

NORTH MARINE PARKS NETWORK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 1

FOUNDATION PHASE

2018 – 2022



Australian Government
Parks Australia



**Australian
Marine Parks**

This North Marine Parks Network Implementation Plan 1 (years 1-4) identifies foundational management actions in the first four years of implementing the North Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018 (Management Plan). They will contribute to outcomes under each management program in the North management plan. Activities include the establishment of natural, social and economic baselines and monitoring programs, actions to address pressures, and foundational actions that will inform or guide future actions, such as scoping studies, establishment work, and strategy development. Dependencies, including national actions, are identified.

In managing the North Marine Parks Network, the Director of National Parks (Director) will need to make decisions about enabling use and managing pressures, while balancing the need to protect natural, cultural, heritage and socio-economic values of the Network, now and in the future.

Each year a report will be prepared by Parks Australia, in consultation with the North Marine Parks Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) to document progress of Implementation Plan 1, and make recommendations on initiating, continuing, modifying or terminating actions as part of an adaptive management cycle. Yearly reports will be used to inform the Advisory Committee and the Director about management progress, and will enable review of priorities, taking account of emerging issues and stakeholder needs.

A review of outcomes in Implementation Plan 1 will occur in year four to inform drafting of Implementation Plan 2 to continue ongoing management activities in years five to eight. Management actions may change during the life of the Management Plan as new information and approaches become available, and will be developed in partnership with stakeholders and the Advisory Committee.

Communication, education and awareness program
 Improve awareness, understanding and support for marine parks and park management.

Management Plan Outcome:

- Increased awareness, understanding and support for marine parks.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Develop information on the Marine Parks Network to encourage increased awareness and understanding of values and management arrangements.
- Provide infrastructure in and adjacent to the Network, such as signs and marker buoys, to increase understanding of marine park values and rules, particularly at sites that are regularly visited.
- Establish a North Marine Parks Advisory Committee to support and collaborate with the Director in management.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Parks Australia understands the diverse needs of marine park stakeholders and the best approach to engage each audience in order to achieve high-impact communications.
- Marine park users and key stakeholders are aware of Australian Marine Parks, their values and how they are managed, including an understanding of how marine park rules impact their own activities.
- General public are aware of Australian Marine Parks, their values and the role they play in protecting Australia's marine environment.
- Partnerships are in place for promoting Australian Marine Parks.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Identify target audiences and appropriate communication mechanisms (e.g. schools, fact sheets, museum displays, boat ramp signage, industry newsletters, conferences, festivals, trade shows).				
Develop accurate and appropriate communications content.				
Convene two meetings of the North Marine Parks Advisory Committee each year and publish committee communiques.				
Develop relationships with industry (including recreational fishing representative bodies) to identify communication needs and opportunities.				
Develop relationships with cultural centres to identify communication needs and opportunities.				

Dependencies - National Actions

- Development of a national Marketing and Engagement Strategy.

Tourism and visitor experience program

Provide for and promote a range of environmentally appropriate, high-quality recreation and tourism experiences and contribute to Australia's visitor economy.

Management Plan Outcomes:

- High-quality visitor experiences that are appealing, engaging and raise awareness of the natural and cultural values of marine parks.
- Increased visitation to marine parks.
- Social and economic benefits from the contribution of marine parks to Australia's visitor economy.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Promote visitor experiences that foster curiosity and appreciation of natural and heritage values in the Network.
- Work with other Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies, and the tourism industry to support tourism initiatives, events and attractions that promote visitor experiences in marine parks.
- Facilitate partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and tourism operators.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcome:

- Australian Marine Park information is disseminated to tourism operators, events and cultural centres.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Work with the Northern Territory and Queensland governments to identify tourist operators and events.				
Encourage sustainable marine tourism through Our Marine Park Grants round two.				
Work with Traditional Owners to identify, where appropriate, cultural tourism opportunities.				
Develop visitor products (e.g. brochures) and interpretive signs for displays adjacent to parks, and in visitor centres, museums or aquaria where appropriate.				
Encourage best-practice and eco-accredited businesses operating in the Marine Parks.				
Dependencies - National Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national Tourism and Visitor Experience Strategy. • Development of a national commercial tourism authorisation system. 			

Indigenous engagement program

Recognise and respect the ongoing cultural responsibilities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to care for sea country and support multiple benefits for Traditional Owners.

Management Plan Outcomes:

- Social, cultural and economic benefits for Traditional Owners
- Partnerships with Traditional Owners and ranger groups to manage sea country in marine parks

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Collaborate with Traditional Owners and ranger groups and relevant partners to undertake marine park management such as surveillance, monitoring and threat mitigation including marine debris removal, and implement activities identified in sea country plans where applicable.
- Identify opportunities and mechanisms to engage Traditional Owners and ranger groups in the management of marine parks.
- Increase understanding of traditional knowledge, map cultural values and manage significant sites.
- Implement cultural awareness training for Parks Australia staff in association with Traditional Owners.
- Establish protocols for researchers working with Parks Australia to guide engagement with Traditional Owners.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Traditional Owners contribute to marine park management decision-making processes.
- Cultural values are accounted for in decision-making processes.
- Partnerships are in place with Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers to manage sea country in Australian Marine Parks.
- The Australian Marine Parks deliver social, cultural and economic benefits for Traditional Owners.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Identify Traditional Owners, and relevant ranger groups for the North Marine Parks Network.				
Interested Traditional Owners are engaged in decision-making about the North Marine Parks Network.				
Undertake projects on cultural values of the marine parks.				
Marine Parks staff undertake cultural awareness training with Traditional Owners of the marine parks.				
Establish partnerships to support Traditional Owners and relevant ranger groups' involvement in field management activities.				
Dependencies - National Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an Indigenous Engagement and Cultural Heritage Strategy for Australian Marine Parks and protocols for engagement for researchers working with Parks Australia. 			

