growth Package*.

A range of additional actions are progressing to support rejuvenation and recovery of Great Barrier Reef Island resorts, for example, Climate Change Strategies and the Whitsundays Regional Tourism Infrastructure Investment Attraction Strategy.

# KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND



## Aims and Objectives

The Great Barrier Reef Island Resort Rejuvenation Program is providing up to \$25 million (excluding GST) to help industry rejuvenate the Great Barrier Reef Island resorts and offer world-class experiences to visitors.

As part of this Program, a contestable Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts Rejuvenation Fund (the Fund) will be available to eligible resort owners and operators (including leaseholders) to assist in rejuvenating the resorts on Great Barrier Reef Islands.

Great Barrier Reef Island resort owners and operators (including leaseholders) are encouraged to submit proposals for funding that detail how their Island resort(s) can be rejuvenated while achieving the key objectives of the Fund.





*Lizard Island, courtesy of Tourism Tropical North Queensland.*



## Available Funding

The Queensland Government has committed up to \$25 million (excluding GST) to deliver the Great Barrier Reef Island Resort Rejuvenation Program.

Funding will be offered over one round with applications opening 1 August 2018. Projects will be expected to have a targeted completion date before 30 June 2020.

Projects that receive funding need to plan to have commenced construction/implementation within 12 weeks of execution of the Financial Incentive Agreement or by 30 June 2019, whichever is earliest, unless prior agreement has been reached with the Department. If the Project is part of a larger development, the funded component will need to have a completion date before 30 June 2020.

Funding will be available up to \$5 million (excluding GST) per application for eligible activities. Funding will need to be matched dollar for dollar by the applicant through an equal cash contribution. The minimum matched funding application is \$0.5 million (excluding GST).

A Great Barrier Reef Island resort owner and/or operator (including leaseholders) can include one or more projects in the same application, provided the total value of the requested funding sought does not exceed \$5 million (excluding GST). Applicants can also seek funding from other government (local, state or federal) sources for the Project, noting that these sources of funding do not count towards the applicant's matched funding contribution.

### Note

The applicant will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and operational costs of any infrastructure or tourism product/experience once it has been completed.

## Great Barrier Reef Islands

Eligibility to the Fund is limited to Great Barrier Reef Islands:

- » within the Great Barrier Reef Region;
- » that have an existing resort or approved plans for a resort;
- » are primarily used for tourism; and
- » have no significant long-term residential communities.



**1.** Great Barrier Reef, courtesy of Tourism Tropical North Queensland. **2.** Agincourt Reef, courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland.

Great Barrier Reef Region Map



Figure 2 - Great Barrier Reef Region Map.



# ELIGIBILITY

## Applicants

To be eligible to receive funding from the Fund, your organisation must:

- » be a Great Barrier Reef Island resort owner and/or operator (including leaseholders); and
- » have an existing Great Barrier Reef Island resort or have already received development approval for a new Great Barrier Reef Island resort, noting the existing or new resort must be open to the public (not a private resort); and
- » demonstrate experience in delivering and/or operating high quality tourism infrastructure projects; and
- » be a legal entity, have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and be registered for GST.

If the applicant is a consortium, evidence demonstrating structure and governance (actual or proposed) of the consortium – for example, legal partnership, joint venture/participation/Project agreement, other agreement or Memorandum of Understanding between the participating entities. The names of the legal entities participating in the Project will need to be provided, together with details of their proposed involvement and contributions to the Project.

If an application does not meet the Eligibility Criteria, the application may be rejected and not considered for any further assessment.

Projects that receive funding need to plan to have commenced construction/implementation within 12 weeks of execution of the Financial Incentive Agreement or by 30 June 2019, whichever is earliest, unless prior agreement has been reached with the Department.

If the Project is part of a larger development, the funded component will need to have a targeted completion date before 30 June 2020.

The applicant:

- » is responsible for its own costs in preparing and submitting the application and in satisfying any additional requirements following submission; and
- » must advise the Department of changes which are likely to impact on its eligibility to receive funding from the Fund.

## Project Costs

Funding provided by the Fund can only be used for eligible activities directly related to the Project.

Successful applicants will receive up to 50% reimbursement of eligible costs for approved Projects up to the approved funding amount (excluding GST). Eligible Project costs are those costs and expenses reasonably incurred by the applicant in connection with the Project but excluding any ineligible Project costs.

Total Project costs will usually include a combination of eligible and ineligible expenditure. Applicants will still be responsible for all ineligible Project costs and any eligible Project costs over and above the approved funding amount.



*Fitzroy Island, Tropical North Queensland, courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland.*





1. Pelorus Island, courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland. 2. Heron Island, courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland.

