

South-east Marine Parks Network

Key changes in the 2025 management plan

On 13 February 2025, a new management plan came into effect for the South-east Network replacing the previous 2013 management plan. The new management plan seeks to achieve positive outcomes for the environment and the Australian community by increasing protection over important marine habitats, features and species, while supporting sustainable use and enjoyment of these special places.

About Australian Marine Parks in the South-east Network

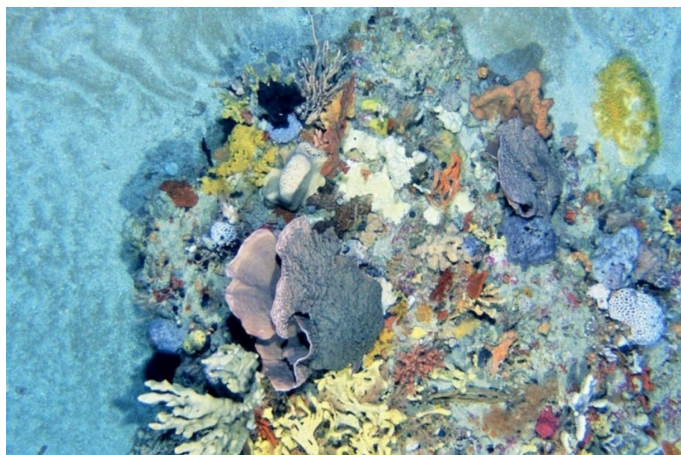
The South-east Network includes 14 marine parks off the coast of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, and in the Southern Ocean, covering 701,927 square kilometres. These parks protect examples of the incredible habitats and ecosystems that are unique to the region.

Migratory whales journey to and from Antarctica twice a year and iconic species such as southern bluefin tuna and blue whales roam across the region. From the continental shelf to the abyss, a diverse range of fishes and other creatures, such as crabs, coral, sea urchins and sponges inhabit waters that are rich with species found nowhere else on Earth.

What do the zones mean?

The zones in the South-east Network are:

- **Sanctuary Zone** – the highest level of protection, with very few activities allowed in this zone – this zone exists only in the Macquarie Island Marine Park.
- **National Park Zone** – high level protection, with no extractive activities allowed in this zone.
- **Recreational Use Zone** – no extractive activities other than for recreational use – this zone exists in Freycinet National Park.
- **Habitat Protection Zone** – allows for activities that do not harm or cause destruction to specific habitats.
- **Special Purpose Zone** – allows for the continued use of existing mining rights – this zone only exists in Zeehan Marine Park.
- **Multiple Use Zone** – allows for a range of sustainable activities.



Beagle Marine Park (Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies)

Changes in the 2025 management plan

Zoning changes

The 2025 management plan includes changes to zoning:

- New National Park Zones in 7 marine parks to improve protection of vulnerable and poorly represented ecosystems.
- New Habitat Protection Zones in 2 marine parks to allow increased access for sustainable pelagic fishing activities.
- The upgrade of the offshore and remote Special Purpose Zones to National Park Zones in 5 marine parks to prohibit oil and gas activities, which were the only previously allowed use.

The map on the next page outlines where the zoning changes occur in the Network.

