

***Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999***

**Subsection 368(2)**

**INVITATION TO COMMENT**

**ON THE PROPOSAL TO PREPARE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE SOUTH-WEST, NORTH-WEST, NORTH AND TEMPERATE EAST COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVE NETWORKS AND THE CORAL SEA COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVE**

This notice is to let interested parties know that I plan to prepare draft management plans in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* *1999* for the:

* South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network
* North-west Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network
* North Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network
* Temperate East Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network
* Coral Sea Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Individual reserves which make up the networks are listed in the Schedule to this Notice. The South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network, for which a management plan is already in effect, is not part of this process.

These reserves are in Commonwealth waters, generally beyond 3 nautical miles (5.5 kilometres) from the coast. They are managed by Parks Australia on behalf of the Commonwealth Government; and in conjunction with marine parks in state and territory waters form part of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas. The system protects and supports a range of habitats and biodiversity values and provides opportunities for recreational and commercial use as appropriate.

I invite all interested parties to comment at this stage on what you think I should take into account in preparing the five draft plans for the Commonwealth reserves.

On 5 September 2016, the Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, released the reports of the independent Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review and noted the Government’s intention to finalise management plans by mid 2017.

The two reports of the independent Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review were the result of significant consultations with local communities and representative bodies to improve on the environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes contained in the management plans made in 2013. The report of the Expert Scientific Panel confirmed the shape and size of the overall marine reserve system was based on the best available science and provided recommendations to continue to increase our knowledge about the biodiversity and values of the system. The report of the Bioregional Advisory Panel contains a range of recommendations on use and zoning options within each network and on management approaches.

I will use the recommendations in the independent review reports and your comments as the basis of the draft management plans. I encourage you to read the reports and provide me your views on the recommendations or provide me with other options you think staff in Parks Australia and I should consider in drafting the management plans. Your comments may relate to all five plans, a single plan, or just to a single reserve—the extent of your comments is up to you.

All comments received in response to this notice will be taken into account in preparing draft management plans.

When the draft management plans have been prepared, I will make them publicly available for your further comment and input.

***How to provide comment***

Comments on the proposal to prepare draft management plans and recommendations contained in the Expert Scientific Panel report and Bioregional Advisory Panel report may be sent until **11.59pm AEDT Tuesday 11 October 2016**. Comments must be sent by one of the following means:

1. **Email**

Comments can be sent to managementplanning.marine@environment.gov.au

1. **Post**

Comments can be sent free of charge to:

*Marine Reserves Management Planning Comments
Department of the Environment and Energy
Reply Paid 787
Canberra ACT 2601*

Please note comments sent after 11.59 AEDT Tuesday 11 October 2016 or to an address other than those listed above may not be taken into account as input to the draft management plans.

Personal information provided to us will be dealt with in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles. Our Privacy Policy is available online at: [www.environment.gov.au/privacy-policy](http://www.environment.gov.au/privacy-policy). Your personal information may be disclosed to the Minister, relevant government agencies and where required by law. Please indicate clearly and give reasons if you would like your comments to be treated as ‘confidential’.

For more information about the reserves and to have your say on the intent to draft marine reserve management plans visit [www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine](http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine) or call 1800 069 352.

Sally Barnes

Director of National Parks

***Schedule - Commonwealth Marine Reserves for which management plans to be prepared***

Draft management plans will be prepared for the **Coral Sea Commonwealth Marine Reserve** and each of the following Commonwealth Marine Reserve Networks:

**South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network**

Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Western Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Western Eyre Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Murat Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Twilight Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Eastern Recherche Commonwealth Marine Reserve

South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Bremer Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Geographe Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Two Rocks Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Jurien Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve

**North-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network**

Shark Bay Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Carnarvon Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Gascoyne Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Montebello Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Dampier Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Eighty Mile Beach Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Roebuck Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Argo-Rowley Terrace Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Kimberley Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Mermaid Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Ningaloo Commonwealth Marine Reserve
Ashmore Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve
Cartier Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve

**North Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network**

Joseph Bonaparte Gulf Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Oceanic Shoals Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Arafura Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Arnhem Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Wessel Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Limmen Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Gulf of Carpentaria Commonwealth Marine Reserve

West Cape York Commonwealth Marine Reserve

**Temperate East Commonwealth Marines Reserve Network**

Gifford Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Norfolk Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Lord Howe Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Central Eastern Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Solitary Islands Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Hunter Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Jervis Commonwealth Marine Reserve