COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

DECLARATION OF AN APPROVED WILDLIFE TRADE OPERATION – QUEENSLAND CORAL FISHERY, OCTOBER 2024

I, TANYA PLIBERSEK, Minster for the Environment and Water, have considered in accordance with section 303FN of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) the application from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, public comments on the proposal as required under section 303FR and advice on the ecological sustainability of the operation. I am satisfied on those matters specified in section 303FN of the EPBC Act. I hereby declare the operations for the harvesting of specimens that are or are derived from fish or invertebrates, taken in the Queensland Coral Fishery as defined in the management regime in force under the:

- *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld)
- *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Cth)
- Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019 (Qld)
- Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019 (Qld)
- Fisheries Declaration 2019 (Qld)
- Fisheries Quota Declaration 2019 (Qld)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019 (Cth),

but not including:

(a) specimens that belong to taxa listed under section 209 of the EPBC Act (Australia's List of Migratory Species), or
(b) specimens that belong to taxa listed under section 248 of the EPBC Act (Australia's List of Marine Species), or
(c) specimens that belong to eligible listed threatened species, as defined under section 303BC of the EPBC Act, or
(d) specimens that belong to taxa listed under section 303CA of the EPBC Act (Australia's CITES List), except for specimens that belong to taxa listed in Schedule 1,

to be an approved wildlife trade operation, in accordance with subsection 303FN(2) and paragraph 303FN(10)(d), for the purposes of the EPBC Act.

Unless amended or revoked, this declaration:

a) is valid until 28 October 2027, and
b) is subject to the conditions applied under section 303FT specified in Schedule 2.

Dated this 21 day of October 2024

T. Plibersek

Minister for the Environment and Water

Notes:

1. Australia's obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) are met through Part 13A of the EPBC Act. Specimens of species listed in Appendix II of Australia's CITES list under section 303CA of the EPBC Act may only be exported, under a CITES export permit issued under the EPBC Act, if Australia's CITES Scientific Authority has issued a non-detriment finding for that species. Further information, including a list of species for which non detriment findings have been issued and the fisheries from which they may be sourced, is available from https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/wildlife-trade/cites.

Schedule 1

List of coral taxa eligible to be taken in the Queensland Coral Fishery.

