AUSTRALIAN MARINE PARKS GUIDELINE

For the authorisation of commercial tourism and general use activities on islands in the Coral Sea, Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island Marine Parks

Australian Government
Parks Australia

Australian Marine Parks

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Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

The risk of disturbance to Australian Marine Park islands by tourism and private vessels seeking wild, remote and undisturbed islands is increasing and requires proactive management to reduce the associated impacts on island values.

The key impacts addressed in this Guideline include:

a) human presence disturbing habitats and the breeding success of seabirds and marine turtles,
b) light pollution affecting the breeding success of seabirds and marine turtles, and
c) pest species affecting native vegetation and the breeding success of seabirds and marine turtles.

Commercial tourism activity and some general use activity (camping and non-commercial operation of remote piloted aircraft (drones)) on and adjacent to islands require authorisation in accordance with management plans for Australian Marine Parks. Both the *Coral Sea Marine Park Management Plan 2018* and *North-west Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018* are relevant to the implementation of this Guideline.

2. SCOPE

This Guideline outlines the approach and additional considerations that Parks Australia will follow when assessing authorisation applications for commercial tourism and general use activities on and adjacent to islands in the Coral Sea Marine Park and Ashmore Reef Marine Park (Recreational Use Zone) including commercial aviation tours in those parks and Cartier Island Marine Park.

The Guideline provides authorisation conditions to manage impacts on island values. The conditions relate to:

(1) allowable general use activity requiring authorisation (camping and non-commercial remote piloted aircraft (drones)); and

(2) allowable commercial tourism activity, tourism associated with commercial operation of remote piloted aircraft (drones), and commercial aviation tours up to 3000 m above sea level.

This Guideline may also be considered, where appropriate, in the assessment of commercial media, research and monitoring, and structures and works activities.

3. DEFINITIONS

Definitions included in this Guideline are for words/terms not already defined in relevant legislation and should be included in authorisations where appropriate.

authorisation holder – licence and permit holders.

authorisation holder's clients - means all persons, other than the authorisation holder or authorisation holder personnel, who perform or participate in the authorised activities.

high-water mark – mark on the shore left by the tide at high water; also, the line or level reached, usually the highest; and/or a permanent mark which indicates the maximum observed level of tide.

island – refers to Australian Marine Park islands and includes islands, cays and islets.

overall length - defined as 110 per cent of the length shown on the vessel's load-line certification. If the overall length of a vessel cannot be worked out using this method it is the distance between a vertical line passing through a point that is the foremost part of the stem, and the vertical line passing through a point that is the aftermost part of the stern.

personnel - in the case of the authorisation holder, every person who performs, or is otherwise involved in undertaking or facilitating the authorised activities, or operation of the authorisation holder's organisation, including employees, contractors, subcontractors, agents, representatives, advisors and volunteers.

water sports - any of the following activities:

a) irregular driving of a motorised vessel - driving a vessel other than in a straight line by the most direct and reasonable route between two places, including (i) driving in a circle or other pattern; (ii) weaving or diverting; or (iii) surfing down, jumping over or across, any wave, swell or wash (e.g. jet skiing);
b) use of a vessel to tow a person on top of the water or in the air (e.g. waterskiing or parasailing);
c) kitesurfing, windsurfing; or
d) use of hovercraft, hydrofoil and wing-in-ground-effect craft.

4. AUTHORISATION CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO TOURISM AND GENERAL USE ACTIVITIES ON OR ADJACENT TO ISLANDS

A risk analysis of commercial tourism and general use activity on or adjacent to islands that may impact on the values of Australian Marine Park islands is provided in Appendix 1. The risk analysis was used to develop considerations specific to assessing authorisation applications for activity on and adjacent to islands.

If access to islands is not requested for authorisation, access to islands will not be allowed. If access to islands is requested, access can be limited to those islands, a sub-set, or none of the islands requested. To help ensure biosecurity risks are reduced as far as practicable, the conditions below include that an authorisation holder must take reasonable steps to prevent the introduction of pests into a marine park and the transfer of pests between locations within and outside, including other islands and the Australian mainland.

4.1 Island access

4.1.1 Nominated vessels of 35 m or greater in overall length must not stop or anchor within 5 nm of islands between sunset and sunrise.

