



## **PROPOSED SOUTH COAST MARINE PARK GUIDELINES FOR SECTOR ADVISORY GROUPS**

### **1. Background**

In 2019, the State Government announced Plan for Our Parks, an initiative to create five million hectares of new national parks, marine parks and other conservation reserves across Western Australia (WA) by 2024. The creation of a marine park on the south coast was identified as a key part of the initiative. This proposal, once implemented, will make a significant contribution to the comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness of WA's current network of marine parks and reserves. It will provide protection for important marine habitats and biodiversity on the south coast, while allowing for ongoing sustainable use.

A community engagement strategy has been developed for the proposed south coast marine park (PSCMP) which outlines the approach for meaningful engagement with stakeholders and local communities. This includes the establishment of a Community Reference Committee (Committee) and Sector Advisory Groups (SAGs).

The primary function of the Committee and SAGs will be to provide advice and recommendations to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and traditional owner joint management partners throughout the planning process regarding the development of an indicative joint management plan for the PSCMP, including proposed management arrangements.

The Committee is a non-representative, non-statutory, community based advisory group, with members appointed by the Minister for Environment through an expression of interest process. The Minister has selected former McGowan Government Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services, Hon. Francis Logan as chairperson of the Committee.

The Committee will represent broad community interests, while the SAGs will represent specific peak body groups, associations or commercial and recreational interests.

### **2. Role of the Sector Advisory Groups**

The role of the SAGs is to provide representative advice and recommendations from their sector (e.g. commercial fishing, recreational fishing, tourism, science, ports/industry, conservation) to the Committee, DBCA, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and joint management partners (collectively referred to as the planning team) as part of the marine park planning process.

SAGs will provide a critical pathway for information flow between their sector and the Committee (Figure 1).

SAGs will be given the opportunity to:

- attend each Committee meeting as sector representatives;
- present at the first meeting of the Committee the SAGs' aspirations and concerns in relation to the PSCMP;
- have a standing agenda item at the start of each Committee meeting to provide advice and feedback from their sector to the Committee on outcomes from previous Committee meetings; and
- provide advice and recommendations throughout the planning process (Figure 2) regarding the development of an indicative joint management plan for the PSCMP, including proposed management arrangements.

SAGs provide information and advice and do not have any executive functions or decision-making ability as part of the marine park planning process.

The planning team are not bound to accept the information or advice received from a SAG but will consider it appropriately in the context of decision making. Where appropriate, the planning team will advise SAGs on the position or decisions taken in respect to particular matters.

### **3. Membership**

DBCA will invite all known peak body groups in writing to represent their sector as a SAG and nominate a chair (e.g. Recfishwest will be invited to represent the recreational fishing sector as a SAG). The chair will be provided with the agenda and minutes for each Committee meeting and be responsible for disseminating to sector members. The chair for each SAG will be responsible for compiling advice and recommendations from their members for provision back to the Committee.

The establishment of SAGs will enable the Committee to receive timely and relevant sectoral feedback on the proposal which can be considered during the planning process. Where there are competing views within a sector regarding certain issues, it will be the role of the chair to represent those competing views.

All participating SAGs will be listed on the website. If a community interest group is seeking SAG representation as part of the marine park planning process, but is yet to receive an invitation from DBCA, please contact [pscump@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:pscump@dbca.wa.gov.au).

SAGs are encouraged to respond promptly and nominate a chair prior to the due date stated in the invitation.

### **4. Meetings and anticipated workload**

The Committee will meet up to 8 times throughout the planning process, with meetings generally held 2-3 months apart. One member from each SAG, usually the SAG chair or a member nominated by the SAG chair, will be invited to attend Committee meetings and provide advice where required.

DBCA will develop and distribute the agenda and other relevant materials to Committee members and SAG chairs in advance of each meeting. Committee meetings will generally be held in Esperance.

All meeting outcomes will be made available at: [www.dbca.wa.gov.au/south-coast-marine-park](http://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/south-coast-marine-park).

## **5. Administration, allowances and expenses**

SAG membership is voluntary and there is no remuneration. DBCA may, however, make a financial contribution (based on Public Service rates) towards reasonable travel expenses incurred by one invited member of each SAG, usually the chair or a member nominated by the chair, for attending Committee meetings or other related business. SAG members attending meetings in their capacity as a paid employee of their respective sector are not eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses.

