



REEF CHECK AUSTRALIA SCIENCE POLICY

Date of Review: Feb 20 2018 (Next proposed Review Date Feb 2020)

Purpose

RCA is committed to establishing, maintaining, and implementing robust and ethical science practices for our citizen science programs.

RCA adopts the Australian Citizen Science Associations definition of citizen science. Citizen science involves public participation and collaboration in scientific research with the aim to increase scientific knowledge.

RCA considers citizen science a process as any other scientific process, which requires suitable acknowledgement of limitations and control of biases. RCA will maintain strong and transparent quality assurance, interpretation, reporting and application procedures for data. We are committed to ongoing evaluation for project outcomes, data quality, participant experience and wider societal impact.

Citizen scientists may have a suitable role in multiple phases of scientific process, including data collection, analysis, communication, and application in agreement with RCA. RCA is committed to ensuring that the role of citizen scientists in scientific processes is appropriate for data collection, analysis, communication, and application needs.

Both scientists and citizen scientists will benefit from RCA citizen science projects.

RCA will take into consideration legal and ethical issues surrounding consent to participate, copyright, intellectual property, data sharing agreements, confidentiality, attribution, and the environmental impact of activities.

RCA is committed to making data and meta-data publicly available for publication, communication and application. We support open access publication, where possible.

We encourage scientists to publish using our data and we support authorship that awards attribution based on a fair and just acknowledgement in data collation, analysis and writing. Citizen scientists will be acknowledged in project results and publications.

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and sea country on which we conduct citizen science activities and aim to consult on projects and reporting.

RCA science procedures will define the overall RCA approach to undertaking, analysing, sharing and applying data, as well as determining suitable science projects. The goal of the RCA science policy is to facilitate achieving the strategic objectives of RCA through our citizen science activities.

We acknowledge some adapted content from the European Citizen Science Association's [10 Principles of Citizen Science](#).