4.1.2 Commercial tourism group size on islands must not exceed 15 persons (including authorisation holder personnel) at any one time, up to a maximum of 30 persons per day on any island.

4.1.3 The authorisation holder's clients must always be supervised by authorisation holder personnel during any access to islands.

4.1.4 The authorisation holder, personnel and their clients must not leave any industrial or domestic waste on islands.

4.1.5 The authorisation holder, personnel and their clients must not feed, touch, chase, harass or disturb wildlife or impede their movements.

4.1.6 The authorisation holder, personnel and their clients must not light fires on any land areas.

4.1.7 The authorisation holder must ensure that when the nominated vessel is within 500 m of an island between sunset and sunrise, that:

a) any lighting, including outdoor or deck lights, on the nominated vessel are extinguished when not necessary for human safety or navigation;

b) block-out blinds are utilised on all portholes and windows.

4.1.8 The authorisation holder, personnel and their clients must not conduct water sports within 500 m of islands.

4.1.9 The authorisation holder must not conduct commercial aviation tours within 500 m of islands. (This condition also applies to Cartier Island Marine Park).

4.1.10 Access to South Islet (Willis Islet) in Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 7 (Coral Sea Marine Park), location of an occupied Bureau of Meteorology weather station, is not allowed.

4.1.11 The authorisation holder, personnel and their clients must not access land above the high-water mark at any time.

4.1.12 The authorisation holder, personnel and their clients must not access areas of vegetation on islands.

4.1.13 The authorisation holder, personnel and their clients must not access islands between sunset and sunrise.

4.1.14 The authorisation holder, personnel and their clients must not erect any structure on islands and must not camp.

Note: For Ashmore Reef Marine Park, 4.1.11 and 4.1.12 will be applied on a case by case basis. While a small area of Recreational Use Zone (RUZ) does extend beyond the high-water mark and into vegetated areas of West Island, there is a risk of disturbance to nesting seabirds. Circumstances where access to this part of the RUZ may be allowed, include activities related to research.

4.2 Biosecurity

4.2.1 The authorisation holder must ensure that a licenced pest controller conducts a pest treatment of all vessels used under the authorisation prior to accessing an island and then annually, and must include:

a) a broad-spectrum insecticide treatment to control ants, spiders, cockroaches, bird mites, etc; and

b) long-term cockroach, ant and rodent treatment (e.g. cockroach gels, ant gels, lethal bait traps).

4.2.2 The authorisation holder must provide the treatment certificates to Parks Australia on an annual basis and the current annual certificate must have been provided to Parks Australia at least two weeks prior to accessing any island.

4.2.3 The authorisation holder must ensure that nominated vessels have been antifouled within the last two years and are generally free from fouling. Vessels cannot be cleaned of fouling inside a marine park.

4.2.4 The authorisation holder must ensure that all clients and personnel are briefed on biosecurity requirements as outlined in the *Be Pest Free in the Coral Sea Biosecurity Information Sheet* (https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/pub/be-pest-free-in-the-coral-sea.pdf).

4.3 Operation of remote piloted aircraft (drones)

4.3.1 The authorisation holder must ensure that an observer is present at all times that a remote piloted aircraft (drone) is operated to monitor for the presence and disturbance of, and collision with, wildlife.

4.3.2 The authorisation holder must ensure that a remote piloted aircraft (drone) being operated by personnel and their clients:

a) does not approach within 100 m of the shore of, or over any island;
b) does not chase or harass wildlife, alter their course of direction, or restrict their movement or landing; and
c) is immediately withdrawn from an area if wildlife exhibit signs of disturbance, (for example, fleeing, sudden alteration of a course or direction, attacking the remote piloted aircraft or being put to flight).

5. LEGISLATION AND OTHER REGULATORY MATERIALS

Management plans for Australian Marine Parks are legislative instruments. Both the *Coral Sea Marine Park Management Plan 2018* and *North-west Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018* are relevant to the implementation of this Guideline. General use and commercial tourism activities are managed under Part 4 of these plans.

Other legislation relevant to the implementation of this Guideline include:

1) Schedule 6 - Australian Ramsar management principles in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (EPBC Regulations) requires that management plans must state mechanisms to deal with the impacts of actions that individually or cumulatively endanger its ecological character, including risks arising from (i) physical loss, modification or encroachment on the wetland; or (ii) loss of biodiversity; or (iii) pollution and nutrient input; or (iv) changes to water regimes; or (v) utilisation of resources; or (vi) introduction of invasive species.

