



Australian
Marine Parks



About Australian Marine Parks

Australia's oceans are distinctive and diverse, home to marine life found nowhere else. They support people's livelihoods and the Australian lifestyle and provide places for people to watch wildlife, dive, and go boating, snorkelling and fishing. They also create jobs in industries like fishing and tourism, and provide us with food and energy.

Establishing marine parks in oceans is recognised as a very good way to help to conserve and protect marine species and habitats, while enabling people to use these special places. The Australian Government, together with state and territory governments, have established marine parks around the country, covering 3.3 million km² - some 36 per cent of our oceans.

Where are Australian Marine Parks?

Australian Marine Parks (formally known as Commonwealth Marine Reserves) are in Commonwealth waters. These waters start three nautical miles (5.5 km) from the coast and extend to the edge of Australia's exclusive economic zone. Waters closer to the shore are managed by states and territories.

How will we manage our marine parks?

We manage Australian Marine Parks as five networks (North Network, North-west Network, South-west Network, Temperate East Network, South-east Network) and the Coral Sea.

We recently released draft management plans for 44 Australian Marine Parks across four networks and the Coral Sea. These plans set out our proposed approach to managing these parks over the next ten years. This approach includes:

- Our vision that marine parks are healthy, resilient and well-managed to enhance Australia's wellbeing.
- Our principles for managing Australian Marine Parks, and the partnerships we will develop with traditional owners, parks users, stakeholders and governments to better manage marine parks.
- Management programs and actions to protect the marine environment, improve scientific understanding, support tourism, improve awareness of marine parks, work with Indigenous people, recreational and commercial fishers and ensure people follow the rules.
- Zones that set out what activities can be undertaken in marine parks and how. Green zones protect important habitats, including places where some marine wildlife gather and feed. In green zones, you can enjoy nature, dive, snorkel

and do research. Yellow zones also give a high level of protection, especially for sea floor habitats. Here you can dive, snorkel, do research and fish in the water column - but without disturbing the bottom. Blue zones allow for a wider range of uses and activities.

- Outcome-based management that balances proposed activities against the need to protect natural, cultural and heritage values of marine parks.
- Implementation plans to support each management plan.
- Adaptive management, including monitoring, evaluation and reporting to keep track of our progress and change our approach when necessary.

An evidence-based approach

Our proposed approach to managing marine parks is based on careful balance, on decades of science, with extensive input from the public and other marine park managers.

Australian Marine Parks have been carefully located to represent Australia's marine habitats and features. We considered the best available scientific information about our marine environments and the location of conservation features (like canyons, seamounts and reefs). Protecting habitats and features in marine parks builds the resilience of our marine environment to withstand and recover from pressures, including climate change, cyclones, marine pollution and invasive species.

The plans benefitted from feedback from the public, the independent review of Commonwealth marine reserves released in 2016, the advice and expertise of traditional owners on managing sea country and lessons from other Australian and international marine park managers.

Further information

If you have questions regarding the draft plans or the public comment process, please visit the Australian Marine Parks website parksaustralia.gov.au/marine, send an email to marinereserves@environment.gov.au, or call 1800 069 352.

How can I be involved in marine park management?

We need your help to manage our marine parks. This includes working together to better understand and protect our marine parks, including by installing moorings, undertaking community science and monitoring and cleaning up marine debris. Network advisory committees will be established and are one way for people to be involved in marine park management, but there may also be others – we welcome your ideas on how you want to be involved.

Have your say

Please send your feedback on these draft plans by 20 September 2017, by:

1. Filling in our feedback form, available at parksaustralia.gov.au/marine
2. Emailing: managementplanning.marine@environment.gov.au
3. Writing (free of charge) to:

Australian Marine Parks Management Planning Comments

Department of the Environment and Energy
Reply Paid 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Comments may be made public. Personal information provided to us will be dealt with in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles. Further information and our privacy notice is available at parksaustralia.gov.au/marine. Your personal information may be disclosed to the Minister, relevant government agencies, the Australian Parliament and where required by law.