Acanthastrea amakusensis (*Micromussa amakusensis*)	*Acropora microclados*	*Astreopora macrostoma*	*Echinopora mammiformis*
Acanthastrea bowerbanki (*Homophyllia bowerbanki*)	*Acropora microphthalma*	*Astreopora moretonensis*	*Echinopora pacificus*
Acanthastrea brevis	*Acropora millepora*	*Astreopora myriophthalma*	*Eguchipsammia fistula*
Acanthastrea echinata	*Acropora monticulosa*	*Astreopora ocellata*	*Euphyllia ancora* (*Fimbriaphyllia ancora*)
Acanthastrea hillae	*Acropora multiacuta*	*Astreopora scabra*	*Euphyllia cristata*
Acanthastrea lordhowensis (*Micromussa lordhowensis*)	*Acropora nana*	*Australogyra zelli*	*Euphyllia divisa* (*Fimbriaphyllia divisa*)
Acanthophyllia deshayesiana	*Acropora nasuta*	*Balanophyllia bairdiana*	*Euphyllia fimbriata*
Acanthastrea regularis	*Acropora nobilis*	*Balanophyllia dentata*	*Euphyllia glabrescens*
Acrhelia horrescens	*Acropora palifera*	*Balanophyllia desmophyllioides*	*Euphyllia paraancora* (*Fimbriaphyllia paraancora*)
Acropora abrolhosensis	*Acropora palmerae*	*Balanophyllia elliptica*	*Favia danae*
Acropora abrotanoides	*Acropora plana*	*Balanophyllia stimpsonii*	*Favia danai*
Acropora aculeus	*Acropora paniculata*	*Balanophyllia yongei*	*Favia favus*
Acropora acuminata	*Acropora polystoma*	*Barabattoia amicorum*	*Favia helianthoides*
Acropora anthocercis	*Acropora prostrata*	*Blastomussa merleti*	*Favia laxa*
Acropora aspera	*Acropora pulchra*	*Favia rosaria* (*Dipsastraea rosaria*)	*Favia lizardensis*
Acropora austera	*Acropora robusta*	*Blastomussa wellsi*	*Favia maritima*
Acropora azurea	*Acropora rosaria*	*Cataphyllia jardinei*	*Favia matthaii*
Acropora brueggemanni	*Acropora samoensis*	*Caulastraea curvata*	*Favia maxima*
Acropora bushyensis	*Acropora sarmentosa*	*Caulastraea echinulata*	*Favia pallida*
Acropora cardenae	*Acropora secale*	*Caulastraea furcata*	*Favia rotumana*
Acropora carduus	*Acropora selago*	*Caulastraea tumida*	*Favia rotundata*
Acropora caroliniana	*Acropora solitaryensis*	*Coeloseris mayeri*	*Favia speciosa*
Acropora cerealis	*Acropora spathulata*	*Coscinaraea columna*	*Favia stelligera*
Acropora chesterfieldensis	*Acropora speciosa*	*Coscinaraea crassa*	*Favia truncatus*
Acropora clathrata	*Acropora squarrosa*	*Coscinaraea exaesa*	*Favia veroni*
Acropora crateriformis	*Acropora striata*	*Coscinaraea wellsi*	*Favia vietnamensis*
Acropora cuneata	*Acropora subglabra*	*Ctenactis albitentaculata*	*Favites abdita*
Acropora cytherea	*Acropora subulata*	*Ctenactis crassa*	*Favites chinensis*
Acropora danai	*Acropora tenuis*	*Ctenactis echinata*	*Favites complanata*
Acropora dendrum	*Acropora torihalimeda*	*Cynarina lacrymalis*	*Favites flexuosa*
Acropora desalwii	*Acropora torresiana*	*Cyphastrea agassizi*	*Favites halicora*
Acropora digitifera	*Acropora tortuosa*	*Cyphastrea chalcidicum*	*Favites pentagona*
Acropora divaricata	*Acropora valenciennesi*	*Cyphastrea decadia*	*Favites russelli*
Acropora donei	*Acropora valida*	*Cyphastrea japonica*	*Fungia concinna*
Acropora echinata	*Acropora vaughani*	*Cyphastrea microphthalma*	*Fungia costulata*
Acropora elizabethensis	*Acropora verweyi*	*Cyphastrea ocellina*	*Fungia curvata*
Acropora elseyi	*Acropora wallaceae*	*Cyphastrea serailia*	*Fungia cyclolites* (*Cycloseris cyclolites*)

