

Proposed South Coast Marine Park Ministerial Panel Event - Response to Questions

Esperance, 10th November 2021

<p>Panel: Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson Hon. Don Punch Mark Webb Peter Dans Heather Brayford Chris Nutt</p>	<p>Minister for Environment Minister for Fisheries Director General DBCA Deputy Director General DBCA Deputy Director General (Sustainability and Biosecurity) DPIRD Marine Conservation Officer (Planning) DBCA</p>
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Question	Response
<p>1. Proposed boundaries should be based on an adequate and representative approach and principals, what scientific evidence can you provide to support this approach?</p>	<p>The science behind the effectiveness of marine protected areas and sanctuary zones in general is now well established after 2-3 decades of significant research world-wide, including in Australia. This research underpins a number of design principles that guide the development of zoning schemes and the placement of sanctuary zones. The best available information will be used to inform the boundary and zoning scheme of the proposed south coast marine park (PSCMP). The Carijoa report identified over 240 scientific studies that identify the south coast as a biodiversity hotspot that is unique when compared to the rest of the coast.</p>
<p>2. An expert quoted in the Carijoa Report acknowledges that a number of spatially discrete studies have been done but are insufficient to properly inform marine park planning. Will gaps in knowledge be I <i>[question incomplete]</i></p>	<p>The Carijoa report identified over 240 scientific studies that identify the south coast as a biodiversity hotspot that is unique when compared to the rest of the coast. This follows the principles needed to implement a marine park. The Carijoa Report acknowledges the capacity for further research and discoveries in these areas as they are remote, unique and relatively understudied.</p>
<p>3. You have stated that the areas to be protected in the marine park will be based on scientific data, yet the two reports used to inform your decision making clearly indicate that the science is lacking.</p>	<p>Notwithstanding, various studies have been undertaken and based on this information the Carijoa Report summarises the key ecological values of these areas. For example, in Twilight Cove there is rhodolith habitat and extensive seagrass meadows, a Biologically Important Area for white sharks, Baxter Cliffs which are a haul out and breeding site for Australian sea lions, a Biologically Important Area for southern right whales and a Commonwealth recognised emerging aggregation area. There is sufficient</p>
<p>4. What data / information will be utilised to define zones?</p>	<p></p>
<p>5. How do we prioritise location of importance?</p>	<p></p>

<p>6. Given the challenging sea surface conditions (resulting in minimal research and limited recreational fishing), how will you design sanctuary zones in remote areas? And how will the Government enforce / police these remote areas?</p>	<p>information to confirm the ecological importance of these areas for inclusion in a marine park and to develop zoning. The exact zoning design will be determined through the planning and consultation process, considering all available information.</p> <p>The best available information will be used to design the proposed marine park zoning scheme, this will include all available scientist information, cultural information and socio-economic information. The Guidelines for Establishing the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA) provide advice on the zoning design of marine parks. The NRSMPA is a national system of marine protected areas which aims to contain a comprehensive, adequate and representative sample of Australia's marine ecosystems. The NRSMPA guidelines recognise that information on a range of attributes for many areas is not complete and in those instances the guidelines advise that the best available information should be used. In the absence of fine scale habitat mapping for the proposed marine park broadscale information will be used to protect areas across the full range of bioregions and across a range of different depths and exposures from inshore areas to offshore areas. The marine park will be carefully designed using all available data to ensure protection is provided to key ecological and cultural values whilst having the least impact on marine users.</p>
<p>7. Prof Harvey stated that fish assemblages on the south coast have changed due to increases in sea surface temperatures, how will sanctuary zones and more broadly marine parks combat climate change?</p>	<p>Marine parks cannot combat climate change, but the establishment of marine parks can contribute to maintaining climate change resilience and rebuilding ecological and social resilience. Effective management of human use and local pressures can increase ecosystem health, thereby increasing resilience to external pressures such as increasing sea temperature and heat wave events.</p>
<p>8. There is little doubt DBCA have identified the zones of interest. Why not show them now at this meeting?</p> <p>9. What are the minimum areas targeted for sanctuary zones?</p> <p>10. How large are the sanctuary zones likely to be? Single islands? Multiple?</p>	<p>Areas of interest and the size of sanctuary zones is not yet known. The zoning scheme will be developed in consultation with stakeholders using the best available information.</p>

