

## Science Advisory Panel – Expression of Interest

***The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) is establishing a Science Advisory Panel and is seeking expressions of interest from experienced leaders and experts to contribute independent perspectives on the future of our science.***

The Panel will bring together diverse expertise and perspectives to help AIMS consider how its research can address national needs, translate into meaningful outcomes and deliver public value.

### Purpose

The Science Advisory Panel will provide independent, external advice to the AIMS CEO and Executive Leadership Team on:

- the strategic direction and priorities of AIMS' research portfolio, including alignment with government priorities and national needs;
- the quality, credibility and impact of AIMS' research, including the feasibility of impact pathways and readiness for translation;
- emerging scientific opportunities, risks, knowledge needs and capability gaps;
- barriers to adoption and opportunities to improve research uptake and impact;
- equity, inclusion, sustainability and the long-term benefits of AIMS' research; and
- the public value generated through AIMS' research and investment.

The Panel will be a source of challenge, validation, and strategic insight. It is not a decision-making body, and advice and recommendations provided to the CEO are non-binding.

### Membership

The Panel will comprise up to six external members, including an independent Chair. Collectively, members will bring a breadth of expertise across AIMS' Strategy 2040 themes — Future Reefs, Coastal Futures, Blue Economy, Digital Oceans and First Nations Innovations — as well as relevant experience across marine and environmental science, policy, industry, research translation, data and digital technologies, and First Nations knowledge and Sea Country management.

Applicants may bring expertise across one or more of these areas. The Panel will be appointed as a collective, with consideration given to the breadth and complementarity of skills, experience and perspectives across the membership.

### Role of Chair

The Chair is appointed by the Chief Executive Officer through a merit-based selection process. The Chair is responsible for leading the Panel, facilitating effective meetings, ensuring balanced and constructive participation, endorsing Panel reports and advice, and acting as the primary liaison between the Panel and the Chief Executive Officer.

## Role Panel Members

Panel members are responsible for reviewing materials independently, providing constructive challenge and evidence-based advice, identifying emerging opportunities, risks and capability gaps, and considering the feasibility of research translation, adoption and impact. Through the Chair, members will provide independent, external advice to the CEO and Executive Leadership Team on the quality, strategic relevance and potential impact of AIMS' research.

## Term of appointment

The standard term of appointment is three years. As this is the inaugural Panel, appointment renewals will be staggered to support continuity and institutional knowledge.

For the inaugural Panel:

| Positions                | Initial term | Standard term thereafter |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Two members              | 2 years      | 3 years                  |
| Two members              | 3 years      | 3 years                  |
| One member and the Chair | 4 years      | 3 years                  |

The AIMS CEO will determine the initial term for each appointment. Members may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. Reappointment is at the discretion of the CEO and is not automatic.

## Time Commitment

The Panel will meet at least twice per year, with provision for up to four meetings annually depending on the review of workload and needs of the Institute. Members will also be expected to review materials and provide input before and after each meeting.

## Remuneration

Panel members serve on a part-time basis. The proposed remuneration is:

- **Chair:** \$759 per meeting day
- **Panel members:** \$570 per meeting day

Final remuneration arrangements will be determined by the CEO having regard to the Remuneration Tribunal's determinations for part-time office holders and relevant Australian Government guidance.

Reasonable travel, accommodation, and incidental expenses incurred in connection with Panel duties will be reimbursed by AIMS.

## What AIMS is looking for

AIMS is seeking people who bring strong expertise, independent judgement and a willingness to constructively challenge established thinking.

Applicants may bring expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- marine and environmental science;
- research strategy and portfolio management;
- science policy and government priorities;
- research translation, adoption and impact;
- industry and stakeholder engagement;
- data, digital technologies and emerging scientific capabilities; and
- First Nations knowledge, perspectives and Sea Country management.

AIMS are particularly interested in people who can consider the broader questions of why research matters, who it is intended to benefit, what needs to happen for it to be adopted, and whether the pathway from research to impact is credible and achievable.

Panel members should be comfortable working collaboratively while providing independent views, asking difficult questions, identifying risks and opportunities, and contributing to evidence-based advice. The Panel will collectively seek a diversity of perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds.

## How to Apply

Applicants should submit:

- **A Cover Letter:** Cover letters should outline the applicant's relevant experience and expertise, their interest in contributing to the Panel, and the perspective they would bring to AIMS' science strategy, research impact and translation. Applicants should highlight relevant experience in one or more of the areas identified in the "What AIMS is looking for" section. Applicants should indicate in their cover letter whether they wish to be considered for the role of Chair, Panel member, or both.
- **A current CV/resume** outlining their relevant professional experience, qualifications and expertise.

Applications should be submitted by **11:59PM Tuesday, 10 November 2026**

## Selection Process

Applications will be assessed through a merit-based selection process, with consideration given to the skills, expertise, experience and perspectives required across the Panel as a whole. Appointments will be made by the AIMS CEO.

Appointment will be subject to AIMS' conflict of interest and confidentiality requirements

## SUBMIT APPLICATION HERE

[research-office@aims.gov.au](mailto:research-office@aims.gov.au)