

Australian Islands Alliance : Terms of Reference

1. Vision of the Australian Islands Alliance (AIA)

To create and maintain a collective that amplifies the voices of Australia's offshore islands and their communities, and operates for the national benefit of island cultural and nature conservation values.



2. Primary objectives

The AIA is responsible for the following key functions:

- **By being a visible point of contact/ entry point for islands and their communities (end users)**, contribute to the development of national strategies, initiatives, and resources aimed at promoting and protecting the environmental, social, and cultural interests of Australian islands.
- **Support the local symposium committee for Australian Island Arks** by providing guidance, resources, outreach and expertise in the planning and execution of island-focused events and symposiums.
- **Advocate for Australian Islands** by communicating island community needs, issues, and opportunities at national and international forums.
- **Hold meetings** to discuss, deliberate, and make decisions on critical issues affecting Australian islands, ensuring inclusive and collaborative decision-making.
- **Broker and encourage collaboration** among government agencies, NGOs, research organisations, and island communities to advance island-focused initiatives.

3. Key outcomes

- Australia's offshore islands show improved conservation and management results due to increased knowledge sharing, stronger networks, and enhanced sector capability.

- Practitioners demonstrate increased awareness of island management outcomes and a clearer understanding of the sector's capability needs and strengths.
- Networks and relationships between island practitioners and Traditional Custodians—including within IPA areas—are strengthened and more collaborative.
- Government and key stakeholders receive coordinated, sector-led advocacy, policy advice, and practical guidance that influences decision-making.
- Indigenous-led island priorities are more effectively implemented as a result of better knowledge exchange, stronger networks, and increased capability across the sector.

4. National Committee

4.1 Purpose

The National Committee of the Australian Islands Alliance is responsible for supporting the vision of the network.

4.2 Role

The National Committee's primary role is to provide professional support to the Australian Islands Alliance by offering guidance, expertise, and recommendations that strengthen the operation of the Network. The Committee may also be approached by external agencies, including government, to provide sector-informed input on broader issues affecting Australia's islands - such as proposed policies, processes, and programs. Committee members may choose to contribute feedback on a voluntary basis, depending on the relevance and nature of the request.

The National Committee serves in an advisory capacity and does not hold decision-making authority over: Individual island projects, or National programs (unless specifically invited to do so).

The National Committee will prioritise advice by **consensus**, ensuring that all members' views are heard and considered.

4.3 Membership of the national committee

Membership will be determined based upon skillset (item 4.6) and the representational requirements (item 4.4) necessary to best support the operation of the National Committee.

Membership will be invited from island communities, organisations, and relevant stakeholders have relevant expertise, experience, and a demonstrated commitment to the values and objectives of the Australian Islands Alliance. Applicants will be

assessed by the standing national committee based on their qualifications, experience, and alignment with the AIA vision.

Initial members of the National Committee are those who satisfy item 4.6, and who nominated and offered time as part of participation in the initial AIA network discussions at Island Arks Kangaroo Island in 2024.

4.4 Membership representational requirements

- Geographic representation
- Cultural diversity
- Gender diversity
- Agency diversity
- Project (including ecosystem) diversity

4.5 Membership terms

- Term Length: Members are appointed for a two-year term, with the option to renew.
- Participation: Membership is voluntary, and no remuneration is provided.
- Commitment: Members are expected to actively participate in National Steering Committee meetings, AIA activities, and related engagements.

4.6 Required skills and competencies

- Experience with island cultural and/or conservation projects
- Engagement with community groups and/or indigenous organisations

4.7 Conflicts of Interest

All National Committee members must declare any potential conflicts of interest at the beginning of their tenure and whenever a conflict arises during their term.

If a member is found to have a conflict of interest on a specific matter, they must excuse themselves from related discussions or decision-making processes.

5. Endorsement of Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference will be endorsed by the National Committee when finalised, following which they will guide the operations and governance of the Australian Islands Alliance.

6. Performance and Evaluation

6.1 Success Measures

- Strong and active participation from members across diverse regions and project types
- Island priorities clearly reflected and advanced through Alliance activities

- Effective knowledge sharing and capacity-building across the network
- Demonstrated improvements in island management outcomes

6.2 Review Process

- Feedback and satisfaction from members used to assess performance and guide improvements

7. Amendment and Review

Terms of Reference Review

- A full review of the Terms of Reference will occur every two years, aligned with membership cycles
- Additional member representation appropriateness reviews will be undertaken as needed,

8. Effective Date and Implementation

8.1 Effective Date

These Terms of Reference come into effect as final from [DATE].

8.2 Implementation Plan

6 Dec 2024: First meeting and formal establishment of the National Committee

2025: Australian Islands Alliance (AIA) to provide ongoing secretariat support as requested.

Ongoing: Development and coordination of Alliance activities, including a resourcing plan.