Marine science program

Provide necessary scientific knowledge and understanding of marine park values, pressures and adequacy of responses for effective management.

Management Plan Outcomes:

- Increase understanding of marine park values, pressures and adequacy of responses.
- Improve understanding of the effectiveness of marine park management in protecting park values.
- Informed decision-making and improved evidence-based decisions.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Monitor ecological, social and economic baselines to support evidence-based decision-making and adaptive management.
- Monitor the condition of important habitats such as reef systems and their vulnerability to climate change.
- Monitor the impact of invasive species on marine park values and the effectiveness of management.
- Collaborate with other Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies, marine park users and the science sector to support long term monitoring. For example, monitoring of coral reefs, protected species and the effects of fishing on marine parks.
- Investigate opportunities to extend citizen science programs.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Inventory surveys have been undertaken to identify marine park values and pressures.
- Effective partnerships are in place to enable Parks Australia to leverage research in marine parks.
- Understanding of marine park values and pressures has improved.
- Parks Australia has appropriate systems in place to consider relevant information in assessments and other decision-making processes.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Identify priority science needs, including baselines.				
Identify potential partners and their capacity to engage.				
Identify opportunities for collaboration with science providers.				
Identify opportunities for citizen science initiatives in marine parks, including support for citizen science through the Our Marine Park Grants round two.				
Dependencies - National Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress towards the establishment of ecological, social and economic baselines. • Development of a national Australian Marine Parks Science Strategy. • Establishment of an authorisation system for science research and monitoring. • Establishment of an effective Research Discovery mechanism. 			

Assessments and authorisations program

Provide for efficient, effective, transparent and accountable assessment, authorisation and monitoring processes to enable sustainable use and protection of marine park values.

Management Plan Outcome:

- Assessments and authorisations ensure ongoing protection of marine park values through the management of activities in marine parks.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Issue authorisations – a permit, class approval, activity licence or lease – for activities in marine parks assessed as acceptable either by the Director or another government or industry policy, plan or program accepted by the Director.
- Work with other Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies to improve experiences and consistency of approaches for people seeking authorisations.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Activities are assessed consistent with legislative requirements.
- Authorisation processes are timely.
- Policy and guidance materials are easily accessible and clearly communicated.
- The online authorisations’ process is accessible and functional.
- Indigenous engagement on all authorisations occurs where sea country intersects with North Marine Parks Network.
- Effective processes are in place for facilitating feedback from Traditional Owners and relevant ranger groups on relevant authorisation applications.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Assess and issue permits and licences to authorise allowable activities to be undertaken.				
Communicate with stakeholders (including Northern Territory, and Queensland government agencies, Traditional Owners and relevant ranger groups) on authorisation requirements.				
Work with state and territory government agencies to ensure our authorisations approaches are consistent where possible/appropriate.				
Dependencies - National Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a customer focussed online authorisation system for marine park users. • Development of a Marine Parks Authorisation Policy. 			

Parks protection and management

Timely and appropriate preventative and restorative activities to protect natural, cultural and heritage values from impacts.

Management Plan Outcome:

- Impact of pressures on marine park values are minimised as far as reasonably practicable.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Enable infrastructure such as moorings to protect habitats and enhance visitor safety.
- Collaborate with and support other agencies that undertake invasive and protected species management and marine debris removal. For example, biosecurity assessments, research, or removal of ghost nets.
- Work with other Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies to respond to environmental incidents and accidents.
- Collaborate with Traditional Owners and ranger groups to undertake management activities.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Priority parks protection and management activities have been identified.
- Effective processes are in place for providing timely and relevant advice.
- Management activities support effective response to incidents.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Identify and prioritise parks protection and management activities (e.g. infrastructure audit, marine debris surveys, invasive species assessments).				
Identify partners for delivery of parks protection and management activities.				
Implement priority parks protection and management activities.				
Work with Traditional Owners and ranger groups to identify opportunities for partnerships and development of capability to deliver parks protection and management activities.				
Work cooperatively with and the Northern Territory, Queensland and Commonwealth government agencies to monitor, report and respond to environmental incidents.				
Encourage park protection projects through the Our Marine Park Grants.				

Dependencies - National Actions

- Development of an Environmental Incident and Emergency Response Strategy.
- Development of a Marine Debris Strategy.
- Development of a Mooring Policy.

Compliance program

Activities to support appropriate and high level compliance by marine park users with the rules set out in the Management Plan

Management Plan Outcomes:

- Improved user awareness of marine park rules.
- Increased levels of voluntary compliance and self-regulation by marine park users.
- High overall levels of compliance with the rules by marine park users.
- A decrease in the number of non-compliances.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Work with other Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies, particularly where parks adjoin state or territory marine parks, in compliance planning, including implementing activities to deter illegal activities and encourage voluntary compliance.
- Collaborate with Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies in surveillance, including water and aerial patrols.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Marine park users understand management arrangements and obligations.
- Partnerships with state, territory and Commonwealth government agencies, or other groups are in place.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Develop and disseminate communication material to inform stakeholders including Peak Bodies representing marine park users of management arrangements and obligations.				
Work with state and territory government and Commonwealth agencies including Australian Border Command and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to identify opportunities for partnerships in surveillance and enforcement activities.				
Work with Traditional Owners and ranger groups to identify opportunities for partnerships and capability development to undertake surveillance and reporting activities.				
Dependencies - National Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a Compliance Framework. 			