<p>11. The process undertaken by the DBCA with regard to the Buccaneer marine park left many stakeholders disillusioned, neglected and unheard how do you expect the Esp community to trust this process?</p>	<p>The setting for the development of marine parks in the Buccaneer Archipelago is very different to the south coast situation. Government required a co-design process with the Aboriginal people that hold native title rights over the sea country in that area. Aboriginal people are the majority population surrounding the proposed marine park. Covid-19 impacted on the consultation timeframe with broader community and stakeholders. Additional intensive consultation has occurred during the extended public submission period.</p>
<p>12. How is establishment of marine sanctuary zones equate to land based national parks?</p> <p>13. Will the sanctuary zones be focused /restricted too heavily fished areas where they will have most benefit? ie a few areas close to boat ramps.</p> <p>14. Why do we need sanctuary zones for habitats that are only occasionally fished due to their remoteness and inaccessibility?</p>	<p>Sanctuary zones have the purpose of providing the highest level of protection to marine plants and animals. They are similar to national parks, in that they provide protection from a wide range of commercial activities. They generally include representative habitats and biodiversity, important areas for threatened and protected species, and areas that include significant natural or cultural features. Sanctuary zones provide protection to habitats from a wide range of pressures, including mining, dredging and aquaculture not just from fishing and therefore sanctuary zones are just as important in remote areas. The placement of sanctuary zones will be carefully designed to protect representative examples of habitats in the marine park whilst having the least impact on socio-economic uses.</p>
<p>15. Fishing does not have a similar impact on marine ecology to agriculture monoculture and weeds.</p>	<p>Statement. Noted.</p>
<p>16. Is it true that the Carijoa report is not a new research but only a compilation of the research already there?</p>	<p>Yes, the Carijoa report is a compilation of the scientific research and information available. The Carijoa report identified over 240 scientific studies that identify the south coast as a biodiversity hotspot that is unique when compared to the rest of the coast.</p>
<p>17. How much money has been set aside by government for research within the marine park?</p>	<p>The amount of funding for research has not yet been allocated by the State Government for research and monitoring. Funding may also come from external sources. Experience from other locations is that marine parks attract research, and, in some cases, marine parks can attract substantial research funding from external sources.</p>
<p>18. How much money has been put aside for compensation? And under which mechanism?</p>	<p>Government is committed to providing fair compensation to all commercial fishers, where a marine park zoning scheme results in a reduction in the market value of their authorisation. Currently, the <i>Fishing and Related</i></p>

<p>19. What is budget for compensation?</p>	<p><i>Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997</i> (FRICMA) is the legal mechanism for compensating commercial fishers. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) recognises that FRICMA has proven challenging to implement, so is committed to working with industry (WAFIC) to develop an alternative approach to compensating affected commercial fishers and charter fishing operators.</p>
<p>20. You mentioned economic opportunities, where is the study that DBCA said they have done to highlight the economic opportunities of a south coast marine park?</p>	<p>No specific economic study has been carried out for PSCMP. However, 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 (for example, see Pantzar et al. 2016). 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 (see DBCA and Deloitte Access Economics 2020).</p>
<p>21. How can commercial fishers be comfortable that they won't be shafted like they were with Kimberley marine parks?</p>	<p>Fishing (including in estuaries) is recognised as a very important activity and contributor to the regional economies and communities and the PSCMP will seek to minimise impacts on commercial and recreational fishing. The setting for the development of marine parks in the Kimberley was very different to the south coast situation.</p>
<p>22. In the recent south coast meetings, why was a slide of a dynamited reef in Indonesia used to show what will happen if we don't have sanctuary zones, isn't this a bit over dramatic?</p>	<p>This footage was from Tanzania, in a city with a smaller population than Perth. The purpose of the footage was to demonstrate what can happen when there is no management or very poor management. It highlights that Australia is fortunate to have a government committed to providing very good fisheries and conservation management to ensure the environment remains healthy for future generations.</p>
<p>23. How will a Marine Park along the South Coast of WA help to improve the sustainability of our coastline in the broader context of the whole state?</p>	<p>The Western Australian government is committed to developing a network of marine parks and reserves across Western Australia's coastal and marine environment and has been progressively building a representative system since the creation of Marmion Marine Park and Ningaloo Marine Park in 1987. The long-term goal is to establish and manage a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks and reserves that provide protection for all types of marine habitats and biodiversity found in</p>

