



# Annual Report

## 2021 - 2022



Australian Government



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE  
OF MARINE SCIENCE



## Disclaimer

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The research reported herein is based on early analyses of complex datasets and should not be considered definitive in all cases. Institutions or individuals interested in all consequences or applications of the Australian Institute of Marine Science's research are invited to contact the Chief Executive Officer at the Townsville address below.

For additional copies of this report, please phone AIMS on (07) 4753 4444, write to us at the Townsville address or email [media@aims.gov.au](mailto:media@aims.gov.au).

This report, along with a range of other information about AIMS, is available online at [www.aims.gov.au](http://www.aims.gov.au).

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The Australian Institute of Marine Science acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and sea on which we work. We recognise the unique relationships and enduring cultural and spiritual connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to land and sea, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

We particularly recognise the Traditional Owners of the land on which our main laboratory and office bases are located: the Bindal and Wulgurukaba peoples in Townsville, the Larrakia people in Darwin, and the Noongar people in Perth. We also recognise and pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who are Traditional Owners of the areas of our marine science operations across tropical northern Australia.

**Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons should be aware that this document might contain images of people who have passed away since publication.**



Australian Government



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE  
OF MARINE SCIENCE

TOWNSVILLE

DARWIN

PERTH

23 September 2022

The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP  
Minister for the Environment and Water  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

On behalf of the Council (as the accountable authority of the Australian Institute of Marine Science—AIMS), we have pleasure in presenting our 50th annual report, for the year ended 30 June 2022. The report is forwarded to you in accordance with section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

This report provides information so that you, the Parliament of Australia, and users of AIMS' research outputs can make an informed judgement about AIMS' performance during the 2021–22 financial year.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Australian Institute of Marine Science Act 1972* and in accordance with section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

On behalf of the AIMS Council, the Chairman approved the content of the *AIMS Annual Report 2021–22* on 6 September 2022.

Yours sincerely

Dr Elizabeth Woods OAM  
Chairman  
Australian Institute of Marine Science

Dr Paul Hardisty  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Institute of Marine Science

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# Part 1: Overview

## The Year in Review: Report from the Chairman

I am pleased to introduce the annual report of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) for 2021–22.

I write this foreword at an exciting time in our history. In 2022, AIMS celebrates our 50th anniversary, blazing a trail of innovation and discovery across five decades.

Since 1972, the institute has explored Australia's tropical oceans, providing world-class research that helps governments, industry and the wider community to make informed decisions about the management of our nation's marine estate.

When the institute was created, AIMS' focus was on the Great Barrier Reef. While this continues, we now work across tropical Australia, from the Great Barrier Reef across the Top End to Ningaloo in the west. Our research activities are conducted by dedicated science teams with the help of two purpose-built research vessels that cover about 25,000 nautical miles a year.

In the shadow of a worldwide pandemic, ensuring the continuing operations of the institute and supporting Australia's \$81.2 billion blue economy (3.7 per cent of GDP) were the priorities for the Council and management.

Twelve months ago, considerable uncertainty existed regarding the future outlook for the economy and naturally this extended to implications for marine science.

It is therefore with significant satisfaction that I can report additional government funding of \$63.6 million announced in March, ensuring research was able to continue and allowing AIMS to plan successfully for the future.

The new funding recognises the national value of the work we do to understand and sustain one of humanity's most precious common resources and is also testament to the scale of the environmental challenges we face. With this investment, we will:

- design a state-of-the-art marine research vessel to replace RV Cape Ferguson;
- design and construct a new wharf at Cape Cleveland, south of Townsville; and
- increase funding for core research to meet increases in operating expenses.

While the emergency phase of the pandemic has eased, we continued to assure the safety of AIMS personnel and to adjust the institute's operations to enable essential science functions to continue. For the first time since 2019, the Council was able to meet face-to-face in Townsville, Queensland, in March and again in Western Australia in June, where I met staff from our Perth office.

I want to express enormous gratitude to all staff, our research collaborators, partners, and stakeholders for their ongoing commitment in a troubled global environment. For our employees and contractors, it has required discipline and hard work, for which I am grateful.

My thanks also to Anna Matysek who served on the Council since 2017, and to Professor Sandra Harding AO, who stepped down in December 2021 after having been a valued member of the AIMS Council for more than 13 years. I welcome Professor Simon Biggs, who succeeds Professor Harding.

The support of the two outgoing Science Ministers throughout the past year, the Hon. Christian Porter MP and the Hon. Melissa Price MP, and the assistance of their offices was both welcomed and appreciated.

My deep acknowledgement goes to my predecessor, the Hon. Penelope Wensley AC, who in March completed more than seven years as Chairman. Under her leadership the institute enhanced its considerable reputation for scientific excellence, technological development and growth.

On 1 July 2022, AIMS moved from the portfolio of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources to the newly formed portfolio of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water.

The change in leadership coincides with emerging challenges for AIMS, including increased pressure on the Great Barrier Reef (declining water quality, over-exploitation and climate change) and the \$36.3 million expansion of our iconic National Sea Simulator (SeaSim), the world's most advanced research aquaria facility.

### ***Looking forward***

For 50 years, AIMS has stayed at the forefront of technology, and this continued with the operational debut this year of ReefWorks, our tropical marine technology test range, developed for both civilian and defence purposes. The success of ReefWorks, developed in collaboration with the Queensland Government, demonstrates our strong contribution to innovations and scientific excellence that benefit the nation.

We will continue as leader of the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP), helping coral reefs survive climate change. And I am proud of our continued support for Australia's National Marine Science Plan.

2021 was the start of the UN Decade of Ocean Science, with people and organisations around the globe seeking to make sustainable development for the ocean a priority. We look forward to the future years and sharing research, technology and broader engagement to answer critical questions about the ocean.

More immediately, we will continue to celebrate our 50th anniversary under the theme of 'science for tomorrow's ocean' with events and special activities until the end of 2022.

I hope you will read on to learn more about the past year, and join us in all the years to come, as we continue to grow and evolve, deepening our understanding of, and connection to, our marine environment.

**Dr Beth Woods OAM, Chairman**

# The Year in Review: Report from the CEO

I'm delighted to present this year's annual report on behalf of AIMS, Australia's national tropical marine research agency.

2022 is the year in which AIMS turns 50. For more than half a century we have delivered science for the nation with integrity and impartiality. Our dedicated science teams continue the exploration that was our focus through the 1970's and 80's, with a stronger emphasis today on delivering solutions to guide our stakeholders through the big marine challenges facing our nation and the world.

The ocean is important to our nation. The AIMS Index of Marine Industry published in July, shows the value our marine sector provides to Australia's wealth. Our \$81.2 billion 'blue economy' grew almost 28 per cent in two years and accounts for 3.7 per cent of national GDP. For the first time, this eighth edition of the Index includes breakdowns of key marine industry sub-sectors by state or territory. The Index also discusses the possible effects of climate change on future economic output and value-add from the Great Barrier Reef.

As one of Australia's iconic ecosystems, the Great Barrier Reef continues to be a significant part of the AIMS research effort, and during the past year was the focus of international attention, particularly regarding the deliberations by the United Nations' World Heritage Committee about the status of the Reef.

AIMS' Annual Reef Condition Report (based on data collection and analysis from the Long-Term Monitoring Program) of the Great Barrier Reef was published in July. Although the Reef continues to face increasing pressure from a range of disturbances caused by the effects of climate change, our team saw widespread recovery underway across all regions on the Reef with strong increases in hard coral cover. This shows that the Reef has the capacity to recover during periods of low disturbance. This is good news; many reefs around the world do not enjoy the same resilience as the GBR continues to show.

The Report was an important and objective source of scientific information about the Reef for both the World Heritage Committee and for the Australian Government which, in January, committed a billion-dollar package of measures to help protect and preserve this national icon over the coming decade.

Another comprehensive scientific report led by AIMS was the status of global coral reef health released by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). This work was based on a quantitative analysis of monitoring data collected from coral reefs in 73 countries, and clearly demonstrates the strong association between rising sea surface temperatures and declining coral cover. The last time such a report was produced was in 2008.

During 2022 reefs on both Australian coasts experienced coral bleaching. While bleaching on the west coast was patchy and restricted to some regions, a mass bleaching event took place on the Great Barrier Reef. This was the fourth such event in seven years and is a timely reminder of the importance of AIMS' research in reef adaptation and restoration science, designed to develop the tools to help reefs adapt to and recover from the effects of climate change.

The mass bleaching was covered in the 2022 edition of the Reef Snapshot. The publication is an annual summary of how the Reef has fared over summer. For the first time the Snapshot included data and maps from the aerial bleaching surveys. Jointly published by AIMS, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and CSIRO, it is a concise, accurate, easy-to-understand booklet that helps the non-scientist better understand the status of the Reef.

Key aspects of our Strategy 2025 continue to gain real traction across the organisation:

**Impact for the nation** AIMS science currently generates a positive economic impact for the nation of at least \$220 million per year, with an additional \$150 million year in non-market environmental and social impact value. This result, determined in an independent assessment by the Centre for International Economics, exceeds our stated target of \$100 million year in triple bottom line impact, and represents a greater than four times multiplier on the government's investment in AIMS.

**Technology development** ReefCloud, a digital tool that uses machine learning and advanced analysis, is proving to be beneficial for knowledge exchange and science-based management in island nations in the Pacific. Launched at the Our Oceans conference in Palau, this technology was the Environment and Sustainability winner at the 2022 Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Awards.

**Science excellence** We remain the number one institution globally in the field of marine and freshwater biology (when ranked by category normalised citation impact CNCI).

**Safety performance** We are keeping our people safe. Our target of year-on-year improvement in safety performance is being achieved. Our total recordable injury frequency rate is less than target for the second-year consecutive year. A notable achievement given AIMS' recent, rapid growth both in staff numbers and workload.

**Net Promoter Score (NPS)** A recent survey of our stakeholders found that AIMS is highly regarded and that our research provides them with the timely, accurate and relevant information to manage and operate in our marine estate. More than 99 per cent of respondents identified that AIMS was very important or important for Australia's future, and our NPS, among key stakeholders, increased from 53, two years ago, to 61 in 2022.



Meanwhile, our focus remains on providing relevant and important marine science to the nation. We are doing this through collaboration on several notable projects.

ReefWorks has been developed in this past year. It is a suite of evaluation facilities, at our Townsville site, open to industry, government and academic innovators to safely test marine technologies, uncrewed systems and new sensors. ReefWorks recently held its operational debut supporting a component of the Navy's Exercise Autonomous Warrior and later hosting technology demonstrations for north Queensland's marine industry leaders. The success of ReefWorks, developed in collaboration with the Queensland Government, illustrates that branching into novel areas of marine science technology has enabled AIMS to contribute to innovations and scientific excellence that benefit the nation.

This year marks two years since the announcement of the Commonwealth Government funded R&D phase of the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP). AIMS continues to be the managing entity for RRAP - the biggest effort ever undertaken to help coral reefs survive climate change and the largest single project we have ever been involved in. The protection of the Great Barrier Reef is a complex ecological problem and two years into the Program, RRAP has resulted in several scientific breakthroughs which will help coral reefs adapt, recover and survive warming ocean conditions.

The Australian Coral Reef Resilience Initiative (ACRRI), with BHP as the principal partner, was launched in August. This \$27 million project takes a whole-of-system approach spanning two oceans, to develop methods to improve the resilience of coral reefs being affected by climate change. ACCRI It brings together research from the two World Heritage sites of the Great Barrier Reef and Ningaloo Reef, incorporating the hitherto successful progress with coral seeding in the Keppel Islands, with new work in Ningaloo using sound to enhance recruitment of tropical fishes on coral reefs. At the heart of this initiative is the building of meaningful partnerships with Traditional Owners of sea country in northern Australia. By sharing our two different knowledge systems, we aim to deliver impactful research for all Australians.

The project to expand the National Sea Simulator is now entering the construction phase with works forecast for completion in late 2023. The recruitment of additional staff to support this expanded facility is also underway. The \$36.3 million SeaSim Expansion is funded as part of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). The increased capacity will directly support AIMS' significant research under the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan and the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP) and as a national facility, the expanded SeaSim will allow for funded merit-based access to support research of national and international significance.

Finally in March, The Hon Penelope Wensley, AC completed her five-year term as the AIMS Council Chairman. Penny was Chairman for the whole time I have been CEO and on behalf of all of us at AIMS, I thank her for her guidance and leadership over a period of great change and progress and wish her all the best for the future. Penny is succeeded by Dr Elizabeth Woods, OAM and we welcome Beth to AIMS.

**Dr Paul Hardisty, Chief Executive Officer**

# 2021/2022 IN BRIEF



## MARINE SCIENCE SOLUTIONS: REEF RESTORATION INITIATIVES

### RRAP

#### Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program

RRAP brings together the best in marine STEM to develop large scale reef interventions for the Great Barrier Reef that are cost-effective, practical, safe and acceptable.

### ACRRI

#### Australian Coral Reef Resilience Initiative

ACRRI uses an ecosystems approach to simultaneously research underwater acoustics to help rebuild fish populations, and develop coral seeding technologies for more resilient reefs.

## Science Output

**201**

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

**57%** IN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION PUBLICATIONS

**40%** IN NATIONAL COLLABORATION PUBLICATIONS



## Science Impact

**\$222m**

ECONOMIC RETURN ESTIMATE

**4.9x**

RETURN ON GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT



**#1**  
marine science institution in the world\*

## BLUE TECHNOLOGY: INNOVATION IN MARINE SCIENCE

### REEFWORKS

ReefWorks is Australia's tropical marine technology test range, enabling Australian innovators to study new marine technologies, autonomous systems and sensors in a real-world environment. Sixteen events were conducted in 2021/22 supported by about \$400k external investment.

### REEFSCAN

A suite of technology-based solutions for coral researchers to conduct in-field marine observations.

### REEFLCLOUD

ReefCloud is a cutting-edge data platform that incorporates machine learning to inform decisions by reef managers.

## Safety Performance

**17% ↓**

RECORDABLE INJURIES  
Better than target

**20% ↓**

TOTAL RECORDABLE INJURY FREQUENCY RATE (TRIFR)  
Better than target

## National Facility

Initiation and conceptual design phases complete for the National Sea Simulator. Construction commences 2022-2023.

**\$36.3m**

## Environmental Performance

**3,500t ↓**

REDUCTION IN CARBON EMISSIONS\*

**43.2t ↓**

REDUCTION IN SOLID WASTE TO LANDFILL\*

\*FROM BASELINE YEAR

## AN EYE ON OUR TROPICAL OCEANS: LONG-TERM BIODIVERSITY AND WATER QUALITY MONITORING

### Long-term Monitoring Program

Our Long-term Monitoring Program for the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is the world's longest record of change in coral reefs tracking coral and fish populations, crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks, and the effects of cyclones and coral bleaching.

### Great Barrier Reef Marine Monitoring Program

AIMS continues to implement the Marine Monitoring Program led by the GBR Marine Park Authority. Our team records water quality, hard and soft coral cover, macroalgae and coral recruitment on over 30 inshore reefs.



## FIELD OPERATIONS

Tropical Northern Australia



**42,760**

NAUTICAL MILES STEAMED



**1,242**

SCIENCE SEA DAYS INCLUDING CHARTERS



**6,327**

NUMBER OF DIVES



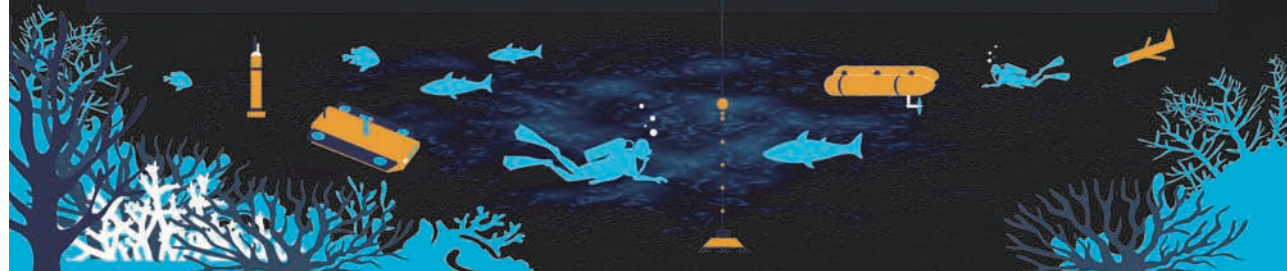
**261**

COLLABORATORS ON FIELD TRIPS



**10,315**

RESEARCHER FIELD DAYS



## About AIMS

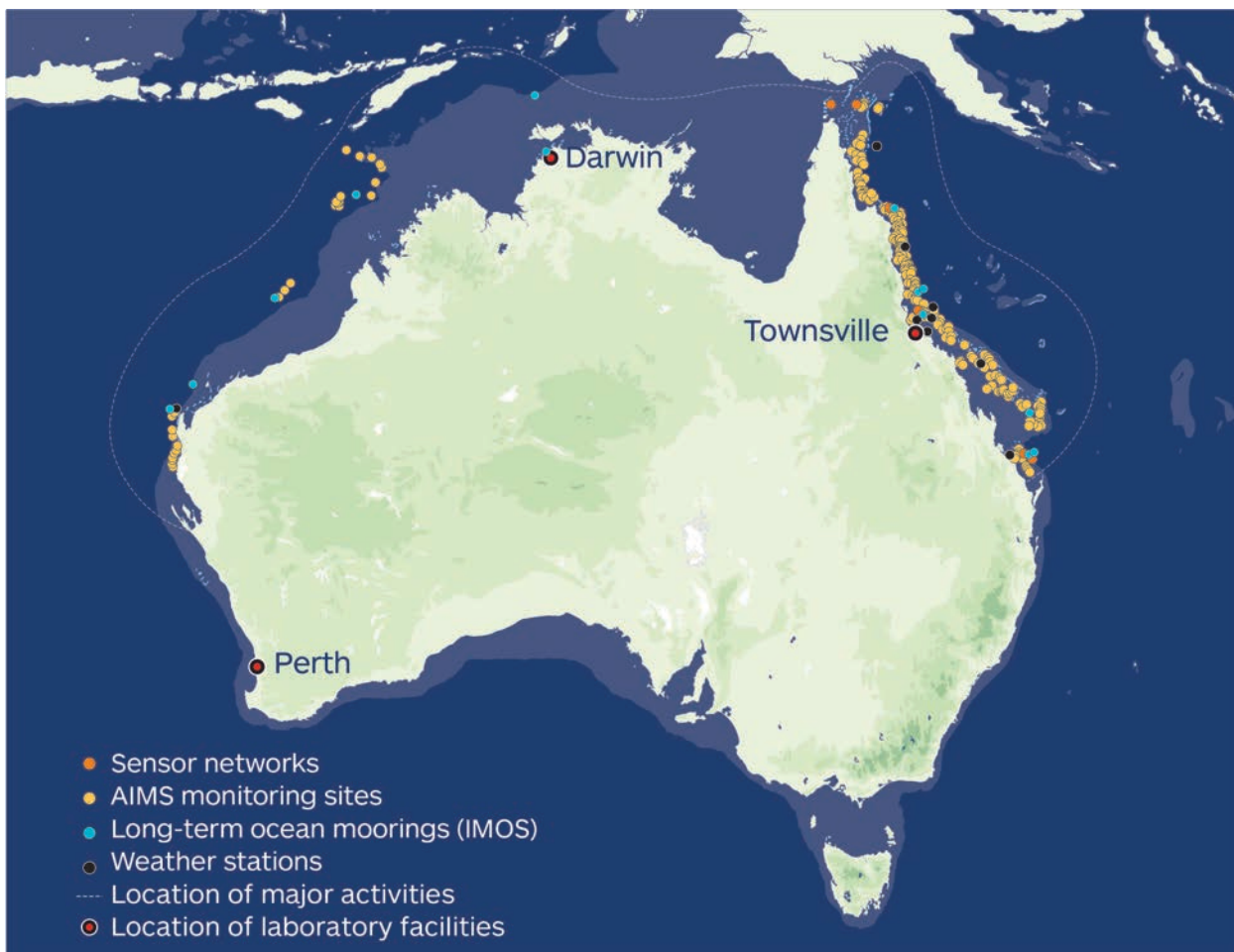
The Australian Institute of Marine Science is a corporate Commonwealth entity established 50 years ago under the Australian Institute of Marine Science Act 1972 (AIMS Act). As Australia's tropical marine research agency, it is our mission to provide the research and knowledge of Australia's tropical marine estate required to support growth in its sustainable use, effective environmental management and protection of its unique ecosystems.

To accomplish our mission, AIMS delivers independent science to help realise three key long-term impacts for the nation:

- improve the health and resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems across northern Australia
- create economic, social and environmental net benefits for marine industries and coastal communities
- protect coral reefs and other tropical marine environments from the effects of climate change.

AIMS' headquarters was established on Cape Ferguson near Townsville in recognition of the importance of the GBR to Australia. Today, we also operate from bases in Perth and Darwin, which allows us to conduct research across northern Australia, spanning two oceans and three regional seas (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Location of AIMS' facilities and major activities



AIMS is uniquely placed to provide the expert advice and solutions for management agencies, marine industries, and coastal communities to preserve our marine estate and ensure its sustainable use. Our research is focused on the priorities of our stakeholders, including Commonwealth, state and territory governments, industry and Traditional Owners.

Our oceans provide jobs, contribute to national prosperity and hold intrinsic value for all Australians. Sustainable growth in Australia's marine industry and the preservation of all that are in our oceans is underpinned by strong marine science delivered by AIMS.

Our scientific research provides the knowledge that contributes to industry's competitiveness while protecting our unique marine ecosystems. It helps marine-based industries understand their operating environment and reduce uncertainty so they can make the right long-term decisions with confidence and maintain their social licence to operate.

AIMS recognises that Indigenous peoples are the Traditional Owners of the sea country within which AIMS works. Traditional Owners have a knowledge system that is based on thousands of years of observations and environmental information that is passed down through the generations. AIMS seeks to build meaningful partnerships with Traditional Owners of sea country in northern Australia to deliver impactful research for all Australians. That is why, in AIMS Strategy 2025, we commit to undertaking science collaborations with Traditional Owners in key projects based on sea country.

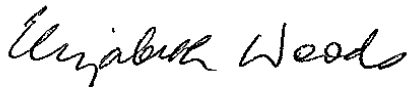
Our Traditional Owner collaboration is a growing relationship based on trust, respect and two-way knowledge sharing that blends traditional knowledge with western science to create new insights into local marine ecosystems.

# Part 2: Performance Statements

## STATEMENT OF PREPARATION

As the accountable authority of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, I present the 2021-22 annual performance statements of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, as required under paragraph 39(1)(a) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and other applicable legislation. In my opinion, these annual performance statements are based on properly maintained records, accurately reflect the performance of the entity, and comply with subsection 39(2) of the PGPA Act.

The content of the performance statements was endorsed on 6 September 2022.



Dr Elizabeth Woods OAM  
Council Chairman  
Australian Institute of Marine Science

## Entity Purpose

AIMS' purpose is to contribute to the economic and environmental wellbeing of Australians by conducting research into the tropical marine estate. AIMS was established by the Australian Government in 1972 to conduct research and development relating to, and to promote, the application and use of marine science and marine technology. The Institute's mission is to provide the research and knowledge of Australia's tropical marine estate required to support growth in its sustainable use, effective environmental management and protection of its unique ecosystems.

## Intended Outcomes

AIMS' annual Portfolio Budget Statement provides the Parliament of Australia with information on how AIMS will use its allocated resources to achieve the government-mandated outcome over the current budget and forward years. AIMS is funded to deliver *Outcome 1: Growth of knowledge to support protection and sustainable development of Australia's marine resources through innovative marine science and technology.*

Government funding for AIMS is delivered through Program 1: Marine Research. This program provides research services focused on supporting the sustainable development of Australia's marine estate by industry, while ensuring the protection of high-value marine and coastal ecosystems through effective environmental management.

