



Christmas Island Marine Park Management Plan 2025
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park Management Plan 2025
 Section 4.3.10 (Research, monitoring and restoration) and 4.5.2 (Class approvals)

CLASS APPROVAL – CONTINUING RESEARCH, MONITORING AND RESTORATION

Approved Persons	Persons who commenced scientific research, monitoring and restoration activities in Christmas Island Marine Park and/or Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park prior to the management plans for these parks coming into effect, including employees, students, servants, agents and contractors of such persons.
Approved Actions	Research, monitoring and restoration within Approved Marine Parks and Zones, by Approved Persons, in accordance with the Conditions of Approval.
Approved Marine Parks and Zones	Christmas Island Marine Park – all zones. Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park – all zones.
Conditions of Approval	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Approved Actions commenced prior to the relevant management plan coming into effect, without a permit from the Director of National Parks and in accordance with the Transitional Management Arrangements applicable at the time. 2. The Approved Actions must be completed prior to 31 December 2025. 3. The Approved Actions must be conducted in accordance with and subject to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) ('EPBC Act'); b) the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000</i> (Cth) including any prohibitions, restrictions or determinations made under the Regulations c) the Christmas Island Marine Park Management Plan 2025 (for Approved Actions in that marine park), d) the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park Management Plan 2025 (for Approved Actions in that marine park) e) other applicable Commonwealth and State laws to the extent those laws are capable of operating concurrently with the laws and instruments described in paragraphs (a) to (d).

This class approval will come into effect on 12 February 2025 and will remain in effect until 31 December 2025, unless this class approval is suspended, cancelled or varied sooner by the Director of National Parks in accordance with the respective management plan.

This class approval does not apply to or affect requirements for research and monitoring activities in Pulu Keeling National Park and/or Christmas Island National Park, where applicable.

For enquiries relating to this class approval, contact: marineparks@dcceew.gov.au.



Ricky Archer
Director of National Parks

Date: 18 Feb 2025



Interpretation

In the class approval and conditions:

1. **Approved Actions** means the actions described as Approved Actions in this class approval.
2. **Approved Person** means a person in the class of persons described as Approved Persons in this Class Approval.
3. **Approved Zones** means a Zone in which the Approved Actions are authorised by this class approval to be carried out.
4. **Director** means Director of National Parks continuing under section 514A of the EPBC Act and includes any agency that succeeds to the functions of the Director.
5. **EPBC Act** means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and includes any Act which amends or replaces the EPBC Act.
6. **EPBC Regulations** means the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (Cth.) and includes any Regulations that amend or replace the EPBC Regulations.
7. **Transitional Management Arrangements** means the arrangements that were in place for Christmas Island Marine Park and Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park following their proclamation in March 2022 and the commencement of their management plans in February 2025. The applicable arrangements were that research and monitoring activities in the marine parks could be undertaken without a permit from the Director of National Parks, where:
 - a. The activity had commenced prior to the parks' proclamation – all parks, all zones.
 - b. The activity was 'limited impact, not extractive' – all parks, all zones.
 - c. The activity was 'limited impact, extractive' – all parks, habitat protection zones only.

Research activities were not considered 'limited impact' if they involved the taking of any species that is protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and/or a species in the class Mammalia (mammals), class Aves (birds), class Reptilia (reptiles), or class Amphibia (amphibians).

8. **Zone** means a management Zone established by, and described under, Section 4.1 of the Christmas Island Marine Park Management Plan or Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park Management Plan.