2) Part 12 of the EBPC Regulations addresses activities that may impact islands in Australian Marine Parks which commercial tourism operators should be made aware of. For example, it is an offence to leave industrial or domestic waste on an island, to take a domestic animal onto an island, and to use equipment that produces loud noise on an island.

3) The National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife Including marine turtles, seabirds and migratory shorebirds includes recommendations for managing impacts from vessel lighting including (1) outdoor/deck lights are extinguished when not necessary for human safety, (2) restrict lighting at night to navigation lights and (3) use block-out blinds on all portholes and windows.

4) The Be Pest Free in the Coral Sea Biosecurity Information Sheet (Director of National Parks) provides information on practical ways to ensure pests (such as plants, insects or rodents) are not introduced onto islands. The information sheet is provided to all Coral Sea Marine Park authorisation holders.

5) The Guidelines for Managing Visitation to Seabird Breeding Islands (GBRMPA) include various recommendations regarding reducing impacts on seabird rookeries from human visitation.

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Guideline will be reviewed annually as further information becomes available. It is recognised that recreational users also have the potential to impact island values and will therefore be considered in the future review. To further address potential impacts, additional or modified conditions and/or other management tools may be considered. Further management options may include limits on the number and timing of visitors accessing islands, including seasonal and/or year-round limits which would apply to Australian Marine Park users.

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APPENDIX 1 – RISK ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON ISLANDS FROM COMMERCIAL TOURISM

Activity / Risk	People accessing islands	Vessels less than 35m (TL) anchoring/stopping within 500 m of the high-water mark of islands (lights/noise)*	Vessels 35m and greater (TL) anchoring/stopping within 500 m of the high-water mark of islands (lights/noise)*	Small vessel (tender, zodiac) nature watching around islands	Watersports within 500m of the island high-water mark	Remote piloted aircraft (Drone)	Aviation tours up to 3000 m above sea level
Island habitat – Vegetation damage, sand disturbance	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Birds on islands (day) – nest disturbance/burrow collapse – birds take flight – reduced breeding success	Very high	Low	High	Medium	Very High	Very High	High (for below 500m)
Birds on islands (sunset to sunrise) – nest disturbance/burrow collapse – birds take flight – reduced breeding success	Very high	Medium	Very High	Medium	High	Medium	Low Aviation tours/operations are highly sunset to sunrise
Turtles on islands (day) – turtles avoid nesting – reduced breeding success	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low
Turtles on islands (sunset to sunrise) – turtles avoid nesting – Reduced breeding success	Very high	Medium	Very High	Medium	High	Low	Low Aviation tours/operations are highly unlikely sunset to sunrise
Turtle hatchlings on islands (sunset to sunrise) – disorientation of hatchlings – trampling	Very high	High	Very high	Very high	Low	Low	Low Aviation tours/operations are highly sunset to sunrise
Pest introduction – Island biosecurity – bacteria / virus / fungi – weed / seed – invertebrates/ vertebrates	Very high	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	High (if landing) Low otherwise

***The installation of moorings within 500 m of the high-water mark of islands needs to be considered in relation to this risk analysis, i.e. risks and impacts are similar to anchoring or stopping adjacent to islands. TL – Total Length**

APPENDIX 2 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND

A2.1 Australian Marine Parks that contain islands

There are 58 Australian Marine Parks in Commonwealth waters that help to protect Australia's offshore marine environment. Of these, three Australian Marine Parks contain 61 islands including the Coral Sea Marine Park, Ashmore Reef Marine Park and Cartier Island Marine Park. Each island is zoned in accordance with the zone assigned to the surrounding waters. The zoning focuses on the marine values and this Guideline aims to ensure the natural values of the islands are considered and managed proactively. Management of the islands will be refined as a greater understanding of the habitats and biodiversity is obtained.

A2.1.1 Coral Sea Marine Park

The Coral Sea Marine Park includes 57 islands managed under the *Coral Sea Marine Park Management Plan 2018*. These islands are assigned National Park Zone (IUCN II) or Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) (IUCN IV). There is human occupation on one island (Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) occupied weather station on Willis Island), and several other islands have infrastructure including BoM automatic weather stations; and Australian Maritime Safety Authority Aids to Navigation.