Acropora florida	*Acropora willisae*	*Dendrophyllia alcocki*	*Fungia danae*
Acropora formosa	*Acropora yongei*	*Dendrophyllia incisa*	*Fungia distorta*
Acropora gemmifera	*Alveopora allingi*	*Dendrophyllia velata*	*Fungia fragilis* (*Cycloseris fragilis*)
Acropora glauca	*Alveopora catalai*	*Diploastrea heliopore*	*Fungia fralinae*
Acropora globiceps	*Alveopora fenestrata*	*Distichopora coccinea*	*Fungia fungites*
Acropora grandis	*Alveopora gigas*	*Distichopora livida*	*Fungia granulosa*
Acropora granulosa	*Alveopora marionensis*	*Distichopora nitida*	*Fungia gravis*
Acropora horrida	*Alveopora spongiosa*	*Distichopora violacea*	*Fungia horrida*
Acropora humilis	*Alveopora tizardi*	*Duncanopsammia axifuga*	*Fungia klunzingeri*
Acropora hyacinthus	*Alveopora verrilliana*	*Echinophyllia aspera*	*Fungia moluccensis*
Acropora insignis	*Anacropora forbesi*	*Echinophyllia echinata*	*Fungia patelliformis*
Acropora intermedia	*Anacropora matthai*	*Echinophyllia echinoporoides*	*Fungia paumotensis*
Acropora kirstyae	*Anacropora puertogalerae*	*Echinophyllia nishihirai*	*Fungia repanda*
Acropora latistella	*Anacropora reticulata*	*Echinophyllia orpheensis*	*Fungia scabra*
Acropora listeri	*Astreopora cucullata*	*Echinophyllia tosaensis*	*Fungia scruposa*
Acropora longicyathus	*Astreopora explanata*	*Echinopora gemmacea*	*Fungia scutaria* (*Lobactis scutaria*)
Acropora loripes	*Astreopora gracilis*	*Echinopora hirsutissima*	*Fungia sinensis*
Acropora lovelli	*Astreopora incrustans*	*Echinopora horrida*	*Fungia somervillei*
Acropora lutkeni	*Astreopora listeri*	*Echinopora lamellosa*	*Fungia tenuis*
Galaxea acrhelia	*Leptoseris yabei*	*Montipora verruculosus*	*Porites lobata*
Galaxea astreata	*Lithophyllon mokai*	*Moseleya latistellata*	*Porites lutea*
Galaxea fascicularis	*Lobophyllia corymbose*	*Mycedium elephantotus*	*Porites mayeri*
Galaxea longisepta	*Lobophyllia diminuta*	*Mycedium robokaki*	*Porites monticulosa*
Goniastrea aspera	*Lobophyllia hataii*	*Oulastrea crispata*	*Porites murrayensis*
Goniastrea australensis (*Paragoniastrea australensis*)	*Lobophyllia hemprichii*	*Oulophyllia bennettae*	*Porites myrmidonensis*
Goniastrea edwardsi	*Lobophyllia pachysepta* (*Acanthastrea pachysepta*)	*Oulophyllia crispa*	*Porites nigrescens*
Goniastrea favulus	*Lobophyllia robusta*	*Oxypora glabra*	*Porites rus*
Goniastrea minuta	*Madracis kirbyi*	*Oxypora lacera*	*Porites solida*
Goniastrea palauensis	*Merulina ampliata*	*Pachyseris rugosa*	*Porites stephensoni*
Goniastrea pectinata	*Merulina scabricula*	*Pachyseris speciosa*	*Porites vaughani*
Goniastrea retiformis	*Micromussa diminuta*	*Pavona bipartita*	*Psammocora contigua*
Goniopora columna	*Montastrea annuligera*	*Pavona cactus*	*Psammocora digitata*
Goniopora djiboutiensis	*Montastrea curta*	*Pavona clavus*	*Psammocora explanulata*
Goniopora eclipsensis	*Montastrea magnistellata*	*Pavona danai*	*Psammocora haimeana*
Goniopora fruticosa	*Montastrea valenciennesi*	*Pavona decussata*	*Psammocora nierstraszi*
Goniopora lobata	*Montipora aequituberculata*	*Pavona duerdeni*	*Psammocora profundacella*
Goniopora minor	*Montipora angulata*	*Pavona explanulata*	*Psammocora superficialis*
Goniopora norfolkensis	*Montipora australiensis*	*Pavona maldivensis*	*Psammocora vaughani*
Goniopora palmensis	*Montipora caliculata*	*Pavona minuta*	*Sandalolitha robusta*
Goniopora pandoraensis	*Montipora capricornis*	*Pavona varians*	*Scolymia australis* (*Homophyllia australis*)
Goniopora pendulus	*Montipora corbettensis*	*Pavona venosa*	*Scolymia vitiensis* (*Lobophyllia vitiensis*)

