

CREDIT: Rob Hughes

Australian Marine Parks in the Indian Ocean Territories

Proclamation proposal for the establishment of marine parks in Australia's
Indian Ocean Territories (Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands)

SUMMARY AND MAPS - CHRISTMAS ISLAND MARINE PARK

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PAPER OCTOBER 2021



Australian Government
Director of National Parks



Australian
Marine Parks

Australian Marine Parks

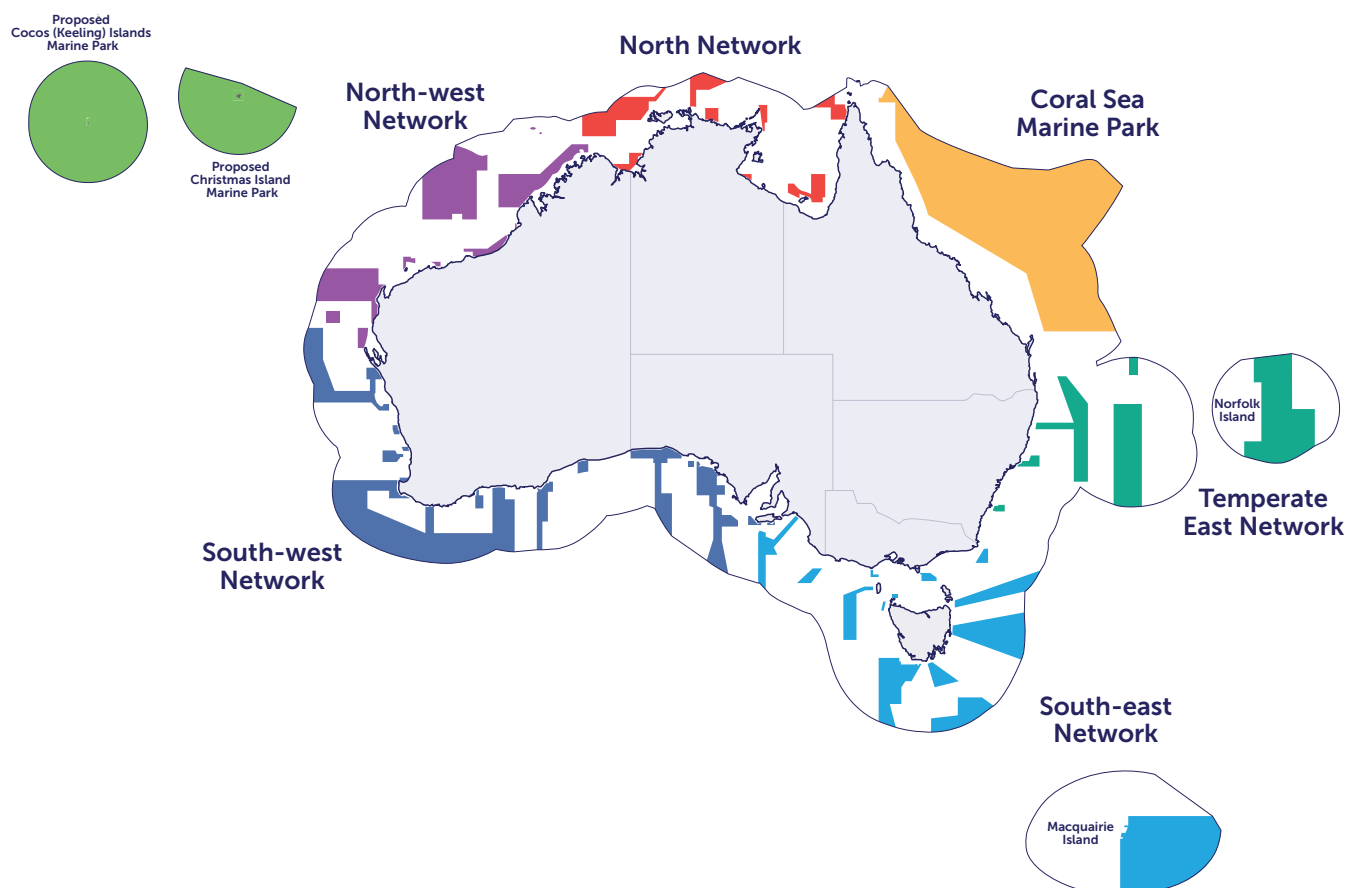


Image 1 – Existing Australian Marine Parks and proposed IOT marine parks

Have your say

This document is a summary of the Proclamation proposal for the establishment of marine parks in Australia's Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) (Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands).

