

South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee Meeting #7 Communiqué 26 July 2022, Boorloo (Perth) and Videoconference via MS Teams

The South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee met in Boorloo (Perth) and via Microsoft Teams videoconference on Tuesday 26 July 2022.

Mr Matthew McGuire, attended to welcome the Committee to Whudjuk Nyoongah Boodjah (Whudjuk Country).

Observers at the meeting included representatives from the SA Department for Environment and Water (DEW), the WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), and Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA). Regional updates were provided by members and observers.

The key focus for Meeting #7 was to reflect on the achievements from the first four years of management under the *Foundation Implementation Plan 2018-22*, and to seek input on activities under the *Consolidation Implementation Plan* which will inform targeted management activities for each of the seven management programs to be implemented from 2022-2026.

National highlights for Australian Marine Parks

As part of the **Ocean Leadership package**, 30 projects worth a total of \$8.6 million have been selected for funding in Round 3 of the **Our Marine Parks Grants (OMPG) program**. Recipients include research institutions, First Nations organisations, regional community groups, the tourism sector and commercial fishing organisations. Successful projects will run over the next two years.

Member attendance

Andrew Coleman (Chair)
Kirsty Alexander
Bronwyn Gillanders
Tim Langlois
Peter Owen
Terry Romaro OAM
Sophie Teede
Stephen van Leeuwen
Melissa Nursey-Bray

Apologies

David Collard
Michael Heslewood
Lee Johnson
Gail Reynolds-Adamson

The **Indian Ocean Territories marine parks** around Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands were declared in March 2022. The new marine parks increase Australia's marine park coverage from 37 to 45 per cent of our waters.

Parks Australia opened an **Electronic and Vessel Monitoring Systems (EVMS) Assistance Program** grant opportunity. Supporting commercial fisheries management agencies to have the capability and capacity to assist the Director of National Parks in enhancing the use EVMS on commercial fishing vessels transiting or operating in AMPs. Projects commenced in May 2022 and will run to June 2024.

Foundation Implementation Plan Review

Management activities and achievements in the South-west Marine Parks Network over the last four years of management as they

relate to each of the seven management programs were reviewed with the Committee.

Key achievements include:

Communication, education and awareness – Activities have focused on raising awareness of the rules in parks to support compliance and awareness of AMPs, their values and the role they play in protecting Australia's marine environment.

Tourism and visitor experience – Development of experiences to provide 'over the horizon' visits to AMPs, including at the Busselton Jetty and Seal Bay Conservation Park to provide insight and experiences of the biodiversity in AMPs.

Indigenous engagement – Establishing relationships with First Nations people supporting an increased understanding of cultural values. Activities have focused around on-country workshops and supporting sea country planning.

Marine science – Establishing partners and undertaking discovery research to understand values and pressures in parks.

Assessments and authorisations – Established permits and licence portal and associated procedures to support assessment and issue of 88 authorisations since July 2018.

Parks protection and management – Focus to support partners in incident response and establish procedures and training to respond to marine incidents and emergencies.

Compliance – Implementing a risk-based approach to focus compliance efforts and working with partners to deliver on-water activities.

Consolidation Implementation Plan Development

The Committee reflected on priorities for the South-west Network for the next four years of management and developing the Consolidation Implementation Plan.

When reflecting on implementation activities across the seven management programs for Australian Marine Parks, members were asked to consider:

- What existing activities could be retained or improved in the future?
- What are the new types of activities or locations we need to focus on?

Feedback included:

- Continued development of products to increase awareness among the public of marine parks and the distinction between Commonwealth and state marine parks. This could include integration of marine park focused products within the school curriculum.
- Incorporate cultural values and Indigenous language on signage.
- Work with the cruise ship industry, specifically the small expedition style, to gauge opportunities to support citizen science activities, such as birdwatching in offshore marine parks.
- Development of communication products that highlight the rocky reefs /mesophotic reefs and showcases temperate reef systems.

The Committee's advice will inform drafting of the Consolidation Implementation Plan.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is likely to be held in November 2022.

For more information about the South-west Marine Parks Network or the committee:

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/south-west or

Email marineparks@awe.gov.au

You can also help us protect the South-west Marine Parks Network by reporting any suspicious or illegal activity in Australian Marine Parks to **1800 852 975** or marine.compliance@awe.gov.au