Goniopora somaliensis	*Montipora crassituberculata*	*Pectinia alcicornis*	*Seriatopora aculeata*
Goniopora stokesi	*Montipora danae*	*Pectinia lactuca*	*Seriatopora caliendrum*
Goniopora stutchburyi (*Bernardpora stutchburyi*)	*Montipora digitata*	*Pectinia paeonia*	*Seriatopora hystrix*
Goniopora tenuidens	*Montipora efflorescens*	*Petrophyllia rediviva*	*Stylophora pistillata*
Heliofungia actiniformis	*Montipora effusa*	*Physogyra lichtensteini*	*Symphyllia agaricia* (*Lobophyllia agaricia*)
Heliopora coerulea	*Montipora floweri*	*Platygyra contorta*	*Symphyllia radians* (*Lobophyllia radians*)
Herpolitha limax	*Montipora foliosa*	*Platygyra daedalea*	*Symphyllia recta*
Heteropsammia cochlea	*Montipora foveolata*	*Platygyra lamellina*	*Symphyllia valenciennesii*
Heteropsammia moretonensis	*Montipora gaimardi*	*Platygyra pini*	*Trachyphyllia geoffroyi*
Hydnophora exesa	*Montipora granulosa*	*Platygyra ryukyuensis*	*Tubastraea coccinea*
Hydnophora microconos	*Montipora grisea*	*Platygyra sinensis*	*Tubastraea diaphana*
Hydnophora pilosa	*Montipora hispida*	*Platygyra verweyi*	*Tubastraea faulkneri*
Hydnophora rigida	*Montipora hoffmeisteri*	*Plerogyra sinuosa*	*Tubastraea micranthus*
Leptastrea aequalis	*Montipora incrassata*	*Plesiastrea versipora*	*Turbinaria bifrons*
Leptastrea bewickensis	*Montipora informis*	*Pocillopora damicornis*	*Turbinaria conspicua*
Leptastrea inaequalis	*Montipora millepora*	*Pocillopora eydouxi* (*Pocillopora grandis*)	*Turbinaria frondens*
Leptastrea pruinosa	*Montipora mollis*	*Pocillopora kelleheri*	*Turbinaria heronensis*
Leptastrea purpurea	*Montipora monasteriata*	*Pocillopora ligulata*	*Turbinaria mesenterina*
Leptastrea transversa	*Montipora nodosa*	*Pocillopora meandrina*	*Turbinaria patula*
Leptoria irregularis	*Montipora peltiformis*	*Pocillopora verrucosa*	*Turbinaria peltata* (*Duncanopsammia peltata*)
Leptoria phrygia	*Montipora spongodes*	*Pocillopora woodjonesi*	*Turbinaria radicalis*
Leptoseris explanata	*Montipora spumosa*	*Podabacia crustacea*	*Turbinaria reniformis*
Leptoseris foliosa	*Montipora stellata*	*Polyphyllia talpina*	*Turbinaria stellulata*
Leptoseris gardineri	*Montipora striata*	*Porites annae*	*Tubipora musica*
Leptoseris hawaiiensis	*Montipora tuberculosa*	*Porites australiensis*	*Stylaster (Genus)*
Leptoseris incrustans	*Montipora turgescens*	*Porites cylindrica*	*Corallium* (Genus)
Leptoseris mycetoseroides	*Montipora turtlensis*	*Porites densa*	*Cirrhipathes* (Genus)
Leptoseris papyracea	*Montipora undata*	*Porites evermanni*	
Leptoseris scabra	*Montipora venosa*	*Porites heronensis*	
Leptoseris solida	*Montipora verrucosa*	*Porites lichen*	

Schedule 2

Declaration of the harvest operations of the Queensland Coral Fishery as an approved wildlife trade operation, October 2024

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS (section 303FT)

Relating to the harvesting of fish specimens that are, or are derived from, fish or invertebrates, other than specimens of species listed under Part 13 and Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, taken in the Queensland Coral Fishery:

Condition 1

Operation of the Queensland Coral Fishery must be carried out in accordance with the *Fisheries Act 1994* (Qld), Fisheries (General) Regulation 2019 (Qld), Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019 (Qld), Fisheries Declaration 2019 (Qld) and the Fisheries Quota Declaration 2019 (Qld). The fishery must also be managed in accordance with the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Cth), Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019 (Cth) and the Coral Sea Marine Park Management Plan 2018.

Condition 2

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must inform the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water of any intended material changes to the Queensland Coral Fishery management arrangements that may affect the assessment against which *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) decisions are made.

Condition 3

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must inform the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water of any intended changes to fisheries legislation that may affect the legislative instruments relevant to this approval.

Condition 4

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must produce and present reports on the Queensland Coral Fishery to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water by 30 September annually, as per Appendix B of the Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries – 2nd Edition.

For species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora there are additional reporting requirements that must be included in the annual reports. These requirements are as follows:

a. species specific data of each CITES-listed species harvested in the fishery in the preceding 12 months. All hard coral taxa (order Scleractinia) must be reported at a species-level where possible, unless otherwise authorised by this wildlife trade operation approval; and

b. provide an overview of the coral harvest spatial data and how this has been collected and considered in the management of the fishery.