Through engagement with stakeholders, including Commonwealth and state governments, industry, Traditional Owners, science agencies and universities, AIMS has developed a comprehensive research program that continues to deliver world-leading science while ensuring its multidisciplinary science capability, infrastructure and research investment remain focused on addressing national needs and aspirations.

The 2021-22 Portfolio Budget Statement Table 2.1.2 identifies how AIMS is working to deliver research outcomes by providing:

- baseline, status and trend data that are the trusted information base for stakeholder decisions
- more information for stakeholders produced through autonomous and automated technologies and processes
- science that underpins conservation and management of threatened and endangered marine species
- models of environmental condition and function that are used to manage tropical marine ecosystems
- improved tropical marine ecosystem health via AIMS' solutions that mitigate local, regional and cumulative pressures
- future coral reef condition forecasts based on knowledge of recovery, acclimatisation and adaptation
- restoration science and scalable technologies that help coral reefs resist, adapt to, and recover from climate change impacts
- advanced data analysis workflows and knowledge delivery systems that improve stakeholder use of AIMS information
- decision support tools that are used by stakeholders for management decisions and policies.

The success of AIMS' marine research program is assessed against a set of eight high level performance criteria:

- AIMS research creates a positive triple bottom line contribution (impact value) to Australia
- deliver strategic and applied research and monitoring that addresses national research priorities and stakeholder needs
- maintain or increase current standings for scientific excellence, innovation and impact
- deliver research advice and scientific products that are critical for stakeholders to assess the impacts of natural and human pressures on sensitive marine ecosystems
- increase research capability, capacity, impact and science diplomacy through participation in key advisory panels and committees, formal national and international collaborations, joint ventures, partnerships and strategic alliances
- improve research outcomes and impact through increased Traditional Owner partnerships in the planning and delivery of coastal research and development
- reduce AIMS' environmental footprint
- optimise use of research infrastructure assets.

## Results and Commentary on Performance

AIMS successfully achieved all high-priority research outcomes detailed in the AIMS Portfolio Budget Statement 2021-22, and the AIMS Corporate Plan 2021-22.

At the start of each annual reporting cycle, usually only a proportion of external revenue (typically 40–60 per cent) is contracted. This creates two risks that AIMS manages within the cycle:

- Annual external revenue earnings are subject to forecasting error. The market sectors in which AIMS operates are dominated by short-term bespoke research projects; there are few routine or regulated external revenue sources.
- Clients contract AIMS to undertake specific research projects (i.e. the research scope is contractually linked to the funding). While AIMS undertakes extensive stakeholder consultations when developing plans, it is still not feasible to predict exactly which areas of research will be externally funded.

However, for the 2021-22 year, AIMS achieved external revenue of \$30.6 million which was fully contracted by October 2021.

Despite this, AIMS continues to operate an adaptive research planning process that continually reviews and adjusts its research portfolio so that the highest priority research is completed. COVID-19 has not had a significant impact on AIMS' science deliverables in the 2021-22 year however, we expect COVID-related delivery risks, due to localised outbreaks and associated lockdowns and restrictions, to continue in 2022-23. Consistent with the overall economic recovery experienced in Australia, and as a result of ongoing stakeholder focus, our external revenue pipeline for 2022-23 and beyond is healthy.

Table 1 provides a summary of our performance against the AIMS 2021-22 Key Performance Indicators.

*Table 1: Overall performance summary*

Table legend

All expectations met = Y

Most expectations met = -

Expectations not met = N

Performance Criteria	Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) performance targets	KPIs (Corporate Plan)	Result	Expectations Met
AIMS research creates a positive triple bottom line contribution (impact value) to Australia	Minimum two case studies	≥ 2 new triple bottom line case studies published per year (pa)	Two <u>case studies</u> were produced in 2021-22.	Y
		Demonstrate ≥\$100 million pa total impact value	A study conducted with the Centre for International Economics calculated that AIMS science generated at least \$355.8 million total return to Australia in 2019-20 of which \$222 million was market return benefits. This benefit is enduring and would have continued into 2020-2021. In preparation for better valuation of AIMS' impact, a more detailed study with Adaptus Pty Ltd was conducted on non-market benefits to Australia from healthy marine ecosystems, which showed it is at least the same as market (i.e. industry) value.	Y
Deliver strategic and applied research and monitoring that addresses national research priorities and stakeholder needs	Maintain or increase the amount of research commissioned by stakeholders	Achieve revenue budget from stakeholder commissioned research	Net external revenue for 2021-22 was \$22.19 million compared with a budget of \$19.55 million and an actual of \$15.29 million in 2020-21, an increase of 45.0 per cent.	Y

Performance Criteria	Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) performance targets	KPIs (Corporate Plan)	Result	Expectations Met
Maintain or increase current standings for scientific excellence, innovation and impact	Maintain acknowledged domestic and global high standing in relevant fields of research, and confidence of key stakeholders in research outputs	Maintain Top 3 global ranking in the field of marine and freshwater biology	Benchmarking of AIMS' Citation Impact in May 2021 demonstrated that in the field of marine and freshwater biology, AIMS remains in the top 3 ranked research institutions in the world.	Y
		Maintain high stakeholder confidence in AIMS' scientific outputs gauged using a net promoter score	A net promoter score (NPS) survey of key stakeholders assessed AIMS provided AIMS rating of 53, which is considered "great". The NPS is a common method to measure and improve customer loyalty. Customers rate their likelihood of recommending a company to others. The index ranges from -100 (unlikely to recommend) to +100 (very likely to recommend).	Y
Deliver research advice and scientific products that are critical for stakeholders to assess the impacts of natural and human pressures on sensitive marine ecosystems	Maintain or increase the number of peer reviewed publications and other knowledge products, and make datasets or data products publicly available	Maintain annual journal publication rates > 200 papers per annum	AIMS published 201 journal articles in 2021, exceeding target. This measure is reported on a calendar year basis.	Y
		100 per cent of datasets collected using public monies are made publicly available within one year of collection	The outputs of research funded by specific government programs are available within one year of collection.	Y
Increase research capability, capacity, impact and science diplomacy through participation in formal national and international collaborations, joint ventures, partnerships and strategic alliances	Maintain or increase the number and scale of domestic and international research partnerships, collaborations, joint ventures and strategic alliances	Maintain proportion of AIMS' projects involving collaborators (≥ 70 per cent)	During the 2021-22 FY, AIMS maintained its strong record of collaboration. The proportion of AIMS' projects involving collaborators was 97 per cent by total value and 75 per cent by number of projects.	Y
		Maintain proportion of published papers and reports that include collaborators (≥ 80 per cent)	During 2021, AIMS maintained its strong collaborative publication record. Ninety-seven per cent of papers authored or co-authored by AIMS scientists involved collaborators.	Y



Performance Criteria	Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS) performance targets	KPIs (Corporate Plan)	Result	Expectations Met
	Maintain or increase participation by AIMS on advisory panels and committees	Representation on key relevant advisory committees	<p>AIMS contributed its expertise toward major initiatives through its ongoing representation and participation in the National Marine Science Committee, the Reef 2050 Plan Reef Advisory Committee, Independent Expert Panel and the RIMReP Executive and Operations Committees, and the RRAP Board and Steering Committee.</p> <p>AIMS played a key role in both ICRI and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network Steering Committee. AIMS is Australia's representative on the G20 Coral Research and Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP) Initiative Governing Committee and chairs the Scientific and Advisory Committee.</p>	Y
Improve research outcomes and impact through increasing Traditional Owner engagement in the planning and delivery of coastal research and development	Increase the percentage of projects with Indigenous engagement in the planning and delivery phases	<p>≥ 70 per cent of new projects that involve work in sea country achieving Bronze status and</p> <p>At least one large project with Gold status</p>	<p>The total cost of all new projects commenced in 2021/22 was \$55.4 million, of which 66 per cent was allocated to a Traditional Owner engagement tier (13 per cent bronze; 52 per cent silver; 1 per cent gold).</p> <p>The gold addition is a \$0.4 million GBRF funded partnership with Girringin, Manbarra and Wulgurukaba Traditional Owners to undertake marine monitoring within their sea Countries. This project will join the portfolio within the Northern Australia Marine Monitoring Alliance (NAMMA) initiative led by AIMS.</p> <p><i>The AIMS Indigenous Partnership Plan (IPP) describes a tiered approach to inform the level of engagement required of projects. Bronze projects are those which have fundamental levels of engagement involving identification and acknowledgement of relevant Traditional Owner groups for sea country followed by communication about intended projects. Gold level projects are true equal partnerships with projects co-designed and jointly led collaborations with extensive Traditional Owner involvement and ownership.</i></p>	-
Reduce AIMS' environmental footprint	10 per cent reduction in AIMS' carbon emissions compared with 2017-18	Carbon emission reduction ≥ 20 per cent compared with 2017-18	The overall per cent reduction in total CO <sub>2</sub> compared with 2017-18 is 22 per cent.	Y
	15 per cent reduction in AIMS' waste to landfill compared with 2018-19	Solid waste to landfill from normal operations reduced by 15 per cent compared with 2018-19	This year to date has seen a reduction of around 49 tonnes compared with 2018-19. The average reduction of waste for the past 3 years is tracking around 30 per cent from the 2018-19 base year.	Y
Optimise use of research infrastructure assets	Maintain or increase use of research infrastructure	≥ 90 per cent use of major research assets	The overall utilisation of major assets was 90 per cent.	Y

## Statement of (Ministerial) Expectations

On 13 February 2020, the then Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, the Hon Karen Andrews MP, provided the AIMS Council with a Statement of Expectations outlining the Minister's expectations for AIMS in resolving national challenges, advancing the Government's policy priorities, and driving organisational performance<sup>1</sup>. The AIMS Council responded to the Minister with a Statement of Intent confirming AIMS' commitment to the Australian Government's policy agenda and the strong connections between this and the AIMS Strategy 2025. A new Ministerial Statement of Expectations, and corresponding Statement of Intent from the AIMS Council, will be developed and will apply for reporting period 2022-23.

The below table illustrates how AIMS delivered against the then Statement of Expectations for 2021-22.

Table 2: AIMS delivery against Minister's expectations

<p><b>Resolving national challenges</b></p> <p>AIMS provided key leadership during 2021-22 in addressing Australia's significant national and environmental challenges. For example, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing a leadership role in the National Marine Science Committee - helping to advance the knowledge, technology, tools, and innovation that will drive development of Australia's blue economy.</li> <li>• providing leadership, and contributing marine science expertise, to the national Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP) effort to support the resilience, adaptation and restoration of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) - and other coral reefs around Australia.</li> <li>• conducting research that supported implementation of the Australian and Queensland government's Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan for the GBR (Reef 2050 Plan), including by working closely with partners in government, industry, Traditional Owners, other research organisations and universities, and the community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Advancing the Government's policy priorities</b></p> <p>In 2021-22 AIMS made strong contributions to advancing the government's policy priorities, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• leading the unincorporated joint venture partnership for the research and development phase of the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP), a significant program that is contributing to one of the Government's most important priorities for AIMS - science for the restoration and (climate) adaptation of the Great Barrier Reef. AIMS and consortium partners commenced several new projects under the Research and Development phase of the RRAP.</li> <li>• working on a commercial basis with the offshore oil and gas, mining and resource processing, ports and tourism sectors to provide the science that helps them to work in a way that protects the marine environment. For example, AIMS delivered findings from a significant research activity – the Northwest Shoals to Shore Project - that provided valuable information concerning the impacts of underwater seismic testing on marine organisms.</li> <li>• providing diplomatic and technical leadership for the Commonwealth Blue Charter (CBC) Action Group on Coral Reef Protection and Restoration. The CBC has been adopted by all 53 member countries of the Commonwealth with the Coral Reef Action Group, one of ten working groups tackling marine ecosystem health. AIMS and DFAT (plus Queensland University of Technology, the Coral Reef Innovation Project and partner Pacific Island nations) are also collaborating to develop technologies to monitor coral reefs in Australia and the Pacific.</li> <li>• continuing our research in accordance with our Indigenous Partnerships Policy, which provides a foundation for how we undertake science collaborations with Traditional Owners in key projects focused on sea country - underpinned by the principle of free prior and informed consent from those with recognised cultural authority for sea country.</li> <li>• continuing to develop and deploy linked autonomous systems and automated analysis to increase productivity and accelerate the conversion of marine data into accessible information products.</li> <li>• continuing to progress equity and diversity measures under a four-year Action Plan. On 2 February 2021, AIMS was awarded Bronze Accreditation Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) Athena Swan initiative, which recognises AIMS' commitment to creating a more equitable, diverse and inclusive work environment.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The statement is available at: <https://www.aims.gov.au/docs/about/corporate/corporate-profile-governance/statement-of-expectations>

### ***Driving organisational performance***

AIMS' Strategy 2025 expresses our organisational Values, and our planned Impact, Enhanced Capability, Performance and Reputation targets. These provide the framework for ongoing organisational improvement. During 2021-22, we:

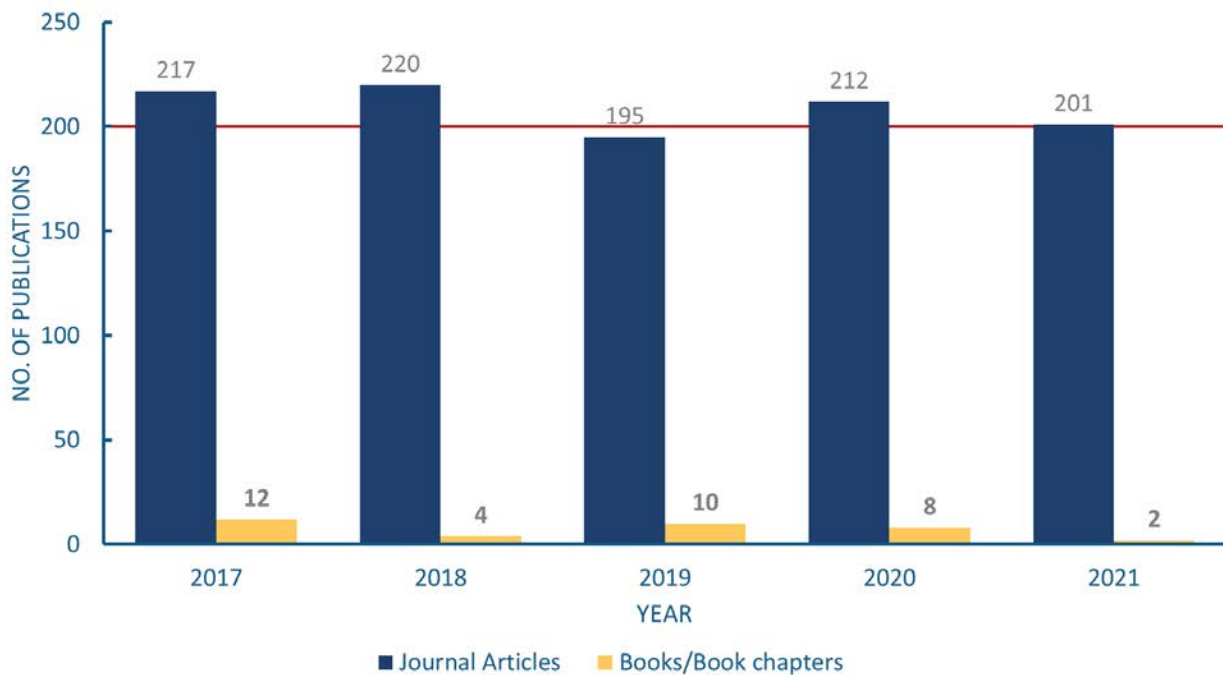
- managed our resources efficiently and effectively, implemented several continuous improvement initiatives, and worked closely with the department to ensure we were able to meet current and emerging challenges in Australia's marine environment.
- delivered our science to the broader community through a variety of communication mechanisms including through the AIMS website and by publishing numerous high-quality scientific papers in peer reviewed journals.
- efficiently managed our research infrastructure, including SeaSim and our coastal research vessel fleet, to undertake world-leading science, as well as attracting industry partners and other researchers as part of collaborative research projects.
- provided a safe, inclusive, and sustainable workplace environment and culture that attracted, supported, retained and celebrated an inclusive, diverse and talented workforce.
- delivered on our commitment to support the growth of STEM capabilities in marine science by co-supervising postgraduate students and providing postdoctoral and early career pathways and employment opportunities.
- retained our position as the top ranked research institution in the world for citation impact in the field of marine and freshwater biology.
- maintained high utilisation for the National Sea Simulator (the most advanced research aquarium in the world) and AIMS' research vessels, to attract and be used by industry partners and other researchers as part of collaborative research projects.
- continued to work to provide a safe, inclusive and sustainable workplace environment and culture that attracts, supports, retains and celebrates an inclusive, diverse and talented workforce.

# Research Performance

## Publications

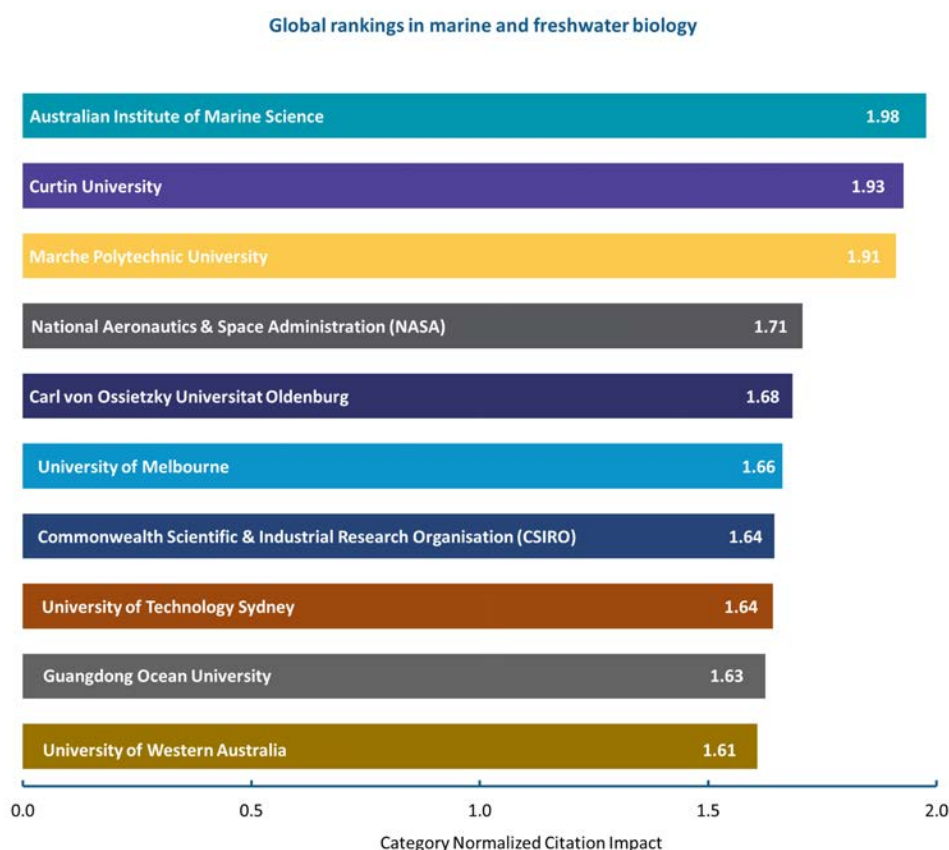
AIMS maintained a strong publication record within the field of marine science covering numerous topics like understanding and managing marine biodiversity including threatened and endangered species, oceanography and how it governs marine ecosystems, ecosystem status and trends and the processes that underpin ecosystem dynamics, and finally, the multitude of pressures affecting marine and coastal ecosystems like climate change, ocean acidification and declining water quality. During 2021, AIMS published 201 peer reviewed journal articles, and 2 books or book chapters. This exceeded our target of continuing to maintain an annual journal publication rate of 200 papers per annum (Fig. 2). While the main types of publications produced by our research staff were peer reviewed journal articles and reviews, we also produced numerous client reports, technical reports and conference papers. AIMS continued to publish reports on the long-term health of the inshore, mid-shore and offshore reefs of the Great Barrier Reef through the Long-Term Monitoring Program (LTMP). The LTMP's Annual Summary Reports provide an invaluable record of change by surveying coral reef communities over an expansive area of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR). The surveys are reported both after the conclusion of each field trip and annually, providing the most comprehensive record of reef condition available for the GBR. Notably, AIMS led the development of the Sixth Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020, the largest and most comprehensive report on the status of global coral reef health. Released in October 2021, the report drew on the contribution of over 300 scientists worldwide, combining almost two million individual observations across 12,000 coral reef sites in 73 countries. AIMS' complete publication bibliography for 2021 is available at <https://www.aims.gov.au/information-centre/corporate-publications/annual-reports.html>.

Figure 2: Number of AIMS publications by type, 2017-2021, including annual performance target (red line).



In the field of marine and freshwater biology, AIMS was the top-ranked research institution both in Australia and globally (Figure 3) over the period 2017–21. Many of the other organisations that appear in these top ranks are both Australian organisations and close collaborators with AIMS. For instance, we frequently collaborate with James Cook University, the University of Western Australia and the Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Figure 3: Top six organisations globally in the field of marine and freshwater biology ranked by Category Normalised Citation Impact, 2017-2021 (InCites July 2022)



## Science Leadership

AIMS is a global and national leader in the marine science discipline, demonstrated by the high citation of our work, our involvement in national and international fora and our provision of high-level advice. AIMS science is cited by many of our peers as evidenced by our continuing high performance in the field of marine and freshwater biology (Figure 3), but also regularly in many reports by other knowledge providers to industry and government within and beyond Australia. AIMS makes its knowledge available not only through publishing its interpretation of ocean observations and sophisticated experimentation, but by also making its data available directly or through the Australian Ocean Data Network and Research Data Australia.

Nationally, AIMS plays a prominent role in the National Marine Science Committee (NMSC), the Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan and the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program.

Beyond intradisciplinary committees and programs, AIMS actively engages with representatives from the Australian government, regulatory authorities, research sectors and industry sectors. Examples include the Commonwealth National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Tropical Water Quality (TWQ), Marine Biodiversity Hubs, and the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) Independent Science Panel, which guides the implementation of the GHHP endorsed Gladstone Healthy Harbour Report Card through the provision of impartial scientific advice.

Internationally, AIMS coordinates the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), an operational network of the International Coral Reef Initiative striving to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems around the world. The GCRMN published the *Status of Coral Reefs of the World* report in 2021. AIMS partners with DFAT to provide diplomatic and technical leadership for the Commonwealth Blue Charter (CBC) Action Group on Coral Reef Protection and Restoration. The CBC has been adopted by all 53 member countries of the Commonwealth with the Coral Reef Action Group, one of 10 working groups tackling marine ecosystem health. AIMS and DFAT (plus Queensland University of Technology, the Coral Reef Innovation Project and partner Pacific Island nations) also collaborate to develop technologies to monitor coral reefs in Australia and the Pacific.

A complete list of external committees and national and international fora that we advise on is available at <https://www.aims.gov.au/information-centre/corporate-publications/annual-reports>.

## Partnerships

AIMS partners for two reasons: to increase the capability and capacity that can be focused on the scientific challenges we need to tackle, and to improve the impact of our science by involving stakeholders and users in the design and implementation of research. We engage with both national and global marine science capability, establishing joint ventures and strategic alliances to increase the number and scale of collaborative research projects. Examples include the Western Australian Marine Science Institution, the National Environmental Science Program, the Integrated Marine Observing System, the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre, as well as AIMS@JCU and AIMS@UWA, two initiatives that focus on early career researchers (ECR's) to produce the next generation of marine scientists.

We also have partnerships to deliver effective and adaptable solutions to improve the protection of coral reefs and other reef-dependent biodiversity which underpin substantial socioeconomic benefits. These partners include James Cook University, Queensland University of Technology and several international institutes, like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US), the University of South Pacific (Fiji) and the Palau International Coral Reef Center.

## Fostering Research Capability

AIMS actively develops early career researchers to meet the challenges facing the marine environment through postdoctoral studies, postgraduate studies, postgraduate scholarship funding and traineeships. AIMS also exposes Indigenous high school students to marine science through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Marine Science initiative.

