



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**

Marmion Marine Park review and proposed expansion

Community Information Sessions

Responses to Questions

Session 1 North Beach – 16th February 2022

Question	Response
<p>1. Will the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre have any input into the Marmion Marine Park (MMP) proposed expansion area planning process?</p>	<p>The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) will invite science organisations and individuals to form a Sector Advisory Group (SAG) to provide advice on behalf of the science sector as part of the marine planning process, including relevant researchers from scientists at the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre.</p>
<p>2. My family has been crayfishing in the area for over 62 years. I see fishing spots that get better and better every year. We are lucky to have a marine park so close to the CBD. We all need to work in tangent together, from across different industries, for this new proposed expansion.</p>	<p>Statement. Noted.</p>
<p>3. We are seeing increasing nutrient loads into MMP. What are the policies surrounding nutrient loads and why is there not more discussion around the effects of increased nutrient loads on important habitats such as seagrass?</p>	<p>The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is responsible for the monitoring of treated wastewater and nutrient loads into the Perth coastal system as part of its tightly regulated Perth Long Term Ocean Outlet Monitoring program established in 1995. More information on their statutory monitoring requirements can be found at Perth monitoring program (watercorporation.com.au).</p> <p>As part of the marine planning process, all pressures within MMP and the proposed expansion boundary will be assessed and considered.</p>
<p>4. People were appalled at the excision of the Ocean Reef Marina redevelopment project area from MMP. What is the process for ensuring longevity and a legacy of MMP and the proposed expansion area?</p>	<p>Marine parks support a variety of environmental, social and economic values through increased levels of funding, management and protection. Until recently, MMP has remained unchanged since its creation in 1987 and in that time has delivered a wide range of benefits. Class A Reserves in the marine environment offer the</p>

	<p>highest level of protection available under Australian law. While boundaries can be reviewed and changed over time, approval to excise any area from a Class A marine reserve requires an Act of Parliament and must ultimately be supported by both sides of Government. This was the case with the excision required for the expansion of Ocean Reef Marina.</p>
<p>5. Have any sanctuary zones been earmarked for the MMP proposed expansion area?</p>	<p>The zoning scheme for each marine park is specific to that area and reflects the particular issues and values it holds, and it is likely that there will be sanctuary zones in the MMP. The zoning scheme is developed to encompass representation of different habitats via sanctuary zones in different areas, while avoiding important commercial and recreational fishing spots where possible. Management arrangements, including zoning, will be determined as part of the planning process, on advice from the Community Reference Committee (CRC) and SAGs.</p>
<p>6. In marine parks there are various special purpose zones, e.g. seagrass protection zone, that often exclude commercial fisheries.</p>	<p>Statement.</p> <p>The type of special purpose zone varies among our different marine parks, depending upon the different uses (e.g. recreational, commercial industries), values and conservation objectives identified throughout the marine planning process. Commercial activities can be allowed within some special purpose zones, and these will be discussed and determined throughout the planning process.</p>
<p>7. The current MMP management plan has 7 pages dedicated to the coastal aspect of the marine park. Has there been any thought into having a land area incorporated into the marine park?</p>	<p>No. In general, that is not a consideration when planning or amending marine parks, with some exceptions. For MMP specifically, the adjacent foreshore reserves are vested with the local governments of Wanneroo, Joondalup and Stirling for management. Where appropriate, the management arrangements for MMP and the</p>

	proposed expansion area will be complementary to those of the adjacent foreshore reserves.
8. Could Mettam's pool be considered for a sanctuary zone?	MMP is the most visited marine park in Western Australia, with over 1.75 million visits per year and Mettam's pool is recognised as an extremely popular destination for various recreational activities such as snorkelling and swimming. The location of sanctuary zones will be determined through the planning process in consultation with the CRC, SAGs, and local community. DBCA are also collaborating with the University of Western Australia to conduct community surveys with the aim of capturing spatial information about how people use and value the marine park and expansion area.
9. Are we integrating with work done by the City of Stirling as part of our coastal hazard management and planning process? This is very important in old settled areas such as North Beach which are situated so close to the beach. We have intensive degradation from storm water runoff. This must be affecting near shore reefs.	DBCA will work closely with the City of Stirling, City of Joondalup and City of Wanneroo throughout the marine park planning process, to ensure management arrangements are complementary to those of adjacent areas where appropriate.
10. What are the catch share allocations between recreational and commercial abalone fishers, and what is the level of management of the commercial resource?	<p>The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council, as the peak representative body for the commercial fishing sector, provided an explanation of the formal sectoral allocation process (Integrated Fisheries Management) initiated to define and assign long-term shares of the abalone resource to sector for the West Coast Roe's Abalone Resource (Area 7 of the commercial fishery and Zone 1/the Western Zone of the recreational fishery).</p> <p>DPIRD and a commercial abalone fisher provided an outline of the management measures in place for the commercial sector including annual quota setting, statutory obligations regarding catch and effort reporting and a minimum size limit.</p>

