

North Marine Parks Advisory Committee

Meeting #5 Communique

24 June 2021 - Videoconference

Attendance:

Members

Jacqui Doyle (Chair)
Ricky Archer
Rachel Baird
David Ciaravolo
Carol Conacher
Peter Cox
Robert Fish
Jason Fowler
John Glaister
Jackie Gould
Ian Knuckey
Christine Lamont
Jade Ritchie
Robert Pender (apology)

Observers

Kurt Derbyshire (Queensland Government)
Glenn Durie (NT Government)
Melinda Maclean (Torres Strait Regional Authority)

Secretariat (Parks Australia)

Frances Verrier
Lou Fava
Coco Cullen-Knox

coastal environments, and contributing to the global task of reducing emissions. Members also discussed progress on implementing the Management Plan as we approach the 4th year of active management.

Other presentations were given on: the *Australian Marine Parks Tourism Strategy 2021-2026*, new funding for extending Indigenous Protected Areas into sea country and progress with the \$14.8 million Ghost Nets Initiative.

Adrienne Laird from the Northern Prawn Fishery Industry Pty Ltd also presented on the results of the Our Marine Parks Grants Round One Project, looking at the effectiveness of trawl gear configurations in mitigating commercial fishing interactions with Sawfish. Glenn Durie updated the Committee on the Limmen Bight Healthy Country planning process.

Highlights of the management actions and achievements in the North Marine Parks Network over the last six months were shared with the Committee and are listed below.

Communication, Education and Awareness Program

The Australian Marine Parks Communication, Education and Awareness Strategy was approved in February 2021.

Science

The Committee was updated on research and monitoring projects in the North Marine Parks Network. Highlights included:

- an [Eco-narrative, full report](#) and [footage](#) of recent seabed mapping and biodiversity surveys by the

About the Committee and Meeting #5

The North Marine Parks Advisory Committee advises the Director of National Parks on the implementation of the [North Marine Parks Network Management Plan](#).

Meeting 5 was held via a videoconference on Thursday 24 June 2021, from 11am-1:30pm.

A key focus for Meeting #5 was the recent \$100 million oceans leadership budget announcement, supporting Australia's continued leadership in managing ocean and

Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and Geoscience Australia during November 2020 in Arafura Marine Park and

- a 10-year Monitoring and Evaluation Plan being prepared for the North Network.

Indigenous Engagement

Parks Australia attended a full day workshop with Ipima Ikaya to hear Traditional Owners' interests in, and hopes for, their sea country, and to discuss possible synergies / opportunities to collaborate on sea country management within the West Cape York Marine Park.

Parks Australia is partnering with AIMS and the Bawinanga Rangers to provide training and establish monitoring in sea country of interest to the rangers in Arnhem Marine Park. Monitoring activities will include the use of Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs) to capture information about key fish species, and sea temperature logging as climate change is an ongoing concern to the rangers. Simultaneously, the first round of training in scientific monitoring with the Thamurrurr Rangers has been completed in Joseph Bonaparte Gulf Marine Park.

Work continues with the Yirralka, Dhimurru and Marthakal ranger groups to look at cultural values with Traditional Owners for the sea country in Wessel Marine park.

Tourism and Visitor Experience

The draft Australian Marine Parks Tourism Strategy was shared with the Committee and members asked to provide regionally specific advice.

Authorisations and Assessments

Twenty authorisations have been issued since July 2018. These include activities involving actions by or under the direction of the Commonwealth and Commonwealth agencies (1); research and monitoring (14), structures and works (1); commercial media (1) and commercial tourism (3).

Park Protection and Management

Parks Australia continues to work cooperatively with AFMA on the recovery of

ghost nets from Australian Marine Parks under an MoU.

The Australian Marine Parks Mooring Policy has been finalised and will soon be available on the website.

Parks Australia staff participated in marine incident response exercises in December, increasing their skills and understanding of roles and responsibilities.

Compliance

Two compliance incidents occurred in the North Network for the January to March 2021 quarter.

The compliance team have a hotline for reporting illegal activities: 1800 852 975 or marine.compliance@environment.gov.au

Next meeting

The next Committee meeting is planned to be held in Darwin in November 2021.

For more information about the North Marine Parks Network or the Committee:

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/north

Email marineparks@environment.gov.au