## Postdoctoral research

During 2021-22, AIMS co-funded or fully supported 31 postdoctoral fellows (Table 3) under agreements with:

- ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies (2)
- Queensland University of Technology (2)
- Santos (2)
- Woodside (2)
- BHP (1)
- Charles Darwin University (3)
- Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre Partnership (3)
- King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (Saudi Arabia) (1) • Marie Curie Research Fellowship (1)
- Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (1)
- University of Queensland (2)
- Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP) (6)
- AIMS (5)

## Postgraduate students and occupational trainees

During 2021-22, AIMS staff co-supervised 82 postgraduate students from 12 universities within Australia, of whom 51 were part of the AIMS@JCU program and 13 were part of the AIMS@UWA program.

AIMS' involvement in early career researcher training is reflected in individual staff members holding adjunct academic appointments at Australian or international institutions, including:

- James Cook University, through AIMS@JCU and the Coral Reef Centre of Excellence
- University of Western Australia, through the AIMS@UWA partnership
- University of Queensland
- Charles Darwin University
- Queensland University of Technology
- University of Melbourne

Many of these adjunct positions reflect a large personal contribution to postgraduate supervision.

*Table 3: Number of Postdoctoral Fellows, postgraduates and occupational trainees, 2017-18 to 2021-22*

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Postdoctoral Fellows	24	21	25	29	31
Postgraduate students supervised by AIMS staff	57	68	62	68	82
Occupational trainees and interns	7	17	21	14	15

## Science Quality Assurance

The AIMS Quality Management Policy establishes the expectations for the delivery of quality scientific research and services. It forms an integral part of our governance framework and promotes ethical research behaviour, providing a foundation for high-quality research, credibility and stakeholder trust.

Rigorous quality assurance and quality control procedures ensure we deliver high quality and timely research to stakeholders. Our research is peer reviewed at multiple stages through the research pipeline using internal and external reviewers. At inception, all projects are reviewed by the relevant Research Program Directors, the Chief Research Officer and, if the magnitude of the project warrants, the CEO to ensure that they align with AIMS Strategy 2025, to ensure they are an appropriate use public funds and resources, and will deliver tangible benefits to one or more stakeholders.

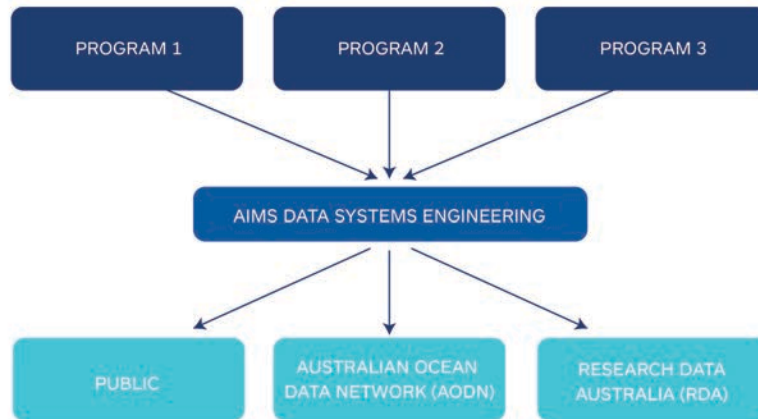
Individual projects are managed by Project Leaders who are supported by staff of a dedicated Project Management Office established during 2019-20. The subsequent release of project outputs involves rigorous internal review and is governed by several policies and procedures, including Intellectual Property, Data Access and External Document Control policies and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data principles.

In 2021-22, we committed to adhering to our Quality Policy, implemented in 2020-2021. The Quality Policy established clear standards and expectations for the delivery of quality scientific research and services in line with the Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research 2018 and underpins our commitment to eventually achieving ISO 9001:2015 accreditation where appropriate. We also implemented the AIMS Responsible Conduct of Research Framework, which sets out AIMS' expectations for the conduct of all persons engaged in research under the auspices of the Institute, introduced Researcher Integrity Training and appointed Research Integrity Advisors. These measures establish a framework that provides a foundation for high quality research, credibility and community trust in our research outputs. We have also introduced team-based peer reviews of our research to further drive continuous improvement, highlights and eliminates any subconscious bias, and helps to identify critical questions that remain unanswered and require additional research.

## Data management and dissemination

The Data Systems Engineering (DSE) team manages and secures the Institute’s research data, making it globally discoverable and accessible via the DSE Research Data Platform. Our metadata and selected national scale data holdings are also submitted to the Australian Ocean Data Network portal and the Research Data Australia data catalogue, increasing their accessibility and allowing integration into national datasets.

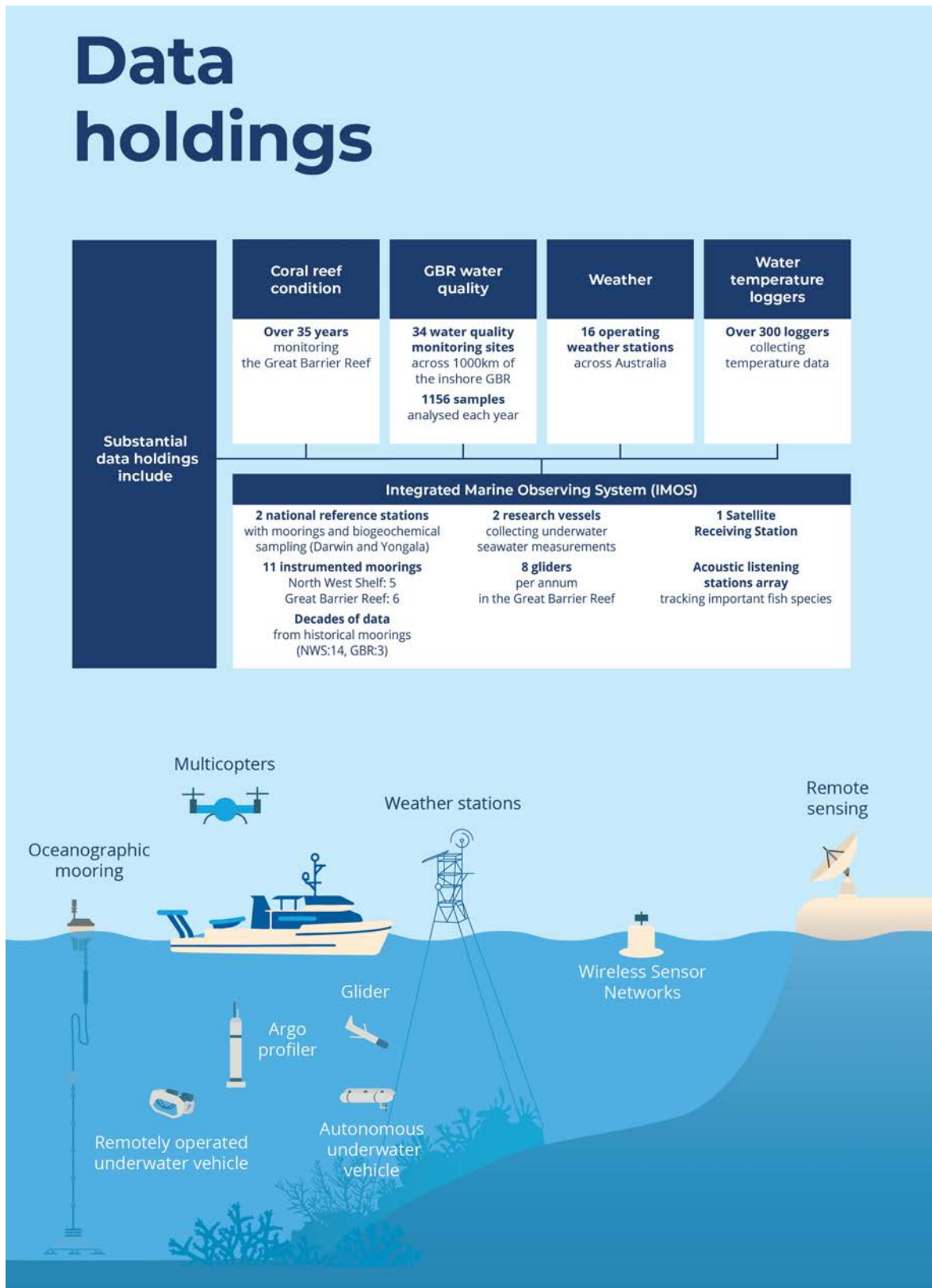
Figure 4: AIMS’ research programs deliver data into the Data Systems Engineering team allowing centralised management and facilitating reuse





The following figure depicts some of the types of data that AIMS collects, along with some of their key data metrics.

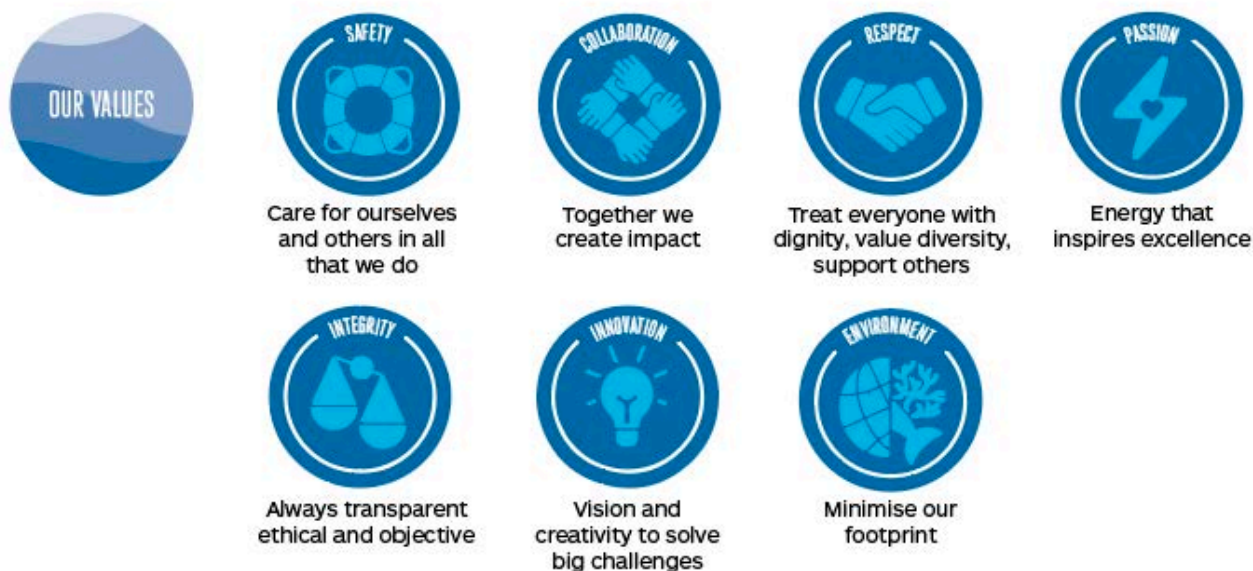
Figure 5: Extensive technology deployed to provide environmental variations in Australia’s coastal seas and landmark datasets critical to national and international stakeholders in marine science



## Stakeholder Engagement

Our research, internal and external relationships, and organisational ethos are guided by a set of principles that reflect our focus on supporting key stakeholders. Our values are:

Figure 6: AIMS Values



Supporting our stakeholders' needs is a primary focus of AIMS. Our expertise in molecular and microbiology, mathematical modelling, ocean monitoring (from microbes to regional ecosystems), marine noise, and decision support capability align with these evolving needs – from the ocean to the laboratory, from data analysis and models, to the ultimate development of products for direct use by end users. AIMS works closely with stakeholders to identify and meet their needs for high quality research over long and short timeframes. AIMS also undertakes foresighting to inform our stakeholders of emerging issues of which they need to be aware so they can make informed decisions about where to expend their resources.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, AIMS developed innovative solutions and was able to advance a substantial portion of its research including its engagement with stakeholders and delivery of science. Key stakeholders who benefited from AIMS' activities during the year are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Stakeholders benefiting from AIMS activities in 2021-22

Stakeholder category	Sector/organisation	Examples of AIMS delivering for stakeholders
Industry	North-west Australian oil and gas industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enabling industry to plan and manage their risks and environmental compliance by developing practical and meaningful baselines and understanding the ecotoxicology of complex mixtures of contaminants that occur in real world situations</li> <li>determining potential impacts of oil and gas industry activity on stakeholders, like seismic surveys effects on pearl oyster populations</li> <li>injecting our expertise into multiple fora to minimise environmental impacts of dredging, drilling and other excavation activities</li> <li>informing strategies and plans of both regulators and companies for decommissioning offshore operations</li> <li>championing and enabling the sharing of marine environmental data across industry sectors through collaboration</li> </ul>

Stakeholder category	Sector/organisation	Examples of AIMS delivering for stakeholders
	<p>Northern Territory Government: Darwin Ports Corporation</p> <p>Commodity ports: Port of Townsville, Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• delivering systems to improve Darwin Harbour's port operations and informing development decisions that maintain environmental conditions</li> <li>• assessing the impacts of dredging to improve risk-based dredging protocols and identifying better parameters to measure these impacts</li> <li>• improving understanding of how priority commodities (e.g. metals) behave in the marine environment so ports and their stakeholders can ensure their operations have minimal environmental impact</li> <li>• determining likely targets, and their sensitivities, in the event of accidental release of contaminants from point sources</li> <li>• developing historical baselines for environmental performance by analysing coral skeletons for evidence of local environmental events such as floods and potential contaminations</li> </ul>
	Coastal industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring what is monitored for regulatory compliance is practical, relevant and meaningful (Australia and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council guidelines and regulated industry)</li> <li>• applying and proving new technologies for improved in situ monitoring of dredging operations and environmental regulatory compliance</li> <li>• informing implementation of appropriate preventions, mitigations and responses by determining likely routes that might be taken by industrial effluent</li> <li>• developing tropically relevant ecotoxicological assays so subsequent assessments, standards and guidelines have real-world utility</li> </ul>
<b>Government and public</b>	Australian Government and public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enabling assessment of cumulative impacts from natural and anthropogenic stressors on the Great Barrier Reef</li> <li>• active participation in the delivery of the Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan</li> <li>• partnering with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to build reef monitoring and reporting capability within Pacific nations, by leading the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and contributing to the Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Group on Reef Protection and Restoration</li> <li>• developing an accessible mapping system for visualising complex environmental research data</li> <li>• engaging with the public and stakeholders directly and via the AIMS website to increase environmental knowledge and identify any gaps and potential risks</li> <li>• investing in postgraduate students to ensure tropical Australia has the required marine science workforce</li> <li>• advising Australian Government ministers and their advisers on major marine science developments, risks and long-term effects of disturbances affecting the marine environment</li> <li>• fostering education and employment potential of northern Australia's Indigenous youth through participation in the Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in Marine Science (ATSIMS) and Aboriginal Summer School for Excellence in Technology and Science (ASSETS) programs</li> <li>• informing parliamentary inquiries through submissions and testimony at hearings</li> </ul>

Stakeholder category	Sector/organisation	Examples of AIMS delivering for stakeholders
	Higher education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supporting post-doctoral fellowships and higher degree research students by providing supervision and funding</li> <li>• making our research infrastructure like our research vessels and National Sea Simulator available for postgraduate student projects to train them in cutting edge capabilities not available in universities</li> <li>• freely publishing our data for use by university researchers</li> </ul>
	Philanthropic Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• leading implementation of the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), including understanding coral health, their resilience to acute and chronic pressures, potential interventions and management options</li> <li>• working with the GBRF to improve our ability to forecast and respond to Crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks by understanding outbreak triggers and developing potential management responses</li> <li>• working with the Vulcan and the Paul Allen Foundation to lay the groundwork for new coral interventions to build resilience to climate change</li> <li>• collaborating with the Bertarelli Foundation and its partners to determine the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas within coral reef nations</li> </ul>
	Queensland Government and public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understanding the impact and risks of changed land use practices on water quality in the GBR Marine Park</li> <li>• deploying oceanographic buoys under the Queensland Research Infrastructure Co-investment Fund to monitor wave conditions, better understand risks to Queensland fisheries species and increase safety within the maritime sector</li> </ul>
	Western Australian Government and public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• determining patterns of seabed biodiversity in the Kimberley region and their causes to enable management</li> <li>• evaluating dredging impacts by surveying sensitive seabed organisms</li> <li>• informing guidelines of for marine dredging programs</li> <li>• partnering with the Departments of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and Primary Industry and Regional Development to deliver monitoring of key species in Western Australian coastal waters</li> <li>• collaborating with WA government and IMOS to maintain an oceanographic mooring for monitoring conditions at Ningaloo Reef, one of Australia's World Heritage sites</li> </ul>
	Traditional Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• partnering with traditional owners to support their plans to directly manage marine resources and cultural heritage within Sea Country</li> <li>• identifying projects that deliver tangible benefits to Traditional Owners and developing them in partnership Traditional Owner groups</li> </ul>

Stakeholder category	Sector/organisation	Examples of AIMS delivering for stakeholders
<b>Managers and regulators</b>	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• publishing the Reef Snapshot with GBRMPA and CSIRO, a new annual report of how the Great Barrier Reef has fared over summer</li> <li>• continuing to survey and report on the state of the GBR</li> <li>• contributing expertise about the impacts of development activities on the GBR</li> <li>• participating in developing the RIMReP (Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program)</li> <li>• advising on the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan, a joint initiative of the Queensland and Commonwealth governments</li> <li>• collaborating with GBRMPA's Joint Field Management Program to expedite adoption of autonomous technologies and automated data analyses to magnify surveillance coverage</li> <li>• starting new microbial observatories in collaboration with Queensland universities and IMOS to provide another powerful tool to monitor the health of, and risks to, the GBR</li> </ul>
<b>International Stakeholders</b>	ICRI G20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• actively contributing to the delivery of the ICRI Plan of Action through the hosting of the GCRMN, technical input to the ICRI Secretariat and engagement in ICRI fora</li> <li>• representation of the Australian Government during the development, establishment and implementation of the G20 Coral Reef R&amp;D Accelerator Platform</li> </ul>

# Communication

## 2022 marks AIMS' Golden Anniversary

For 50 years AIMS has been providing large-scale, long-term and world-class research that helps governments, industry and the wider community to make informed decisions about the management of Australia's marine estate.

This important anniversary milestone is an opportunity to promote AIMS through the theme of "science for tomorrow's oceans". The communication focus through this past year and into the next is to:

- recognise AIMS' achievements
- acknowledge the talent and contribution of its people
- emphasise the importance of marine science and strengthen organisational relationships, particularly with current stakeholders, partners, the community and the media.

This past year has been one dominated by the issue of climate change. The Great Barrier Reef is a high-profile indicator of the catastrophic effects of climate change to the environment.

When AIMS' Annual Reef Condition Report of the Great Barrier Reef for 2020-21 was published in July it attracted considerable media and social media interest and coverage, achieving a five-fold increase in audience share over the previous year's report. Its release followed UNESCO's World Heritage Committee recommendation to list the GBR as "in danger" and occurred in the context of the ongoing criticism of reef science, and the current public uncertainty and confusion about coral condition. Coverage was generally balanced and accurate across a spread of news media organisations, which included national coverage on TV, radio and print. This assisted in building further audience understanding of the Reef's condition.

Other communications work during 2021-22 supported key projects and collaborations such as:

- The [Australian Coral Reef Resilience Initiative](#) (ACRRI) which was announced by BHP and AIMS in August 2021
- ReefCloud (the Coral Reef Innovation Project) which was [formally launched](#) during the Our Ocean Conference in Palau in April 2022 by the Australian Ambassador for the Environment
- ReefWorks has been progressing through the foundation stage with the Queensland Government. AIMS facilities were formally used for the [first time](#) for testing and evaluation of an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV).

## Science Communication

AIMS has been an objective, and impartial contributor in the public discussion about the effect of climatic and environmental disturbances on our oceans and therefore our efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef and other Australian reefs has been of significant public interest.

AIMS has promoted this research, partly through supporting the publication of scientific papers. The science communication highlights during the period were:

- A paper published in *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, proposed a [Global Library of Underwater Biological Sounds \(GLUBS\)](#) and was an opportunity to promote both GLUBS and AIMS work in acoustic enrichment at Ningaloo Reef (reaching 410 million people worldwide).
- [Research on seismic surveys](#), was published in PNAS and featured as the cover story in the 27 July 2021 issue. This research provides valuable knowledge on potential effects of seismic activity on fisheries in Australia, which is necessary for managers, marine industries, and policy makers to make informed decisions about seismic use.
- A [research expedition](#) to the far northern Great Barrier Reef used artificial intelligence and genetic analysis to locate reefs with a high likelihood of having heat tolerant corals and then brought corals back to the National Sea Simulator for the annual coral spawning.
- A field trip to Scott Reef in WA's North West and the onset of Summer provided an opportunity to [focus](#) on the ecosystem's recovery five years after a coral bleaching event in 2016.
- A successful [coral seeding experiment](#) on Woppaburra sea country in the Keppel Islands carried out as part of the Australian Coral Reef Resilience Initiative (ACRRI) jointly funded by AIMS and BHP.
- An article was [published](#) in *The Conversation* about the practical application of building-up reef resilience (two years hence from RRAP's "launch") when coral bleaching occurred on the GBR. This timing allowed AIMS to show Government action to address the issue of warming oceans and its effect on the Reef.

Renewed public interest in the GBR and AIMS followed the fourth instance of mass coral bleaching in seven years (in March 2022). AIMS and GBRMPA collaborated to manage media and inform external audiences. The threat of severe coral bleaching on Ningaloo in

the following weeks made the story more nationally relevant and emphasised the importance of AIMS science to protect coral reefs from climate change.

The use of still and video imagery is an important capability to broaden audience reach and “bring” our research from the ocean direct to the public. A key aspect in this promotion function during 2021-22 involved the deployment of communication officers into the field to support and report on various projects including:

- The Long-Term Monitoring Program - aboard RV Cape Ferguson off Innisfail and Cairns, Queensland
- Heat Tolerant Corals – aboard SciBarge at Heron Island, Queensland
- ReefCloud – Palau, Micronesia
- The ReefSong component of ACRRRI at Coral Bay in Western Australia.

## Corporate Communication

AIMS also supported the communication management of several key science reports/events including:

- Strategic planning and promotion to support the release of the Midway Point report of the *National Marine Science Plan*.
- The launch of the *Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020* report, under the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. Global media exposure from the report, resulted in 600 articles in 62 countries, reaching an estimated 2.5 billion people.
- The Australian Pavilion at the UNFCCC climate conference (COP 26) in Glasgow. COP 26 was significant because it was an opportunity for Australia to share its expertise on climate science and adaptation efforts to a wider audience and to enable visitors to the Pavilion to recognise that Australia is a genuine participant in the COP process through its work to protect the natural environment.

The 50th Anniversary livery has been applied to the two Research Vessels Solander and Cape Ferguson. As well as being key components of AIMS science infrastructure these two vessels are a visible presence of AIMS reach into the remote waters of northern Australia. This was one of several corporate communication actions in 2022, others included:

- A new promotional document [AIMS in Focus](#) highlights AIMS organisational and research achievements over the past year
- AIMS Index of Marine Industry provides information on Australia’s “Blue Economy” was launched in July by the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries and Assistant Minister for Industry Development
- In March the Prime Minister announced \$63.6 million funding for AIMS for core research, a new wharf and a design study for a new vessel to replace the RV Cape Ferguson. This is an important investment to help AIMS to continue its mission to understand and solve the large-scale, complex and emerging challenges facing Australia’s tropical oceans
- The 2022 Reef Snapshot was developed as a joint product with GBRMPA and CSIRO. This became a key document following the mass coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef
- Symbolic of our anniversary is the redevelopment of the AIMS website. Although still in progress, the site “re-build” will be completed in 2022. It has been re-designed in a way that is more audience-centric, captures the imagination of Australians, and provides clarity of information. The result will be a web site which will improve this important digital communication channel, builds on our scientific authority, and explain how AIMS benefits the nation.

