



Coral Sea Marine Park and Temperate East Marine Parks Advisory Committees joint meeting #14 – Communique 9 April 2026 Pullman Sydney Airport Hotel

Committee Meeting Overview

The Coral Sea Marine Park (CSMP) and Temperate East Marine Parks Advisory Committees met at the Pullman Sydney Airport Hotel for a joint meeting. The Chair opened the meeting and provided an Acknowledgment of Country.

The key agenda item for this meeting was the reviews of the 2018 [Coral Sea Marine Park Management Plan](#) and [Temperate East Marine Parks Network Management Plan](#).

Members participated in an activity on the Management Planning process for the reviews.

Marine Planning Section update

Director of the Marine Planning Section, Bianca Priest, provided an update on Marine Park Management Plans (Review).

The first step of the broader review process is an independent evaluation of how the five 2018-2028 management plans have been implemented.

The evaluation considers implementation of the management programs, the progress made toward intended outcomes, and how the plans have supported marine park values and use. The findings will inform the development of new management plans.

ORIMA Research is undertaking the independent evaluation and **final reports are anticipated in June 2026**.

[Review of the 2018 Australian Marine Park management plans | Australian Marine Parks | Parks Australia](#)

Member attendance

Russell Gueho (Chair)

Coral Sea: Clive Wilkinson, Fiona Maxwell, Samantha Tol, Maxine Newlands, Doug Sanderson, Andrew Hoey

Temperate East: Rosemary Black, John Burgess, Chris Frid, Roberta Dixon-Valk, Brendan Kelaher, Matt Hayes, Brian Busted, Jessica Leck, Andy Carroll

DCCEE Staff Roberta Johnson (CS Secretariat), Martin Russell (Teams), Fiona Hagger (Teams), Tammy Hunter, Rob McKinnon (TE Secretariat), Emily Harris (Teams), Liv Schmidt

Guest Presenters Bianca Priest (DCCEE), Nicholas Macgregor (DCCEE)

Observers Katrina Widders (NWAC), Bob Kaigey (Member for Mer), Imogen Zethoven (Blue Ocean Consulting)

Apology **Coral Sea:** Robert Pender, Craig Stephen

Temperate East: Kate Davey, Kellie Pendoley

Factors involved in zoning decisions

The Chair provided an overview of factors that the Director of National Parks (DNP) would consider with respect to updates to park zoning, including changes to existing management arrangements, will be guided by:

- the goals and principles for a National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA)

- The 30% target is a firm commitment, but not a strict floor or ceiling.
- Climate smart zoning that builds resilience.

Activity on the Management Planning process

Members of both advisory committees were divided into a 'User' group and a 'Marine Science' group for an activity focused on the management planning process with respect to the upcoming review.

Key questions included:

- The Australian Government is aiming to achieve 30% high level protection of Australian oceans by 2030 (30 by 30); the management plan review will contribute to that. What are your views on how that could be achieved?
- What information do you need from the DNP to best contribute to the upcoming management planning process?
- Do you have any suggestions about how the DNP can best engage with marine park users and the broader community?

Park and Network Discussions

Committee members separated into their respective Park and Network to discuss regional matters.

Coral Sea

- A member indicated that there may be a consolidation of tourism services (i.e. less operators) in the future as there is less aspiration to expand due to challenges in the market.
- A member raised concerns about a legislative gap in MARPOL regarding waste discharge. As these areas are

classified as reefs, they don't have the required 12 nm buffer required under MARPOL for waste discharge near territorial land.

Temperate East

- Committee members want to be involved in an active way in the upcoming Review.
- Members are interested in future AMPAC meetings having a field trip component.

Science Prospectus

Nicholas Macgregor presented on the newly developed Science Prospectus.

The Draft Science Prospectus highlights 12 science challenges under 5 strategy themes:

- Weaving knowledge to sustain nature and culture.
- Understanding and responding to climate change.
- Managing complex systems in the face of uncertainty.
- Protecting and enhancing our natural and cultural environments.
- Exploring and strengthening people's connections to the environment.

Next Meeting

The members were advised that the next Committee meeting will be online in the later part of 2026.

For more information about the Coral Sea Marine Park and the Temperate East Marine Parks and their Committees:

Visit:

Coral Sea

<https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/park/s/coral-sea-marine-park/>

Temperate East

<https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/park/s/temperate-east-marine-parks-network/>

Email: marineparks@dcceew.gov.au