

Coral Sea Marine Park Advisory Committee

Meeting #6 Communique

16 November 2021 – Videoconference

The Coral Sea Marine Park (CSMP) Advisory Committee held a virtual meeting on Tuesday 16 November 2021.

Parks Australia provided the Committee with an update on key management program activities undertaken since the last meeting.

A summary of these program actions is provided:

Assessments and Authorisations

Thirteen authorisations have been issued since Meeting 5: commercial media (1), commercial tourism (4), research and monitoring (4), use of a drone or other non-commercial remote piloted aircraft (3), and other (1).

Since July 2018, 68 authorisations have been issued.

Compliance

Six compliance incidents were recorded in the CSMP since June 2021. The incidents related to commercial media and charter operations occurring without authorisation.

Quarterly compliance reports are available on the [Compliance webpage](#).

Marine Science

Coral Sea Reef Health: 2020-2021 Project

In February 2021 James Cook University undertook a comprehensive assessment of the condition of coral and fish communities.

Attendees

Russell Gueho (Chair)
Andrew Hoey
Christabel Warren
Clive Wilkinson
Doug Sanderson
Michelle Grady

Apologies

Col McKenzie
Craig Stephen
Russ Babcock
Ryan Donnelly (resigned)

Observers

Darci Wallis (Australian Fisheries Management Authority)
Moni Carlisle (Torres Strait Regional Authority)
Anthony Contarino (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)

The report is publicly available on the Australian Marine Parks website: [Survey of Coral Reef Health in the Coral Sea Marine Park 2021](#).

Coral Sea Island Health Project

In July 2021 a survey of 25 islands and cays in the central region of the CSMP occurred. The report on the assessment is underway, and will be made available on the Parks Australia website upon completion.

Parks Australia is working closely with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, researchers, and volunteer botanists to assess the health of islands in the Coral Sea.

Indigenous Engagement

Indigenous Engagement Framework

A draft Sea Country Management Framework for Australian Marine Parks is being developed by Parks Australia to recognise and respect the ongoing cultural responsibilities Traditional Owners have to care for sea country. It aims to improve understanding of cultural heritage values, link marine park management with sea country plans and maximise employment and enterprise opportunities for Traditional Owners.

Parks Protection and Management

Parks Australia published the [Environmental Incident and Emergency Response Strategy](#) which supports the Director of National Parks' response to serious or critical environmental incidents and emergencies in and adjacent to Australian Marine Parks (AMPs).

Communication, Education and Awareness

Various social media posts have been released about the Coral Sea reef and Island Health projects.

Tourism and Visitor Experience

The *Australian Marine Parks Tourism Strategy 2021-2026* guides the approach to understanding the use of AMPs by a range of tourism sectors.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held in May or June 2022. For more information about the Coral Sea Marine Park or the Committee:

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/coralsea

Email marineparks@environment.gov.au