It provides a description and maps of the design (location, area and zoning) of the proposed Christmas Island Marine Park.

The Director of National Parks is inviting comments from all interested stakeholders and members of the public on the proclamation proposal - parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/iot/AMP-Proclamation-Proposal-IOT.pdf

To have your say:

Email your comments to IOTmarineparksproclamation@environment.gov.au

Alternatively, comments can be mailed to:

IOT Marine Parks Proclamation Proposal
Parks Australia
PO Box 385
Kingston, TAS 7050

Comments must be sent by 6 December 2021.

All comments will be considered in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act before IOT marine parks can be proclaimed.

Comments may be published—for full details and privacy information, please review the full proclamation proposal.

Australian Marine Parks

The Australian Government has established a network of 58 Australian Marine Parks in the Commonwealth marine area, in addition to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve. Marine parks protect seafloor environments like reefs; seagrass; seamounts; and canyons, and they can also support fishing and other marine activities such as tourism, and diving.

Australian Marine Parks are located in all of the marine bioregions that surround mainland Australia and the Territory of Norfolk Island. With the exception of the very small marine areas

included as part of the existing Christmas Island National Park and Pulu Keeling National Park, the marine regions of Australia's Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) are not yet included within Australia's marine park network.

Christmas Island Marine Park

Purpose

The purpose of the proposed Christmas Island Marine Park is to provide for:

- (a) The protection and conservation of biodiversity and other natural, cultural and heritage values
- (b) Ecologically sustainable use that supports positive social and economic outcomes.

Zoning

(a) Green zones – National Park Zone

To be managed to protect and conserve biodiversity, ecosystems, habitats and native species in as natural a state as possible. This zone type is intended to allow only non-extractive activities, such as wildlife

watching, diving, snorkelling and research. Fishing and mining are intended to be prohibited.

(b) Yellow zones – Habitat Protection Zone

To be managed to ensure maintenance of the habitat conditions necessary to protect significant species, groups of species, biotic communities or physical features of the environment.

Scientific research, environmental monitoring and community engagement are intended to be priority management activities. Activities that generate benefits for local communities and other marine park users, such as recreational fishing, other recreational uses, charter fishing, tourism and aquaculture are intended to be allowed.

Some forms of commercial fishing are intended to be allowed. Mining is intended to be prohibited.



GREEN ZONES
protect important locations like
breeding and feeding areas.
Here you can watch wildlife, snorkel,
dive, and do research.

YELLOW ZONES

protect sea floor habitats like reefs and
seamounts.

Watch wildlife, snorkel, dive, do research,
and fish, but don't disturb the seafloor.



Table 1 - Overview of proposed zoning scheme for the Christmas Island Marine Park

Activity	Habitat Protection (IOT) Zone (IUCN Category IV)	National Park Zone (IUCN Category II)
Recreational and subsistence fishing (including anchoring)	✓ A	X
General use, access and waste management	✓	✓
Commercial shipping	✓ B	✓ B
Commercial fishing	✓ C	X B
Aquaculture	✓ C	X B
Commercial media	✓ C	✓ C
Commercial tourism (e.g. dive/snorkel tours, charter fishing)	✓ C	✓ C
Mining (e.g. oil and gas extraction)	X	X
Structures and works	✓ C	✓ C
Research and monitoring	✓ C	✓ C
National Security and emergency response	✓	✓

✓ Activity is allowed in accordance with the prescriptions of a management plan without the need of a permit, class approval or activity licence or lease issued by the Director of National Parks. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) also applies with respect to ship generated pollution from ships (i.e. waste management).