<p>11. The commercial Marine Aquarium Fishery is not permitted to collect from general use areas of MMP.</p>	<p>Statement, noted.</p> <p>A limited number of commercial fishing activities are permitted in the general use area of MMP.</p>
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Session 2: Yanchep – 17th February 2022

Question	Response
<p>1. What is the purpose of a marine park if not all areas are protected by sanctuary zones?</p>	<p>Marine parks are recognised globally as one of the best tools for conserving biodiversity. Marine parks create a tenure that comes with legislation, powers, and State responsibilities to manage, and a budget to implement a management plan that has community input.</p> <p>Under the <i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i>, the reservation of a marine park is for the purpose of allowing only that level of commercial and recreational activity that is consistent with the proper conservation of the natural environment. As such, marine parks are multiple use, meaning they have different zones allowing different types of activities. Zoning is an important management tool used to conserve marine habitats and biodiversity, as well as manage potentially conflicting activities within a marine park.</p> <p>The establishment of ‘no-take’ sanctuary zones allows scientists to carry out long term monitoring of marine habitats and biodiversity which are relatively unimpacted by human activities. These zones provide important reference areas or a baseline against which to compare areas where impacts may be occurring.</p>

<p>2. Has there been any thought to renaming the park from “Marmion” given its history?</p>	<p>MMP is named due to its proximity to the suburb of Marmion. The suburb is named after Patrick Marmion who established the Marmion Whaling Station in Sorrento in 1849. Any proposed name change would be considered as part of the planning process in consultation with traditional owners, the community and stakeholders.</p>
<p>3. What is happening with Ocean Reef? Is the MMP expansion area to offset the excision of part of Ocean Reef?</p>	<p>The existing <i>Marmion Marine Park Management Plan 1992-2002</i> is outdated. A revised management plan will consider the extensive knowledge gained over the past 30 years to provide an adaptive, outcome-based management approach, complete with new targets and performance measures. The opportunity to review and extend MMP was triggered by an excision for the Ocean Reef Marina redevelopment, but it is not an offset.</p>
<p>4. Is there monitoring of sea lions up by Yanchep?</p>	<p>Currently, no monitoring of Australian sea lions is conducted by DBCA in the Yanchep coastal area. The MMP boundary expansion northwards to Two Rocks would provide opportunities for DBCA to conduct monitoring of key ecological values within the proposed marine park boundary, including Australian sea lions.</p> <p>More information on the current monitoring status of Australian sea lions can be found here: Australian Sea Lion Monitoring Framework: background document (awe.gov.au)</p> <p>And here:</p> <p>Marine bioregional plan for the South-west Marine Region (awe.gov.au)</p>

<p>5. Why are there no information sessions scheduled within the City of Joondalup?</p>	<p>The three community information sessions at North Beach (City of Stirling), Mindarie (City of Wanneroo) and Yanchep (City of Wanneroo) were situated to provide a relatively even geographical spread of locations adjacent to the MMP proposed expansion area, between the southern and northern boundary.</p>
<p>6. Is there any discussion happening to reduce the number of recreational abalone licenses?</p>	<p>DPIRD manages Western Australia’s commercial and recreational abalone fishery. Recreational abalone fishing is managed through bag and size limits, closed fishing seasons and possession limits. These measures have been put in place to ensure the abalone stock is managed sustainably and fairly. More information can be found at: Abalone management (fish.wa.gov.au).</p> <p>Whilst DPIRD noted that in 2020/21 over 18,000 recreational abalone licences were issued, this is statewide and not specific to MMP or the Perth metropolitan area.</p>
<p>7. A concern for Yanchep residents is the trampling of Yanchep lagoon during abalone season.</p>	<p>Statement. Noted.</p>
<p>8. What is the protocol around standing/walking on reef within sanctuary zones?</p>	<p>Reef walking is permitted within sanctuary zones but should be done carefully to avoid any impact or damage to marine life. Recreational fishing activities that have the potential to cause damage to habitats within a marine park, such as trampling of reef, can be managed using special purpose zones under the <i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i> Zoning and other management arrangements for MMP will be determined as part of the marine park planning process.</p>
<p>9. As the population increases along the northern extent of the Perth metropolitan area, anchor management will be needed to protect benthic habitats.</p>	<p>Statement, noted.</p> <p>The indicative management plan will detail management arrangements to address various pressures on ecological values, which includes mitigating pressure due to increasing human usage.</p>