	<p>Western Australia's coastal waters whilst allowing for ongoing sustainable use.</p> <p>Australia's coast and marine environment has been classified into 60 Integrated Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia (IMCRA) bioregions, 19 of which are in Western Australia. Each bioregion is a distinct biogeographical unit that represents broad physical and biological differences in the coastal and marine environment across Australia. The guidelines for the NRSMPA recommend that IMCRA bioregions form the basis for reserve design, with one or more examples of conservation features (e.g. habitats and ecosystems) found in each bioregion represented in highly protected zones. The south coast is currently under-represented.</p>
<p>24. With regards to David Gray's comments about swaths of marine parks, has the group been explained to about what exactly is state waters and what jurisdiction does the state have ie only 3nm from coast?</p>	<p>The proposed marine park will be in State waters, and therefore cannot extend further seaward than the 3 nautical mile State waters limit.</p>
<p>25. If one area is zoned as general use can it be changed by dbca/Dpird at a later date?</p> <p>26. When Marine Parks have been created, can they be removed / altered to best fit the needs of the community as it develops?</p> <p>27. What is the process if a general zone is identified as an area of significance and is wanted to be changed to a sanctuary zone?</p> <p>28. Is there flexibility to allow adaptive change in Marine Park boundaries when new knowledge comes to hand?</p> <p>29. If one area is zoned as General Use can it be changed at a later date?</p>	<p>Yes, zoning can change through the review or amendment of a management plan. Reviews are usually undertaken after 10 years. The on-ground management strategies identified through the management plan will be adaptive in response to changes in pressure and condition. Reviews and amendments to zoning are both subject to a public consultation period and ministerial concurrences.</p>
<p>30. Do you expect to see current fisheries management change in conjunction with the installation of SCMP?</p> <p>31. Why do we need these in lightly fished areas?</p> <p>32. How will qootas & access be managed to ensure sustainability ?</p>	<p>Quotas and management of commercial and recreational fishing will continue to be managed by DPIRD. 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.</p> <p>DPIRD continues fisheries management, within and outside of marine parks. Marine parks complement existing fisheries management but are different in</p>

33. Do you expect to see current Fisheries Management change in conjunction with the installation of South Coast Marine Park?	that they aim to protect all ecological values in a particular area, not only target species. Marine parks deliver a range of social, environmental and economic benefits.
34. Have you been given a specific number of ha the govt wants made into marine park in the south coast?	No, the boundary and size of the marine park is yet to be determined and will be determined in consultation with stakeholders.
<p>35. How will a Marine Park along the South Coast of WA help to improve the sustainability of our coastline in the broader context of the whole state?</p> <p>36. The focus is on a park in the archipelago, what study has been done on the other areas to determine they are not suitable. Some are fast more untouched than here. Eg twilight to the east.</p> <p>37. If marine parks provide a framework through which competing sectors are managed, why haven't the areas adjacent to major population centres like Perth, Geraldton, mandurah and Bunbury prioritised.</p> <p>38. If the government is so committed to the conservation of Biodiversity, why is the Scarborough Gas proposal getting all the required approvals to proceed? Climate change is the single greatest threat to biodiversity and fossil fuel consumption is the single greatest contributor causing climate change.</p>	<p>The Western Australian government is committed to developing a network of marine parks and reserves across Western Australia's coastal and marine environment and has been progressively building a representative system since the creation of Marmion Marine Park and Ningaloo Marine Park in 1987. The long-term goal is to establish and manage a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks and reserves that provide protection for all types of marine habitats and biodiversity found in Western Australia's coastal waters whilst allowing for ongoing sustainable use.</p> <p>Australia's coast and marine environment has been classified into 60 Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia (IMCRA) bioregions, 19 of which are in Western Australia. Each bioregion is a distinct biogeographical unit that represents broad physical and biological differences in the coastal and marine environment across Australia. The guidelines for the NRSMPA recommend that IMCRA bioregions form the basis for reserve design, with one or more examples of conservation features (e.g. habitats and ecosystems) found in each bioregion represented in highly protected zones. The south coast is currently under-represented.</p> <p>The establishment of the marine park is a separate issue to the Scarborough Gas proposal.</p>
<p>39. Will the whale migration be considered?</p> <p>40. David Ellet: Southern Right Whales are endangered, the South Coast is very important for their calving season. Will protecting these breeding areas be part of the Marine Park establishment?</p>	Yes, the importance of the area to whales will be considered in the design of the marine park.
41. Why ask who should be consulted, ask everyone, consult with everyone.	The whole of community will be invited to participate in the process.