The Coral Sea Marine Park islands provide important breeding habitat for marine turtles and seabirds, including globally significant seabird populations. The islands include relatively undisturbed sand-cay habitat that is used for nesting by the globally endangered and migratory green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and forest, shrubland and grassland habitat that support important breeding and roosting populations of migratory seabirds and shorebirds. Many of the islands are vegetated containing rare habitats, and about 24 islands are within Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reefs and Cays Ramsar site, these are identified as Biologically Important Areas for seabirds and marine turtles. This Ramsar site has been managed for high level protection since 1989 through the previous Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve & Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve Management Plan - *Second Management Plan prepared for the Coral Sea National Nature Reserves* (Environment Australia 2001). This Plan no longer has statutory effect, however, it continues to provide relevant information for the management of impacts on islands. The primary objective of the Coral Sea National Nature Reserves was to maintain ecological processes and systems and to protect the habitats and biodiversity of the Reserves from the pressures associated with human use.

A2.1.2 Ashmore Reef Marine Park

The Ashmore Reef Marine Park includes three islands (East, Middle and West Islands) and is managed under the *North-west Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018*. Most of the Ashmore Reef Marine Park is assigned a Sanctuary Zone (IUCN 1a) which includes East and Middle Islands and most of West Island where general use and commercial tourism is not allowed, except for commercial aviation tours (up to 3000 m above sea level), which are allowable by authorisation. A small area of West Island is assigned a Recreational Use Zone (IUCN IV) where some activities are allowed or allowable subject to assessment, including allowing for access to a water pump and historic graves sites. The Ashmore Reef Marine Park provides Biologically

Important Areas for internationally significant populations of seabirds and shorebirds, and marine turtles.

A2.1.3 Cartier Island Marine Park

The Cartier Island Marine Park includes one island and is managed under the *North-west Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018*. It is assigned a Sanctuary Zone (IUCN 1a), and general use and commercial tourism is not allowed, but commercial aviation tours up to 3000 m above sea level is allowable. The Cartier Island Marine Park provides Biologically Important Areas for internationally significant populations of seabirds and shorebirds, and marine turtles.

A2.2 Pressures

A2.2.1 Human presence

Human presence on or adjacent to islands can have detrimental impacts on habitats, biosecurity and the breeding success of seabirds and marine turtles. Human presence can reduce seabird nesting success and increase mortality in the breeding adults and chicks, and different species have different levels of tolerance to disturbance (GBRMPA 1997; BirdLife International 2012). Human presence can disturb or flush-out birds, leading to injury or mortality, including to chicks and eggs which are vulnerable to depredation and exposure (BirdLife International 2012). Disturbance can also result in bird nest abandonment. For burrow-nesting bird species, humans may inadvertently walk on top of burrows collapsing them which may damage, trap and kill adults, chicks and eggs. Impacts can also cause chicks to suffer stress that can go on to potentially impair immunity or reduce body mass at fledging. These impacts can have long-term repercussions for the stability of bird populations (BirdLife International 2012).

The impact of human presence and disturbance on breeding seabird populations in the Coral Sea Marine Park has not been directly investigated. However, in the adjacent Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the decline of seabird populations is partially due to human disturbance (GBRMPA 2011). Benoit and Bretagnolle (2002) suggest human disturbance was the principal factor in the decline of populations of red-footed booby, black-naped tern and crested tern in New Caledonia. Dunlop (1996) cites a study which notes that the bridled tern was 'prone to abandon colonies if subjected to human presence'. The environmental context can also influence how a breeding site will be affected. Borsa *et al.* (2010) reported that given the small surfaces of the islets and high densities of seabirds at the Chesterfield Islands in New Caledonia, even a few hundred visitors a year is likely to constitute a significant level of human disturbance. Typically, major natural losses in seabirds are episodic events which are well spaced in time and allow populations to recover their numbers. However, human disturbance can decrease the recovery time available by causing additional major (episodic) losses, or can reduce or prevent recovery by adding ongoing, cumulative, small (chronic) losses (WBM Oceanics & Claridge 1997).