	Appropriate management arrangements for MMP and the proposed expansion area will be developed as part of the planning and consultation process including mooring and anchoring policies and plans.
10. Are there any set sanctuary zones so far for the MMP proposed expansion area?	No. The zoning scheme for each marine park is specific to that area and reflects the particular issues and values it holds. The aim is to encompass representation of different habitats via sanctuary zones in different areas, while avoiding important commercial and recreational fishing spots where possible. Management arrangements, including zoning, will be determined as part of the planning process, on advice from the CRC and SAGs.
11. Is the expansion of MMP going to reduce fishing? I'm concerned too many fish are being taken, we don't want to end up like Shark Bay which has experienced a decrease in fish stocks.	Marine parks are not a fisheries management tool. Research and monitoring of the health of our fish stocks is undertaken by the Aquatic Science and Assessment team at DPIRD as part of their role in sustainable fisheries management. 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 monitors and assesses fish resources at the stock level to inform fishery management and will continue to do so both within and outside the MMP and proposed expansion area.
12. What is the purpose of consulting with the Department of Mines? Isn't this a conflict of interest?	Under the <i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i> , approval from both the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, and the Minister for Fisheries is needed before the Minister for Environment can release an indicative management plan, create an area of water as a marine reserve and approve the final marine park zoning scheme. All marine park proposals are assessed by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) for mineral and petroleum prospectivity and all relevant mining tenement and petroleum title

	<p>holders will be contacted by DMIRS for comment (both applicants and granted titles).</p> <p>Consultation with mining is conducted throughout the marine planning process to ensure a balance exists between different stakeholders.</p>
13. Has there been any news on the Alkimos desalination plant?	<p>DBCA will be consulting with the Water Corporation as a key stakeholder throughout the planning process.</p> <p>Information regarding the Alkimos seawater desalination plant can be found here: Alkimos Seawater Desalination Plant EPA Western Australia</p>

Session 3: Mindarie – 18th February 2022

Question	Response
1. The location of sanctuary zones is what will affect me as a fisher, is the 30% target for sanctuary zones you mention in the presentation a goal for Marmion marine park?	There are no predetermined targets for sanctuary zones. The zoning scheme for each marine park is specific to that area and reflects the particular issues and values it holds. The aim is to encompass representation of different habitats via sanctuary zones in different areas, while avoiding important commercial and recreational fishing spots where possible. Management arrangements, including zoning, will be determined as part of the planning process, on advice from the CRC and SAGs.
2. I don't want to know where the general use zones are in the marine park, I want to know where the sanctuary zones and special	The zoning scheme for the MMP proposed expansion area is yet to be determined. Management arrangements, including zoning, will

<p>purpose zones are going to be places. Where is the map of these zones?</p>	<p>be determined as part of the planning process, on advice from the CRC and SAGs.</p>
<p>3. I want a guarantee this planning process is going to be based on science.</p>	<p>As Western Australia's first marine park, the broad range of existing information for MMP will provide a robust evidence base for the project, from long term scientific monitoring programs and on ground management, to knowledge from traditional owners, stakeholders and the local community.</p>
<p>4. As a recreational spearfisher, we are very restricted. The whole of MMP is a sanctuary zone from my perspective. The current marine park is biased towards people with boats who are rich. This is a great opportunity to rethink the spearfishing ban within MMP. What was the rationale for implementing the spearfishing ban in the first place?</p>	<p>The rationale for prohibiting spearfishing within 1.8 km from shore within MMP was outlined in the <i>Marmion Marine Park Management Plan 1992-2002</i>. It was noted that spearfishing can cause rapid stock depletion in accessible areas and cause conflict with the recreation experience of other users.</p> <p>The current management plan for MMP is outdated. Revised management arrangements, including rules relating to spearfishing, will be considered as part of the marine park planning process.</p>
<p>5. What are the commitments required if you join the CRC?</p>	<p>Selection criteria and time commitments for the CRC can be found in the Information Pack on the DBCA website.</p>
<p>6. Why are the CRC meetings based in Kensington, why aren't they more local?</p>	<p>Kensington is the location of DBCAs offices. Meetings can be held elsewhere subject to the availability of appropriate meeting room facilities.</p>
<p>7. As part of the planning process, does DBCA commission any work or consultants to bring together existing knowledge?</p>	<p>DBCA and DPIRD have prepared a Resource Assessment, which provides an overview of the available ecological, social and economic resource information for the area. DBCAs marine science team also provide all available monitoring and research relating to the existing marine park boundary. In addition, science organisations and individuals will be invited to form a SAG to</p>

