

## Proposed South Coast Marine Park

### Community Information Sessions Response to Questions

#### Session 3: Hopetoun – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Question	Response
1. What can be done to address the marine debris issue?	It is a very difficult problem to address. While the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCAs) can only address the marine debris issue inside the marine park it can partner with other organisations to help monitor and assist in managing the issue. Marine parks provide the resources to monitor what is happening with marine debris and this information can be powerful in bringing about action.
2. What opportunities will there be for traineeships and employment for skilled locals within the proposed Marine Park?	The marine park will provide opportunities for employment in a range of areas including marine rangers, Aboriginal rangers, research, marine ecotourism, both direct and indirect employment.
3. Why is there different zones for different recreations?	One of the zones under the <i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i> (CALM Act) is a recreation zone. These zones have recreation as their primary purpose. They can be applied to any form of recreation including recreational fishing.
4. What's unhealthy about the south coast to warrant the marine park?	The south coast is not unhealthy. We place marine parks in areas that best represent those regional marine ecosystems and are in a healthy condition. Marine parks protect marine biodiversity and future proof the marine environment from potential future impacts.
5. Hopetoun relies on tourism. What if this marine park impacts that?	The reservation of a marine park is for the purpose of allowing only that level of recreational and commercial activity which is consistent with the proper conservation of the natural environment, the protection of flora and fauna and the preservation of any feature of archaeological, historic or scientific interest. This primary purpose of marine parks supports sustainable

	<p>economic development. Marine parks are multiple use, allowing for on-going sustainable use including tourism. There have been various studies in Western Australia and worldwide on the economic and social benefits of marine protected areas. Marine protected areas and other spatial protection measures have been shown to deliver concrete benefits to blue economy sectors (<a href="#">Pantzer et al. 2016</a>). The Ningaloo region, protected by a marine park, contributed \$110 million to the State economy in 2018 - 19. More than 90% of this was attributed to money spent by the hundreds of thousands of domestic and international tourists who visit Ningaloo each year. This tourism activity is largely contingent on the Reef's unique existence (<a href="#">DBCA and Deloitte Access Economics 2020</a>).</p>
6. How long for the process from start to finish?	It will take just over two years, concluding in February 2024.
7. How will this park influence the freedom of local residents fishing and driving on beach with different types of vehicles?	The marine park is unlikely to impact on vehicle use on beaches. If any restrictions did occur, they would relate to environmental or wildlife protection issues and could be seasonal.
8. How will it influence current mining infrastructure along coastline?	We are aware of existing use and we will work with the operators to minimise impacts on the operation and marine park.
9. Will extra funding and support be provided to allow appropriate management and policing of the marine park?	At this stage DBCA and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) have been funded to undertake the planning for the marine park. Once the area of the park and the nature of the management required is understood, DBCA and DPIRD present a budget to government via Cabinet to seek adequate funding for both departments to carry out their functions to implement the management plan.
10. Will this allow the opportunity to expand the Fitzgerald Biosphere to include marine area?	Yes, the opportunity would exist to expand the Biosphere reserve.
11. Do you feel the south coast has been overfished or at risk, what information do you have to support this? Should there not be a longer term monitoring plan in place rather than locking out the south?	Marine parks are not a fisheries management tool. DPIRD use a range of input and output controls to ensure that our fish stocks are sustainable, which include tools such as bag and size limits, licences, gear restrictions, seasons etc. DPIRD continues fisheries management, within and outside of marine parks. The last annual <a href="#">State of the Fisheries Report 2019-20</a> states that 98% of our fish stocks were assessed as not being at risk or vulnerable through fishing.

