**Member attendance**

Russell Gueho (Chair)

Neville Barrett

Jane Gallichan

Shannon Hurley

Tony Koslow

Melanie Mackenzie

Marg O’Toole

Mark Rodrigue

**Observers**   
Parks Victoria

Department of Natural Resources and the Environment

Tasmanian Police

**Committee Meeting Overview**

The seventh meeting of the South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee was held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hobart and via Microsoft Teams video conference on Tuesday 21 June 2022.

The Chair provided an Acknowledgment of Country, paying respect to the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held.

Key topics covered at the meeting included an overview of the development of the new South-east Network Management Plan and an update on activities undertaken in the South-east Network in the past 6 months.

Agenda items included:

* South-east Science Update
* OMPG 2 Deakin University Virtual Reality Immersive Experience project update
* Zeehan and Franklin MP research update

**South-east Network Management Report**

The SE Network Management Report was tabled which provided an overview of management activities since November 2021.

Completed projects included:

* The Tasman Fracture Marine Park fish, rock lobster and sessile benthic community surveys.
* The Characterisation and monitoring of demersal fish communities in Huon and Freycinet Marine Parks.
* The South-east Network Science Plan 2022 – 2027 which is now guiding our forward planning.

New projects underway:

* Repeat survey of the benthic community in the Huon and Freycinet MPs using Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV). Data from these surveys will provide information on the current condition of sessile benthic communities and changes in their condition through time and contribute data to support the Australian Marine Parks management effectiveness system.
* The Explore Sea Country program. This project has now entered Stage 2. Over 100 teachers recently participated in two professional learning sessions and ten new schools will take part in the program over the next two years. Teachers and learners will have the opportunity to explore Tasmanian Aboriginal People's continuing cultural practices of making shell necklaces and kelp water carriers and muttonbirding. This will be implemented in the classroom and through field-based excursions.
* Seven new Our Marine Parks Grants Round 3 projects in the South-east Network. The list of successful projects can be found at [Our Marine Parks Grants | Australian Marine Parks (parksaustralia.gov.au)](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/partnerships/our-marine-parks-grants/).

**Development of the new South-east Management Plan**

The Committee were provided an update on the process for the development of the new South-east Network Management Plan. The Director of National Parks intends to prepare a new statutory 10-year management plan for the South-east Marine Parks Network under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), to commence after the current management plan expires on 30 June 2023. The Director of National Parks will seek advice from the South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee during the development of a draft Management Plan.

**Zeehan and Franklin MP baseline surveys**

Parks Australia have partnered with The Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and CSIRO to gain a better understanding of the benthic habitats and communities in Zeehan and Franklin MPs. Both parks were mapped using fine scale multibeam sonar and drop cameras were used to validate features identified during mapping.

**OMPG 2 Deakin University Virtual reality immersive experience project update**

The Chair welcomed Adam Cardilini to provide an update on the progress of the *Creating immersive virtual experiences that build connection, understanding and value of Australian Marine Parks* (Deakin University) project. The Committee were provided the opportunity to trial the immersive Apollo Marine Park virtual reality (VR) experience using an XR headset. The VR experience will be hosted online and will be released to the public later this year. The release of the VR experience will coincide with a launch at the Port Campbell Visitor Information Centre and a 3D model exhibition at the Deakin Gallery in Victoria.

**Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be held in Melbourne in December 2022.

For more information about the South-east Marine Parks Network or the Committee:

Visit [parksaustralia.gov.au/South-east](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/south-west/)

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