

## Island adventurer needed for big-headed ant eradication mission

**MACKAY // WEDNESDAY 24th March 2021**

Reef Catchments is looking for an island adventurer to join an expedition to a small coral atoll 95km off the coast on a mission to wipe out an infestation of invasive African big-headed ants.

Bushy Islet is situated north-east of Mackay, within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park's South Cumberland Islands National Park. The islet is of great conservation significance due to the flora and fauna in the area, in particular a forest of *Pisonia grandis* trees, which is a favoured roosting site for sea birds.

However, Bushy has been overrun with invasive African big-headed ants and now Reef Catchments is calling for one volunteer to join the mission to the island.

The first trip will be from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of May and there is space for one more volunteer. There is no cost, and no skills are required.

Organiser Cass Hayward said: "African big-headed ants are one of the top 100 worst invasive species in the world. They can outcompete other insects and destabilise food chains.

"Bushy is remote island, you will need to be psychically fit and prepared for fieldwork and long boat trips. We will be sleeping on the boat.

"This is a unique opportunity, not many people ever get to visit Bushy Island. We will be taking biosecurity very seriously."

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust

To express your interest in volunteering, please contact Cass Hayward at Reef Catchments on [cass.hayward@reefcatchments.com](mailto:cass.hayward@reefcatchments.com) or 0429 155 841

ENDS