### Eligible costs

- » Construction (including all site works required as part of the construction)
- » Construction-related labour (contractors), materials and equipment hire
- » Detailed design, for example, production of final 'for construction' designs or equivalent
- » Project management (contractors) for time directly related to managing the construction of approved works (excluding executive duties and overhead charges such as Board reports)
- » Appropriate provision of contingencies and insurances.

Other funding contributions for the Project are not required to meet the eligible activities list.

### Ineligible costs

- » Projects that have commenced construction prior to approval for funding or signing of a financial incentive agreement (unless agreed in writing with the Queensland Government prior to incurring such costs)
- » Land acquisition costs
- » Preparatory work such as conceptual design, mapping, planning, feasibility studies, obtaining regulatory approvals and processes undertaken to comply with regulatory requirements
- » Tender processes
- » Marketing, advertising, gifts, and promotional activities

- » Scheduled repairs, engineering and general maintenance of existing infrastructure
- » Temporary works, other than those required to enable completion of proposed Project
- » Engaging and/or hiring permanent employees (e.g., remuneration, wages, and entitlements), regardless of whether for the purpose of managing the Project
- » Buying or leasing real estate of any type, including land on which the infrastructure is constructed
- » Vehicle purchasing or leasing, unless directly required for construction (e.g., water trucks, excavators)
- » Costs of preparing associated Project supporting material as part of the funding application
- » Administration or operational costs (including legal, accounting fees, and portable assets), whether or not associated with the Project.

It is recognised that there may be cases when applications for regulatory approvals may need to be submitted during the construction phase. Final payments may be held until those approvals are obtained.

### Project Category

Applicants will be encouraged to submit applications that address one\* or more of three categories of Growing, Greening, and Cleaning:

CATEGORY	TO DO WHAT	EXAMPLES
<b>GROWING</b>	Directly contribute to improving or developing built 'common use' infrastructure and public facilities capable of increasing visitation and enhancing the Great Barrier Reef experience for tourists and locals, and including development or enhancement of natural assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» installing or improving infrastructure such as jetty or marina facilities</li> <li>» public vessel moorings</li> <li>» developing public walks and island tracks adjacent to island resorts</li> <li>» interpretation signage related to ecotourism experiences</li> <li>» conservation and environmental protection Projects to guard against weather events</li> <li>» new and improved public amenities, toilets, showers and facilities for day visitor use</li> </ul>
<b>GREENING</b>	Foster environmentally friendly tourism experiences that are important to sustaining the reef tourism economy and the health of the Great Barrier Reef.	<p>The adoption of innovative renewable energy technologies, improved water and waste infrastructure, and conservation and environmental protection Projects to guard against weather events</p> <p>Projects can be exclusive to individual resort operations, common user and/or day-trip visitors to the island, or any combination of both, and should fall within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» nature based ecotourism</li> <li>» energy and/or water efficiency, waste management, carbon reduction</li> <li>» erosion protection measures</li> <li>» resilience to natural disaster and extreme weather.</li> </ul>

\* Applicants submitting a proposal focussed on 'cleaning' must also include a Project that addresses the 'greening' or 'growing' category.



Lady Elliot Island, courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland.





*Keppel Islands National Park, courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland.*

CATEGORY	TO DO WHAT	EXAMPLES
<b>CLEANING</b>	<p>Directly support the clean-up and removal of building demolition and/or legacy waste from island resorts (especially those on national park land) to improve the environment and beautification of the island.</p> <p>Clean-up or removal is of existing ageing resort infrastructure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» is a risk to the Great Barrier Reef environment, economy, and poses a reputational risk, or</li> <li>» presents a deterrent to new investors.</li> </ul>	<p>The costs of contracting waste removal equipment such as island barges to transport legacy or demolition waste to off-island waste sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» One or more applicants could also work together to lower costs of clean-up operations, such as for demolition contracting or leasing a barge.</li> </ul>

A scenic view of a rocky coastline. The foreground shows clear, shallow water with a greenish tint, reflecting the sky and the surrounding landscape. The middle ground features large, dark, rounded boulders and a small sandy beach. In the background, there are several tall, dark green trees, possibly pines, growing on a rocky slope. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds on the left side.

Tourism is an important driver of the Queensland economy, creating jobs, attracting investment and sustaining communities.





*Hook Island, courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland.*



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# ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Applications will be assessed against the criteria by an assessment panel (Panel) that is chaired by the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games.

