

### **What Else Lives in the Great Barrier Reef?**

Many other species live in the Great Barrier Reef; including a wide variety of corals and sponges. 360 species of hard coral grow there, including bottlebrush coral, bubble coral, brain coral, mushroom coral, staghorn coral, tabletop coral and needle coral. Hard corals grow in shallow water and help build the structure of coral reefs. They grow in several forms, such as mounds, plates and branches. When a coral colony dies, a new one will grow on top of the skeletons of the dead coral. This creates three-dimensional architecture. Hot weather and warm water are bad for coral and cause 'coral bleaching'. This means they lose their natural colour and become a white-greyish colour.

### **How Do Aboriginal People Use the Great Barrier Reef?**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the traditional owners of the Great Barrier Reef. More than 70 Indigenous tribes have ownership over parts of the Great Barrier Reef. Many animals that live there are important to Aboriginal Dreaming, specifically the turtle and dugong. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have used the sea to give them food for thousands of years. Today, food from the sea is important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who still collect food and prepare meals using their traditional foods.