	There is therefore little evidence of overfishing on the south coast. It is important not to mix up the terms overfished and impacts. The purpose of the marine park is to protect biodiversity and marine conservation values.
12. If climate change is changing the marine diversity how is the marine park going to change the effects of climate change?	Marine parks do not stop climate change, but they will help with resilience and recovery if they are well designed, resourced and managed.
13. If the sanctuary zones are measured against the non-sanctuary zones and found to be of no benefit can the sanctuary zones be revoked?	Yes, zoning can change through the review of a management plan every 10 or so years.
14. How will commercial entities be compensated for any impact to their businesses	<p>Compensation can be provided to commercial fishing entities through a process under the Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997 (FRICMA). Related businesses are not eligible for compensation.</p> <p>Compensation is provided to commercial fishers, where a marine park results in a reduction in the market value of their authorisation. Currently, the FRICMA is the legal mechanism for compensating commercial fishers.</p> <p>DPIRD recognises that FRICMA has proven challenging to implement, so is committed to work with industry (WAFIC) to develop an alternative approach to compensating affected commercial fishers and charter fishing operators.</p>
15. Will staff management resources tend to be concentrated in the area of greatest ecological significance such as the Fitzgerald Biosphere area in the Hopetoun region?	The management plan sets the priorities to where management resources should be applied. These priorities include areas of high ecological and cultural value under highest pressure from use.
16. If this is all well-funded (by taxes) why are all gravel roads in national parks not maintained?	The funding for marine parks come from a different process than terrestrial reserves. It is appreciated that gravel roads are not always in the best condition in our parks. Park visitation is increasing, with an increase in pressure on park infrastructure. As the second largest road manager in WA, we will never have enough resources to maintain gravel roads to the sort of condition that everyone expects.
17. Will the coral start moving south as well as fish.	There are already unique temperate corals that occur on the south coast. It is possible that tropical corals will move south, however, they move and establish at a far slower rate than fish so it is uncertain how they will establish.

<p>18. Will there be more fisheries officers here if there's a marine park?</p>	<p>That will depend on the size and location of the marine park. Once that is known, DBCA and DPIRD will determine the level of resources required and submit a proposal to Cabinet for appropriate funding.</p> <p>DPIRD is the lead agency for fisheries management in WA, this includes compliance both within and outside marine parks. Once the zoning is determined DPIRD will consider resourcing implications and the need for additional resources for compliance and education within the proposed south coast marine park.</p>
<p>19. What areas have been observed in our area that need to be protected in past reports or by yourselves?</p>	<p>The Wilson Report identified areas from Augusta to the South Australian border on the south coast as worthy of consideration as a marine reserve. The <a href="#">Carijoa Report</a> has confirmed the recommendations of the Wilson Report.</p>
<p>20. If locals don't agree with the proposed areas then are you just going to go ahead and do what you want anyway?</p>	<p>Government has committed to the creation of a marine park on the south coast. A marine park proposal requires the concurrence of the Ministers for Mines and Fisheries before the Minister for Environment can proceed to gazette the park. Those three Ministers need to be convinced that the process in preparing the indicative management plan is in the overall benefit of the community.</p>
<p>21. When will decisions around different zoning be decided for our area, how will our community engage to assist with these decisions?</p>	<p>These decisions around zoning will be made through the planning process. Information from users and the community generally is essential to the development of an effective zoning process.</p>
<p>22. Can you provide links to the data collated to date to inform our input?</p>	<p>Please see the references in the Carijoa Report which is on the <a href="#">DBCA website</a>.</p>
<p>23. Is the presentation slides available?</p>	<p>Yes, on the <a href="#">DBCA website</a>.</p>
<p>24. Are the zones the only forms of protection being considered?</p>	<p>Zoning is just one tool used in the management of marine parks. The indicative management plan will also contain management strategies. Management strategies provide direction on how management objectives will be achieved. The strategies can either specify what 'tools' the managers should use to help achieve a particular management objective (e.g. a regulation to restrict a certain activity), or high-level, leaving scope for</p>

	managers to decide what 'tools' will be most appropriate and effective (e.g. develop a mooring and anchoring plan).
25. How do you intend to measure resilience?	Resilience is difficult to measure. It is still an area of active research. In the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park studies have looked at the recovery of coral reefs and found recovery rates to be better in sanctuary zones than those outside.
26. What is the extent of monitoring proposed during the consultation period to further define the proposed zones and their baseline status?	DBCA is not in a position to monitor outside marine parks. Other organisations like universities do research in State waters. To understand adverse changes monitoring needs to occur over long periods to take in account for natural seasonal and short-term changes.
27. Will all the values for each habitat have targeted objectives and performance indicators?	Yes. DBCA publishes reports on the monitoring it undertakes to check performance against a management plan's performance indicators.
28. We would like to see an enlarged map of the area of Hopetoun & it's coastline & waters. Where are the designated areas?	Map provided at the meeting. The map can also be viewed on the <a href="#">DBCA website</a> .