The Panel may request advice on applications from local government, other state government agencies, the Australian Government, independent experts and other external parties. Advice will be requested on, but not limited to, the history of the applicant in delivering projects; the viability of the Project and applicant; the extent to which the Project aligns with or delivers priorities in state plans; confirmation of funding contributions; and impact of the Project on the region.

All applicants and Projects will be subject to appropriate due diligence proportionate to the nature of the Project and level of funding sought, including financial and economic assessments. As part of the due diligence process, checks will be undertaken to ensure the applicant is not in breach of their lease conditions and financial requirements and has no outstanding payments to the Queensland Government, such as lease or permit fees.

A detailed due diligence review may be undertaken including, but not limited to, the checks and searches below:

- » applicant bona fide checks (status, corporate structure, ownership, directors review etc.);
- » background and probity searches (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Banned & Disqualified, Bankruptcy);
- » financial capability (historical financials) and viability (funding capacity and sources); and
- » business and project risks, and planned mitigations.

The outcome of the Department's due diligence review may impact on the Department's application of the assessment criteria.

While applicants are requested to indicate total costs for the proposed activity, the amount of funding provided is at the discretion of the Queensland Government.

The Queensland Government's decision in relation to an application is final and there is no process for appeal.

If, however, an applicant has any dispute in relation to the application or assessment process, a formal complaint may be submitted to the Department via the Department's website ([www.ditid.qld.gov.au](http://www.ditid.qld.gov.au)).





Nara Inlet, Whitsundays, courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland.

## Assessment Criteria

Applicants will need to complete the Application Form and meet the eligibility and assessment criteria. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not progress to being assessed. Applications will need to include evidence to support their application.

### Criteria

Applicants will need to address every criterion regardless of the category(ies) the application is made in. Applicants will need to demonstrate:

- » The Project has a clearly defined goal(s), description of activities and demonstrates links to key Queensland Government outcomes (10%);
- » The Project will assist in attracting new and return visitors and increase visitor expenditure within the Great Barrier Reef region (30%);
- » The Project will promote economic growth within the Great Barrier Reef region (25%);
- » The Project will assist in the protection of the Great Barrier Reef (25%); and
- » The Project is realistically costed, and applicants have experience in delivering projects (10%).

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of the relevant application following the Panel completing the assessment of all applications that proceeded to the assessment stage.

To report employment impacts derived from using Queensland Treasury's Table 1 (below), figures should be expressed as the average number of FTE jobs supported by \$1 million of capital expenditure, rather than the total jobs generated or created. For expenditure over multiple years, employment impacts should be expressed as FTE jobs over the relevant number of years. They should not be reported as cumulative figures. That is, the employment impact should be stated as, for example '150 FTE jobs for two years' as opposed to '300 FTE jobs supported (150 FTE jobs per year)'.

Table 1: Projected employment (FTE jobs) per \$1 million capital outlay

Year	FTE jobs supported per \$1 million
2018-19 (p)	2.9
2019-20 (p)	2.8

Source: ABS 5206.0 and 8755.0, and Queensland Treasury.  
(p) Projection

Note: estimates are adjusted for prices and labour productivity.

### NOTE

Employment estimates are based **only** on capital expenditure on residential, non-residential and engineering construction. Capital expenditure on land purchases, capitalised software development and plant and equipment are **excluded** as these components are likely to support only a small amount of direct jobs.

The employment estimates include average construction effects only, they do not allow for impacts on the broader economy, that is, they do not include any indirect impacts the capital works may have apart from the construction services industry.

# FUNDING AGREEMENT

Successful applicants will receive a written offer to participate in the Fund.

If the applicant accepts the offer, the applicant will be required to enter into a legally binding Financial Incentive Agreement (FIA) with the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games (acting on behalf of the State of Queensland). The FIA will provide details on general and specific conditions associated with the delivery of the approved Project.

Key features of the FIA will include:

- » the scope of the approved Project;
- » milestone deliverables and dates;
- » funding amount and payment terms;
- » eligible and ineligible costs;
- » applicant's obligation to acknowledge Queensland Government support;
- » record-keeping requirements; and
- » reporting requirements.

## NOTE:

- (a) Payment will be made on pre-determined milestone dates for all Projects funded under the Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts Rejuvenation Fund, provided agreed milestones have been met.
- (b) Payments will be made as reimbursement of eligible costs on the basis that the applicant has contributed a matched cash amount at the time of payment claim.
- (c) There will be no binding obligation on the State to provide the funding until the FIA has been signed by both parties.

To obtain the standard terms and conditions of the FIA, email [gbrtourism@ditid.qld.gov.au](mailto:gbrtourism@ditid.qld.gov.au).