<p>42. How much budget is allowed to fund research and management?</p> <p>43. How will the Plan be funded?</p> <p>44. What is the budget for the Marine Park?</p> <p>45. What resources are involved to manage the new Marine Park?</p> <p>46. Is there an opportunity to provide funding for new enterprises other than that provided to fishers, researchers and those involved in Park management, to boost the town's economy and to provide greater employment in industries symbiotic to Marine Park introduction?</p>	<p>At this stage, the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and DPIRD have been funded to undertake the planning for the marine park. Once the extent of the park and the nature of 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, including funding for research and management. This will include funding for resources including staff and operational equipment to implement, operate and monitor the marine park.</p>
<p>47. Beach access?</p> <p>48. Marine Parks go to the high tide level. Are there likely to be beaches closed to 4WD access?</p>	<p>The marine park is unlikely to impact on vehicle use on beaches. If any restrictions do occur, they would relate to environmental or wildlife protection issues and could be seasonal.</p>
<p>47. What can future generations benefit from established Marine Parks?</p>	<p>Marine parks are multiple use and ensure long term protection of areas for conservation, recreation and ongoing sustainable use. These areas are set aside for current and future generations to enjoy and use sustainably.</p>
<p>49. Venn diagram presented by Prof. Peter Newman: a. Where net gain can be demonstrated (in overlap) for all sectors. b. Definition of Sustainability. c. Should underpin all development proposals.</p>	<p>Statement. Noted.</p>
<p>50. When the Management Plan is open for Public Consultation, please ensure it is not released for comment over the summer break.</p>	<p>Statement. Noted.</p>
<p>51. Would you consider creating some artificial reefs for recreational fishing to offset some sanctuary zones?</p>	<p>Artificial reefs are not being considered as part of the marine park proposal.</p>
<p>52. Minister for Environment: a. Always a good outcome?? b. Economic opportunities? Where is the study?? c. Not new and research only a compilation of research already there. Minister for Fisheries: d. How does Marine Park realistically guarantee sustainability?</p>	<p>a. Question unclear. b. 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 economic development. Marine parks are</p>

	<p>multiple use, allowing for ongoing 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 (for example, see Pantzar et al. 2016). The Ningaloo region, protected by a marine park, contributed \$110 million to the State economy in 2018-19 (DBCA and Deloitte Access Economics 2020). c. Yes, the Carijoa report is a compilation of the scientific research and information available. The Carijoa report identified over 240 scientific studies that identify the south coast as a biodiversity hotspot that is unique when compared to the rest of the coast. d. The science behind the effectiveness of marine protected areas in general is now well established after 2-3 decades of significant research world-wide, including in Australia.</p>
<p>53. Having a word limit on the app is not conducive to having questions answered. Nor does it provide the context in which the question was asked.</p>	<p>Statement. Noted.</p>
<p>54. Engagement: How about a normal conversation, where healthy debate is allowed and encouraged – open, community discussion not using an app.</p>	<p>Statement. Noted.</p>
<p>55. Storm water drainage is a big pollution contributor that does not respect Marine Park boundaries. What can be done to strip gross pollutants, micro plastics and nutrients entering the ocean through stormwater?</p> <p>56. Rubbish on ocean floor and washed up on the beach is a huge issue. May there be funds to help clean this up? It does and will continue to impact on wildlife.</p>	<p>Once a marine park is established, DBCA will work with neighbouring land managers to address sources of pollutants entering the marine park, where possible, but issues outside the boundaries of the marine park is not within the jurisdiction of marine park managers. Management strategies to address key pressures on ecological values, including plastic marine debris, will be identified through development of the indicative management plan in consultation with stakeholders and the community.</p>
<p>57. The Recherche Archipelago is a large diverse system. How will the sanctuary zones managed/policed?</p> <p>58. How will the Plan and the zonations be enforced?</p>	<p>Resources required for patrol and enforcement of sanctuary zones will be identified through development of the management plan. Once the understand 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, including funding for research and management.</p>