Condition 5

By 30 June 2026, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must publish an updated Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) for the Queensland Coral Fishery. The updated ERA must:

a) consider the impacts the fishery may have on habitats, the physical environment, ecosystem functions, as well as on coral and coral-dependent ecosystems. This should consider the potential impacts of harvesting at a regional level; and

b) identify any ongoing monitoring or risk mitigation needs for the fishery.

Condition 6

a) By 30 November 2026, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must publish an updated harvest strategy for the Queensland Coral Fishery. The updated harvest strategy must:

   i. apply to all species that are recorded in current logbooks;

   ii. include mechanisms to manage the risk of localised depletion; and

   iii. manage risks to individual species and reefs targeted by the Queensland Coral Fishery, including risks associated with environmental disturbances.

b) By 30 November 2026, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must commence implementing any monitoring and/or risk mitigation recommendations identified in the updated Environmental Risk Assessment.

Condition 7

a) By 31 August 2025, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must:

   i. review all available information on at-risk species, including *Euphyllia glabrescens*, *Homophyllia cf. australis*, *Micromussa lordhowensis*, *Trachyphyllia geoffroyi* and *Acropora microclados*, to determine if catch limits are appropriate, and if required determine if reductions or other management responses are necessary; and

   ii. report outcomes of the review and a schedule for any necessary changes to management of the fishery to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

   iii. This review should include consideration of available information on the life history traits (e.g. recruitment, growth and reproductive rates) of at-risk species in the Queensland Coral Fishery.

b) By 30 April 2027, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must address information gaps on key life history traits (e.g. recruitment, growth and reproductive rates) for at-risk species to inform sustainable take levels at a reef and regional scale. In lieu of this, precautionary management of these species is necessary to maintain sustainable harvest levels and prevent localised depletion. Progress and outcomes of this work must be reported to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water via annual reports outlined at Condition 4.

Condition 8

a) By 28 October 2026, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) must develop and implement a Severe Event Response Plan that allows QDAF to respond to severe environmental threats which impact coral reefs in areas accessed by the Queensland Coral Fishery. This plan should integrate with existing monitoring and incident management frameworks across science and management agencies to inform adaptive fishery management responses. Severe environmental event may be associated with (inter alia) mass bleaching events, severe cyclones (>Category 4-5) and/or severe flood events.

b) In lieu of the Severe Event Response Plan being implemented, if the Great Barrier Reef experiences a severe flooding or cyclonic event, or conditions that are likely to cause severe heat stress and coral bleaching, indicated by six consecutive Degree Heating Weeks, QDAF must meet with the Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) to discuss appropriate management responses. This meeting should be undertaken as soon as possible to:

   i. consider the extent and severity of impact over the Great Barrier Reef; and

   ii. explore any necessary fisheries management responses to manage the extent of the impact on affected species and ecosystems.

Condition 9

By 1 July 2025 the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries must continue to implement measures to closely monitor and manage catch limits to prevent them being exceeded.

ATTACHMENT A

Hard coral (order Scleractinia) taxa where identification to genus level is acceptable but should be identified to a species level where feasible. All other hard corals should be recorded to species.

- *Acropora*
- *Agaricia*
- *Alveopora*
- *Anacropora*
- *Astreopora*
- *Balanophyllia*
- *Barabattoia*
- *Blastomussa*
- *Caulastraea*
- *Coelastrea*
- *Coeloseris*
- *Coscinaraea*
- *Cyphastrea*
- *Dendrophyllia*
- *Dipsastrea*
- *Distichopora*
- *Echinophyllia*
- *Echinopora*
- *Favites*
- *Fungia*
- *Galaxea*
- *Goniastrea*
- *Goniopora*
- *Heteropsammia*
- *Hydnophora*
- *Isopora*
- *Leptastrea*
- *Leptoria*
- *Leptoseris*
- *Lobophyllia*
- *Merulina*
- *Montastrea*
- *Montipora*
- *Oculina*
- *Oulophyllia*
- *Oxypora*
- *Pachyseris*
- *Paragoniastrea*
- *Paramontrastrea*
- *Pavona*
- *Pectinia*
- *Platygyra*
- *Pocillopora*
- *Porites*
- *Psammocora*
- *Seriatopora*
- *Siderastrea*
- *Stylaster*
- *Stylocoeniella*
- *Stylophora*
- *Turbinaria*