Reimbursement must be authorised in advance by DBCA's Esperance District Manager or the Branch Manager, Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands.

## **6. Variation**

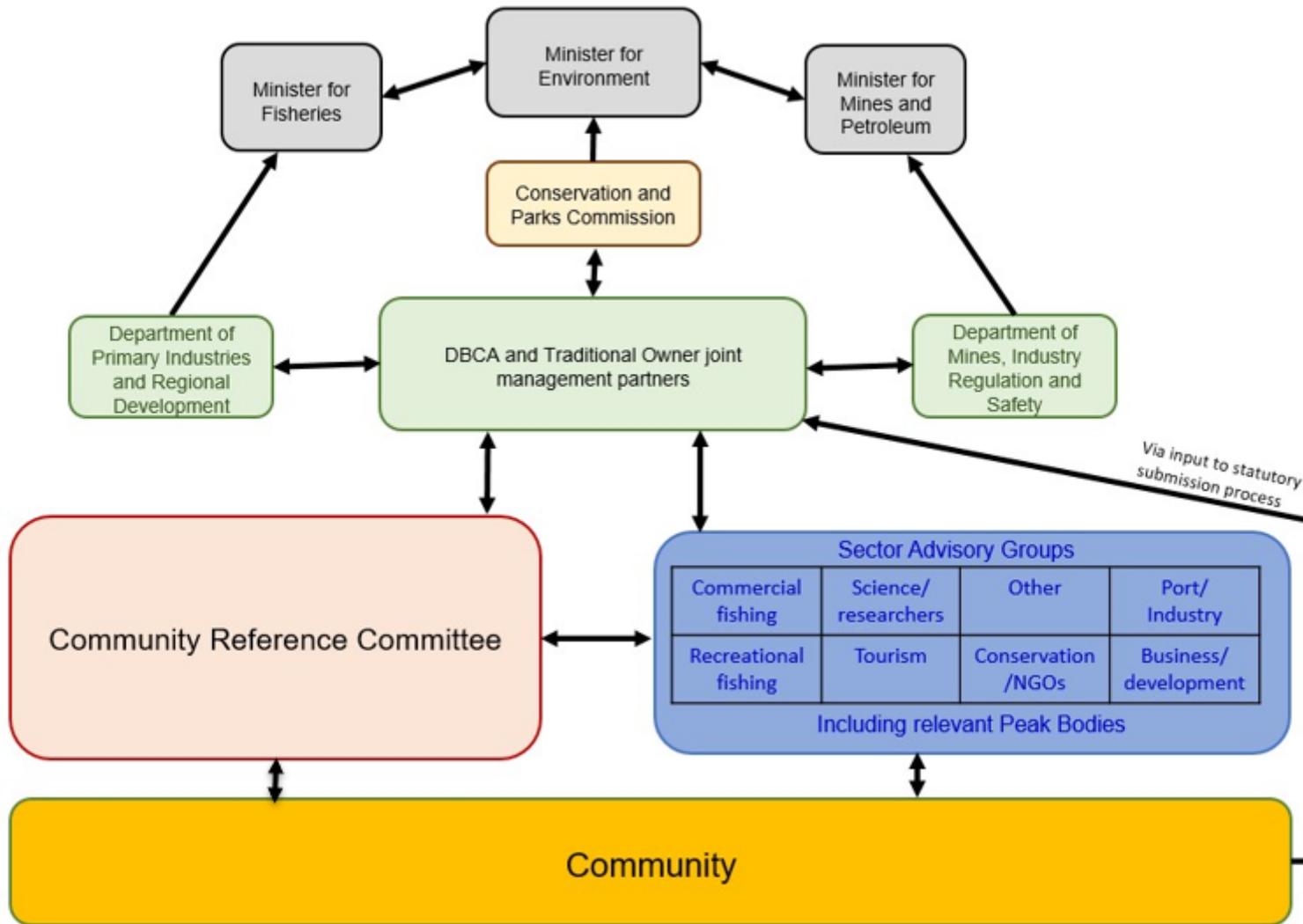
The SAG guidelines may be amended, varied or modified by DBCA at any time by notice in writing to the chairs of the SAGs.