## National Awareness and Reputation

To map progress on the AIMS Strategy 2025, a national familiarity survey was conducted to provide a measure of Australian public awareness (against Reputation Target R2). It found:

- A 37.5 per cent increase in public familiarity from the initial survey conducted in 2018 (three years before).
- On a state basis AIMS recorded its highest level of familiarity among the NSW and WA populace (just under one quarter). For WA this is a 65 per cent increase in familiarity since 2018.
- More than half of those familiar with AIMS have interacted with at least one of its touchpoints. The touchpoints with the greatest reach are media coverage on TV, radio and print (18 per cent), social media postings (16 per cent), and its website (11 per cent), indicating that at an overall level, these touchpoints are having a positive effect on AIMS’ reputation.
- More than one third (36 per cent) of those familiar with AIMS are more positive toward the organisation when compared to 12 months previously.

The overall increases in familiarity of AIMS suggest that the work being undertaken to expand the awareness of AIMS and increase knowledge of the agency is progressing successfully.

AIMS communication to the public was regarded positively by those surveyed. They perceived communication to be relevant, consistent, genuine and informative.

When looking to the ‘more positive’ opinion change comments, it is apparent that AIMS work on the Great Barrier Reef, interventions to protect coral reefs from climate change and supporting the environmental management of marine life has been reputation building. This has resulted in an increase in reputation score by 8 per cent since 2019 to achieve an “excellent” score. The increases in familiarity and reputation show that AIMS has been able to build a more ‘excellent’ reputation than previous years among an even larger group of Australians.

It is likely that the more AIMS can share how it positively contributes to the nation (through continued communication with those who have heard of AIMS or are somewhat familiar with AIMS), there will be an increase in public familiarity levels and overall reputation.

## Building Indigenous Partnerships

AIMS recognises that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia are the Traditional Owners of the places where AIMS works both on land and sea. They have inherent rights, responsibilities and spiritual and cultural connection with their land and sea country, and all within it. This year, AIMS has continued to move towards establishing greater Indigenous engagement across the research portfolio to seek genuine partnerships with Traditional Owners in support of AIMS Strategy 2025. Specifically, we have worked toward implementing and applying the principles within the Indigenous Partnerships Policy which was endorsed by AIMS Council in March 2021. The policy establishes the foundations for AIMS to build genuine research partnerships with Traditional Owners to share and generate knowledge that supports sustainable use, protection and management of Australia's sea country. This year, we have created and socialised internal procedures to support the new policy and collaborated with the AIMS Project Management Office to adopt the policy within approval workflows for new projects. We have also expanded availability of cultural appreciation training for AIMS staff, to improve cultural competency across the organization, establish greater cultural capacity for Indigenous engagement and partnership projects, and create a more culturally safe environment for Indigenous staff.

AIMS' approach to Indigenous Partnerships continues to grow in reputation and influence other organisations. AIMS provided submissions to NIAA's Indigenous Skills Engagement and Employment Program (ISEP) Discussion Paper and Draft National Indigenous Ranger Sector Strategy, and the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties Inquiry into Australia's ratification of the *Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage*. AIMS Indigenous Partnerships staff have been appointed to key working groups including NIAA's inter-jurisdictional working group for the national ranger sector strategy, and IP Australia's Indigenous Knowledge Working Group. True to AIMS' policy's commitment to holding our partners and collaborators to the same standards, the AIMS Indigenous Partnerships team works closely with collaborators including across the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program, to assist in their compliance with the policy.

This year, we also continued to develop technologies and data platforms that enable Traditional Owners to monitor sea country independently. The Northern Australian Marine Monitoring Alliance (NAMMA) is establishing an alliance between AIMS and Traditional Owners across northern Australia to collaborate in marine monitoring. The focus has been on two demonstration projects with Bardi-Jawi (Kimberley), and Meriam Mir (Mer, Ugar and Erub in eastern Torres Strait), with additional monitoring partnerships with Wadeye/Thamarrur (Bonaparte Gulf) rangers and Traditional Owners.

AIMS has also dedicated effort to encourage a pipeline of young Indigenous high school students to consider a pathway in marine science. AIMS continues to sponsor the Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in Marine Science (ATSIMS) Scholars' Initiative in conjunction with partners in marine science, education and biological conservation. This year, for the first time and through AIMS@JCU, AIMS supported a marine science group within JCU's 'Winter School' – a program to encourage university pathways for year 10-12 Indigenous students from across Australia.

We are also working with a Registered Training Organisation to adapt the Certificate III Aquaculture training package and are employing the first four Indigenous identified trainees in a proposed ongoing pipeline of Indigenous vocational training in aquaculture for reef restoration. We have scoped and are currently exploring funding options to utilise AIMS R&D projects as a platform for a larger package of Indigenous training and capacity building in reef restoration methodologies and marine monitoring.



## Research Infrastructure

Our research focuses on Australia’s tropical marine environments, from the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef and across the north of the country to Shark Bay and the Abrolhos Islands in the west. Field activities are underpinned by laboratory, support and administrative facilities located at Townsville, Darwin, Perth and Canberra.

Our major research infrastructure is subject to detailed capital planning and asset management to ensure our facilities and equipment are safe, reliable, available and functional. Delivery against preventive maintenance and capital investment plans is monitored throughout the year to ensure that targeted outcomes are met.

Table 5: AIMS Research Infrastructure

Description	Capability	Co Located Partners
<b>Cape Ferguson Campus</b> 50 km from Townsville in North Queensland	National Sea Simulator - the world's most advanced aquaria facility Coral core library Genetics and PC2 laboratories General laboratories Specialised electrical and mechanical workshops Water-side marine operations facilities Small research vessels	James Cook University (AIMS@JCU) Bureau of Meteorology Geoscience Australia (GA)
<b>Arafura Timor Research Facility</b> Located at Australian National University Campus in Darwin	Research aquarium facility General laboratories Small research vessels	Charles Darwin University Australian National University
<b>Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre</b> Located at University of Western Australia Campus	General laboratories	CSIRO University of Western Australian Institute of Marine Science WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
<b>RV Solander</b> AIMS Vessel Facility located in South Townsville Operates between Exmouth (WA) and Southern GBR	35 metre 12 researchers 28 day / 3,000 nm endurance	
<b>RV Cape Ferguson</b> AIMS Vessel Facility located in South Townsville Operates on GBR	24 metre 8 researchers 14 day / 3,500 nm endurance	

## Field operations

Our field activities are supported by a research fleet—two large, well-equipped research vessels, the RV Cape Ferguson and the RV Solander— and several smaller vessels, capable of safely carrying researchers to remote, diverse habitats across Australia’s tropical waters. About half of all trips on the RV Cape Ferguson and RV Solander involved researchers from collaborating organisations.

The AIMS field program provides essential science for Australia and lies at the core of who we are as an organisation. However, our field work typically requires close working conditions and is often conducted in remote locations. To protect our field staff and scientists from COVID-19, AIMS applies a risk-based approach, monitoring rates of infection and transmission in the community, following physical distancing measures and screening scientists and vessel crew prior to and during trips, as well as implementing additional control measures. Through careful management, our approach has maintained the health and well-being of our people while keeping important scientific research functioning and has resulted in minimal impact on our field-going capacity during 2021-22.

The demand for research time on AIMS' vessels exceeds their capacity. To meet this demand, AIMS typically charters an additional 150 days of vessel time each year. In 2021-22, AIMS continued to work with Riverside Marine, a Queensland based vessel operator, using the innovative solution developed last year to allow for increased field work participation under COVID restrictions and support additional demand from the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program.

Table 6: Field Operations Statistics

Operating Statistics	Metric
Vessel Utilisation (per cent)	90
Science Field Days (including Charters)	2,537
Researcher Field Days	10,315
# Collaborators	261

## National Sea Simulator

The SeaSim is a globally unique marine experimental aquarium facility that provides researchers with unprecedented control of a range of environmental parameters, allowing investigation of individual and combined effects of variables on tropical marine ecosystems and organisms, over multiple generations.

The SeaSim provides a step change in capability compared with other facilities and is essential for the success of many of our research programs, allowing a broader range of experimental approaches that previously were not possible. The evolution of the SeaSim to expand in capability and capacity is underpinned through the \$36.3 million SeaSim Expansion project, funded as part of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). Construction will begin in late 2022, with completion planned for December 2023. Access to the SeaSim's unique capability is available to national and international scientists and research institutions from around the world. During 2022-23 the SeaSim will transition to operate as a national facility, with a portion of the experimental space made available to merit-based access for research of national and international significance. The SeaSim provides a facility that promotes and fosters collaboration; we work closely with national and international collaborators, with over 80 per cent of all experiments in the SeaSim involving external collaborators. In 2021-22, SeaSim has supported researchers from 10 different national organisations.

The SeaSim boasts a number of unique capabilities developed by our staff to assist researchers:

- full solar spectrum lighting with the ability to dynamically manipulate intensity and spectrum to model natural lighting conditions as found in the field (e.g., sediment plumes from dredging operations, light attenuation by clouds)
- 18 large, fully independent mesocosm systems with the ability to provide daily, monthly and seasonal patterns of light, temperature and pCO<sub>2</sub>
- sophisticated climate change and ocean acidification systems with tightly controlled temperature ( $\pm 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and diel pCO<sub>2</sub>
- large-scale systems for coral spawning, larval rearing, settlement and long-term grow out
- flow-through contaminant dosing systems for ecotoxicology research on priority contaminants.

These capabilities have been applied to a range of high-priority research areas, including climate change and ocean acidification, reef restoration and adaptation, impacts of dredging, pest management and impacts of contaminants.

### *Out of season coral spawning*

For the first time corals in the SeaSim have spawned at a time outside of their natural spawning season. Housed in a special facility where the environmental conditions, daylight and lunar cycles been phase-shifted, corals have been induced to spawn five months and four hours earlier than corals in the natural environment. These corals, most of which have spent their whole lives in the SeaSim, spawned when expected 4 – 10 days after the simulated full moon. To date 43 colonies from six different species have spawned producing >70,00 larvae which are now supporting several research projects in the SeaSim. This is a key milestone for the SeaSim and will provide significant benefits for projects investigating early life stages of corals, particularly projects within RRAP, leading to increasing rates of research and method development.

### *Statistics showing use of the National Sea Simulator (SeaSim) for coral propagation research, 2021-22:*

- 3 natural spawning events this year: October, November, April.
- >450 colonies spawned
- >25 coral species spawned
- >35 M larvae produced
- >50,000 coral recruits settled in the SeaSim
- Hybrids spawned and crossed with field collected corals.

More broadly, projects undertaken in SeaSim have attracted funding from a range of sources including industry partners, universities, the Australian Research Council, the National Environmental Science Programme, BHP, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, the Moore Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Philanthropies.

Collaborating organisations include CSIRO, Southern Cross University, James Cook University, University of Melbourne, Deakin University, University of Queensland, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Taronga Conservation Society, Griffith University, Sunshine Coast University, RMIT and Queensland University of Technology.

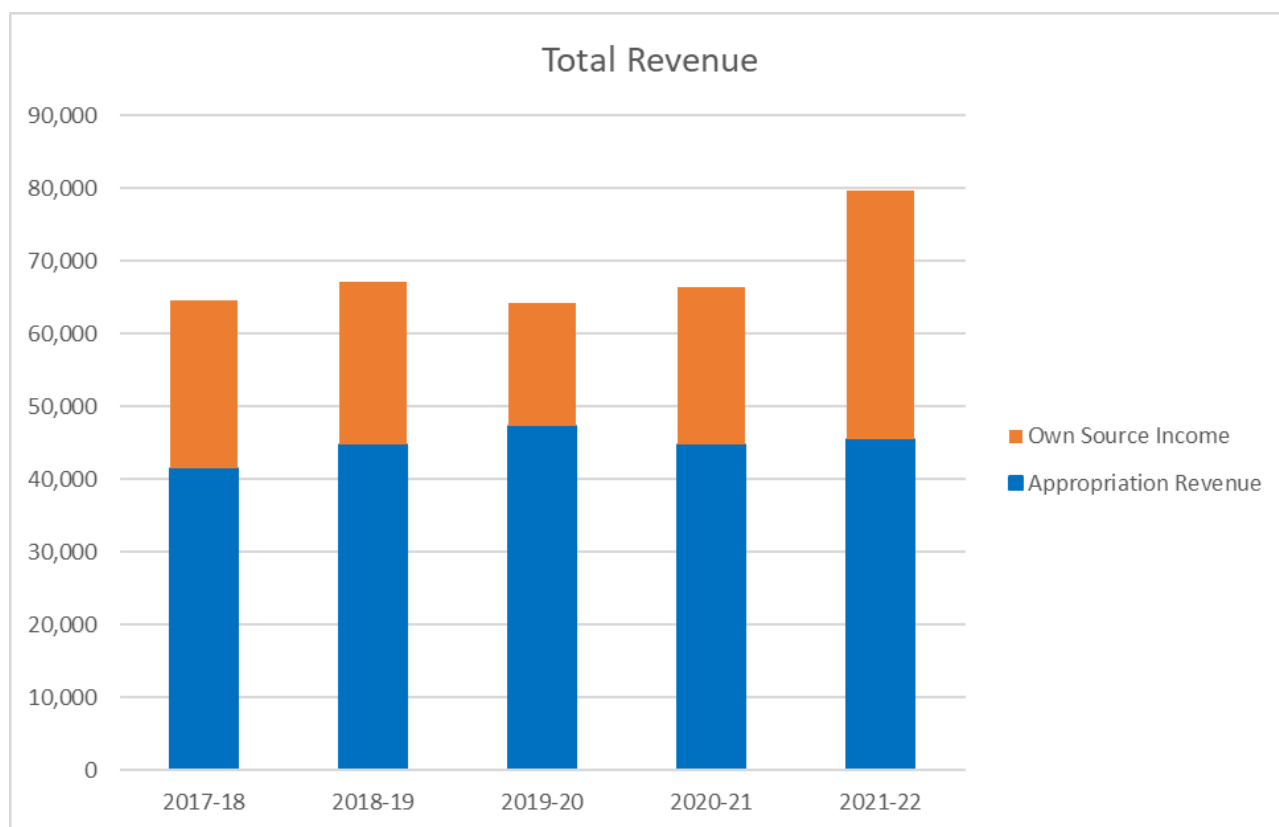
The National Sea Simulator has remained fully operational during the COVID-19 crisis. It is a key facility that requires ongoing service and maintenance by technical staff and scientists to ensure the viability of experiments and survival of organisms. Revised working arrangements continue to be in place to ensure the continuity of operations.

## Revenue

AIMS' operations were supported by a mix of Australian Government appropriation funding and non-appropriation funding from state and territory governments, competitive research funds, environmental regulators and the private sector.

Total revenue for 2021-22 was \$79.996 million, representing an increase of 19.0 per cent on 2020-21 revenue (Figure 9). The \$12.818 million increase was due to an increase in revenue from contracts with partners (\$9.943 million) and revenue recognition of National Sea Simulator funding from Department of Education, Skills and Employment (\$2.435 million).

Figure 7: AIMS revenue, 2017-18 to 2021-22



## External Revenue

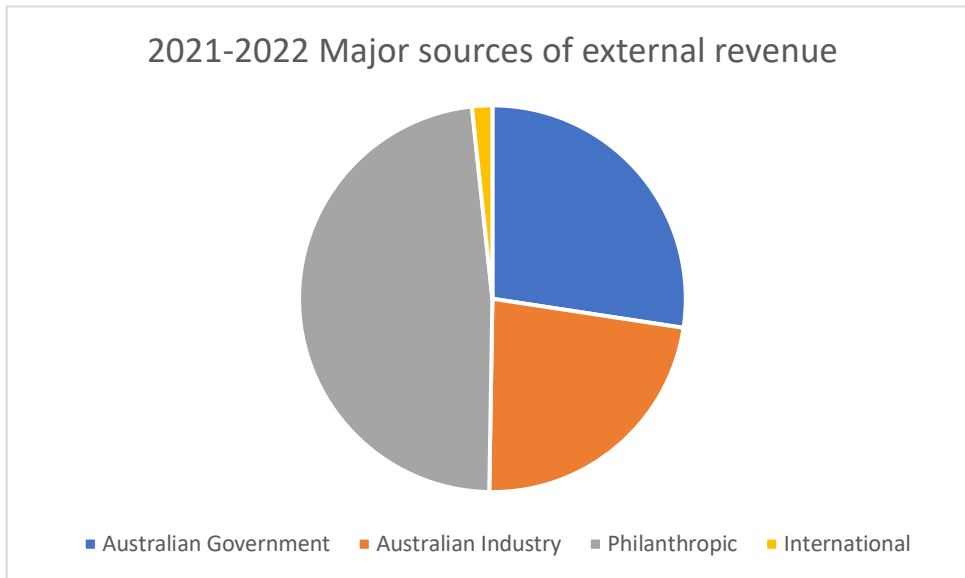
External funding is critical for AIMS to maintain its present level of scientific research. The COVID-19 pandemic affected AIMS' revenue earning capacity in 2019-20, however in 2020-21 additional projects such as the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program funded by the Reef Trust Partnership were started.

In support of the refreshed Strategy 2025, AIMS have continued to build and maintain long term strategic alliances, working with our stakeholders to develop multi-year programs of work that provide solutions and address challenges at regional and national scales. This has enabled the leverage of our strategic science work with industry and philanthropy, broadening the external revenue opportunities and moving away from individual smaller discrete pieces of revenue earning work.

## Sources of funding for 2021-22

Australian Government departments and agencies and Australian industry partners together provide 59 per cent of AIMS' total external revenue (i.e. funds earned on top of AIMS' appropriation allocation) through major grants and project contracts (Figure 10).

Figure 8: Major sources of external revenue, 2021-22



# Part 3: Management and Accountability

## Government Engagement

AIMS has a comprehensive system of financial reporting practices that provide compliance, disclosure and accountability of its activities.

### Role and Legislation

AIMS was established by the Australian Institute of Marine Science Act 1972 (AIMS Act) and is a corporate Commonwealth entity under the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act).

The Institute's functions and powers are set out in the AIMS Act.<sup>2</sup> AIMS has two main roles under its governing legislation:

- carry out research and development in relation to
  - marine science and marine technology
  - the application and use of marine science and marine technology
- encourage and facilitate the non-commercial and commercial application of the results arising from such activities.

The PGPA Act sets out reporting, accountability and other requirements relating to our operations, management and governance. Section 39 of the PGPA Act requires corporate Commonwealth entities to prepare annual performance statements and to include them in an annual report to the Australian Parliament. The Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 sets out the requirements for annual reports to be produced by corporate Commonwealth entities in accordance with s. 46 of the PGPA Act. A list of annual report requirements provides details of how this annual report meets those requirements is provided in Part 6.

### Responsible Minister

As at 30 June 2022 the responsible minister for AIMS was the Hon Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry and Science. Other responsible ministers over 2021-22 were:

- Hon Richard Marles MP, Interim Minister for Industry and Science (23 May 2022 – 1 June 2022)
- Hon Melissa Price MP, Minister for Science and Technology (8 October 2021 – 23 May 2022)
- Hon Angus Taylor MP, Acting Minister for Industry, Science and Technology (19 September to 8 October 2021)
- Hon Christian Porter MP, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology (30 March 2021 to 19 September 2021)

### General Policies of the Australian Government

Under s. 22 of the PGPA Act, the Finance Minister may make a government policy order that specifies a policy of the Australian Government that is to apply in relation to one or more corporate Commonwealth entities. No ministerial directions were received by the AIMS Council during 2021-22.

No companies, trusts or partnerships were formed by AIMS during 2021-22.

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<sup>2</sup> The Australian Institute of Marine Science Act 1972 is available on the Federal Register of Legislation website: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016C01009>

# Governance

## AIMS Council

AIMS is governed by a Council that reports to the relevant Minister. The CEO is responsible for the day-to-day affairs of the Institute.

## Role of Council

The AIMS Council sets AIMS' key objectives and research strategies and oversees management. The Council advises the Minister and the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources of AIMS' progress against the targets outlined in the AIMS Strategy 2025, its Portfolio Budget Statements and the AIMS Annual Corporate Plan. The Minister is also provided with advice on developments of significance, as appropriate.

The PGPA Act requires the AIMS Council, as the accountable authority of AIMS, to comply with the following specific duties:

- to lead, govern and set the strategic direction of the Commonwealth entity
- to establish and maintain systems relating to risk and internal controls
- to encourage cooperation with others to achieve common objectives
- to take into account the effects of imposing requirements on others
- to keep the responsible minister and the Finance Minister informed.

## Council membership

The AIMS Council consists of a Chairman, AIMS' CEO, a member nominated by James Cook University, and four other members. The AIMS Act requires that at least three members of the Council have scientific qualifications. All members of the Council, with the exception of the CEO, are non-executive appointments made by the Governor-General on the nomination of the Minister. Appointments can be up to five years and reappointment is permissible. The CEO is appointed by the Council for a period not exceeding five years and is eligible for reappointment.

The AIMS Council for 2021-22 comprised the Hon. Penelope Wensley AC (Chairman to 31 March 2022), Dr Beth Woods OAM (Chairman from 1 April 2022) Dr Thomas Barlow, Professor Sandra Harding AO (JCU Representative to 31 December 2021), Prof Simon Biggs (JCU Representative from 3 March 2022, Dr Paul Hardisty (AIMS CEO), Ms Anna Matysek (to 14 June 2022), Ms Jeanette Roberts and Professor Erika Techera. Biographical information of AIMS Council Members is provided below.

### **The Honourable Penelope Wensley AC, BA (Hons), FAIIA, HFEIANZ**

#### **Council Chairman: 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2022**

As a former career diplomat (1968–2008) and Governor of Queensland (2008–2014), Ms Wensley has a distinguished record of public service and extensive experience of government processes and public policy formulation.

She has held many leadership roles, nationally and internationally, and, in addition to her deep knowledge of foreign and trade policy, brings to the AIMS Council particular expertise in strategy development and implementation, communication and negotiation, and community and stakeholder engagement.

In 2001, Ms Wensley was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her distinguished contributions to Australia's international relations and in 2011, a Companion of the Order (AC) for eminent contribution to the people of Queensland and to Australia's international relations through senior diplomatic representational roles and as a key contributor to initiatives of the United Nations. These senior roles included: Australian Ambassador to the UN, in both Geneva and New York; Ambassador to France; High Commissioner to India and Ambassador for the Environment.

An Arts Honours graduate of the University of Queensland, Ms Wensley holds honorary doctorates from UQ, Griffith University, James Cook University and the Queensland University of Technology.

She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (FAIIA) and an Honorary Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (HFEIANZ). She is a Director of the Lowy Institute, Chairman of the Reef Advisory Committee (advising the Queensland and Australian governments on implementation of the Long-term Sustainability Plan for the Great Barrier Reef (Reef 2050)), and National Patron of Soil Science Australia.

## **Dr Beth Woods OAM B Agric Sci (Hons 1), D Phil (Oxon), Hon Doc UQ, FTSE MAICD**

### **Council Chairman: 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027**

Dr Woods is the recently retired Director-General of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries where she led development initiatives to deliver an innovative, productive and sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector.

Previously Dr Woods was the foundation Director of the University of Queensland Rural Extension Centre, and Professor of Agribusiness at UQ from 1997-2004. Beth has served on boards and committees including for the Grains Research & Development Corporation, the CSIRO Board, the Gatton College Council and the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority Board (now QRIDA). She chaired RIRDC (now AgriFutures), ACIAR, a National Drought Policy Review, the International Rice Research Institute and WorldFish. She is currently independent Chair of the Policy Council of Cattle Council of Australia, a Commissioner for International Agricultural Research with ACIAR, and a Member of the Queensland Government Native Vegetation Scientific Expert Panel.

## **Dr Paul Hardisty MSc, P.Eng, FIEAust**

### **CEO and Council member: 24 July 2017 to 23 July 2024**

Dr Hardisty, a recognised thought leader and sought-after speaker in his field, was appointed CEO of AIMS in July 2017.

An engineer who has worked extensively in marine and coastal environments and marine research projects, he is experienced in both the public and private sectors.