	ensure available scientific information relevant to the proposed boundary is collated to inform the marine park planning process.
8. Will there be a scope to do modelling of different scenarios for placing sanctuary zones where they will best deliver wanted outcomes?	Benthic habitat mapping has been prepared with CSIRO and this information can be analysed by our GIS team in terms of the various zoning arrangements being considered as part of the planning and consultation process.
9. How do SAGs function?	Peak sector and other interested groups will be invited by DBCA to form a SAG. A Chair from each SAG will attend meetings and provide advice on behalf of their sector to the CRC. The name and contact information for all SAG Chairs will be made available on the DBCA website for interested community members to get in contact. The Community Engagement Strategy and SAG guidelines on the website provide further information.
10. Where are the DBCA and DPIRD staff based?	DBCA marine planning staff are based in Kensington, DPIRD marine planning staff are based in the Perth office and research staff at the Hillarys office.
11. Have we looked at fishing pressure from boat ramps within MMP?	<p>DPIRD produces an annual State of the Fisheries report that details its assessment of pressures and the status of all fishing resources within Western Australia.</p> <p>DPIRD also undertakes a statewide recreational fishing survey every two years to provide up to date information on boat-based recreational fishing to inform management and allow WA's recreational fisheries to remain sustainable. Methods used to collect data include boat ramp surveys with boat based recreational fishers and remote camera surveys to monitor recreational boating activity. Locations included six high use ramps in the Perth metropolitan</p>

	region – Ocean Reef, Mindarie, Hillarys, Leeuwin and Woodman Point.
12. As a local resident, I am extremely concerned about the pressures from increasing population density along our coast. We cannot sustain the fishing pressure.	Statement. Noted.
13. The commonwealth no-take zones were not well publicised. DBCA should learn from that.	Statement. Noted.
14. Would the MMP come up for review again in the near future? Would something, like the desalination plant planned for Alkimos, trigger a review?	DBCA will be consulting with the Water Corporation as a key stakeholder to ensure that any such proposals are appropriately considered as part of the planning process. Management plan reviews are usually undertaken after at least 10 years and are subject to a public consultation period and ministerial concurrences. Unless revoked, the <i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i> states that all management plans remain in force until a new plan is approved.
15. Everyone talks about fishing pressure, but you're assuming people are catching fish. I can't catch anything.	Statement. Noted.
16. Do we know why the McGowan government wants to do all this so quickly?	The McGowan government announced the 'Plan for our Parks' initiative in February 2019, which seeks to establish an additional 5 million hectares of marine and terrestrial conservation estate across Western Australia. As part of this commitment, the review and proposed expansion of MMP is due to be finalised in early 2024.
17. When do we need to get applications in to be part of the CRC?	Expressions of interest for the CRC close on 2 nd March 2022. Details on how to apply can be found on our website.
18. What is the role of DMIRS in the marine park planning process?	Under the <i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i> , approval from both the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, and the Minister for Fisheries is needed before the Minister for Environment can release an indicative management plan, create an area of water as a

	<p>marine reserve and approve the final marine park zoning scheme. All marine park proposals are assessed by the DMIRS for mineral and petroleum prospectivity and all relevant mining tenement and petroleum title holders will be contacted by DMIRS for comment (both applicants and granted titles).</p> <p>Consultation with mining is conducted throughout the marine planning process to ensure a balance exists between different stakeholders.</p>
<p>19. Do the Department of Transport (DoT) play any role in the marine planning process?</p>	<p>Generally no, as the creation or expansion of marine parks do not usually impact on matters of maritime safety, infrastructure or navigation under management of DoT. Notwithstanding, DBCA will consult with DoT where appropriate throughout the planning process.</p>