

Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island are the only Australian marine regions where marine parks have not been established.



Marine parks protect seafloor environments like reefs; seagrass; seamounts; and canyons, and they also support fishing and other marine activities such as tourism, and diving.

Mike and Allyn from Parks Australia visited Cocos (Keeling) Islands in April, May and June to continue discussing the design and establishment of a CKI marine park with the community.

They met with groups, organisations and individuals including the Fishing Reference Group, Shire staff and Tourism Association staff and held community information sessions on West Island. The discussions helped to better understand:

- how the community would like the CKI marine park to be designed—what areas it should include and what the zones should be
- activities that occur within and around the CKI port zones
- the interaction of critical infrastructure like seawalls and ocean outfall with the marine environment

- commercial fishing and aquaculture operations that occur at CKI
- land and marine tenure at CKI, including leasing arrangements for commercial operations
- the importance of the lagoon area to the community
- the kinds of community projects that marine park funding could contribute to, to support the CKI economy and local jobs, and management of the marine park.

Mike and Allyn also visited the CKI school's year 7 to year 10 group to discuss marine parks and the research vessel Investigator that was scheduled to visit CKI in late July.

What are the next steps?

Parks Australia will visit Cocos (Keeling) Islands again from 23 to 30 July, 2021 to discuss the proposed design of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands marine park that has been developed with the community and answer any questions.

They will also be available to discuss marine park funding and/or future management.

More information

More information about establishing the Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands marine parks is now available on the Parks Australia website: parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/iot. If you would like to be kept up to date by email please send an email to iotmarineparks@environment.gov.au.

Get in contact

If you would like to meet or get in touch, contact

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