Tightened restrictions on industrial activities

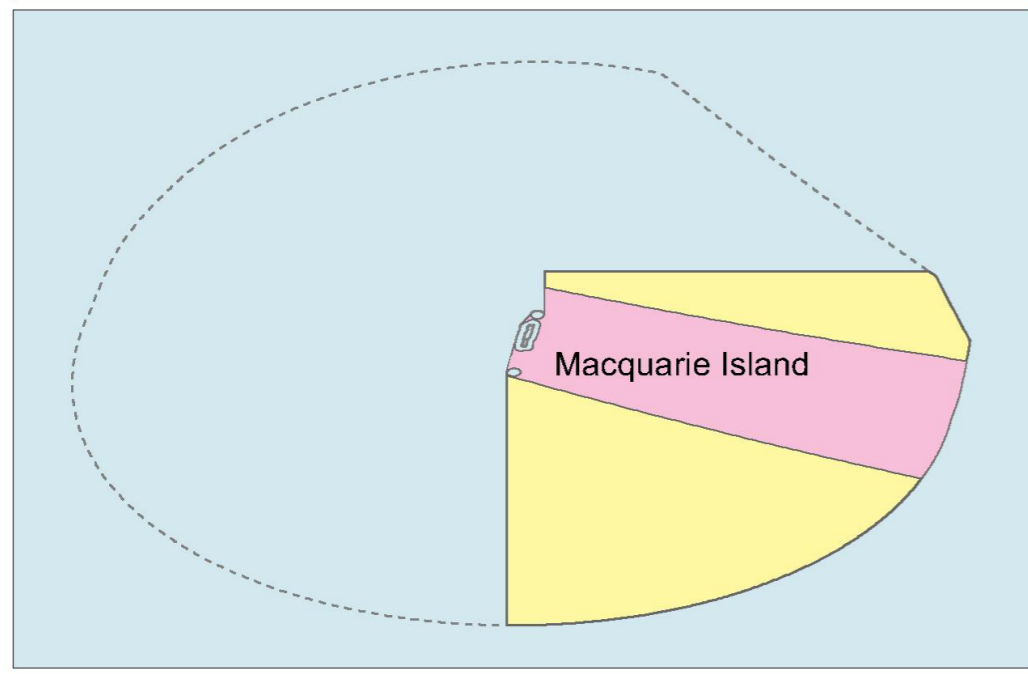
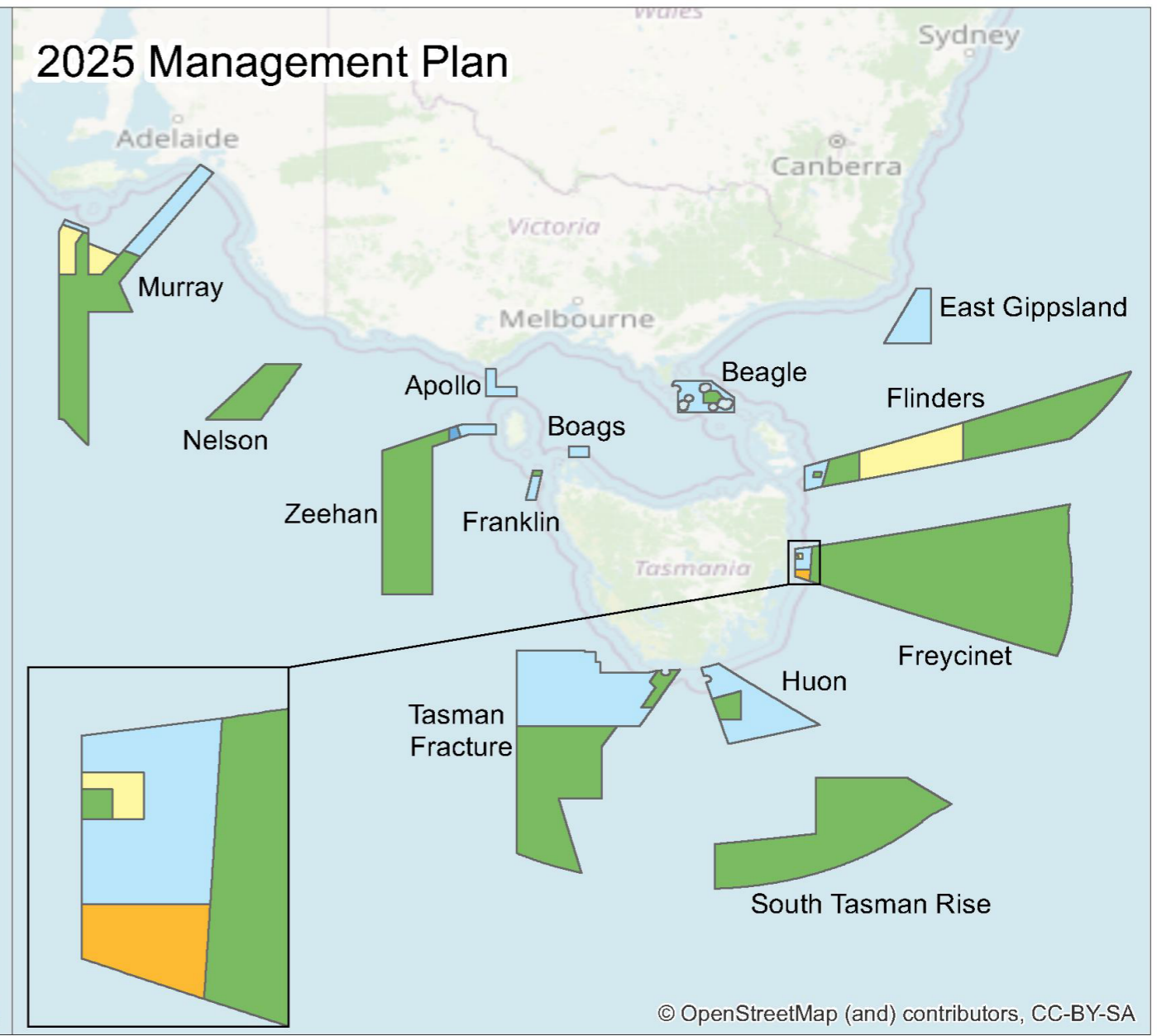
The 2025 management plan also tightens the rules on the types of industrial activities that can occur in the South-east Network.

- Deep-sea mineral mining, subsea carbon dioxide storage, offshore wind infrastructure and offshore intensive aquaculture are not allowed anywhere in the network.
- No new oil and gas titles will be allowed in the Network. Only approved activities under the existing titles in the Zeehan Marine Park will be allowed to continue subject to class approval conditions.

Approvals

- Some activities can occur in marine parks without any approval, as long as the activities are conducted in accordance with the prescriptions of the management plan, such as recreational fishing (except in Sanctuary zones).
- Many activities are allowable, subject to assessment in accordance with a permit, class approval or activity licence issued by the Director of National Parks. For example, this includes all commercial activities, research and monitoring, and structures and works.
- Some activities, such as some fishing methods and seabed mining, are not allowed anywhere in the Network.
- Please see the Management Plan and User Guide available on the Parks Australia website for more details.





South-east Marine Parks Network

- Sanctuary Zone (IUCN Ia)
- National Park Zone (IUCN II)
- Recreational Use Zone (IUCN IV)
- Habitat Protection Zone (Macquarie) (IUCN IV)
- Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)
- Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)
- Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)

