

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

Issued by Authority of the Minister for the Environment and Energy

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (Commonwealth Marine Reserves Renaming) Proclamation 2017*

Subsection 350(1) of the Act provides that the Governor-General may amend a Proclamation declaring a Commonwealth reserve by another Proclamation.

The purpose of the amendment Proclamation is to rename fifty-eight existing “Commonwealth marine reserves” to “marine parks” as per Annexure A to this statement. It does not amend any other aspects of these reserves.

The term “marine parks” is more easily understood than “Commonwealth marine reserves” and provides greater consistency for marine users. It aligns better with naming used by other jurisdictions and the Director of National Parks’ name. The term “marine parks” also more accurately conveys that these areas are special places, like national parks on land, that are for people to use and enjoy as well as for protecting important marine habitats and species.

Changing the names of the reserves from “Commonwealth marine reserves” to “marine parks” is therefore expected to make them more recognisable to marine users, better convey their purpose, and draw a clearer link between them and the Director of National Parks.

Subsection 351(1) of the Act provides that before the Governor-General makes a Proclamation under this Subdivision, the Minister must consider a report prepared by the Director of National Parks on the matter to be dealt with by the Proclamation.

Consistent with subsections 351(2) and 351(3), the Director of National Parks invited the public to make comments on the proposal to rename the reserves during a 62 day period (21 July 2017 to 20 September 2017). People were asked to send comments by email, post or online form during this period. Only 16 submissions were received—some in support, some opposed and some neutral on the renaming proposal. The comments received and the Director of National Parks’ views on those comments were considered by the Minister for the Environment and Energy. The Minister subsequently decided to recommend this amendment Proclamation to the Governor General.

Advice received from the Office of Best Practice Regulation indicates that as there is no additional regulatory burden imposed by changing the names of the reserves, there is no requirement for a regulatory impact statement (OBPR reference number 22665).

The Proclamation is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislation Act 2003*.

The Proclamation commenced the day after registration on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.

Details of the proposed name changes resulting from the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (Commonwealth Marine Reserves Renaming) Proclamation 2017*

<b>Current name</b>	<b>Proposed name</b>
<b>South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network</b>	<b>South-west network of Marine Parks</b>
Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park
Western Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park
Western Eyre Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Western Eyre Marine Park
Murat Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Murat Marine Park
Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Great Australian Bight Marine Park
Twilight Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Twilight Marine Park
Eastern Recherche Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Eastern Recherche Marine Park
South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve	South-west Corner Marine Park
Bremer Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Bremer Marine Park
Geographe Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Geographe Marine Park
Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Perth Canyon Marine Park
Two Rocks Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Two Rocks Marine Park
Jurien Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Jurien Marine Park
Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Abrolhos Marine Park
<b>North-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network</b>	<b>North-west network of Marine Parks</b>
Shark Bay Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Shark Bay Marine Park
Carnarvon Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Carnarvon Canyon Marine Park
Ningaloo Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Ningaloo Marine Park
Gascoyne Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Gascoyne Marine Park
Montebello Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Montebello Marine Park
Dampier Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Dampier Marine Park
Eighty Mile Beach Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park
Roebuck Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Roebuck Marine Park
Mermaid Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Mermaid Reef Marine Park
Argo-Rowley Terrace Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Argo-Rowley Terrace Marine Park
Kimberley Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Kimberley Marine Park
Ashmore Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Ashmore Reef Marine Park

<b>Current name</b>	<b>Proposed name</b>
Cartier Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Cartier Island Marine Park
<b>North Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network</b>	<b>North network of Marine Parks</b>
Joseph Bonaparte Gulf Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Joseph Bonaparte Gulf Marine Park
Oceanic Shoals Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Oceanic Shoals Marine Park
Arafura Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Arafura Marine Park
Arnhem Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Arnhem Marine Park
Wessel Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Wessel Marine Park
Limmen Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Limmen Marine Park
Gulf of Carpentaria Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Gulf of Carpentaria Marine Park
West Cape York Commonwealth Marine Reserve	West Cape York Marine Park
<b>Coral Sea Commonwealth Marine Reserve</b>	<b>Coral Sea Marine Park</b>
<b>Temperate East Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network</b>	<b>Temperate East network of Marine Parks</b>
Gifford Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Gifford Marine Park
Norfolk Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Norfolk Marine Park
Lord Howe Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Lord Howe Marine Park
Central Eastern Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Central Eastern Marine Park
Solitary Islands Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Solitary Islands Marine Park
Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Cod Grounds Marine Park
Hunter Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Hunter Marine Park
Jervis Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Jervis Marine Park
<b>South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network</b>	<b>South-east network of Marine Parks</b>
East Gippsland Commonwealth Marine Reserve	East Gippsland Marine Park
Beagle Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Beagle Marine Park
Flinders Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Flinders Marine Park
Freycinet Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Freycinet Marine Park
Huon Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Huon Marine Park
South Tasman Rise Commonwealth Marine Reserve	South Tasman Rise Marine Park
Macquarie Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Macquarie Island Marine Park
Tasman Fracture Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Tasman Fracture Marine Park
Franklin Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Franklin Marine Park
Boags Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Boags Marine Park
Apollo Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Apollo Marine Park
Zeehan Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Zeehan Marine Park
Nelson Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Nelson Marine Park
Murray Commonwealth Marine Reserve	Murray Marine Park