## **7. Conduct**

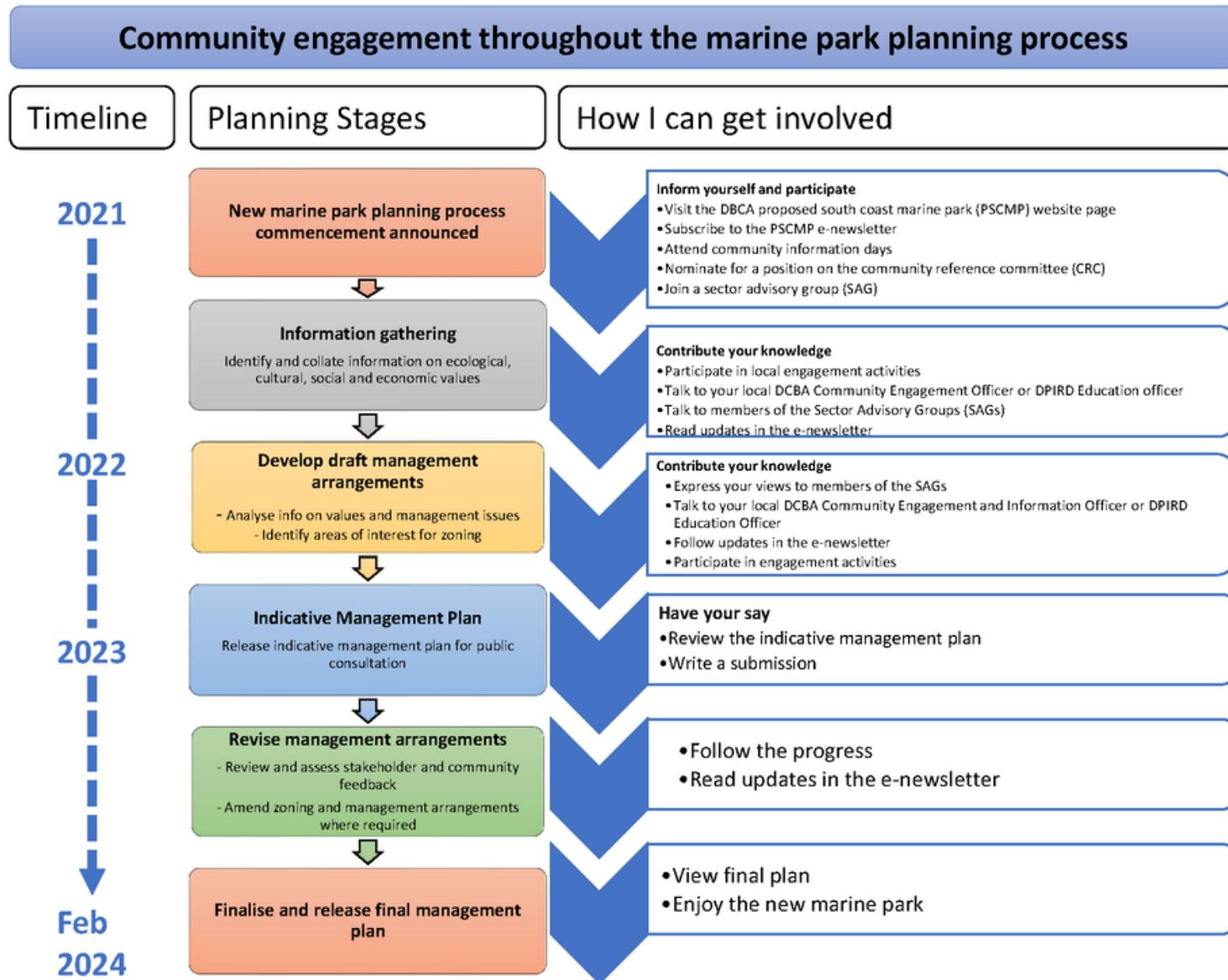
SAG members are expected to act in the best interests of their sector. SAG members must ensure professional conduct and exercise a high standard of care, respect and integrity in all interactions with the planning team and the broader community, throughout the planning process.

## **8. Term**

SAGs will remain in place for the duration of the marine park planning process, from late 2021 to late 2023.



**Figure 1.** Flowchart showing the reporting and communication channels between DBCA and traditional owner joint management partners, the Community Reference Committee and Sector Advisory Groups.



**Figure 2.** Schematic showing steps in the marine park planning process and opportunities for stakeholder and community input into the planning process.