X Activity is not allowed

A Recreational fishing is to be in accordance with local fishing rules, if applicable

B Anchoring is not allowed except in anchoring areas determined under r.12.56 of the EPBC Regulations

C Activity is allowed, subject to assessment, in accordance with a permit, class approval or activity licence or lease issued by the Director of National Parks (DNP). Class approvals are a general authorisation that allows a commercial activity to continue (e.g. commercial fishing) under existing (non-marine park) approvals, without separate DNP approval or fees.

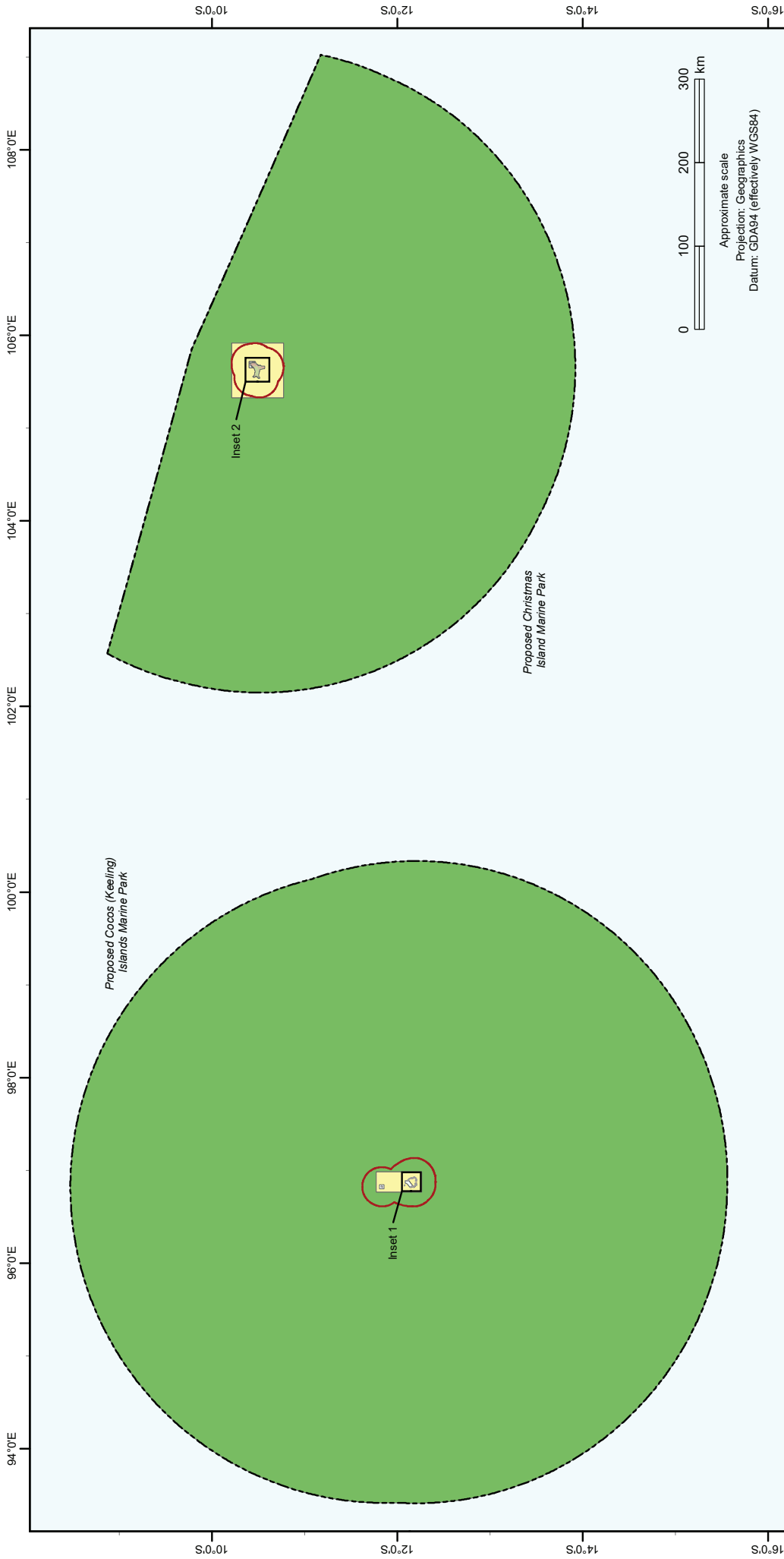
Christmas Island Marine Park design

The proposed Christmas Island Marine Park comprises a total area of 277,016 square kilometres and extends from the island's shoreline to the limit of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), approximately 200 nautical miles from shore (except for north of Christmas Island). The marine park has two zones, corresponding to the island's inshore and offshore waters.

The marine park covers almost all of Christmas Island's inshore/Territorial waters, which extend from its shoreline to 12 nautical miles. This area is zoned a Habitat Protection Zone (yellow zone) (IUCN category IV). Most of the port area is not within the marine park, other than a narrow strip parallel with the western boundary of the port (an area of about 1.8 square kilometres).