Dr Hardisty co-founded international environmental consultancy Komex Environmental Ltd, which he developed from a start-up to a \$50 million-a-year company with 1000 employees.

More recently, he was director at CSIRO's Climate Adaptation Flagship, and business unit director in CSIRO's Land and Water division.

Dr Hardisty holds a Master in Hydrology, and a Doctorate in Environmental Engineering from Imperial College, London. He is an adjunct Professor at The University of Western Australia.

## **Professor Sandra Harding AO, BSc (Hons), MPubAdmin, PhD, Hon Doc JIU, FACE, FQA, FAICD, FAIM**

### **Council Member: 10 May 2007 to 31 December 2021**

Professor Harding is Vice Chancellor and President of James Cook University, represents the university on the AIMS Council and maintains links with the wider education and business sectors.

In 2019, Professor Harding was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her distinguished service to education at the national and international level, and to the community of Queensland.

A former Chair of Universities Australia and current Chair of the Queensland Vice Chancellor's Committee, Professor Harding is an economic sociologist with an interest in education policy, the global tropics and economic development.

She is a member of a number of boards, including Education Australia Limited, Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation Board, Townsville Enterprises Limited and Advance Cairns. She is a member of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia Leadership Council.

**Professor Simon Biggs BSc(Hons), PhD, FEng, FTSE, CEng FICHEM, FIEAust, FRSC**

**Council Member: 3 March 2022 to 13 February 2027**

Professor Simon Biggs commenced his appointment as Vice Chancellor and President of James Cook University Australia in February 2022. He is responsible for ensuring clear and effective leadership and management of the University across all operating sites, including campuses in Cairns, Townsville and Singapore.

Educated at the University of Bristol in the UK, Professor Biggs holds a PhD in Colloid Science.

Professor Biggs' main research interests are in the field of colloid and interface engineering. He was the chief investigator on numerous research projects and has authored more than 270 refereed publications as well as being named on over 20 patents.

Professor Biggs is an experienced board member with numerous appointments in both Australia and the UK over the last 20 years. He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2011 and in 2016, as a Fellow of the Australian Academy for Technological Sciences and Engineering.

**Ms Anna Matysek, BEcon (Hons), MEnv**

**Council Member: 15 June 2017 - 14 June 2022**

Ms Matysek is an experienced economist, and a business development and investment strategist. She is a senior executive with a strong background in stakeholder engagement and policy development in the resources, energy and infrastructure sectors.

Ms Matysek has worked with leading global mining and manufacturing companies, utilities, agribusinesses, and government. She is a climate change executive with BlueScope and has previously held senior positions in Rio Tinto, TransGrid and economics consulting firms. She has prior experience working for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and the Productivity Commission.

Ms Matysek is a Board Member of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), was a lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report, and the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development.

**Ms Jeanette Roberts, BE(Hons), CEng, FICHEM**

**Council Member: 21 June 2018 to 20 June 2023**

Ms Roberts is a chemical engineer and a senior executive with more than 40 years' international experience in the oil and gas industry, including in China, India, Russia, Africa, Europe and the Asia-Pacific.

A director of her own company, Jeanette Roberts Consulting, she has major global merger and acquisitions experience, including divestments, global restructures, risk management and governance.

Ms Roberts has worked on policy development at both state and Commonwealth level, as well as in the research sector, building partnerships and collaboration frameworks, particularly around marine environments and sustainable development.

She has worked for oil and gas operators and service companies both in Australia and internationally.

**Dr Thomas William Barlow, BSc (Hons), DPhil**

**Council Member: 11 March 2020 to 10 March 2025**

Dr Barlow serves as an adviser on knowledge investment, research policy, and analytics to a range of technology-intensive companies, government agencies, and universities globally. He previously served a five-year term as an independent member on the Board of the National Computational Infrastructure and is currently also on the Board of the Australian National Imaging Facility.

Dr Barlow is the author of three books on science and innovation, and publisher of the Barlow Report, a biennial resource for higher education institutions in Australia and East Asia.

Dr Barlow has previously worked as a weekly columnist for the Financial Times newspaper in London. He has also been the science policy adviser to the Minister for Education, Science and Training in the Australian Government. He started his career as a computational and theoretical chemist.



**Council Member: 16 March 2020 – 15 March 2025**

Dr Techera has over 25 years’ experience in law, legal practice and academic legal research. She is a specialist in international and comparative environmental law and marine environmental governance with a strong commitment to sustainable development. Dr Techera is a Professor of Law and has held a variety of senior leadership roles in the university sector. She has expertise in strategic leadership, governance and management having led a flagship, multidisciplinary research institute and a University Faculty of Law. She formerly practised as a Barrister in Sydney for over seven years and prior to this, was Director of a small litigation support business. Dr Techera has been a member of the Board of Western Australian Maritime Museum Advisory Committee since mid-2018, and in 2020 joined the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

Dr Techera is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.

**Council attendance**

*Table 7: Attendance at Council meetings, 2021-22*

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>30 Aug 2021</b>	<b>21-22 Sep 2021</b>	<b>29-30 Nov 2021</b>	<b>29 Mar 2022</b>	<b>21 Jun 2022</b>
The Hon. Penelope Wensley AC	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a
Professor Sandra Harding AO	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a
Ms Anna Matysek	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a
Dr Paul Hardisty	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ms Jeanette Roberts	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Dr Thomas Barlow	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Dr Erika Techera	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Dr Beth Woods	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes
Professor Simon Biggs	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes

## Education and performance review processes for Council members

At induction, Council members are provided with a comprehensive set of documents including the PGPA Act, AIMS Act, AIMS Strategy 2025, Corporate Plan, Risk Management Framework and key plans and policies including the Business Continuity Plan, Enterprise Agreement and Fraud Control Plan.

Council members are encouraged to maintain their membership with the Australian Institute of Company Directors. The performance of Council members is reviewed regularly through a self-assessment process and, as required, by external review.

## Ethics

Council members are briefed on—and are required to sign—the AIMS Code of Conduct.

## Disclosure of interests

Section 29 of the PGPA Act provides for the disclosure of material personal interests in a matter that is being considered by the Council, and prohibits participation, deliberation and decision making by any member on such matters, unless so resolved by the Council or entitled by the Minister. Details of such disclosure are recorded in the minutes of Council meetings. All these requirements are currently being met.

## Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is a formal sub-committee of the Council that meets quarterly. Audit Committee members in 2021-22 were:

- Mr Roy Peterson (Independent Committee Chairman)
- Ms Jeanette Roberts (Council member)
- Mr Peter Bell (independent member)

The AIMS CEO, Chief Finance Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Finance Manager, representatives of the Australian National Audit Office, and an internal auditor, attend all meetings or relevant parts of all meetings, by invitation.

In accordance with best practice, all Council members may receive copies of the Audit Committee agenda and meeting minutes and can attend meetings as a right.

Mr Roy Peterson attends relevant sections of Council meetings in his capacity as Independent Chairman of Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee is responsible for providing independent assurance and assistance to Council on:

- financial reporting
- performance reporting
- systems of risk oversight and management
- systems of internal control
- internal audit
- external audit.

Four full meetings of the committee were held during FY 2021-22. The committee's charter is available at <https://www.aims.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-08/Audit%20Committee%20Charter.pdf>

## Audit Committee Skills and Experience

### Mr Roy Peterson (BCom, FCA, FTI) - Independent Audit Committee Chairman

Mr Peterson is independent Chairman of AIMS Audit Committee and a leader in his field. He served on AIMS Council from 11 December 2014 to 10 December 2019. He is a Chartered Accountant with strong governance and audit committee experience, including internal audit, risk management, process improvement and taxation. Mr Peterson has chaired the North Queensland Committee for the Australian Institute of Company Directors and was a member of the Taxation Institute National Taxation Liaison Committee. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, and the Taxation Institute of Australia.

### Mr Peter Bell (BSc (Econ), CIPFA, FCPA, IIA)- Independent member

Peter has more than 30 years' experience in internal audit, external audit, performance audit and risk management. This has included senior roles in the federal government for the Australian National Audit Office and Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and as a Partner in Ernst & Young and Managing Director or Protiviti. Peter is also a member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMPA) Audit Committee.

Skills and experience of Ms Jeanette Roberts (AIMS Council Member and Audit Committee Member) is included with the Council Member biographies.

## Audit Committee Remuneration

Mr Roy Peterson - Independent Audit Committee Chairman: \$18,000.00

Mr Peter Bell - Independent member: \$8,800.00

## Audit Committee Attendance

Table 8: Audit Committee member attendance, 2021-22

Attendance	17 Aug 2021	2 Nov 2021	1 Mar 2022	31 May 2022
Mr Roy Peterson (Independent Committee Chairman)	yes	yes	yes	yes
Ms Jeanette Roberts (Council member)	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mr Peter Bell (Independent member)	yes	yes	yes	yes

## Remuneration and Nominations Committee

The Remuneration and Nominations Committee is a sub-committee of the Council which provides advice to Council regarding the remuneration of senior AIMS staff and recommends nominations for Council membership. The Committee reviews the employment arrangements of the Council, of the CEO, and of AIMS employees not covered by the AIMS Enterprise Agreement. On an annual basis, the Committee reviews AIMS' reporting arrangements to ensure that AIMS is adhering to the administrative requirements of the Remuneration Tribunal. Remuneration of AIMS employees not covered by the AIMS Enterprise Agreement is determined having regard to the Government's Workplace Relations Bargaining Policy and relativity of comparable positions within AIMS, the APS and the wider employment market. Council member and CEO remuneration is in accordance with the directions of the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal.

The Committee comprises of at least three Council members, appointed by the Council. Committee members during 2021-22 were The Hon. Penelope Wensley AC (to 31 March 2022), Dr Thomas Barlow, Dr Erika Techera and Dr Beth Woods OAM (from 1 April 2022).

## Independent professional advice

The Council has the right to obtain, at AIMS' expense, relevant independent professional advice in connection with the discharge of its responsibilities. It did not seek such advice in 2021-22.

## Fraud Control

AIMS remains committed to mitigating incidences of fraud and managing risks. AIMS has developed a Fraud Control Plan using the Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework 2017 and in adherence to s.10 of the PGPA Rule 2014. AIMS reports its fraud data to the Australian Institute of Criminology by 30 September each year.

## Financial Reporting

AIMS' financial statements are prepared in accordance with:

- Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 (FRR);
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – Reduced Disclosure Requirements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that apply for the reporting period; and
- The financial statements notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements are accompanied by a signed statement by the Accountable Authority, CEO and CFO, declaring that the statements comply with the accounting standards and any other requirements prescribed by the FRR and present fairly the entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows in accordance with s. 42 of the PGPA Act.

## Performance Reporting

Section 39 of the PGPA Act requires an annual performance statement to be provided by corporate Commonwealth entities. AIMS' annual performance statement for 2021-22 is provided in *Results and Commentary on Performance*.

## Systems of Risk Oversight and Management

Under s. 17(2) (c) of the PGPA Rule, the Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing the Institute's risk framework (and monitoring management's compliance with that framework) and making recommendations to the Council to address any significant issues raised.

## System of Internal Audit Control

The Audit Committee's responsibilities include reviewing the Audit Plan and internal audit reports, and also making recommendations to the Council and management to address any significant issues raised. The committee also reviews whether the internal audit coverage aligns with AIMS' key risks. The internal audit function was performed by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) during the year. The internal auditor is responsible for independently reviewing risk in accordance with the AIMS Corporate Plan.

## External Audit

Under s. 43 of the PGPA Act, the Commonwealth Auditor-General, through the ANAO, is the external auditor for the Institute. The Audit Committee reviewed the ANAO Audit Plan and reported to, and met with, ANAO representatives before recommending to the Council that the annual financial statements be accepted, and the Statement by Council be signed.

## Risk Management

AIMS has a comprehensive corporate risk management strategy, which includes processes to identify and assess new risks to AIMS, and to monitor and refine existing risks and control measures.

Operational risk management is established across the Institute, with processes, procedures and systems of work in place to manage workplace health and safety risks. We participate in the annual Comcover risk management benchmarking survey.

## Investing and Financing Activities

AIMS invested its surplus money in accordance with s. 59 of the PGPA Act and AIMS' policy on investments.

## Related Parties

AIMS transacts with Australian Government related entities consistent with normal day-to-day business operations provided under normal terms and conditions, including the purchase and rendering of science services.

AIMS undertook 10 transactions for a total value of \$258,000 in 2022 (31 transactions totaling \$464,000 - 2021) (including GST) with related Commonwealth entities for the rendering of science services (refer to section 3.3 of the Financial Statements).

AIMS also undertook 42 transactions for a total value of \$2,303,000 in 2022 (22 transactions totaling \$2,095,000 – 2021) (including GST) with related Commonwealth entities for the purchase of science services (refer to section 3.3. of the Financial Statements).

The AIMS Council delegates decision making for related party contracts up to \$5 million to the AIMS CEO. The AIMS Council retains decision making for any contracts greater than \$5 million. The AIMS Council reviews a schedule of contracts entered into by AIMS at its quarterly meetings. Any AIMS Officer who may have a perceived or real conflict of interest relating to any contract is required to declare the conflict and is not involved in the decision making.

## Indemnities and Insurance Premiums for Officers

There were no liabilities to any current or former officials of AIMS during the reporting period. No premium was paid (or was agreed to be paid) against a current or former official's liability for legal costs. AIMS paid \$15,212.78 in premiums for directors' and officers' insurances in 2021-22.

## Compliance

AIMS conducted its affairs in accordance with the requirements of all applicable laws and regulations, including the PGPA Act and prescribed rules, the applicable policies of the Australian Government, and the internal policies of AIMS. Any government policy orders notified as being applicable to AIMS would be duly complied with (s. 22(3), PGPA Act). There were no policy orders applied to AIMS in 2021-22.

## Duty to Inform and Ministerial Notifications

The AIMS Council is required to notify the responsible minister of any significant issue that has affected AIMS (s. 19(1)(e), PGPA Act). There were no significant issues requiring notification to the responsible minister during 2021-22 relating to non-compliance with finance law.

## Consultancy Services

AIMS engages individuals and companies as external consultants from time to time where it lacks specialist expertise or when independent research, review or assessment is required.

Consultants are engaged to investigate or diagnose a defined issue or problem, carry out defined reviews or evaluations, or provide independent advice, information or creative solutions to assist in AIMS' decision making.

Decisions to engage consultants take into consideration the skills and resources required for the task, the skills or resources available internally and the cost-effectiveness of these options. Engagement of a consultant is made in accordance with our Procurement Policy and Procedures and other relevant internal policies.

AIMS spent \$2,519,000 (excluding GST) on consultancies during 2021-22.

## Public Accountability

### Judicial decisions and reviews by administrative tribunals

No judicial decisions relating to AIMS were handed down during the reporting period.

### Commonwealth Ombudsman

No reports relating to AIMS were given by the Commonwealth Ombudsman during 2021-22.

### Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

No reports relating to AIMS were given by the Australian Information Commissioner during 2021-22.

### Parliamentary Committees

No reports were produced on the operations of AIMS by a parliamentary committee during 2021-22.

### Auditor-General

No reports were produced on the operations of AIMS by the Auditor-General during 2021-22.

### Service Charter

AIMS' service charter outlines the standards it commits to regarding management of our relationships, a copy of which is posted on our website. AIMS actively seek and welcome feedback on our performance against our service standards. The charter and details on how to provide feedback can be found at <https://www.aims.gov.au/docs/about/corporate/service-charter.html>

## Privacy Act 1988

To ensure the proper management, administration and safety of its officers, employees, visitors, volunteers and contractors, AIMS is required to collect personal, and occasionally sensitive, information. AIMS is committed to the Australian Privacy Principles contained within the *Privacy Act 1988* and has formal processes to manage privacy, as detailed in the AIMS Privacy Policy. AIMS has a Privacy Officer ([privacy@aims.gov.au](mailto:privacy@aims.gov.au)) who is responsible for ensuring that the Institute's Privacy Policy is adhered to and that AIMS complies with all applicable statutory requirements.

## Freedom Of Information (FOI)

### Freedom Of Information (FOI) requests, reviews, decisions and statements

One request for documents under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) was received by AIMS during 2021-22.

In addition, no applications were received during 2021-22:

- for internal review of decisions made under the FOI Act
- for external review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal of decisions made under the FOI Act
- to amend any records under the FOI Act.

### FOI Operations

Agencies subject to the FOI Act are required to make information available to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS). Under their IPS, each agency must display on its website a plan showing what information it publishes in accordance with the IPS requirements in Part II of the FOI Act.

The documents listed in our IPS Agency Plan are generally freely available to any person requesting them. The availability of other information is subject to assessment, which is made on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FOI Act, as supplemented and explained in the relevant fact sheets, guidelines and other materials published on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC). The grounds for assessment include considerations of commercial confidentiality, legal professional privilege and personal privacy. The FOI Act and the above website explain these, the other unconditional exemptions and the conditional exemptions as contained in the current legislation.

Requests for any such information from AIMS must be made in writing, addressed to the relevant person, and must contain the information set out under 'How to make an FOI request' on the above website. The request should be addressed to the FOI contact officer at the address given below. There is no fee payable for the request. However, fees and charges may apply and, if they do, will be set in accordance with Part 4 of the FOI Guidelines, which are available from the OAIC and AIMS websites.

### Information Publication Scheme

AIMS continues to undertake actions consistent with compliance requirements under the IPS pursuant to the relevant provisions of the FOI Act. The IPS encourages governments and government agencies to provide open, accountable and transparent information in formats that are easy to understand and freely accessible.

### Contact

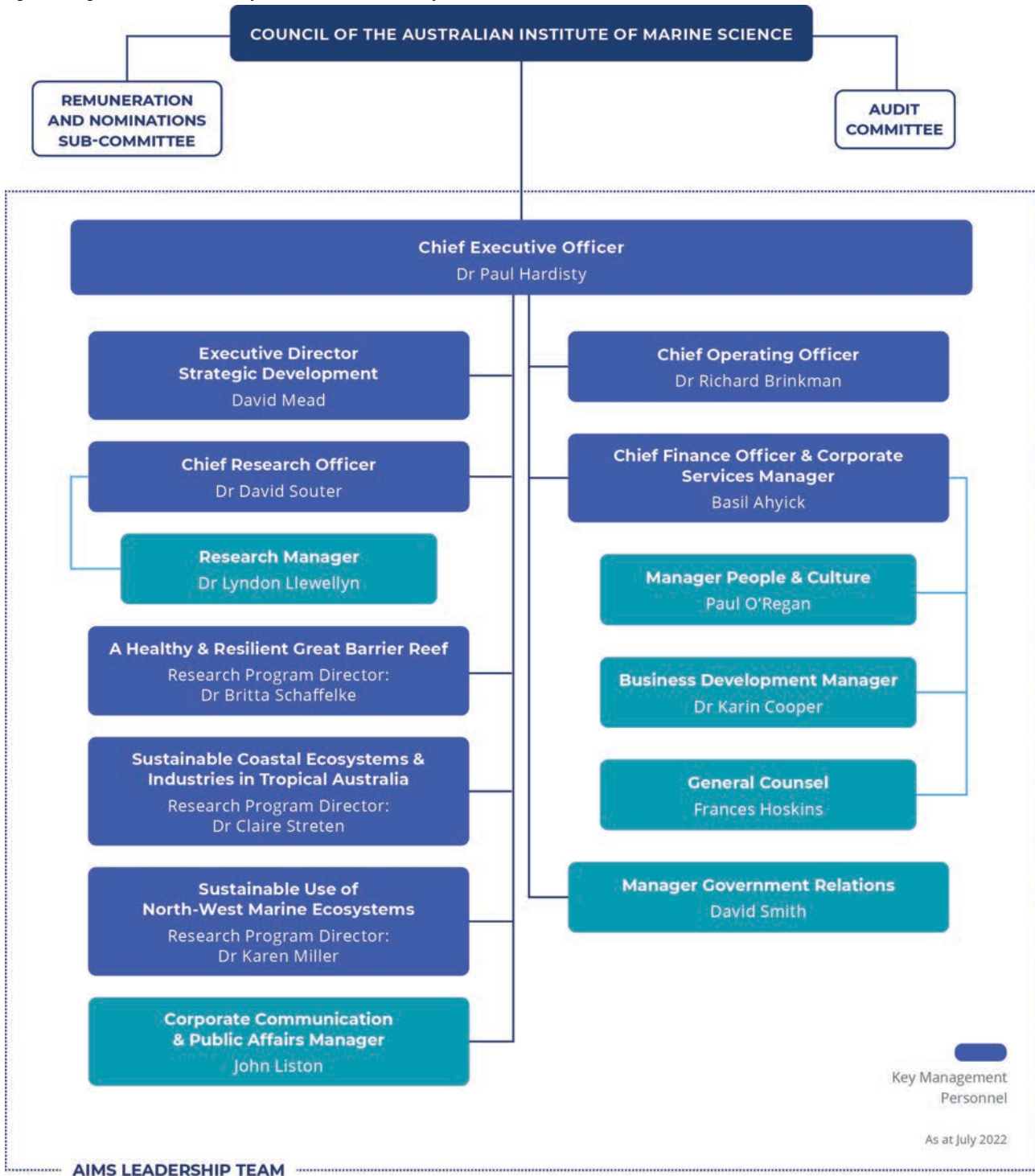
All enquiries and requests for information, or concerning access to documents or any other matters relating to FOI, should be directed to:

FOI contact officer, Australian Institute of Marine Science  
PMB No. 3, Townsville Mail Centre MC, QLD 4810  
Telephone: (07) 4753 4444  
Email: [FOI@aims.gov.au](mailto:FOI@aims.gov.au)

# Part 4: Our People

## Organisational Structure

Figure 9: Organisational structure of the Australian Institute of Marine Science.





## Staff

AIMS employed an average of 284.9 full-time equivalent (FTE) science and support staff during FY 2021–22, including 40 FTE under labour hire arrangements, 0.43 FTE casuals and 2.75 FTE temporary staff. In addition, AIMS engaged 46 FTE personnel via outsourced functions (see Table 9).

Throughout 2021-22, our staff have continued to adapt and respond to changing conditions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has also caused delays in recruiting and onboarding new staff, particularly those required to deliver our contractual obligations under the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program.

Many of our scientists are world authorities in their field who have achieved international acclaim for their research. The work of the research scientists is supported by a variety of professional and technical support staff skilled in the following:

- research support
- laboratory and analytical services
- data collection and data management
- commercial and business development services
- intellectual property portfolio management
- engineering and field operations services
- science communication
- corporate support functions comprising human resources, financial, information services, supply and general management.

Where appropriate, AIMS contracts services. Currently, contracted services are for catering, cleaning, site maintenance, security and crewing marine research vessels.

### AIMS core staff numbers

Table 9: Average Staffing Level Numbers (ASL)

Staff category	2019-20			2020-21			2021-22		
	Female	Part-time	Total	Female	Part-time	Total	Female	Part-time	Total
<b>Research Scientists</b>	24	4	51	27	3	58	32	5	65
<i>Townsville</i>	17	3	32	18	1	34	20	2	37
<i>Perth</i>	6	1	14	8	2	20	10	3	23
<i>Darwin</i>	1	-	5	1	-	4	2	-	5
<b>Research Support</b>	22	3	61	30	2	76	36	5	84
<i>Townsville</i>	18	2	48	26	1	63	34	5	73
<i>Perth</i>	3	1	10	3	1	10	2	-	9
<i>Darwin</i>	1	-	3	1	-	3	-	-	2
<b>Technical and corporate support</b>	40	4	110	37	4	97	39	7	100
<i>Townsville</i>	34	3	97	31	4	86	32	4	87

	2019-20			2020-21			2021-22		
Staff category	Female	Part-time	Total	Female	Part-time	Total	Female	Part-time	Total
<i>Perth</i>	5	1	12	5	-	10	7	3	12
<i>Darwin</i>	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1
<b>Total Staff (excluding casual and temporary)</b>	86	11	222	94	9	231	107	17	249
<i>Townsville</i>	69	8	177	76	7	183	86	11	197
<i>Perth</i>	14	3	36	15	2	40	19	6	44
<i>Darwin</i>	3	-	9	3	-	8	2	-	8
<b>Postdoctoral Fellows included in total*</b>	5	-	10	6	-	9	8	-	11
<i>Townsville</i>	3	-	6	3	-	4	5	-	6
<i>Perth</i>	2	-	4	3	-	5	3	-	-
<i>Darwin</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Temporary and Casual staff</b>	15	-	24	17	-	27	25	-	35
<i>Townsville</i>	11	-	19	14	-	24	23	-	32
<i>Perth</i>	4	-	5	3	-	3	1	-	2
<i>Darwin</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
<b>Contractors</b>	-	-	44	-	-	44	-	-	46

\* Most PostDocs are joint appointments with other research organisations. These figures only reflect positions for which AIMS is the host employer

## Staff Consultation

Staff consultation and communication takes place via a range of mediums such as all-staff meetings, emails and newsletters. The Joint Consultative Committee—comprising AIMS CEO (Chairman), a management representative (Chief Operating Officer), the Manager People and Culture, Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) representatives (internal), a CPSU organiser (external), and staff representatives—met four times in 2021–22. This committee provides a forum for discussion and consultation between management and staff representatives on issues that may affect staff conditions and entitlements.