For the Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reefs and Cays Ramsar site in the Coral Sea Marine Park, pressures and information gaps were identified in the Ramsar Ecological Character Description (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts 2006). The interim levels of acceptable change include no further loss of the plant *Pisonia grandis*; and a difference of up to 20

per cent between any two five-year periods in mean number of breeding pairs of red-footed booby and masked booby.

For South Islet (Willis Islet) in Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) of the Coral Sea Marine Park, there has been 100 years of human occupation of a BoM weather station, with habitats and species already impacted.

The authorisation conditions in this Guideline do not allow camping on Coral Sea Marine Park islands. Vessels accessing the Coral Sea Marine Park must be surveyed for overnight passengers, therefore accommodation is available on the vessel. Camping on islands could introduce significant biosecurity and disturbance issues. When further information is available on uses and island values, informed decisions can be made regarding options to facilitate camping at sites if deemed appropriate for specific risk assessed purposes.

A2.2.2 Light pollution

Light pollution is the brightening of the night sky caused by artificial light and may adversely affect many species and ecological communities. It can change behaviour and/or physiology, reducing survivorship or reproductive output. It can also have the indirect effect of changing the availability of habitat or food resources. Many seabirds spend most of their lives at sea, only coming ashore to nest, and all species are vulnerable to the effects of light pollution. Seabirds that are active at night while migrating, foraging or returning to colonies are most at risk to the effects of light pollution. Fledglings are more affected by light pollution than adults due to the synchronised mass exodus of fledglings from their nesting sites. They can be affected by lights up to 15 km away (Department of Environment and Energy 2019). The main human disturbance element that impacts on the success of turtle nesting relates to light pollution; adult female turtles may be deterred from nesting where artificial light is visible on a nesting beach; and hatchlings may become disoriented and be unable to find the sea. The effect of light up to 18 km away has been observed to affect turtle behaviour (Department of Environment and Energy 2019).

Most of the historic commercial tourism use in Australian Marine Parks has been by vessels less than 35 m. Larger vessels of 35 m or greater including cruise ships have higher potential for significant light pollution on breeding seabirds and marine turtles if these vessels stop/anchor or use ‘dynamic positioning’ adjacent to islands between sunset and sunrise. When a licence is issued for cruise ships to undertake commercial tourism, the commercial shipping prescriptions that restrict anchoring may no longer apply, and the authorised cruise ships could stop/anchor or use ‘dynamic positioning’ in accordance with the commercial tourism licence conditions. This Guideline helps protect these sensitive seabird and turtle habitats from vessel light pollution.

A2.2.3 Pest species

The introduction of pest species through human presence on islands is a significant threat to native vegetation, breeding seabird populations (Croxall *et al.* 2012) and marine turtles. For example, the invasive tropical fire ant (*Solenopsis geminata*), native to central/north America and present on Ashmore Reef Marine Park islands, has been linked to mortality of common noddy chicks and physical damage to the feet webbing of other seabird species (Hoffman and Pettit 2020). Seabirds are also especially vulnerable to introduced predators (e.g. rodents or cats)

causing impacts such as reduced reproductive success (through predation of chicks and eggs), direct mortality through predation of adults, and due to ecosystem degradation (through invasive plants and herbivores modifying habitat structure) (Olsen *et al.* 2006).

Historically, introduced species have been implicated in the decline of breeding seabird populations in the Coral Sea Marine Park. In the 1900's, mariners introduced the black rat, *Rattus rattus*, to the Coringa-Herald islands, which was linked to the decline of the brown booby and common noddy populations (DoE 2014). Exotic ant species, *Tetramorium bicarinatum* and *Pheidole megacephala* can lead to an imbalance in predator-prey interactions on islands. This imbalance can lead to outbreaks of the scale insect, *Pulvinaria urbicola*, which have affected *Pisonia grandis* forests at some islands in Coral Sea Marine Park and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (QPWS 2010), including the complete loss of *Pisonia grandis* on one Coral Sea Marine Park island.

