

## Temperate East Marine Parks Advisory Committee

### Meeting #2 Communique

#### 21 November 2019, Sydney

#### Committee Meeting Overview

The second meeting of the Temperate East Marine Parks Advisory Committee was held in Sydney on Thursday 21 November 2019.

Uncle Allan Murray from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council welcomed meeting attendees to country.

Key agenda items for the meeting included: a management report on progress against the Temperate East Network Implementation Plan; a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) system for Australian Marine Parks; Indigenous engagement; and a National Communications and Marketing Strategy.

Regional updates were provided by members and NSW DPIE. Dr Candace Cooke, Parks Australia, presented on the use of acoustics for monitoring within AMPs and Mr Regan Lilley, NSW DPIE, presented outcomes of the Worimi Sea Country (Garuwa) project.

#### Management Report

An update was provided on key activities carried out since July 2018. A summary of these include:

- **Authorisations** – 33 authorisations were issued across recreational fishing (13), research (9), commercial tourism (8), commercial media (2), and structures and works (1) activities.

#### Member attendance

Adrian Wayne  
Bob Creese  
Brian Busteed  
Chris Fulton  
David Major  
Joe McNulty  
John Burgess  
Peter Cochrane  
Rick Stuart-Smith  
Steve Whalan  
Tricia Beatty  
Hilary Schofield (Chair)

#### Observer

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (NSW DPIE)

#### Apology

Rosemary Black

- **Compliance** – agreement with NSW DPIE to provide surface patrols in priority marine parks and the ongoing Parks Australia aerial surveillance program.
- **Science** – Recent research includes: Galapagos shark studies in the waters off Lord Howe Island, seafloor mapping in Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs, and deepwater habitat mapping along Australia's east coast.
- **Indigenous engagement** – Parks Australia has been working with the traditional owners of the Port Stephens area, the Worimi People and NSW DPIE to produce three artworks and a brochure, celebrating

the strong cultural connections to sea country (garuawa).

- **Parks Protection and Management** – Parks Australia has completed an Australian Marine Parks Environmental Incident and Emergency Response Strategy. This document is a national-level strategy that outlines roles and responsibilities in responding to an offshore environmental incident in marine parks.

A draft environmental risk assessment has been developed for the Temperate East Marine Parks Network.

- **Communications, Education and Awareness** – A communications plan and engagement strategy is under development to address non-compliance of recreational fishers at Cod Grounds Marine Park.

Parks Australia has identified a number of opportunities for signage, brochures, content and meetings/events in the Temperate East Network and will work with partners to develop these.

- **Tourism and Visitor Experience** – a Tourism and Visitor Experience Strategy is under development.

- **Acoustics monitoring in Australian Marine Parks** – Parks Australia has been working with NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Centre using acoustic recording technology as a method for monitoring vessel activity and biological sound in the Temperate East Network.

### A Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) system for Australian Marine Parks

Parks Australia is developing a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) system for Australian Marine Parks to monitor the

health of parks and evaluate the effectiveness of management.

Two key components of the MERI system will be a national framework that explains the overall approach, and network monitoring plans that will include outcomes and measurable indicators. MERI will inform annual reports and national State of the Environment reporting.

Committee advice will be sought during design of the MERI system, including: preliminary information on values, pressures and use; inventory and monitoring priorities; and evaluation and reporting processes.

### Communications approach and priority setting

A Communications and Marketing Strategy (2019 – 2023) has been prepared to guide work under the Communications, Education and Awareness program.

The Strategy includes information on target audiences, key messages and delivery channels. The Strategy includes building national awareness and recognition of Australian Marine Parks.

Drawing on the regional expertise of members, the Committee provided advice on how to target communications across the Temperate East Network. This advice will be used to develop a Temperate East Communication Action Plan.

An update was provided on existing website and social media plans.

### Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held in June 2020. For more information about the Temperate East Marine Parks Network or the Committee:

Visit [parksaustralia.gov.au/temperate-east](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/temperate-east)

Email [marineparks@environment.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@environment.gov.au)