**Raine Island Recovery Project**

**Raine Island Turtle Nesting Environment Research – call for Expressions of Interest**

Expression of Interest Applications are now being accepted. EOI Applications close at 4PM on 19 March 2018 (AEST).

Please ensure you have read and understood the ‘Guidelines for Expression of Interest and Applications’. Please also contact the Raine Island Recovery Project team at [Raineresearch@npsr.qld.gov.au](mailto:Raineresearch@npsr.qld.gov.au)

Note that EOI Applications close at **4PM Australian Eastern Standard Time, on 19 March 2018**.

For further queries please contact [Raineresearch@npsr.qld.gov.au](mailto:Raineresearch@npsr.qld.gov.au)

**Expression of Interest Application Form**

**Overview**

Through the Department of Environment and Science the Raine Island Recovery Project (RIRP) is seeking Expressions of Interest for research proposals to address whether there is a relationship between nest micro-environment and hatching failure at Raine Island.

All EOI Applications will be considered and assessed against the listed criteria. Discussion and negotiations may then be held with an applicant, or applicants, prior to **requesting a full application from selected EOI application/s**.

Following the close of the EOI process it is expected that full applications would be due approximately six weeks later. The assessment of the full applications may involve an interview. The finalisation of the funding agreement will likely occur by the end of June 2018. Funding will be provide for up to two years. Applications may be for one or two years.

A maximum if $400,000 (ex GST) is available. Proposals for more than $400, 000 will not be considered and it is expected that most proposals will be significantly less.

For further information read the Guidelines for Expression of Interest and Applications or contact Raineresearch@npsr.qld.gov.au.

**Raine Island Recovery Project**

The Raine Island Recovery Project (RIRP) is a five year, $7.995M collaboration between BHP, the Queensland Government, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Wuthathi Nation and Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation (Ugar, Mer, Erub) Traditional Owners and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to protect and restore the island’s critical habitat to ensure the future of key marine species, including green turtles and seabirds.

Raine Island supports the world’s largest nesting population of the globally endangered green turtle. Approximately 90% of the northern Great Barrier Reef’s green turtle population breeds here, making it the most significant breeding site in the world for green turtles and it’s also home to the most important seabird rookery in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area.

Research and monitoring over the last 40 years indicates that the northern Great Barrier Reef green turtle population is in the early stage of decline, and that Raine Island has been failing as a turtle rookery since the late 1990s.

Studies at Raine Island have indicated that hatching success is highly variable but that, on average, figures are much lower than would be expected for a normally-functioning turtle rookery, with a large proportion of clutches totally or partially failing to hatch. There is also a high degree of early embryonic mortality, with many embryos dying in the early stages of development.

Studies of possible causes of reduced hatching success have looked at inundation, with beach re-profiling showing marked improvement in hatching success in areas raised above previously inundated levels. However, considerable hatching failure continues to be recorded, which indicates other factors influencing hatching success apart from inundation such as microbial load, changes in the gas environment, and impacts of nesting density.

The overarching outcomes of the RIRP are to:

* Increased nesting success
* Decrease clutch destruction
* Increase hatching success/emergence success of clutches
* Increase hatchling numbers
* Ensure seabird population remain within limits of acceptable change that maximise population viability
* Build Indigenous ranger capacity

This specific project within the RIRP seeks to address whether there is a relationship between nest micro-environment and hatching failure on Raine Island.

**EOI Applications close at 4PM (AEST) on 19 March 2018 and are open to organisations located anywhere in the world.**

**Before you begin**

Any questions about the EOI application form should be directed to [Raineresearch@npsr.qld.gov.au](mailto:Raineresearch@npsr.qld.gov.au)

Please provide detailed but concise responses to each question and avoid the use of unexplained acronyms.

In assessing the EOI Applications, consideration will be given to track record, including evidence of past achievements. To be competitive, the EOI Application will need to score highly against each selection criteria. For all EOI Applications, the following five selection criteria will apply:

* 1. Research relevance – the degree to which the proponent successfully addresses the requirements outlined in the Guidelines for Expressions of Interest and Applications.
  2. Management relevance – a clear path to impact. The outcomes and benefits of the research project are clearly defined and are able to be delivered in a manner that facilitates an adoption of outcomes/findings by managers – i.e. how will the research inform management of Raine Island.
  3. Research quality and methods - appropriateness - the degree to which the proposed research adequately addresses the objective of the research as defined in the Guidelines for Expressions of Interest and Applications, including the use of technically sound and practical approaches and research methods. The use of innovative approaches is encouraged where appropriate.
  4. Capacity and expertise of researchers - the degree to which the Application includes the appropriate expertise (disciplines and qualifications) necessary to achieve the proposed outputs. Collaboration is encouraged where appropriate. Demonstrated experience and defined processes for delivering quality outcomes on time and within budget.
  5. Value for money - the proposed research is achievable within the budget (including co-contributions) and timeframes, and represents a good return on the RIRP’s investment, that is, the level of funding requested is commensurate with the outcomes expected from research.
* Applicants that do not meet selection criteria 1 and 2 will be deemed ineligible for further consideration.

