

Coral Sea Marine Park Advisory Committee Meeting #11 Communiqué 30 October 2024, Microsoft Teams

Committee Meeting Overview

The Coral Sea Marine Park (CSMP) Advisory Committee met via video conference on Wednesday October 30 2024.

The Chair opened the meeting and provided an Acknowledgment of Country.

Key agenda items for the meeting included an update on the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) risk, and the review of the [Australian Marine Parks guideline for the authorisation of commercial tourism and general use activities on islands in the Coral Sea, Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island Marine Parks](#).

Updates on issues, relevant information and research were provided by Members. Observers from Fisheries Queensland, Torres Strait Regional Authority and managers of the Coral Sea Natural Park, New Caledonia also provided updates.

National context and welcome from the AMP Executive

The Chair welcomed Shaun Barclay to provide an update on Australian Marine Park management. As the Marine and Islands Parks Branch Head, Shaun provided an overview of the recent restructures within Parks Australia.

The members were informed on the current priorities in Australian Marine Parks which include a greater focus on engaging First Nations People, building the case for future funding and preparing

Member attendance

Russell Gueho (Chair), Craig Stephen, Clive Wilkinson, Andrew Hoey, Fiona Maxwell, Gareth Phillips, Robert Pender, Samantha Tol

Observers

Thomas Hatley (Fisheries Qld), François Le Borgne and Maële Brisset (New Caledonia), Daniel Beard (TSRA)

Apology

Doug Sanderson, Maxine Newlands, Billie Roberts (Observer - TSRA), Mark Read (Observer - GBRMPA), Darci Wallis (Observer – AFMA)

for management plan reviews in other Networks.

The committee was made aware that the draft South-east Marine Parks Network Management Plan has been released for statutory public consultation. Members were encouraged to make a submission. The draft management plan seeks to strengthen protection for 14 offshore marine parks around Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, and the sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island that make up the South-east Marine Parks Network.

Members were invited to a National AMPAC meeting to be held in Brisbane, during 2025.

Management Report

An update was provided on key CSMP management activities:

- **Authorisations** – Since January 2024 there have been 18 authorisations

issued across commercial tourism, research and monitoring, and drone use.

- **Compliance** – Between 10 January 2024 and 10 September there have been 4 compliance incidents in the CSMP.
- **South Islet Weed Management Project** - A joint CSMP and Bureau of Meteorology team visited South Islet for 5 days in July to establish the South Islet Weed Management Project Plan and commence weeding. The Weed Management Plan has been approved by both Parks Australia and the Bureau and will continue over the next 5 years.
- **CSMP Island Access** - an update to the [Australian Marine Parks guideline for the authorisation of commercial tourism and general use activities on islands in the Coral Sea, Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island Marine Parks.](#) is underway, assessing the risk of different activities impacting natural values of the CSMP islands. The Guideline provides the approach and additional considerations that Parks Australia will follow when assessing applications and authorising activities on and adjacent to islands within the CSMP. It is a public facing document and the revised version will be available on the Parks Australia website when finalised. CSMPAC Members provided a number of recommendations for management of island usage and visitation.
- **HPAI** - From late 2023, Parks Australia has been on alert in marine and terrestrial parks for signs of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) in wild birds, particularly migratory birds. Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) have prepared a toolbox for wildlife managers that is publicly available through their website [here](#). The CSMP Management team is focusing on reducing pressures to “at risk”

species, and the federal Government recently announced a \$100 Million package to support a HPAI response.

Next Meeting

The members were advised that the next Committee meeting will be held in May 2025.

For more information about the Coral Sea Marine Park or the Committee:

Visit:

parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/coral-sea

Email: marineparks@dcceew.gov.au