## Leadership Development

During 2021–22, AIMS continued with a significant leadership development program affording all staff the opportunity to participate.

## Equal Employment Opportunity and Workforce Diversity

Our workforce diversity policy acknowledges differences and adapts work practices to create an inclusive work environment in which diverse skills, perspectives and cultural backgrounds are valued.

The Institute's staffing policies and procedures align with the requirements of the Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act 1987. Designed to ensure that workforce diversity and equality of opportunity are fundamental operating principles for AIMS, they include:

- regularly reviewing employment policies and practices, and providing ongoing instruction for user groups
- promoting AIMS as an equal opportunity employer in all recruitment advertisements placed in online media and on our website
- supporting equity of access and providing amenities for people with disabilities in AIMS' public access facilities such as conference rooms, theatre, library, cafe and display areas
- constructing new facilities that support equity of access
- catering to staff and visitors with a disability, and providing a wheelchair, if required, on public tours of AIMS
- having mechanisms in place to handle complaints and grievances (formal and informal) to address issues and concerns raised by staff and visitors.

Table 10: Staff numbers in equal employment opportunity categories

EEO category	Proportion of total staff (per cent)				
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020-21	2021-22
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0.98	2.05	2.18	2.47	5.41
Non-English-speaking background	16.78	14.67	15.1	16.44	14.44
Staff with disability	1.68	1.59	1.32	1.84	4.7
Women	41.36	41.32	39.23	40.92	46.44

## Inclusiveness and Diversity in the Workplace

Our workforce initiatives support the wider Australia Public Service undertakings on Indigenous employment, diversity and gender equity. In 2020-21 we were awarded Athena Swan Bronze Award certification, AIMS is continuing to demonstrate a solid foundation for improving gender equity and developing an inclusive culture that values all staff. This includes:

- an assessment of gender equality in the institution, including quantitative (staff data) and qualitative (policies, practices, systems and arrangements) evidence and identifying both challenges and opportunities
- a four-year action plan that builds on this assessment, information on activities that are already in place and what has been learned from these
- the development of an organisational structure, including a self-assessment team, to carry proposed actions forward.

The application for the award was part of AIMS' plan to support continuous career improvement for individuals across all gender groups in higher education and research over the next four years, helping to create a more inclusive society.

## Code of Conduct

AIMS has a Code of Conduct to which the Council, management, staff and visitors are required to adhere. The Code complies with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2014. New Council members, staff and visitors are briefed on the Code during induction.

## Workplace Behaviour

Management, staff and visitors at AIMS share responsibility for providing and working in an environment free of harassment and other unacceptable forms of behaviour. In accordance with the AIMS Code of Conduct, staff are required to treat others with courtesy, respect, dignity, fairness and equity, and to have concern for their rights, freedoms and individual needs. A high standard of behaviour is expected and AIMS has a set of principles outlining the way staff are expected to behave towards others.

Workplace harassment contact officers are available throughout AIMS to discuss, in confidence, matters of concern regarding harassment and associated issues raised by a staff member. AIMS received no formal reported case of harassment in 2021-22.

## Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle-Blower Policy)

AIMS has a whistle-blower policy designed to facilitate effective notification, assessment and management of the disclosure of serious wrongdoings in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013.

AIMS strongly encourages reporting of serious wrongdoing and will take appropriate and necessary action to uphold the integrity of the Institute and to promote the public interest. To achieve our goals and obligations in this regard, AIMS is committed to creating and maintaining an environment and culture in which the disclosure of serious wrongdoings is fully supported and protected. There were no formal reported public interest disclosure cases in 2021-22.

## National Disability Strategy

AIMS is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities are given opportunities for independence, access and full participation. AIMS assesses cases individually and endeavours to implement the most appropriate measures to assist people with disabilities.

AIMS' physical resources continue to be upgraded to meet access needs for people with disabilities, which includes building modifications and the construction of new facilities.

## Employee Assistance Program

Lifeworks is contracted by AIMS to provide an independent employee assistance program. The program is free to staff, their family members, and students and provides for up to six sessions to assist with issues of:

- relationship and family problems
- maximising performance
- depression, anxiety and stress
- conflict and communication
- children or family member concerns
- grief and bereavement
- elder care issues
- addiction
- work–life balance
- career path issues
- retirement
- work stress.

Participants can refer themselves or be encouraged by a colleague, supervisor, human resource staff or workplace health and safety staff to access the program. The use rate during 2021-22 was 10.6 per cent, a decrease from 16 per cent in the previous year. Analysis reveals that 82 per cent of access was for personal reasons with 18 per cent being for work related matters.

# Health and Safety

Performance – Competent, Considered and Focused

## Our Approach

The safety of our people, collaborators, contractors, and those with whom we share the oceans remains paramount. AIMS Strategy 2025 defines AIMS safety value, to care for ourselves and others in all that we do. AIMS defines measurable targets with which we will track our progress towards our work, health and safety objectives. At the highest level, AIMS has committed to achieving year on year improvements in safety performance.

## COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to present organisational risks and challenges. AIMS has implemented a risk-based phased recovery plan, working consultatively across all areas of the organisation to manage a shifting COVID-19 risk context. This phased approach, underpinned by comprehensive communication and consultation strategies, health screening, risk management and active and engaged leadership, has proved effective, and AIMS operations have achieved stability and growth.

## Injury Reduction Program

Improving awareness and providing tools and strategies that have kept serious incident rates low.

## Leadership and Cultural Change Program

Assisting people to work together more effectively and look out for each other's health and safety, through personalised assessment, review, and coaching.

## Physical and Mental Wellbeing Program

Developing a Psychologically Safe Workplace Framework and applying tools to assess the maturity of current psychological safety strategies and identify future actions within a consultative context. Providing improved access to exercise opportunities, including Fitness Passport, in addition to Mental Health First Aid training for key roles within the organisation.

Our Psychologically Safe Workplace Framework is based on 3 areas of focus.

Figure 10: Psychologically Safe Workplace Framework



**Promote Psychological Wellbeing** - Taking steps to raise awareness of and understanding psychological health and reduce stigma.

**Protect Psychological Wellbeing** – Implementing preventative actions that create an inclusive and supportive work environment, where people feel valued, respected, and empowered.

**Support Psychological Wellbeing** - Providing access to resources, trained supports, reasonable adjustments, and case management for those experiencing changes in psychological health.

## Internal Audit and Inspection Regimes

Providing a safe workplace and practice through site inspection, and Internal Audit Committee review of policies and procedures.

## Sustainable Environmental Advisory (SEA) Network

Striving to reduce AIMS environmental impact through a grass roots approach.

## Safety Pillars

Our health and safety approach is based on six pillars (Figure 12) that guide our annual strategic work planning:

Figure 11: Health and Safety Pillars



## Dedicated Safety Roles

Our commitment to the health and safety of workers is demonstrated by the number and diversity of roles dedicated to health and safety management at AIMS:

- HSE Team Members
- Emergency Wardens
- First Aid Officers
- Safety Committee Members
- Health & Safety Representatives
- Harassment Contact Officers
- Cruise Leaders
- Dive Officer & Supervisors
- Dive Safety Committee Members
- Boating Officer & Attendants
- Laboratory Managers
- Quarantine & Biosafety Officer
- Radiation Safety Officer
- Emergency Management Officer
- Emergency Management Team
- Business Continuity Team
- Sustainable Environment Advisory (SEA) Network Participants

In 2021-22 AIMS Emergency Management and Business Continuity teams played a critical role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of workers. A forward-thinking, flexible, risk-based approach that was centered around communication and collaboration, has facilitated continuity of operations with limited disruptive impacts from COVID-19. During 2021-22 three work-related COVID-19 cases were reported, all associated with overseas travel.

## Lost Time Injuries

There were 3 lost time injuries recorded in 2021-22. AIMS has consistently achieved low lost time injury rates over the past five years, averaging one per annum.

## Lead and Lag Indicators

AIMS' reporting culture remains strong, with the number of hazards around 30 per cent of all hazards and incidents reported. Of the 109 incidents reported, 2 resulted in restricted work or medical treatment injuries, and 14 involved minor first aid cases (Table 11). Year on year improvement has been achieved in the areas of safety delivery, with reductions to AIMS Injury Severity Rate, the number restricted work cases, and AIMS' total recordable injury frequency rate<sup>3</sup> which remained at or below target throughout the year; a period characterised by unprecedented organisational growth.

There were 3 notifiable incidents, 2 of which were work-related COVID cases.

No new workers' compensation claims were accepted under the Comcare workers' compensation scheme, in large part due to AIMS' early intervention program.

Table 11: AIMS safety reports, 2021-22:

<i>Notifiable Incidents: 3</i>	<i>Hazards: 33</i>
<i>Workers Compensation Claims: 0</i>	<i>Incident Reports: 109</i>
<i>Lost Time Injuries: 3</i>	

Of the five recordable injuries, one was attributable to *manual task work*. AIMS remains dedicated to reducing the number of manual task-related injuries, providing early intervention, training, and information, together with role-based functional assessments. Of the remaining 4 incidents, 2 were *falls on the same level*, 1 an *infection*, and 1 a *hit by moving object* incident.

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<sup>3</sup> Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) = AIMS Total Recordable Injuries (Lost Time Injuries + Restricted Work Cases + Medical Treatment Cases) / Total hours worked \*1000000. Note: The TRIFR calculation includes all recordable injuries, not just those that result in an approved workers compensation claims.



## Environmental Performance

We have delivered against our commitments to protecting the environment and conserving biodiversity during the year. In particular, we worked with multiple industries, government, the community and other scientific institutions and agencies on programs and projects dedicated to conserving and sustainably managing tropical marine resources. As a community leader and a Commonwealth statutory authority, we have both a moral obligation and a statutory obligation under the EPBC Act to protect and maintain the biodiversity and heritage under our control. Accordingly, we carefully guard against any avoidable adverse impacts on the environment arising from our own activities and work proactively to minimise the environmental footprint of our operations.

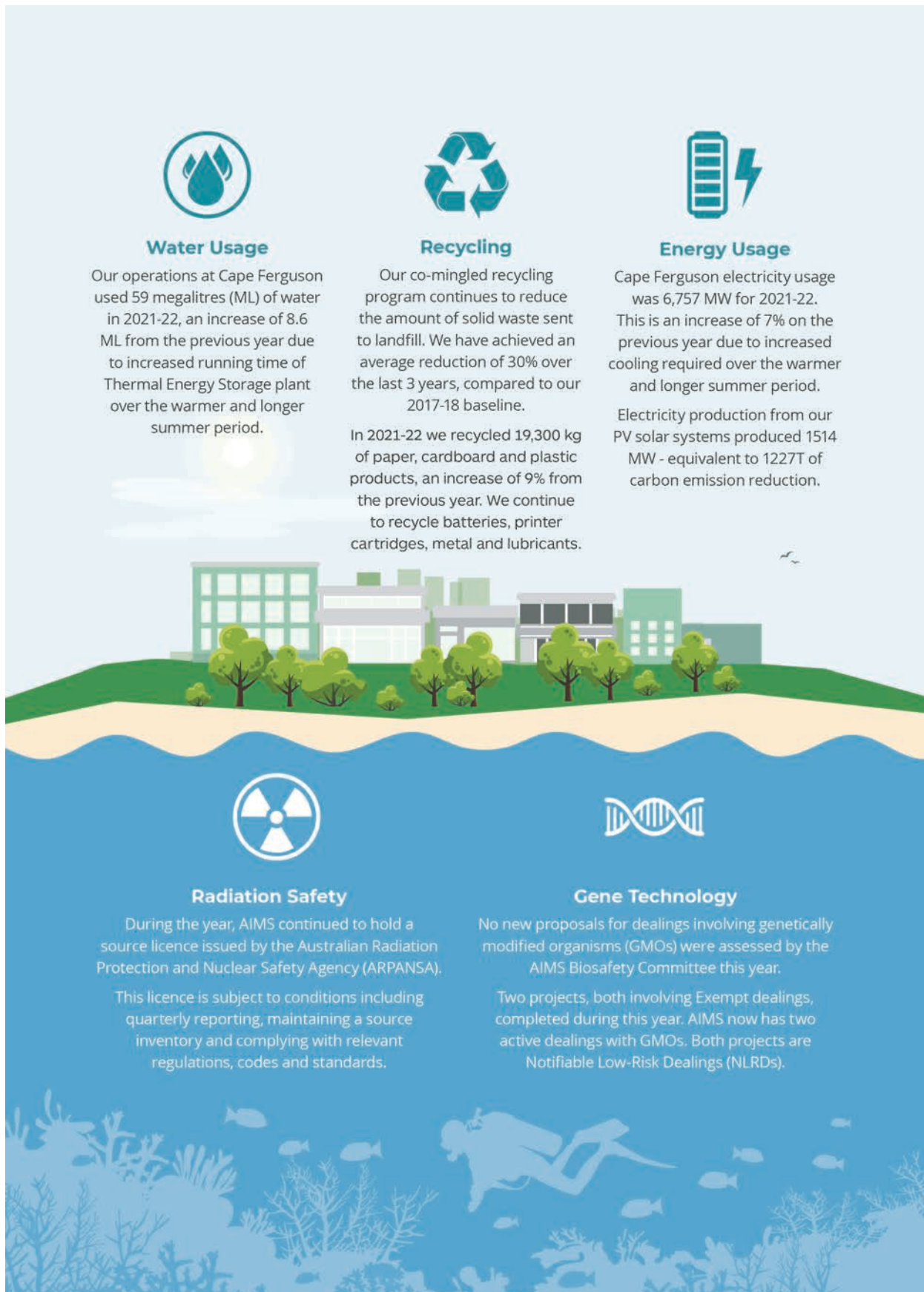
### Reducing Our Environmental Impacts

In 2021-22 AIMS made significant progress towards its strategic target of a 25 per cent reduction in own carbon emissions. The overall reduction in total carbon emissions compared with the base year of 2017-18 was 22 per cent. The most significant reductions were due to contributions from PV solar systems and procuring approximately 20 per cent of purchased electricity from renewable energy sources such as wind, hydro and biomass.

AIMS generates solar electricity at each of its three main sites in Townsville, Perth and Darwin with panels installed across the rooftops of our facilities. At our Townsville site, we also have a large ground-mounted array. Over the past year, our solar arrays have generated more than 1514 MW of electricity to power our science – over 22 per cent of our total electricity consumption, reducing our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately 1200 tonnes. We continue to investigate options to reduce and offset our carbon emissions.

Our recycling program continues to reduce solid waste to landfill with a 3 yearly average reduction of 29.5 per cent, however an increase from last year of 18.5 tonnes due to increase in construction waste.

Figure 12: Environmental Performance



## Our alignment to ecologically sustainable development

Table 12: Alignment and contribution to ESD Principles

Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Principle	Our Alignment and Contribution
Decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long-term and short term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations.	All AIMS work is assessed with ESD impact in mind. Projects are selected based on their environmental, economic, and social net value to the organisation, community and country in line with the AIMS Strategy 2025.
If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.	<p>AIMS complies with all major environmental laws and requirements in its operations and capital works.</p> <p>Environmental protection is mandated when planning and undertaking major capital works. Any proposed activities that may fall under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 are assessed for referral to the Department of the Environment and Energy. Proposals for new or modifications to existing facilities undergo rigorous internal safety, regulatory and environmental processes with independent oversight.</p> <p>A continuous improvement program is in place to reduce environmental impact through reducing energy and water consumption and waste generated.</p> <p>AIMS conducts large scale environmental monitoring programs and risk-based modelling to provide impartial advice on management and policy for government and industry decision makers. The organisation is leading the Australian research effort to identify innovative ways to assist coral reefs to recover from the impact of existing environmental conditions.</p>
The principle of inter-generational equity – that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.	<p>AIMS' Project Management Framework includes evaluations of future impact (targeting net social, economic and environmental benefits) for Australia. The organisation leads the global research effort to assist coral reefs in adapting to future environmental conditions to ensure the benefits of coral reefs are sustained for generations of Australians to come.</p> <p>AIMS actively integrates environmental responsibility and sustainability into our operations, minimising our environmental footprint through building infrastructure and behaviour change, and preventing, minimising and controlling pollution. Reducing our consumption of energy, water and resources not only supports sustainable objectives, it also contributes to our financial sustainability and allows us to redirect more funds into our science.</p>
The conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision-making.	AIMS provides monitoring, modelling and research ensuring that the impact of policy and decisions on biological diversity and ecological integrity are understood by tropical marine managers. AIMS works with managers and decision makers to deliver sustainability.
Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms should be promoted.	AIMS has no activities in this area.

# Part 5: Financial Statements

## Contents

### Independent Auditor's Report

### Statement by the Accountable Authority, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Officer

### Primary financial statements

- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Cash Flow Statement
- Budgetary Reporting of Major Variances

### Notes to and forming part of the financial statements:

#### Overview

#### 1. Financial performance

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Minister for the Environment and Water

#### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2022:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*;
- (b) comply with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*; and
- (c) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2022 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2022 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to the financial statements, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

As the Accountable Authority of the Entity, the Council is responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the Act) for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the rules made under the Act. The Council is also responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council is responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the Entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Council is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

GPO Box 707, Canberra ACT 2601  
38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603  
Phone (02) 6203 7300

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accountable Authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office



Bradley Medina  
Executive Director  
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra  
29 August 2022

**STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act and the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Australian Institute of Marine Science will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors and signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulations 2013*.

Signed



**Dr Elizabeth Woods OAM**  
**Chairman**  
**On behalf of the Accountable Authority**  
29<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Signed



**Dr Paul Hardisty**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
29<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Signed



**Mr Basil Ahyick**  
**Chief Finance Officer**  
29<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
for the period ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$'000	Restated <sup>1</sup> 2021 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>				
<b>Expenses</b>				
Employee Benefits	1.1A	34,801	33,029	38,220
Suppliers	1.1B	34,854	25,695	35,484
Depreciation and amortisation	2.2	15,742	12,568	13,208
Finance costs		20	19	18
Foreign exchange loss		4	22	-
Losses from asset disposal	2.2	186	216	88
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>85,607</b>	<b>71,549</b>	<b>87,018</b>
<b>Own-source Income</b>				
<b>Own-source revenue</b>				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	30,612	20,669	31,946
National Sea Simulator construction and operational expenses funding	1.2B	2,435	233	-
Interest on deposits		277	358	650
Other revenue		809	452	400
<b>Total own-source revenue</b>		<b>34,133</b>	<b>21,712</b>	<b>32,996</b>
<b>Gains</b>				
Gains from sale of assets		315	248	88
<b>Total gains</b>		<b>315</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Total own-source income</b>		<b>34,448</b>	<b>21,960</b>	<b>33,084</b>
<b>Net cost of services</b>		<b>(51,159)</b>	<b>(49,589)</b>	<b>(53,934)</b>
Revenue from Government		45,548	45,218	45,548
<b>Total Revenue from Government</b>		<b>45,548</b>	<b>45,218</b>	<b>45,548</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<b>(5,611)</b>	<b>(4,371)</b>	<b>(8,386)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>				
<b>Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services</b>				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		4,387	11,926	-
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>4,387</b>	<b>11,926</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<b>(1,224)</b>	<b>7,555</b>	<b>(8,386)</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1. Financial year 2021 numbers have been restated as per prior period error noted in overview section.



**Statement of Financial Position**  
as at 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$'000	Restated <sup>1</sup> 2021 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Financial Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	2.1A	45,872	25,165	250
Trade and other receivables	2.1B	9,290	8,864	10,304
Other investments	2.1C	20,000	28,000	30,125
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>75,152</b>	<b>62,029</b>	<b>40,679</b>
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>				
Buildings <sup>2</sup>	2.2	100,471	98,171	89,524
Infrastructure, plant & equipment	2.2	46,832	50,828	45,135
Computer software	2.2	2,069	4,589	3,462
Prepayments		3,041	3,170	3,694
Inventory		271	250	277
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>152,684</b>	<b>157,008</b>	<b>142,092</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>227,836</b>	<b>219,037</b>	<b>182,771</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Payables</b>				
Suppliers	2.3A	35,668	24,698	11,978
Salary and wages including oncosts		859	816	790
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>36,527</b>	<b>25,514</b>	<b>12,768</b>
<b>Interest bearing liabilities</b>				
Leases	2.3B	809	872	782
<b>Total interest bearing liabilities</b>		<b>809</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>782</b>
<b>Provisions</b>				
Employee provisions	3.1	12,253	13,180	15,419
Make good provision		17	17	-
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>12,270</b>	<b>13,197</b>	<b>15,419</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>49,606</b>	<b>39,583</b>	<b>28,969</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>178,230</b>	<b>179,454</b>	<b>153,802</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Contributed equity		88,357	88,357	88,357
Reserves		112,575	109,018	97,227
Retained earnings		(22,702)	(17,921)	(31,782)
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>178,230</b>	<b>179,454</b>	<b>153,802</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1. Financial year 2021 numbers have been restated as per prior period error noted in overview section.  
2. Right-of-use assets are included in the non-financial assets buildings line item.

**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
for the period ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$'000	Restated <sup>1</sup> 2021 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000
<b>CONTRIBUTED EQUITY</b>			
<b>Opening balance</b>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	88,357	88,357	88,357
<b>Total transactions with owners</b>	-	-	-
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>88,357</b>	<b>88,357</b>	<b>88,357</b>
<b>RETAINED EARNINGS</b>			
<b>Opening balance</b>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	(17,921)	(13,685)	(23,396)
<b>Comprehensive income</b>			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(5,611)	(4,371)	(8,386)
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>(5,611)</b>	<b>(4,371)</b>	<b>(8,386)</b>
Transfers between equity components	830	135	-
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>(22,702)</b>	<b>(17,921)</b>	<b>(31,782)</b>
<b>ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE</b>			
<b>Opening balance</b>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	109,018	97,227	97,227
<b>Comprehensive income</b>			
Other comprehensive income	4,387	11,926	-
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>4,387</b>	<b>11,926</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfers between equity components	(830)	(135)	-
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>112,575</b>	<b>109,018</b>	<b>97,227</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>			
<b>Opening balance</b>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	179,454	171,899	162,188
<b>Comprehensive income</b>			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(5,611)	(4,371)	(8,386)
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>(5,611)</b>	<b>(4,371)</b>	<b>(8,386)</b>
<b>Asset revaluation reserve</b>			
Other comprehensive income	4,387	11,926	-
<b>Total asset revaluation reserve</b>	<b>4,387</b>	<b>11,926</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>178,230</b>	<b>179,454</b>	<b>153,802</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1. Financial year 2021 numbers have been restated as per prior period error noted in overview section.

**Accounting Policy**

*Equity injections*

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions).