**Privacy**

The Department of Environment and Science is collecting the information on this form (including personal information) for use to evaluate applications for the research EOI described in the Guidelines for Expression of Interest and Applications and the [*Information Privacy Act 2009*](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2009-014).

This information may be provided to authorised departmental officers, other government agencies, approved assessors for the purpose of administering the EOI initiative.

Your personal information will not otherwise be disclosed to any other parties, unless authorised or required by law.

**Applicant Information**

Applicant Name

…………………………………….

Organisation (eg University, public company, Government Institution)  
Please input the trading name of the organisation undertaking the project proposed in your application

…………………………………….

If you have an Australian Business Number (ABN), please provide it here

If you do not have an ABN, please note that if you are successful, you may be required to undertake work in Queensland and will need either an ABN, or if located outside of Australia, an Australian Registered Body Number (ARBN).

……………………………………

Address

…………………………………..

Postal address

…………………………………..

Website

………………………………….

**Project Lead Details**

Please provide the details for the project lead for your EOI. This should be the individual responsible for managing your project through to the full application stage, if your EOI Application is successful.

This person will serve as the main point of contact for enquiries regarding your EOI Application.

All documentation and correspondence concerning your EOI Application will be directed to this person.

Name

……………………………………

Position

…………………………………..

Phone number

………………………………….

Email

…………………………………

**Expression of Interest Summary**

Please keep the project description, clear, concise and in plain English.

Project Title (no more than 15 words)

…………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Short Project Description (no more than 300 words)

……………………

**Evaluation Criteria**

Please provide a concise response (no more than 300 words per criteria) to each of the five evaluation criteria.

1. Research relevance – the degree to which the proponent successfully addresses the requirements outlined in the Guidelines for Expressions of Interest and Applications

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1. Management relevance – a clear path to impact. The outcomes and benefits of the research project are clearly defined and are able to be delivered in a manner that facilitates an adoption of outcomes/findings by managers – i.e. how will the research inform management of Raine Island

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1. Research quality and methods - appropriateness - the degree to which the proposed research adequately addresses the objective of the research as defined in the Guidelines for Expressions of Interest and Applications, including the use of technically sound and practical approaches and research methods. The use of innovative approaches is encouraged where appropriate

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1. Capacity and expertise of researchers - the degree to which the Application includes the appropriate expertise (disciplines and qualifications) necessary to achieve the proposed outputs. Collaboration is encouraged where appropriate. Demonstrated experience and defined processes for delivering quality outcomes on time and within budget

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1. Value for money - the proposed research is achievable within the budget (including co-contributions) and timeframes, and represents a good return on the RIRP’s investment, that is, the level of funding requested is commensurate with the outcomes expected from research

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**Field Work Information**

As per the EOI and Application Guidelines please outline information regarding fieldwork components at Raine Island including:

* the amount of time research project activities will take on each trip (e.g. 2 half days per trip, over 3 trips per season)
* the ability to participate in general monitoring and other work while on the island
* vessel requirements, including the personnel/berths, equipment/logistical support required on trips
* justification of why the research project needs to be undertaken on Raine Island (e.g. as opposed to another site)
* why the proponent needs to be on the island and/or whether parts of the research project can be carried out by RIRP staff

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**Partners or Collaborators**

Are you collaborating with any partners? if yes please provide their details and their anticipated role

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**Funds**

Total Funding Sought (excl. GST)

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Please provide a brief justification of the project costs identified above

…………………..

**Declaration**

**I certify the following:**

* The information I have supplied in this EOI Application is true, accurate and not misleading to the best of my knowledge.
* I have received no guarantees or assurances that the EOI Application will be approved by the Queensland Government.

**By signing below, I acknowledge and agree on behalf of myself or (if applicable) the organisation that I represent that:**

* If representing my organisation, that I am authorised to sign on its behalf and bind my organisation as described above; and
* The Department of Environment and Science may undertake checks to assess this EOI Application (subject to any written notification as to confidentiality provided by the Department)

…………………………………………………………………………….

First Name Last Name

…………………………………………………………………………….

Signed Date

…………………………………………………………………………….

Position