**1.** Lizard Island, courtesy of Tourism Tropical North Queensland. **2.** Nara Inlet, courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland.



# COMMUNICATIONS

## Confidentiality

The Queensland Government collects and collates information from the application form to evaluate applications for the program. Only authorised departmental officers and approved grant assessors have access to this information under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* for the purpose of assessing the application for funding.

Applicants should note that broad details of successful proposals, agreed outcomes, progress and the level of funding awarded may be published by the Queensland Government.

Some information may be used to promote funded projects.

The applicant's personal information will not be disclosed to any other third party without their consent, unless required by law or for the purposes of the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

For audit purposes, the Queensland Government is required to retain the applications and other supplied support material.

The provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009* apply to documents in the possession of the Queensland Government.



Heron Island, courtesy of Tourism and Events Queensland.



*Fitzroy Island, courtesy of Tourism Tropical North Queensland.*

## Communication With The Media

All communications between the Department and applicant/s in relation to the Fund, including financial incentive agreements, are commercial-in-confidence.

All media enquiries or public announcements relating to the Fund will be coordinated and handled by the Department's communications team.

Where possible, all media and communications will be undertaken jointly with successful applicants. Applicants must seek and obtain the Department's approval before contacting the media to discuss any information regarding successful or unsuccessful applications for funding support under or in connection with the Fund.

Applicants must provide the Department with at least five business days' notice of any proposed public media statement for approval prior to its release as well as making any changes or amendments to the form, content or manner reasonably requested by the Department.

Applicants acknowledge and agree that the Department may publicly disclose:

- » the applicant's name and Project location;
- » details of the funding;
- » general details of the Eligible Project; and
- » any information required to be disclosed:
  - to comply with or meet applicable standards for accountability of public money;
  - to the State Government; or
  - in accordance with established governmental policies, procedures or protocols.



# APPLICATION PROCESS

The Application Form is available from the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games website - [www.ditid.qld.gov.au/tourism](http://www.ditid.qld.gov.au/tourism)

Applicants will need to complete the Application Form and submit the completed and signed application to Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games by the due date.

**Applications open:**

1 August 2018

**Applications close:**

5pm AEST 1 October 2018

**Further information and contacts:**

- » Funded projects will be announced by early 2019
- » Applications are to be submitted via email to [gbrtourism@ditid.qld.gov.au](mailto:gbrtourism@ditid.qld.gov.au).



*Lizard Island, courtesy of Tourism Tropical North Queensland.*

# APPENDIX 1 ASSESSMENT PROCESS

## GREAT BARRIER REEF ISLAND RESORTS REJUVENATION FUND APPLICATION

The Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts Rejuvenation Program has been allocated a total up to \$25 million (excluding GST), to resource contestable funding as part of the Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts Rejuvenation Fund to enhance facilitation of resort development.

1

### THE OPPORTUNITY OPENS

The Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts Rejuvenation Fund material published on [www.ditid.qld.gov.au/tourism](http://www.ditid.qld.gov.au/tourism)

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### COMPLETE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Applications to be submitted via email to [gbrtourism@ditid.qld.gov.au](mailto:gbrtourism@ditid.qld.gov.au)

Applications are to align with the Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts Rejuvenation Fund Guidelines. Applications that do not provide all required information, or do not satisfy the eligibility requirements, may be deemed ineligible and may not proceed to assessment.

**Applications open:**

1 August 2018

**Applications close:**

5pm (AEST) 1 October 2018

**Information will be available:**

Email: [gbrtourism@ditid.qld.gov.au](mailto:gbrtourism@ditid.qld.gov.au)

Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Website: [www.ditid.qld.gov.au/tourism](http://www.ditid.qld.gov.au/tourism)





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### ASSESSMENT PROPOSALS ASSESSED

The Panel assesses proposals against assessment criteria.

#### ALL APPLICANTS NOTIFIED OF ASSESSMENT OUTCOME

Applicants advised of the outcome of the proposal/s.

Successful applicants will receive a written offer.

4

### FINANCIAL INCENTIVE AGREEMENT

If the successful applicant accepts the offer, a legally binding Financial Incentive Agreement will be entered into with the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games (acting on behalf of the State of Queensland).

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### PROJECT DELIVERY

Successful applicants undertake the construction activity as set out in the Financial Incentive Agreement.

The Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games manages the funding, monitoring progress and making reimbursement payments of eligible costs.



**Contact us**

**Email:** [gbrtourism@ditid.qld.gov.au](mailto:gbrtourism@ditid.qld.gov.au)

**Phone:** 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

**Website:** [www.ditid.qld.gov.au/tourism](http://www.ditid.qld.gov.au/tourism)

