

North Marine Parks Advisory Committee

Meeting 14 Communique

14 April 2026 Online

Attendance

Members

Kerrie Bennison (Chair)
Adele Peddar (apology)
Amanda Ewart
Bo Carne
Cass Hunter (apology)
David Ciaravolo
Ian Knuckey
John Glaister (apology)
Leah Talbot
Paul Donohoe
Raquel Carter (apology)
Robert Fish
Vonda Malone (apology)

Guests (Parks Australia)

Shaun Barclay (Branch Head), Bianca Priest, Luke Einoder and Richard Singh

Secretariat (Parks Australia)

Frances Verrier, Darcy Stirling and James Fleming

- highlighting a new project on Aus Tender looking at climate change zoning to inform the review.

Planning (Review) Update

Representatives from the MIP Planning Section provided an update on the marine park management plan review, zoning, and the statutory public consultation process. The session provided a forum for members to ask questions and share concerns.

North Network Update

The Secretariat provided a summary of information about the North Network, including all research undertaken in the parks over the past 8 years.

Member Update

Member updates included:

- the FISHSOOP project, collecting oceanographic data around Australia, with data sources including commercial, recreational, charter and ranger vessels
- Sea Country-related activities, such as interest in establishing an NT Indigenous Saltwater Advisory Committee and the work of Angkamuthi Traditional Owners in West Cape York Marine Park.

Meeting Overview

The 14th Meeting of the North Marine Parks Advisory Committee (NMPAC) was held online via teams on Tuesday 14 April 2026. The Agenda included:

- updates from the executive, planning team, North Network and members and
- discussing members' views on future management plan priorities.

Executive Update

The Marine and Island Parks (MIP) Branch Head provided an update on national priorities for Australian Marine Parks including:

- confirming the Australian Government's commitment to ensuring 30% of our ocean is highly protected by 2030
- outlining the indicative timings for the review of the *North Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018* and

Future Management Plan Priorities

The members then shared their thoughts on future management plan priorities. A large portion of the discussion centred on the approach to zoning, and an additional on-line meeting session was provided to members on this topic in August 2026.

Next Meeting

Meeting #15 will be held in early 2027. For more information about the North Marine Parks Network or the committee:

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/north or

Email marineparks@dcceew.gov.au

Help protect the North Marine Parks Network by reporting any suspicious or illegal activity in Australian Marine Parks to **1800 852 975** or Marine.Compliance@dcceew.gov.au