This area aligns the marine park to the marine boundary of Christmas Island National Park (CINP), which extends 50 metres seaward from CINP's low water mark. Elsewhere, the marine park boundary also adjoins CINP's waters. In marine areas of the island that are not part of CINP (but which are included in the marine park), the marine park extends to the island's low water mark.

The marine park includes all offshore waters, which extend from 12 nautical miles from Christmas Island's shoreline to the EEZ. All of this area is zoned a National Park Zone (green zone) (IUCN category II).



Proposed Christmas Island Marine Park & Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park: Proclamation Proposal October 2021

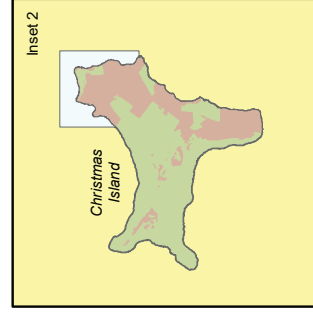
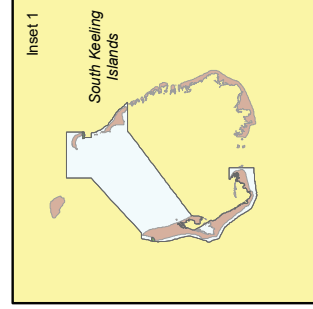
- Maritime boundaries**
- Limit of Australia's exclusive economic zone (Perth Treaty 1997) (approximately 200nm)
 - Territorial Sea Limit (approximately 12nm)

- Proposed Marine Park zoning**
- National Park Zone (IUCN II)
 - Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)

- Other areas**
- Islands
 - National Park
 - Area not part of marine park

Total area of proposed Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands MPAs = 744,770 sq km

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Proposed Christmas Island Marine Park: Proclamation Proposal October 2021

