

Stakeholder engagement regarding the south coast marine park proposal

Your thoughts on the proposed South Coast Marine Park Plan

Community Forum



PLAN FOR OUR PARKS
SECURING 5 MILLION HECTARES OVER 5 YEARS

Esperance community forum

11th March 2020

Summary Report

Background

The Western Australian State Government's Plan for Our Parks is an initiative to create five million hectares of new national parks, marine parks and conservation reserves by 2024. As part of this initiative a marine park on the south coast was identified as a key priority.

A series of community forums are being undertaken to help inform the development of the proposed south coast marine park planning process.

This forum was held in Esperance to tap into the experience and expertise of local people to gain:

- A clearer understanding of issues important to stakeholders (values)
- Clarity regarding stakeholder's key concerns that need to be addressed during the planning process
- Development of a study area boundary

Forum outputs

What participants value about the south coast marine areas (full list)

Values
Being able to fish, do my creative driftwood art and ensure the mental health of Esperance is protected. The youth of our town need recreational activities - this is not about marine parks
Being able to fish with my family, we already have enough rules in place to sustain our fishing industry
Close to the last ocean wilderness in our area
Community involvement for all generations through fishing clubs and events
Diving for abalone
Fishing <ul style="list-style-type: none">- I enjoy catching an occasional fish from a vessel offshore
Fishing attracts a lot of people to Esperance and the area. Small boats can't go far of the coast to fish, it's good for business and families along the shoreline, that can't afford boats
Lack of communication
Recreation fishing, exploring and camping on beaches
Recreational fishing, spearfishing diving for crays and abalone
That I have freedom to go wherever I want to fish without worrying about a massive rule book
The extraordinary beauty of the environment, and the recreation and tourism opportunities that it presents
The fact that is already pristine environment, I can't see any reason to have large marine parks in this area of Esperance
The large range of marine life and the clear waters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- I take underwater photographs and as an underwater photographer I agree with the previous comment
The loss of all our fishing based clubs
The unique bioregion, together with the opportunity to economically support the region through a considered and balanced management of ocean resources
Too much burley: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- totally agree that too much burley is used in this area

Participant concerns (full list)

Concerns
Boating behaviour creating problems: - burley is attracting sharks who are becoming too familiar with boats
Commercial fishing
Fish stocks are diminishing
Fisheries limits not adequate, they are too low
Government heavy handed control on such a small town to get its marine park hectares up so it can get its votes
Loss of access
Mental issues for our youth when they have nothing to do
Over control by unbending Government Departments who say one thing and do another
Overfishing in the area and the large number of sharks close to shore
Some marine species at threat, not protected
That current ocean use practices are unsustainable, both in a commercial and recreational context. It's crucial that we don't allow current practices to compromise opportunities for future ocean users
That the community doesn't fully understand the consultation process, and the opportunities for public input that will occur after this evening
The loss of community activities
The loss of Esperance
The loss of lifestyle
The loss of recreational fishing
The possibility of restricting future uses in our region for locals and visitors in recreational and professional uses
The proposed area is way too large; we have 12,000 – 14,000 people with the largest proposed area by far!: - compared to Albany who population is significantly larger than us and even compared to Perth, whose marine parks are significantly less then proposed for Esperance, yet they have millions of people compared to our 12,000
Too much burley
What about the big fishing boats that take fish away from recreational fishers
What's the go with the commercial fishing trawlers, commercial abalone and cray fishers? They are the ones who are causing the overfishing