The Coringa-Herald islands experienced outbreaks between 1991 and 2002 and these events are known to have impacted on a range of seabird species (Batianoff *et al*. 2010). Seabirds feeding in the open ocean transport large quantities of nutrients onto islands, this nutrient flows between pelagic, island, and coral reef ecosystems enhancing the productivity of island fauna and flora and adjacent coral reefs. Research has demonstrated that the higher nutrient values associated with seabird populations results in herbivorous damselfish growing faster, and fish communities having higher biomass across trophic feeding groups (Graham *et al.* 2018). Therefore, any decrease in seabird populations can have a significant flow on impact on a range of ecosystems.

Whilst islands in Australian Marine Parks are relatively isolated and currently experience low human use, visitation is likely to increase with an associated significant potential for the introduction of invasive species. The resources needed to effectively monitor, reduce or eradicate introduced species can be extremely costly. Therefore, this Guideline aims to ensure proactive and preventative management of human use to reduce risks of introduced pests.

APPENDIX 3 – CORAL SEA MARINE PARK ISLANDS

Island	Zone	Information
Cato Reef		
Cato Island	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 22	Bureau of Meteorology equipment on-site
Coringa Islets		
Coringa Islets (Chilcott Islet)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Coringa Islets (South-West Islet)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Diamond Islets		
Diamond Islet (Central Diamond Islet)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 10	
Diamond Islet (East Diamond Islet)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 10	Australian Maritime Safety Authority Aid to Navigation on-site
Diamond Islet (West Diamond Islet)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 10	
Diamond Islet (South Diamond Islet)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 10	
Dianne Bank		
Dianne Bank (Sand Cay) (Bianca Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 7	
Flinders Reef		
Flinders Cay A (Main Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 9	Bureau of Meteorology equipment on-site
Frederick Reef		
Frederick Reef (Un-named Cay) (Lighthouse Cay or North Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 17	Australian Maritime Safety Authority Aid to Navigation on-site Bureau of Meteorology equipment on-site
Frederick Reef (Observatory Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 17	
Herald Cays		
Herald Cays (North East Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Herald Cays (South West Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Holmes Reef		In-water Bureau of Meteorology equipment on-site
West Holmes (North Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 8	
West Holmes (South Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 8	
Kenn Reef		
Kenn Reef (Un-named Cay (east))	National Park Zone 19	
Kenn Reef (Observatory Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 20	
Kenn Reef (Boulder Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 20	

Lihou Reef		In-water Australian Maritime Safety Authority Aid to Navigation on-site Bureau of Meteorology equipment on-site
Lihou Reef (Hermit Crab Islet) (No.1 Cay) (Anne Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Betty Cay) (No. 2 Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Carol Cay) (No. 3 Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Phoenix Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Diana Cay) (No. 4 Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Fanny Cay) (No. 5 Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Edna Cay) (No. 6 Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Helen Cay) (No. 7 Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Georgina Cay) (No. 8 Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Nellie Cay) (No.9 Cay) (Southwest Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Juliette Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Turtle Islet)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Middle Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Observatory Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Kathy Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Lorna Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Little Margaret Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Margaret Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Shark Cove Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Johnny Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Lihou Reef (Frankie Cay)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Magdelaine Cays		
Magdelaine Cays (North Magdelaine Island)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Magdelaine Cays (South Magdelaine Island)	National Park Zone 11	Ramsar Site
Marion Reef (additional seasonal cays here)		
Marion Reef (Brodie Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 15	

Marion Reef (Carola Cay)	National Park Zone 16	Bureau of Meteorology equipment on-site
Marion Reef (Paget Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 15	
Mellish Reef		
Mellish Reef (Herald's Beacon Islet)	National Park Zone 27	
Mellish Reef (Un-named Cay (North))	National Park Zone 27	
Moore Reef		
Moore Reef (South East Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 7	
Moore Reef (un-named Cay) (Passage)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 7	
Saumarez Reef		
Saumarez Reef (North East Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 18	Australian Maritime Safety Authority Aid to Navigation on-site
Saumarez Reef (South West Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 18	
Willis Islets		
Willis Islets (South Islet)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 7	Occupied Bureau of Meteorology weather station on-site
Willis Islets (Mid Islet)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 7	Bureau of Meteorology equipment on-site
Willis Islets (North Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 7	
Wreck Reef		
Wreck Reef (Bird Islet)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 21	
Wreck Reef (Porpoise Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 21	Within Protected Zones declared under the *Underwater Cultural heritage Act 2018*
Wreck Reef (Hope Cay)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 21	
Wreck Reef (West Islet)	Habitat Protection Zone (Reefs) 21	