Maritime boundaries

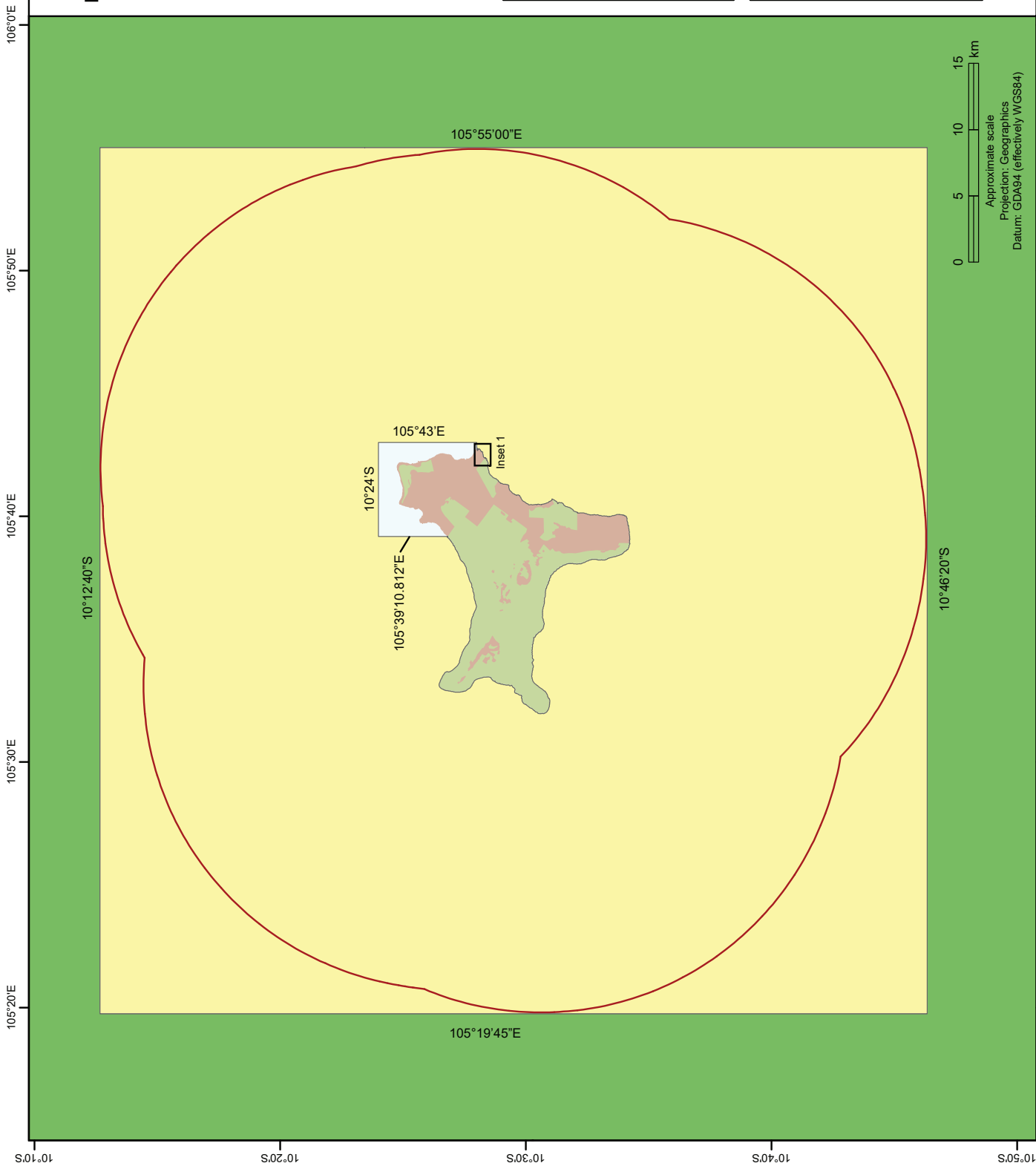
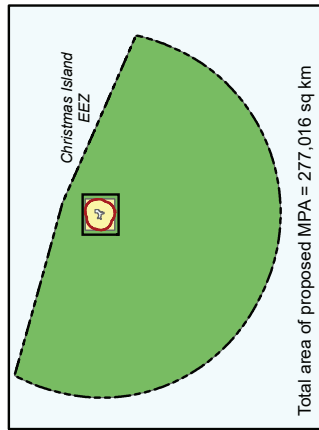
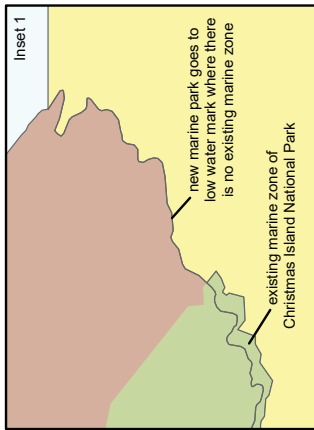
Territorial Sea Limit (approximately 12nm)

Proposed Marine Park zoning

- National Park Zone (IUCN II)
- Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)

Other areas

- Christmas Island National Park
- Area not part of marine park



Finalising the parks and declaration