**Cash Flow Statement**  
for the period ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$'000	Restated <sup>1</sup> 2021 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Cash received</b>				
Receipts from Government		45,548	45,218	45,548
Sale of goods and rendering of services		26,270	21,244	31,979
National Sea Simulator construction and operational expenses funding		13,996	13,222	-
Interest		180	468	611
GST received		3,903	2,984	-
Receipts from other		805	415	400
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>90,702</b>	<b>83,551</b>	<b>78,538</b>
<b>Cash used</b>				
Employees		38,317	31,669	37,150
Suppliers		29,893	28,744	34,832
Interest payments on lease liabilities		20	19	18
GST paid		2,944	2,597	-
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>71,174</b>	<b>63,029</b>	<b>72,000</b>
<b>Net cash from/(used by) operating activities</b>		<b>19,528</b>	<b>20,522</b>	<b>6,538</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Cash received</b>				
Proceeds from sales of property, plant & equipment		315	248	-
Proceeds from other investments		8,272	-	1,422
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>8,587</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>1,422</b>
<b>Cash used</b>				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		7,325	7,851	7,997
Purchase of other investments		-	1,817	-
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>7,325</b>	<b>9,668</b>	<b>7,997</b>
<b>Net cash from/(used by) investing activities</b>		<b>1,262</b>	<b>(9,420)</b>	<b>(6,575)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Cash used</b>				
Principal payments of lease liabilities		83	65	37
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>83</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Net Cash from/(used by) Financing activities</b>		<b>(83)</b>	<b>(65)</b>	<b>(37)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>20,707</b>	<b>11,037</b>	<b>(74)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		25,165	14,128	324
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	2.1A	<b>45,872</b>	<b>25,165</b>	<b>250</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1. Financial year 2021 numbers have been restated as per prior period error noted in overview section.

**Budgetary Reporting of Major Variances (AASB1055)**

The Budget variances reporting commentary provides a comparison between the 2021-22 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) provided to Parliament in May 2021 and the final outcome in the 2021-22 financial statements. The PBS is not audited. Major changes in budget have been explained as part of the variance analysis where relevant.

Variances are considered to be 'major' where:

- (a) the variance between budget and actual is greater than +/-10% of the budget for the line items; and
- (b) the variance between budget and actual is greater than +/-2% of the relevant budget base.

Variance explanations will also be provided where there have been major changes to business activities that may not be numerically material but by nature may assist users in understanding underlying business changes that may have occurred since the original budget was released.

Where a revised budget has been presented to Parliament, AIMS may include variance explanations of major variances between the revised budget and actual amounts where they are considered relevant to an assessment of the discharge of accountability and to an analysis of the performance of AIMS.

Explanations of major variances	Affected line items/statements
<b>Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>	
Changes in AASB138 for cloud computing resulted in AIMS depreciating its Financial Management Information System (FMIS) over the 5 year agreement rather than the 10 year useful life, realising an additional \$2.338m to depreciation of Computer Software and a reduction of the asset.	Depreciation - 19%
AIMS disposed of a number of vehicles and scientific equipment this financial year, this amount is offset by proceeds from the sale of assets in gains.	Losses from asset disposal - 111%
<b>Revenue</b>	
Interest rates were below budget expectation of 1% even with increased cash from Department of Education, Skills and Employment for National Sea Simulator expansion.	Interest on deposits - 57%
An agreement to fund the National Sea Simulator expansion was signed with Department of Education, Skills and Employment after the 2021-22 budget. AIMS recognised \$2.435m for the construction and operational costs.	National Sea Simulator expansion funding
AIMS also had additional revenue from Department of Defence for ReefWorks project, a settlement of a weather station insurance claim from Cyclone Debbie and additional amounts funding Indigenous workshops.	Other revenue - 102% Receipts from other - 101%
<b>Gains</b>	
AIMS traded-in a number of vehicles this year and the amount received was above expectation.	Gains from sale of assets - 258%
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>	
<b>Assets</b>	
AIMS budgets for a cash balance of \$0.250m however financial reporting requirements for year end include investments that mature within three months after the financial year end, as cash on hand.	Cash and cash equivalents - 18249% and Other investments - 34%
Clarification of AASB138 for cloud computing resulted in AIMS depreciating its Financial Management Information System (FMIS) over the 5 year agreement rather than the 10 year useful life, realising an additional \$2.338m to depreciation of Computer Software and a reduction of the asset.	Computer software - 40%
With the increase in Federal Government IT security and growth in the organisation, AIMS has been required to increase our software programs and usage, these are prepaid over the term of the support agreement rather than a licence.	Prepayments - 18%
<b>Liabilities</b>	
AIMS budgeted for \$6.188m of suppliers at the end of year reflecting a proportion of end of month purchases, however actual purchases were lower than budgeted and accruals were lower than budgeted. AIMS has received \$13.222m in 2020-21 and \$14.463m in 2021-22 from Department of Education, Skills and Employment for the National Sea Simulator expansion project. The agreement was signed in June 2021 and not budgeted for in 2021-22. The design of building has been completed with construction to commence 2022-23. The year end valuation of leave provisions was impacted by strengthening interest rates resulting in a reduction in leave provisions of \$1.568m, in addition, lower than expected recruitment in 2021-22 contributed to further to lower leave provisions.	Suppliers - 198%  Employee provisions - 20.53%
<b>Statement of Changes in Equity</b>	
There was a number of adjustments entered outside of budget impacting AIMS deficit, these are: 1) Leave provision adjustment crediting expense of \$1.568m; 2) Income recognised for Sea Simulator expansion expenses of \$2.435m; and offset by 3) Increased depreciation for Cloud computing of \$2.338m.	Surplus/(Deficit) for the period - 31%
AIMS employee related expenses was also lower than expected with recruitment delays. An asset revaluation was conducted in 2020-21 and the adjustment to reserves was not budgeted. A further desktop revaluation was conducted in 2021-22 with an approx 4.5% increase to our buildings.	Asset revaluation reserve - 16%
<b>Cashflow Statement</b>	
Lower interest rates achieved caused lower interest receipts.	Interest - 71%
AIMS has received \$13.222m in 2020-21 and \$14.463m in 2021-22 from Department of Education, Skills and Employment for the National Sea Simulator expansion project. The agreement was signed in June 2021 and not budgeted for in 2021-22. The design of building has been completed with construction to commence 2022-23. AIMS paid invoices on-time as well as having minimal amount outstanding at EOFY.	National Sea Simulator expansion funding  Suppliers - 14%

## Overview

### Objectives of the Australian Institute of Marine Science

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) is a Corporate Commonwealth entity established by the *Australian Institute of Marine Science Act 1972*. It is a not-for-profit entity. AIMS registered office address is included at the front of the Annual Report.

The mission of AIMS is to provide the research and knowledge of Australia's tropical marine estate required to support growth in its sustainable use, effective environmental management and protection of its unique ecosystems.

The continued existence of AIMS in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing funding by Parliament for AIMS administration and science research programs.

### Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The financial statements and notes have been prepared in accordance with:

- Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* (FRR); and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations - including simplified disclosures for Tier 2 Entities under AASB 1060 issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.
- The financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

### Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, AIMS has made the following judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements.

- Recognition of revenue for rendering of services - Refer Note 1.2: Own-Source Revenue and Gains
- Fair value of buildings, plant and equipment - Refer Note 2.2: Non-Financial Assets
- Remaining useful lives of buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment - Refer Note 2.2: Non-Financial Assets
- Employee leave provision - Refer Note 3.1: Employee Provisions

No accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

### New Australian Accounting Standards

All new/revised standards and/or interpretations that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the current reporting period, did not have a material effect to AIMS' financial statements.

### AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities

AASB 1060 applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2021 and replaces the reduced disclosure requirements (RDR) framework. The application of AASB 1060 involves some reduction in disclosure compared to the RDR with no impact on the reported financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the entity.

### Disclosure of Prior Period Error (AASB 108)

At 18 June 2021, AIMS received a deposit of \$13,222m as a capital contribution in relation to a grant agreement between the Commonwealth represented by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment for the expansion and operation of the National Sea Simulator (NSS). Following a review of the funding agreement, it was determined that the funds were recognised as a capital contribution in error and that the funding received in relation to the grant agreement should be recognised in accordance with AASB 15 and AASB 1058 as a liability to the extent that the financial asset received was to enable AIMS to construct and operate a non-financial asset. AIMS will recognise income in the profit and loss as it satisfies its obligations under the grant agreement. As the error was made in the prior year, the 2021 comparative amounts have been restated.

The below adjustment has been made in these accounts:-

Prior year adjustments (2020-21)	Approved	Adjustment	Restated
	2021	2021	2021
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>			
National Sea Simulator construction and operational expenses funding - revenue	-	(233)	(233)
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(4,604)	233	(4,371)
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>			
National Sea Simulator construction and operational expenses funding - suppliers	-	(12,989)	(12,989)
Retained earnings	18,154	(233)	17,921
Contributed Equity	(101,579)	13,222	(88,357)

### Taxation

AIMS is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities are recognised net of GST, except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

### Insurance

AIMS is insured through the Federal Government self-insured managed insurance fund Comcover. Workers compensation is insured through Comcare.

### Events After the Reporting Period

There was no subsequent event that had the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of AIMS.

## Financial Performance

This section analyses the financial performance of Australian Institute of Marine Science for the year ended 2022.

### 1.1: Expenses

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>1.1A: Employee Benefits</b>		
Wages and salaries	27,286	24,825
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	3,289	2,943
Defined benefit plans	1,288	1,378
Leave and other entitlements	2,559	3,336
Separation and redundancies	50	246
Fringe Benefit Tax	329	301
<b>Total employee benefits</b>	<b>34,801</b>	<b>33,029</b>

#### Accounting Policy

Accounting policies for employee related expenses are contained in the People and relationships section.

### 1.1B: Suppliers

#### Goods and services supplied or rendered

Consultants	2,519	373
Contractors	2,227	1,809
Travel	1,155	504
Consumables	1,765	978
Repairs and maintenance	5,700	4,272
Electricity	1,271	1,252
Fuel, oil and gas	972	747
Hire of equipment	1,899	1,222
Labour Hire staff	2,885	2,099
Vessel management	4,390	4,175
Support for post-doctorate positions	2,382	1,441
ANAO Audit fees	52	52
Employee related expenses	942	931
IT expenses	1,518	1,332
General expenses - other	1,272	644
Science expenses - other	555	359
Property expenses - other	1,744	1,739
Communication expenses	667	749
Meeting expenses	255	246
Library expenses	252	459
Assistance to external providers	166	66
Legal and instrument registration expenses	130	103
Corporate memberships and subscription	72	97
<b>Total goods and services supplied or rendered</b>	<b>34,790</b>	<b>25,649</b>

#### Goods supplied

Goods supplied	6,298	4,164
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#### Services rendered

Services rendered	28,492	21,485
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#### Total goods and services supplied or rendered

<b>Total goods and services supplied or rendered</b>	<b>34,790</b>	<b>25,649</b>
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#### Other Suppliers

Workers compensation premiums	64	46
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#### Total other suppliers

<b>Total other suppliers</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>46</b>
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#### Total suppliers

<b>Total suppliers</b>	<b>34,854</b>	<b>25,695</b>
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#### Accounting Policy

##### Finance costs

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

## 1.2 Own-Source Revenue and Gains

	2022	Restated <sup>1</sup>
	\$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>Own-Source Revenue</b>		
<b>1.2A Revenue from contracts with customers</b>		
Rendering of services	30,612	20,669
<b>Total revenue from contracts with customers</b>	<b>30,612</b>	<b>20,669</b>
<b>Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers</b>		
Major product/service line:		
Research services	30,612	20,669
	<b>30,612</b>	<b>20,669</b>
Type of customer:		
Australian Government entities (related parties)	6,349	6,437
State and Territory Governments	2,040	1,637
Industry	6,997	4,025
Joint Australian and State and Territory Governments	-	12
Philanthropy	14,241	7,917
International Government	220	-
International Industry	300	149
International Philanthropic	465	492
	<b>30,612</b>	<b>20,669</b>
Timing of transfer of goods and services:		
Over time	16,111	15,511
Point in time	14,501	5,158
	<b>30,612</b>	<b>20,669</b>
<b>1.2B National Sea Simulator construction and operational expenses funding</b>		
National Sea Simulator construction and operational expenses funding	2,435	233
<b>Total revenue from National Sea Simulator construction and operational expenses funding</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>233</b>

1. Financial year 2021 numbers have been restated as per prior period error noted in overview section.

### Accounting Policy - AASB 15 & AASB 1058

AIMS contracts comprise of a number of performance obligations pertaining to research services. Under AASB, AIMS needs to first determine whether such a contract is in scope of AASB 15 or AASB 1058, that is whether the transaction is a contract with a customer (AASB 15) or a genuine donation or volunteer service (AASB 1058) or construction of an asset (AASB 1058).

The standard (AASB 15.9) specifies criteria which must be met for each contract to be in the scope of AASB 15. These are:

- The parties have approved the contract;
- AIMS can identify each party's rights regarding the goods or services to be transferred;
- AIMS can identify the payment terms for the transferred goods;
- The contract has commercial substance; and
- It is probable that AIMS will collect the consideration to which it is entitled.

Notwithstanding paragraph 15.9, in respect of not-for-profits, if a contract that would otherwise be within the scope of AASB 15 does not meet the criteria in paragraph 9 noted above, as it is unenforceable or not sufficiently specific, it is not a contract with a customer within the scope of AASB 15. AIMS shall consider the requirements of AASB 1058 in accounting for such contracts.

Additional considerations from the standard also contemplate cancellability of arrangements, and states a contract does not exist if each party to the contract has the unilateral enforceable right to terminate a wholly unperformed contract without compensating the other party.

A contract is wholly unperformed if both of the following criteria are met (AASB 15.12):

- AIMS has not yet transferred any promised goods or services to the customer; and
- AIMS has not yet received, and is not yet entitled to receive, any consideration in exchange for the promised goods or services.

If a contract does not meet the criteria above, AIMS shall continue to reassess the contract until the criteria are met. Once the criteria have been met, no subsequent reassessment is needed unless there is a significant change in circumstances (AASB 15.13 and 15.14).

AIMS recognises contract liabilities for consideration received in respect of performance obligations paid for up-front and reports these amounts as contractual liabilities in the statement of financial position. Similarly, if AIMS satisfies a performance obligation before it receives the consideration, AIMS recognises either a contractual asset or a receivable in its statement of financial position, depending on whether something other than the passage of time is required before the consideration is due.

The transaction price is the total amount of consideration to which AIMS expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring promised goods or services to a customer. The consideration promised in a contract with a customer may include fixed amounts, variable amounts, or both. AIMS recognises a construction liability for income received in respect of its obligations under construction grant agreement. AIMS will satisfy its obligations over-time during construction process (AASB 1058). The operations component of the grant agreement will recognise revenue, similar to contracts with customers, according to annual agreed activities (AASB 15) of the grant agreement otherwise refunds may be processed.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

### Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

### Interest

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

### Revenue from Government

Funding received or receivable from agencies (appropriated to AIMS as a corporate body payment item) is recognised as revenue from Government when the entity gains control of the funding unless the funding is in the nature of an equity injection or loan.

### Accounting Judgement and Estimates

Revenue recognition for contractual revenue with customers has significant judgements. The determination of the revenue recognition is on contractual term, distinction of research services over time or time and materials at a point in time, transaction price, satisfaction of control has passed to a client, identification of costs that can be capitalised and any material variations to contracts.

The total amount of donations received by AIMS under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC) was \$100 (2021: \$100).

## Financial Position

This section analyses the Australian Institute of Marine Science assets used to conduct its operations and the operating liabilities incurred as a result. Employee related information is disclosed in the People and Relationships section.

### 2.1 Financial Assets

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>2.1A: Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash on hand	4	4
Cash on deposit	45,868	25,161
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>45,872</b>	<b>25,165</b>

#### Accounting Policy

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes:

- a) Cash on hand; and
- b) demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

### 2.1B: Trade and Other Receivables

#### Services receivables from contracts with customers

Contract assets from contracts with customers	4,412	5,070
Goods and services	4,554	3,583
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office (net)	212	206
Interest	102	5
<b>Total services receivables</b>	<b>9,280</b>	<b>8,864</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</b>	<b>9,280</b>	<b>8,864</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>9,280</b>	<b>8,864</b>

The contract assets from contracts with customers are associated with research services.

Refer Note 2.3A for information relating to contract liabilities.

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2021: 30 days).

#### Accounting Policy

##### Financial Assets

Trade receivables and other receivables that are held for the purpose of collecting the contractual cash flows where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, that are not provided at below-market interest rates, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method adjusted for an loss allowance.

### 2.1C: Other Investments

Deposits greater than 3 months but less than 12 months	20,000	28,000
<b>Total other investments</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>28,000</b>



## 2.2 Non-Financial Assets

### 2.2. Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment and Computer Software

#### Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment and computer software 2022

	Buildings \$'000	Infrastructure Plant & Equipment \$'000	Computer Equipment \$'000	Computer Software \$'000	Vehicles \$'000	Equipment \$'000	Office \$'000	Ships, Launches & Vessels \$'000	Library Books \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2021</b>										
Gross book value	99,494	26,676	2,493	8,400	1,951	56	21,474	1	160,545	
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(1,323)	(1,119)	(91)	(3,811)	(216)	(3)	(394)	-	(6,957)	
<b>Net book value 1 July 2021</b>	<b>98,171</b>	<b>25,557</b>	<b>2,402</b>	<b>4,589</b>	<b>1,735</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>21,080</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>153,588</b>	
<b>Additions</b>										
Purchase of internally developed	76	2,201	2,219	30	684	21	1,130	-	6,361	
Work in progress transferred to capital	-	(2,424)	(1,521)	(879)	-	-	(430)	-	(5,254)	
Work in progress additions	2,756	1,511	537	1,340	31	-	43	-	6,218	
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	4,387	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,387	
Depreciation and amortisation	(4,826)	(4,574)	(660)	(3,011)	(899)	(14)	(1,665)	-	(15,649)	
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	(93)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(93)	
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other	-	(33)	(3)	-	(150)	-	-	-	(186)	
<b>Net book value 30 June 2022</b>	<b>100,471</b>	<b>22,238</b>	<b>2,874</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>20,158</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>149,372</b>	
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2022 represented by</b>										
Gross book value	106,707	27,923	3,727	8,952	2,330	76	22,217	1	171,873	
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(6,236)	(5,685)	(753)	(6,883)	(929)	(16)	(2,059)	-	(22,501)	
<b>Net book value 30 June 2022</b>	<b>100,471</b>	<b>22,238</b>	<b>2,974</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>20,158</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>149,372</b>	

#### Depreciation rates are based on the following useful lives:

	5-72 years	2-42 years	4-23 years	2-10 years	4-12 years	5-30 years	3-25 years	10-20 years

- The carrying amount of computer software included \$210,000 purchased software and \$1,859,000 internally generated software.
- No property, plant and equipment and intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months. All software-as-a-service (SaaS) is depreciated over the term of the contractual agreement.
- In 2022 the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment included \$2,352,614 relating to expenditure incurred in the course of construction.

There are no contractual commitments for the construction of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets.

#### Revaluations of non-financial assets

In the current year a desktop valuation was completed by Pickles Valuation Services (PVS) as at 30 June 2022. For assets classified as having Level 2 inputs, PVS compared the Written Down Value (WDV) of the assets against similar assets in the most appropriate active market. This enabled PVS to ascertain that the WDV was materially in line with observable market data. For assets that PVS were unable to be valued by identifiable observable market data an alternative approach was utilized. These assets were valued by the cost approach method, a depreciated replacement cost (DRC) approach, utilising Level 3 inputs. In doing so, the PVS review ensured the estimated replacement cost, total useful lives (TUL), and remaining useful lives (RUL) were in line with industry standards to ensure the DRC calculation was reliable. PVS have relied upon previous valuation and asset lives data to conduct this review.

The next scheduled comprehensive revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment is in 2023-24 by an independent valuer.

All increases and decreases are transferred to the asset revaluation surplus by asset class and included in the equity section of the statement of financial position. Any disposals of revalued assets, the revaluation amount is transferred to the retained surplus/deficit account. \$830,000 was recognised as a decrement (2021: \$135,000).

## 2.2 Non-Financial Assets (cont)

### Accounting Policy

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

### Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the statement of financial position, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total such as IT equipment).

### Lease Right of Use (ROU) Assets

Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise the initial lease liability amount, initial direct costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentives received. These assets are accounted for by Commonwealth lessees as separate asset classes to corresponding assets owned outright, but included in the same column as where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned.

Following initial capitalisation, an impairment review is undertaken for any right of use lease asset that shows indicators of impairment and an impairment loss is recognised against any right of use lease asset that is impaired. Lease ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition in Commonwealth agency, GGS and Whole of Government financial statements.

### Revaluations

Following initial recognition at cost, property plant and equipment (excluding ROU assets) are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations were conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets do not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments were made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment was credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation surplus except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluations decrements for a class of assets were recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset restated to the revalued amount.

### Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the AIMS using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation. Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

The depreciation rates for ROU assets are based on the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the ROU asset or the end of the lease term.

### Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The fair value of property, plant and equipment is assessed at market value or current replacement costs as determined by an independent valuer. Every 3 years a full revaluation is completed and in between those years a desktop valuation is completed.

### Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2022. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if AIMS were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

## 2.2 Non-Financial Assets (cont)

### Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

### Computer software

These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Computer software costing less than \$2,000 is expensed in the year of acquisition. Computer software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life and SaaS assets over the contractual term of the agreement. All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2022.

### Inventory

Inventories held for distribution are valued at cost, adjusted for any loss of service potential. Costs incurred in bringing each item of inventory to its present location and condition are assigned as follows:

- a) raw materials and stores – purchase cost on a first-in-first-out basis; and
- b) finished goods and work-in-progress – cost of direct materials and labour plus attributable costs that can be allocated on a reasonable basis.

## 2.3 Payables

	2022 \$'000	Restated <sup>1</sup> 2021 \$'000
<b>2.3A: Suppliers</b>		
Trade creditors and accruals	1,870	2,672
Contract liabilities from contracts with customers	8,782	9,037
National Sea Simulator construction and operational expenses funding	25,016	12,989
<b>Total suppliers</b>	<b>35,668</b>	<b>24,698</b>

The contract liabilities are associated with research services contracts.

Refer Note 2.1B for information relating to contract assets.

1. Financial year 2021 numbers have been restated as per prior period error noted in overview section.

### **2.3B: Leases**

Lease liabilities	809	872
<b>Total leases</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>872</b>

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2022 was \$89,723 (2021: \$64,936).

AIMS in its capacity as lessee has significant leasing arrangements at Port of Townsville for vessel berthing facilities. The lease has a monthly amount payable with annual CPI inflator clauses over 25 years.

### **Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows**

Within one year	83	90
Between one to five years	237	260
More than five years	623	689
<b>Total leases</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>1,039</b>

The above lease disclosure should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 2.2.

### **Accounting Policy**

For all new contracts entered into, AIMS considers whether the contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. Once it has been determined that a contract is, or contains a lease, the lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate is readily determinable, or the Governments incremental borrowing rate. Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification to the lease. When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset or profit and loss depending on the nature of the reassessment or modification.

### **Short-term leases and lease of low-value assets**

AIMS has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of assets that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (less than \$10,000). AIMS recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over lease term, these expenses are included in Hire of equipment.

## People and relationships

This section describes a range of employment and post employment benefits provided to our people and our relationships with other key people.

### 3.1 Employee Provisions

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>3.1: Employee Provisions</b>		
Leave	<u>12,253</u>	<u>12,846</u>
<b>Total employee provisions</b>	<u>12,253</u>	<u>12,846</u>

#### Accounting Policy

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

Other long term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligation are to be settled directly.

#### Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of AIMS is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including AIMS's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

#### Superannuation

AIMS staff are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap), or other superannuation funds held outside the Australian Government.

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. All other schemes are defined (accumulated funds) contribution schemes.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported by the Department of Finance administered schedules and notes.

