The Committee and discussed management program activities undertaken by Parks Australia since Meeting #6.

**Attendees**

Russell Gueho (Chair), Andrew Hoey

Clive Wilkinson, Doug Sanderson

Michelle Grady, Craig Stephen

Russ Babcock

**Apologies**

Col McKenzie, Christabel Warren

**Observers**

Stan Lui, Moni Carlisle (Torres Strait Regional Authority)

Richard Quincey (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)

Barbara Musso, A/g Branch Head, Marine and Island Parks Branch opened the meeting and provided an update to the committee on the new Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, the upcoming review of the management plan for the South East Marine Parks Network and the progress towards delivering the Ocean Discovery and Restoration Program.

The Committee provided input into the draft review of the 4 year CSMP Implementation Phase Plan in preparation for the drafting of the Consolidation Phase Plan.

**Assessments and Authorisations**

Nine authorisations have been issued since Meeting #6 Authorisations issued since July 2018: 77. Current and historic authorisations information is available at: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/activities/authorisations-issued/>.

**Compliance**

Three compliance incidents were recorded in the CSMP since November 2021.

View quarterly compliance reports at: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/programs/compliance/>.

**Marine Science**

***Coral Sea Reef Health: 2021-2022 Project***

James Cook University assessed the health of 68 sites across 15 reefs in 2022, including for the first time in four years, Mellish Reef ~1000km east of Townsville.

***Coral Sea Island Health Project***

An Island Health Assessment voyage to 18 islands was completed in June 2022 in collaboration with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and assessed seabirds, vegetation, insects and marine debris. A report is being finalised and will be available on the Parks Australia website. To date 49 cays and islets have been assessed.

**Indigenous Engagement**

Parks Australia has undertaken broad consultation with Indigenous representative bodies on a draft Science Strategy for Australian Marine Parks and presented a work program for the development of a Sea Country management framework and associated guidelines and policies.

**Parks Protection and Management**

Marine Park information signs were installed on six vegetated islands in June 2022. Fifteen signs will be installed on future voyages.

**Communication, Education and Awareness**

Videos which promote AMPs and illustrate how Parks Australia manages activities and protects park values through partnerships with government, industry, research and community organisations are being developed.

**Our Marine Parks Grants (OMPG) Round Three**

Thirty projects worth $ 8.6 million were awarded funding under the third round of the OMPG program. The successful applicants and project summaries, including four specific to the Coral Sea Marine Park, can be found at: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/partnerships/our-marine-parks-grants/>

**Tourism and Visitor Experience**

Cruise ships have begun to increase their use of the Marine Park following resumption of activities post COVID-19.

**Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be held in late 2022.

For more information about the Coral Sea Marine Park or the Committee:

Visit [parksaustralia.gov.au/coralsea](http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/coral-sea)

Email [marineparks@environment.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@environment.gov.au)