59. What is the intended Plan / Park launch date – what’s our / the timeframe?	The timeframe for establishment of the PSCMP is 2024, as part of the Government’s Plan for Our Parks initiative.
60. Are there costs involved to enter the Marine Park eg: like National Parks?	No.
61. In the zoning area around Bremer Bay, the Native Title extends into the ocean. How does that influence the Marine Park zonings?	The size and location of zones will be developed in consultation with traditional owners and other stakeholders using the best available information.
62. I believe the consideration of a Marine Park provides the town a wonderful opportunity to work collaboratively for the best interests of the ocean and the community. My understanding is that no regions or areas have been definitively set and that these will be looked at in a collaborative process with community and other stakeholders.	Correct.
63. Hon. Don Punch – Minister for Fisheries, Hon. Amber Dale Sanderson – Minister for Environment: How to divide “boundaries” between commercial fishing and sustainable fishing. How are the areas same / different?	Marine parks are multiple use, meaning they have different zones allowing different types of activities. Whilst the PSCMP will provide for ongoing sustainable use including commercial fishing, there will be some areas of the proposed marine park where certain types of activities such as recreational and commercial fishing may be limited to achieve biodiversity conservation outcomes. The compatibility of different types of fishing with particular zone types will be assessed as part of the planning process. For example, commercial trawl fishing is unlikely to be compatible with the protection of seagrass habitat whilst fishing with droplines or handlines could be.
64. What is the basis of the decision to confine study area to east of Bremer Bay?	A decision was made to focus on a broad area along the south coast, not the entirety of the south coast, as running a full planning process over its entirety was not going to be feasible within time and resource limits, particularly during a time of covid related restrictions. As the Recherche Archipelago and Fitzgerald areas contain the highest biodiversity values, this was the area chosen on a priority basis, as well as the area to the east as it is in a different bioregion (Eucla bioregion).
65. Parks Australia website shows the South-West Marine Park network that covers an area of 50 million hectares across South West WA & SA. Why is it considered necessary to create an additional 5 million hectare Marine Park in this same region?	The study area is located adjacent to several Commonwealth marine parks managed by the Australian Government through Parks Australia. These marine parks are proclaimed under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> and located in Commonwealth waters

	<p>starting at the outer edge of state and territory waters (3 nautical miles or approx. 5.5 km) from the shore and extending to the outer boundary of Australia's exclusive economic zone, 200 nautical miles (approx. 370km) from the shore. The PSCMP will conserve different marine ecosystems, habitats and biodiversity to the Commonwealth marine parks (i.e. shallower inshore waters vs deeper offshore waters). Where appropriate, the management arrangements for PSCMP will be complementary to those of the adjacent Commonwealth marine parks.</p>
<p>66. Will this make the 5 million hectare mark or are there more Parks to come?</p> <p>67. Have you been given a specific number of hectares that the government want allocated to Marine Park in the South Coast?</p>	<p>No. As part of Plan for Our Parks, there are numerous proposed reserves identified throughout Western Australia, both marine and terrestrial.</p>
<p>68. Minister Punch to answer: Relates to recognising importance of commercial fishing and competing interests to ensure balance and support ongoing industry: Fishing industry has been severely impacted already by changes to Commonwealth Marine Park boundaries and State Management plans. What safeguards will be made to ensure sustainability of fishing industry, including Southern Rock Lobster, Shark and Abalone fishermen?</p>	<p>Fishing is recognised as a very important activity and contributor to the regional economies and communities and the PSCMP will seek to minimise impacts on commercial and recreational fishing.</p> <p>Commercial fishing rights are recognised as part of the marine planning process. The intent is to achieve representation of different habitats via sanctuary zones in different areas, while trying to avoid important commercial fishing spots where possible. So, we do need the information from commercial fishers to understand where those key locations are in order to avoid them where possible.</p>