AIMS makes employer contributions to the employees' superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. AIMS accounts for contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

#### Accounting Judgements and Estimates

Leave provisions involve assumptions based on the expected tenure of existing staff, patterns of leave claims and payouts, future salary movements and future discount rates.



### 3.3 Related Party Disclosures

#### Related party relationships

AIMS is a Commonwealth controlled entity. Related parties to AIMS are Board members, Executive and Senior Management, the Portfolio Minister, and other Commonwealth controlled entities. There are 4 family members of Key Management Personnel employed by AIMS and other Commonwealth controlled entities in non-executive positions.

#### Transactions with related parties

Board members and their related parties may hold positions in other entities that result in them having control or significant influence over the financial or operating policies of those entities.

Given the breadth of Government activities, related parties may transact with the Government sector in the same capacity as ordinary citizens. Such transactions include the payment or refund of taxes, receipt of Medicare rebate or Higher Education loans. These transactions have not been separately included in this note. Certain entities transacted with AIMS in the reporting period. The terms and conditions of those transactions with key management personnel and their related parties were no more favourable than those available, or which might reasonably be expected to be available, on a similar transactions to non-related entities on an arm's length basis.

#### Loans to Key Management Personnel or Key Management Personnel-Related Entities

In 2021-22, no loans were made to key management personnel or key management personnel-related entities.

#### Other Transactions with Key Management Personnel or Key Management Personnel-Related Entities

Details of transactions between key management personnel and related parties during the year for the purchase of science services were:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
James Cook University	976	737
University of Tasmania	106	55
University of Western Australia	282	333
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>1,125</b>

Details of transactions between key management personnel and related parties during the year for the rendering of science services were:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Great Barrier Reef Foundation	2,452	4,964
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	1,412	1,524
James Cook University	154	159
Reef and Rainforest Research Centre	-	452
University of Tasmania	5,258	4,746
University of Western Australia	104	106
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,380</b>	<b>11,951</b>

AIMS transacts with Australian Government related entities consistent with normal day-to-day business operations provided under normal terms and conditions, including the purchase and rendering of science services.

Details of transactions with related entities during the year for the purchase of science services were:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	66	287
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	192	177
<b>Total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>464</b>

Details of transactions with related entities during the year for the rendering of science services were:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Anindilyakwa Land Council	143	-
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	1,412	1,524
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	82	-
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	78	-
Department of Defence	156	-
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	-	200
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	165	-
Director of National Parks	213	371
Torres Strait Regional Authority	54	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,303</b>	<b>2,095</b>

Details of balances outstanding at year end for purchase of science services were:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	-	16
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	-	67
James Cook University	73	118
University of Western Australia	-	151
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>352</b>

Details of balances outstanding at year end for rendering of science services were:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Anindilyakwa Land Council	35	-
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	7	-
Department of Defence	55	-
Director of National Parks	90	-
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	-	22
James Cook University	13	12
University of Tasmania	1,147	86
University of Western Australia	83	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>120</b>

There were no other transactions with related entities during the year.

## Managing Uncertainties

This section analyses how the Australian Institute of Marine Science manages financial risks within its operating environment.

### 4.1 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

#### Contingent assets

	2022	2021
<b>Guarantees</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Balance from previous period	44	111
Rights expired	(44)	(67)
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>44</b>

#### Quantifiable Contingencies

AIMS does not hold any performance guarantees (2021: \$44,000). Performance guarantees include Bank guarantees in relation to the refurbishment of AIMS's buildings.

#### Unquantifiable Contingencies

AIMS has a 25 year lease on a berthing facility with Port of Townsville. At the expiry of the lease AIMS is required to carry out its own cost remediation work necessary to return the level of contamination in the leased land to a level as prescribed by Assessment and Management of Containment Land in Queensland (May 1998). AIMS is unable to reliably estimate the cost of any future remediation.

#### Accounting Policy

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

#### Accounting Judgements and Estimates

AIMS does not hold any or transport dangerous goods and/or chemicals at the Port of Townsville property and we are required to formally assess the property every 5 years for contamination by an independent environmental assessor therefore our estimate is that there will be no contamination of the Townsville Port land over the lease period and we will not be required to complete any remediation work at the end of the lease.

## 4.2 Financial Instruments

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>4.2: Categories of Financial Instruments</b>		
<b>Financial Assets under amortised costs</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	45,872	25,165
Other investments	20,000	28,000
Trade and other receivables	9,280	8,864
<b>Total financial assets - amortised cost</b>	<b>75,152</b>	<b>62,029</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
<b>Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</b>		
Suppliers	35,668	24,698
<b>Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</b>	<b>35,668</b>	<b>24,698</b>

### Accounting Policy

#### Financial Assets

AIMS classifies its financial assets measured at amortised cost as per AASB 9 Financial Instruments.

The classification depends on both AIMS business model for managing the financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised when AIMS becomes a party to the contract and, as a consequence, has a legal right to receive or a legal obligation to pay cash and derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash from the financial asset expire or are transferred upon trade date.

#### Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on Expected Credit Losses, using the general approach which measures the loss allowance based on an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses where risk has significantly increased, or an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses if risk has not increased.

The simplified approach for trade, contract and lease receivables is used. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses.

A write-off constitutes a derecognition event where the write-off directly reduces the gross carrying amount of the financial asset.

#### Financial Assets at amortised cost

Financial assets included in this category need to meet two criteria:

1. the financial asset is held in order to collect the contractual cash flows; and
2. the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) on the principal outstanding amount.

Amortised cost is determined using the effective interest rate method.

#### Effective interest rate

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis for financial assets that are recognised at amortised cost.

#### Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

#### Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective interest basis.

Suppliers and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (irrespective of having been invoiced).



#### 4.3 Fair Value Measurements

##### Accounting Policy

AIMS deems transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy to have occurred at 30 June 2022.

##### 4.3: Fair Value Measurements

	Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period	
	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>Non-financial assets</b>		
Buildings	100,471	98,171
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	22,238	25,557
Ships, launches & vessels	20,158	21,080
Computer equipment	2,974	2,402
Vehicles	1,401	1,735
Office equipment	60	53
Library books	1	1
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>	<b>147,303</b>	<b>148,999</b>

1. The following valuation techniques were used:

Cost approach: based on the amount required to replace the service potential of an asset

Market approach: based on market transactions involving identical or similar assets or liabilities

AIMS procured valuation services from Pickles Valuation Services (PVS) and relied on valuation models provided by PVS. PVS re-tests the valuation model every 12 months and has provided written assurance to AIMS that the model developed is compliant with AASB 13.

## Other Information

### 5.1 Current / non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

#### 5.1: Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

	2022	Restated <sup>1</sup>
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Assets expected to be recovered in:</b>		
<b>No more than 12 months</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	45,872	25,165
Trade and other receivables	9,280	8,864
Other investments	20,000	28,000
Inventory	271	250
Prepayments	780	773
<b>Total no more than 12 months</b>	<b>76,203</b>	<b>63,052</b>
<b>More than 12 months</b>		
Buildings	100,471	98,171
Infrastructure, plant & equipment	22,238	25,557
Computer equipment	2,974	2,402
Computer software	2,069	4,589
Vehicles	1,401	1,735
Office Equipment	60	53
Ships, launches and vessel	20,158	21,080
Library books	1	1
Prepayments	2,261	2,397
<b>Total more than 12 months</b>	<b>151,633</b>	<b>155,985</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>227,836</b>	<b>219,037</b>
<b>Liabilities expected to be settled in:</b>		
<b>No more than 12 months</b>		
Suppliers	35,668	24,698
Salary and wages including oncosts	859	816
Leases	66	100
Employee provisions	11,074	11,723
<b>Total no more than 12 months</b>	<b>47,667</b>	<b>37,337</b>
<b>More than 12 months</b>		
Leases	743	772
Make good provision	17	17
Employee provisions	1,179	1,457
<b>Total more than 12 months</b>	<b>1,939</b>	<b>2,246</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>49,606</b>	<b>39,583</b>

1. Financial year 2021 numbers have been restated as per prior period error noted in overview section.

### 5.2 Management of Great Barrier Reef Foundation Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program funds

#### 5.2 Management of Great Barrier Reef Foundation Reef Restoration and Adaptation funds

From 1 July 2020, AIMS has managed the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP) funds on behalf of the RRAP collaboration partnership. AIMS has created separate bank accounts to manage these funds and the balance of these accounts as at 30 June 2022 is \$5,155,249 (2021: \$3,073,422). These funds do not form part of these accounts.

## Supplementary Financial Information (Unaudited)

### SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

#### NOTE 1:

##### Revenue comparison

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Appropriation revenue</b>					
Operating	36,826	39,356	36,752	37,197	<b>37,527</b>
Asset replacement	8,021	8,021	8,021	8,021	<b>8,021</b>
<b>Total appropriation revenue</b>	<b>41,552</b>	<b>44,847</b>	<b>44,773</b>	<b>45,218</b>	<b>45,548</b>
<b>Non-appropriation revenue</b>					
Revenue from contracts with customers <sup>1</sup>	21,426	20,798	15,291	20,669	<b>30,612</b>
NSS construction and operating funding	-	-	-	233	<b>2,435</b>
Interest	1,027	1,111	675	358	<b>277</b>
Other revenue	580	468	924	452	<b>809</b>
<b>Total non-appropriation revenue</b>	<b>18,391</b>	<b>23,032</b>	<b>16,890</b>	<b>21,712</b>	<b>34,133</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>59,943</b>	<b>67,879</b>	<b>61,663</b>	<b>66,930</b>	<b>79,681</b>
Non-appropriation ratio <sup>2</sup>	31%	34%	27%	32%	<b>43%</b>

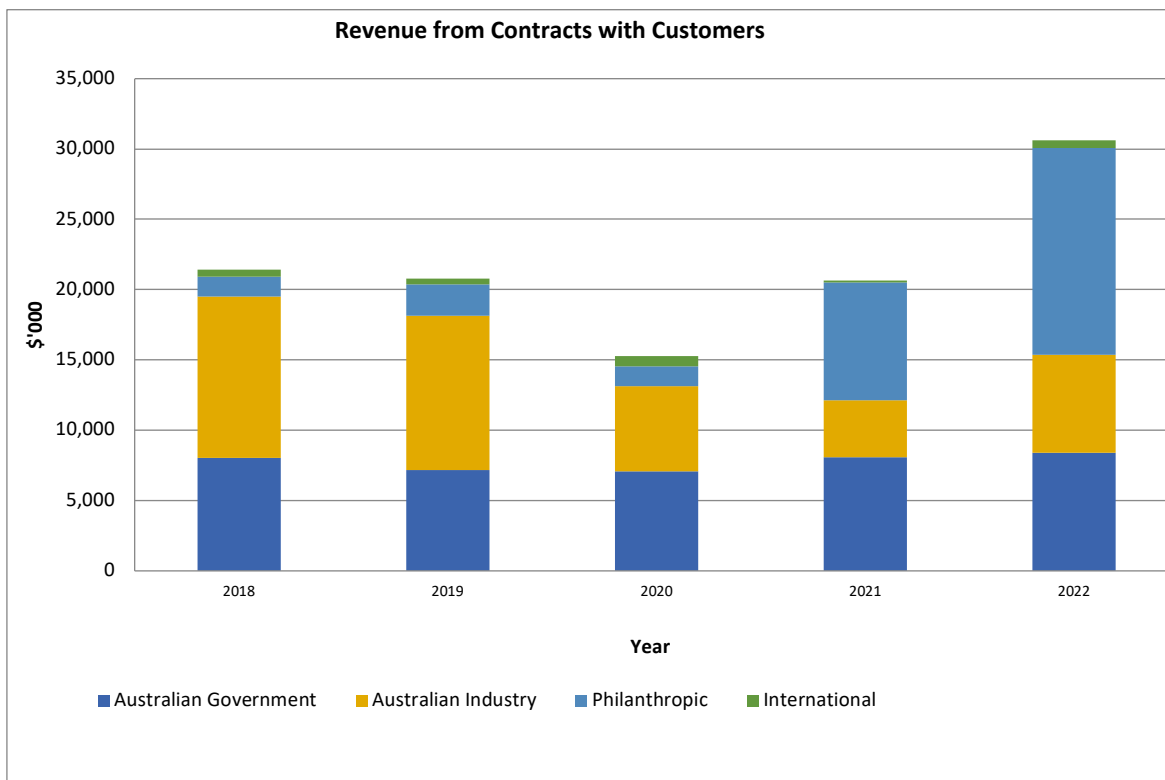
<sup>1</sup>Revenue from contracts with customers is for AIMS research services (see note 1.2A).

<sup>2</sup>Non-appropriation ratio is percentage non-appropriation revenue of total revenue.

#### NOTE 2:

##### Revenue from contracts with customers by sector

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Australian Government	8,035	7,174	7,077	8,074	<b>8,389</b>
Australian Industry	11,465	10,956	6,065	4,037	<b>6,997</b>
Philanthropic	1,416	2,236	1,422	8,409	<b>14,706</b>
International	510	432	727	149	<b>520</b>
	<b>21,426</b>	<b>20,798</b>	<b>15,291</b>	<b>20,669</b>	<b>30,612</b>



**SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)**

**NOTE 3: Cost of output by research programs 2021-22**

	Variable \$'000	Salaries \$'000	Fixed Depreciation \$'000	Overheads \$'000	Total \$'000	
A Healthy and Resilient Great Barrier Reef	4,399	8,140	6,993	275	14,199	
Sustainable Coastal Ecosystems & Industries in Tropical Australia	2,235	6,070	4,317	936	9,719	
Sustainable Use of North-West Marine Ecosystems	1,865	4,298	654	248	5,065	
Research Services	876	2,418	0	75	2,415	
Office of Executive Director Strategic Development	1,650	3,436	236	741	4,347	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,025</b>	<b>24,362</b>	<b>12,200</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>35,745</b>	
Percentage of total expenses	13%	28%	14%	3%	42%	100%

# Part 6: Appendices and Indexes

## Appendix A: Science Publications

AIMS' complete bibliography for 2021-22 is available at <https://www.aims.gov.au/information-centre/corporate-publications/annual-reports>

## Appendix B: External Committees and Non-Government Organisations and Positions

A list of external committees and non-government organisations and positions in which AIMS participates is available at <https://www.aims.gov.au/information-centre/corporate-publications/annual-reports>

# Indexes

## Acronyms

Acronym	Term in full
ACEMS	ARC Centre of Excellence for Mathematical and Statistical Frontiers of Big Data, Big Models, New Insights
ACSRF	Australia-China Strategic Research Fund
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
AIMS Act	Australian Institute of Marine Science Act 1972
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ARC	Australian Research Council
ASSETS	Aboriginal Summer School for Excellence in Technology and Science
ATSIMS	Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in Marine Science
AUV	Autonomous Underwater Vehicle
BCT	Business Continuity Team
BRII	Business Research Innovation Initiative
BRUVS	Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations
CDU	Charles Darwin University
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
pCO <sub>2</sub>	partial pressure of carbon dioxide
CNRS	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
CoE	Centre of Excellence
COO	Chief Operating Officer
COS	Centre for Ocean Solutions
CoTS	Crown of Thorns Starfish
COVID-19	Coronavirus
CPSU	Community and Public Sector Union
CSC	Commonwealth Science Council

Acronym	Term in full
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DISER	Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
DSN	Dredging Science Node
EMT	Emergency Management Team
EMBA	Environment that May Be Affected
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
FOI	Freedom of Information
FOI Act	Freedom of Information Act 1982
FRR	Financial Reporting Rule
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
FY	Financial Year
GBR	Great Barrier Reef
GBRF	Great Barrier Reef Foundation
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GHHP	Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership
GST	Goods and Services Tax
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IMOS	Integrated Marine Observing System
IOMRC	Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre
IPS	Information Publication Scheme
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JCU	James Cook University
KPI	key performance indicator



Acronym	Term in full
LTMP	Long-Term Monitoring Program
MMP	Marine Monitoring Program
MP	Member of Parliament
NCRIS	Research Infrastructure Strategy
NESP	National Environmental Science Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMSC	National Marine Science Committee
NOAA	US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOPSEMA	National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority
NPS	Net Promoter Score
NSTC	National Science and Technology Council
NWS	North West Shelf
NWSSRP	North West Shoals to Shore Research Program
OAIC	Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
PBS	Portfolio Budget Statement
PGPA Act	Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013
PID Act	Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013
PMC	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PMO	Project Management Office
PMS	Project Management System
POGO	Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans
PwC	PricewaterhouseCoopers
QUT	Queensland University of Technology
RAC	Reef Advisory Committee
RDP	Research Data Platform
RRAP	Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program
RIMReP	Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program

Acronym	Term in full
RV	Research Vessel
SeaSim	National Sea Simulator
SME	Small to Medium Enterprise
STEM	Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics
TGM	Tactical Global Management
UCPH	University of Copenhagen
UN	United Nations
UQ	University of Queensland
UTAS	University of Tasmania
UWA	The University of Western Australia
WA	Western Australia
WAMSI	Western Australian Marine Science Institution
WAM-V	Wave Adaptive Modular Vessel
WHS Act	Work Health and Safety Act

## List of Requirements

AIMS' requirement for annual reporting is outlined under s. 7 (2) of the AIMS Act, which states that the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 applies to the Institute. That Act deals with matters relating to corporate Commonwealth entities, including reporting and the use and management of public resources.

The list below shows AIMS' compliance with annual report information requirements for corporate Commonwealth entities as stipulated under s. 46 of Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act).

The annual financial statements (Part 5 of this report) were prepared in accordance with ss. 42 and 43 of the PGPA Act and the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015.

This annual report complies with parliamentary standards of presentation and printing and uses plain English and clear design.

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17BE	<b>Contents of annual report</b>		
17BE(a)	Part 1 Overview - About AIMS Part 3 Management and Accountability - Role and Legislation	Details of the legislation establishing the body	Mandatory
17BE(b)(i)	Part 3 Management and Accountability - Role and Legislation	A summary of the objects and functions of the entity as set out in legislation	Mandatory
17BE(b)(ii)	Part 3 Management and Accountability - Role and Legislation	The purposes of the entity as included in the entity's corporate plan for the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(c)	Part 3 Management and Accountability - Responsible Minister	The names of the persons holding the position of responsible Minister or responsible Ministers during the reporting period, and the titles of those responsible Ministers	Mandatory
17BE(d)	Part 3 Management and Accountability - Government Engagement	Directions given to the entity by the Minister under an Act or instrument during the reporting period	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(e)	Part 3 Management and Accountability - Government Engagement	Any government policy order that applied in relation to the entity during the reporting period under section 22 of the Act	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(f)	Part 3 Management and Accountability Government Engagement	Particulars of non compliance with: (a) a direction given to the entity by the Minister under an Act or instrument during the reporting period; or (b) a government policy order that applied in relation to the entity during the reporting period under section 22 of the Act	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(g)	Part 2 Performance Statements	Annual performance statements in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the rule	Mandatory
17BE(h), 17BE(i)	Part 3 Management and Accountability Duty to inform & Ministerial issues Fraud control	A statement of significant issues reported to the Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non compliance with finance law and action taken to remedy non compliance	If applicable, mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17BE	<b>Contents of annual report</b>		
17BE(j)	Part 3 Management and Accountability Governance, AIMS Council	Information on the accountable authority, or each member of the accountable authority, of the entity during the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(k)	Part 4 Our People Organisational Structure	Outline of the organisational structure of the entity (including any subsidiaries of the entity)	Mandatory
17BE(ka)	Part 4 Our People Staff	Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and non ongoing basis, including the following: (a) statistics on full time employees; (b) statistics on part time employees; (c) statistics on gender; (d) statistics on staff location	Mandatory
17BE(l)	Part 1 Overview About AIMS	Outline of the location (whether or not in Australia) of major activities or facilities of the entity	Mandatory
17BE(m)	Part 3 Management and Accountability Corporate Governance	Information relating to the main corporate governance practices used by the entity during the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(n), 17BE(o)	Part 3 Management and Accountability Related Parties Part 5 Financial Statements section 3.3	For transactions with a related Commonwealth entity or related company where the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the aggregate of those transactions, is more than \$10,000 (inclusive of GST): (a) the decision making process undertaken by the accountable authority to approve the entity paying for a good or service from, or providing a grant to, the related Commonwealth entity or related company; and (b) the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the number of transactions and the aggregate of value of the transactions	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(p)	Part 2 Performance Statements Results and Commentary on Performance	Any significant activities and changes that affected the operation or structure of the entity during the reporting period	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(q)	n/a	Particulars of judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(r)	Part 3 Management and Accountability Public Accountability	Particulars of any reports on the entity given by: (a) the Auditor General (other than a report under section 43 of the Act); or (b) a Parliamentary Committee; or (c) the Commonwealth Ombudsman; or (d) the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(s)	n/a	An explanation of information not obtained from a subsidiary of the entity and the effect of not having the information on the annual report	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(t)	Part 3 Management and Accountability Indemnities and Insurance Premiums for Officers	Details of any indemnity that applied during the reporting period to the accountable authority, any member of the accountable authority or officer of the entity against a liability (including premiums paid, or agreed to be paid, for insurance	If applicable, mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17BE	<b>Contents of annual report</b>		
		against the authority, member or officer's liability for legal costs)	
17BE(taa)	Part 3 Management and Accountability Governance, Audit Committee, AIMS Council Part 5 Financial Statements section 3.2	The following information about the audit committee for the entity: (a) a direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the audit committee; (b) the name of each member of the audit committee; (c) the qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the audit committee; (d) information about each member's attendance at meetings of the audit committee; (e) the remuneration of each member of the audit committee	Mandatory
17BE(ta)	Part 5 Financial Statements section 3.2	Information about executive remuneration	Mandatory

<b>Performance Statement</b>		
The accountable authority must include a copy of the annual performance statements in the entity's annual report that is tabled in the Parliament. The annual performance statements must: (a) provide information about the entity's performance in achieving its purposes; and (b) comply with any requirements prescribed by the rules.	s. 39(1) and (2)	Part 2 Performance Statements
The performance statement must include a statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>declaring that the performance statements are prepared for section 39(1)(a) of the PGPA Act and any other applicable legislation</li> <li>specifying the reporting period for which the performance statements are prepared</li> <li>declaring that, in the opinion of the accountable authority, the performance statements accurately present the entity's performance and comply with s. 39(2) of the PGPA Act.</li> </ul>	s. 16F(2)	Part 2 Performance Statements
The performance statement must include the results of the measurement and assessment of performance.	s. 16F(2)	Part 2 Performance Statements
The performance statement must include an analysis of the factors that contributed to the entity's performance, including any changes to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the entity's purpose, activities or organisational capacity; or</li> <li>the environment in which the entity operated that may have had a significant impact on performance.</li> </ul>	s. 16F(2)	Part 2 Performance Statements Results and Commentary on Performance

<b>Financial statement</b>		
The accountable authority must prepare annual financial statements and given to the Auditor-General.	s. 42(1)	Part 5 Financial Statements

<b>Financial statement</b>		
The accountable authority must ensure that all the subsidiaries' financial statements are audited by the Auditor-General.	s. 44(2)	n/a
A copy of the financial statement and the Auditor-General's report must be included in the annual report.	s. 43(4)	Part 5 Financial Statements
The financial statement must comply with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015.	s. 42(2)(a)	Part 5 Financial Statements

<b>Other requirements</b>		
Statement of Expectations	Suggested practice	Part 2 Performance Statements Statement of Ministerial Expectations
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	EPBC Act Section 516A(6)	Part 4 Our People Environmental Performance
Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act 1997	EEO Act Section 9	Part 4 Our People Equal Opportunity and Workforce Diversity
Work Health and Safety Act 2011	WHS Act Section 4(1)	Part 4 Our People Health and Safety
Privacy Act 1988		Part 3 Management and Accountability Privacy Act 1988
Freedom of Information Act 1982	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC)	Part 3 Management and Accountability Freedom of Information Act 1982
National Disability Strategy 2010–2020	PMC	Part 4 Our People Equal Opportunity and Workforce Diversity
Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013	PID Act	Part 3 Management and Accountability Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013
Fraud control		Part 3 Management and Accountability Fraud Control





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