

CORAL SEA MARINE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 1

FOUNDATION PHASE

2018 – 2022



Australian Government
Parks Australia



**Australian
Marine Parks**

This Coral Sea Marine Park Implementation Plan 1 (years 1-4) identifies foundational management actions in the first four years of implementing the Coral Sea Marine Park Management Plan 2018 (Management Plan). They will contribute to outcomes under each management program in the Management Plan. Activities include the establishment of natural, social and economic baselines and monitoring programs, actions to address pressures, and foundational actions that will inform or guide future actions, such as scoping studies, establishment work, and strategy development. Dependencies, including national actions, are identified.

In managing the Coral Sea Marine Park, the Director of National Parks (Director) will need to make decisions about use and managing pressures, while balancing the need to protect natural, cultural, heritage and socio-economic values of the Marine Park. The Director will carefully consider how the values of the Marine Park will be impacted by these pressures now and in the future.

Each year a report will be prepared by Parks Australia in consultation with the Coral Sea Marine Park Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) to document progress of Implementation Plan 1, and make recommendations on initiating, continuing, or modifying activities in adaptively managing the Marine Park. Yearly reports will be used to inform the Advisory Committee and the Director about management progress, and will enable review of priorities, taking account of emerging issues and stakeholder needs.

A review of Implementation Plan 1 will occur in year four to inform drafting of Implementation Plan 2 to continue management activities in years five to eight. These may change during the life of the Management Plan as new information and approaches become available, and will be developed in partnership with stakeholders and the Advisory Committee.

Communication, education and awareness program

Improve awareness, understanding and support for marine parks and park management.

Management Plan Outcome:

- Increased awareness, understanding and support for marine parks.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Develop information on the Marine Parks to encourage increased awareness and understanding of values and management arrangements.
- Provide infrastructure in and adjacent to the Marine Park, such as signs and marker buoys, to increase understanding of marine park values and rules, particularly at sites that are regularly visited.
- Work with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and other Commonwealth and state government agencies, through their communication activities, to increase understanding.
- Establish a Coral Sea Marine Park advisory forum/s or other engagement mechanisms to support and collaborate with the Director in management.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Parks Australia understands the diverse needs of the Marine Park users and stakeholders and the best approach to engage and communicate with them.
- Marine Park users and stakeholders are aware of Australian Marine Parks, their values and role in protecting Australia's marine environment.
- Marine Park users and stakeholders understand how the Marine Park is managed, including an understanding of marine park rules.
- Partnerships are in place for promoting Australian Marine Parks.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Establish the Coral Sea Advisory Committee, and facilitate two meetings per year.				
Work cooperatively with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to identify communication needs and opportunities.				
Identify target audiences and appropriate communication mechanisms.				
Develop accurate and appropriate communication content.				
Develop relationships with recreational and commercial fishing and tourism representative organisations to identify communication needs and opportunities.				
Dependencies - National Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national marketing and communication strategy. 			

Tourism and visitor experience program

Provide for and promote a range of environmentally appropriate, high-quality recreation and tourism experiences and contribute to Australia's visitor economy.

Management Plan Outcomes:

- High-quality visitor experiences that are appealing, engaging and raise awareness of the natural and cultural values of marine parks.
- Increased visitation to marine parks.
- Social and economic benefits from the contribution of marine parks to Australia's visitor economy.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Promote visitor experiences that foster curiosity and appreciation of natural and heritage values in the Marine Park, for example diving at Osprey Reef.
- Work with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and other Commonwealth and state government agencies and the tourism industry to support tourism initiatives, events and attractions that promote visitor experiences in the Marine Park.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcome:

- Environmentally appropriate and high standard tourism and visitor experiences are promoted and managed in the Marine Park.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Establish working relationships with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and other Commonwealth and state government agencies and the tourism industry.				
Develop visitor products and displays in visitor centres, museums or aquaria.				
Encourage sustainable marine tourism through the Our Marine Parks Grants.				
Encourage high standard tourism businesses operating in the Marine Park.				

Dependencies - National Actions

- Development of a national tourism and visitor experience strategy.
- Development of a national commercial tourism authorisation system.

Indigenous engagement program

Recognise and respect the ongoing cultural responsibilities of indigenous people to care for sea country and support multiple benefits for Traditional Owners.

Management Plan Outcomes:

- Social, cultural and economic benefits for Traditional Owners
- Partnerships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous groups to manage sea country in marine parks

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Collaborate with traditional owners, Indigenous ranger groups, relevant partners and Indigenous advisory committees to undertake marine park management such as surveillance, monitoring, threat mitigation, marine debris removal, and implement actions identified in sea country plans where applicable.
- Identify opportunities and mechanisms to engage traditional owners and Indigenous rangers in the management of the Marine Park.
- Increase understanding of traditional knowledge and cultural values.
- Implement cultural awareness training for Parks Australia staff in association with traditional owners.
- Establish protocols for researchers working with Parks Australia to guide engagement with traditional owners.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Traditional owners contribute to management decision-making processes for the Marine Park.
- Cultural values are accounted for in decision-making.
- Partnerships are in place with traditional owners and Indigenous rangers to manage sea country in the Marine Park where applicable.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Engage with Mer Island traditional owners on authorised activities at Ashmore and Boot Reefs				
Undertake a cultural values project for Ashmore and Boot Reefs				
Marine Parks staff and advisory committee members undertake cultural awareness training				

Dependencies - National Actions

- Development of an Indigenous engagement and cultural heritage strategy.

Marine science program

Provide necessary scientific knowledge and understanding of marine park values, pressures and adequacy of responses for effective management.

Management Plan Outcomes:

- Increase understanding of Marine Park values, pressures and adequacy of responses.
- Improve understanding of the effectiveness of marine park management in protecting park values.
- Informed decision-making and improved evidence-based decisions.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Monitor social and economic uses and their benefits and impacts on the Marine Park.
- Monitor the condition of important habitats such as reef systems at Osprey, Coringa-Herald and Lihou Reefs, and their vulnerability to climate change.
- Monitor the impact of invasive species on marine park values and the effectiveness of management.
- Collaborate with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, other Commonwealth and state government agencies, marine park users and the science sector to support long-term monitoring. For example, monitoring of coral reefs, protected species and effects of fishing on marine parks.
- Investigate opportunities to extend citizen science programs.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Monitoring sites and indicators have been identified.
- Monitoring has been established where possible.
- Citizen science programs provide information for management.
- Relationships with science providers have been established.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Identify priority science needs, including for establishing or adding to baselines.				
Identify opportunities for the development of citizen science programs in the Marine Park, including through the Our Marine Parks Grants.				
Identify opportunities for collaboration with science providers.				
Establish and manage the Coral Reef Health Multi Year Project.				
Establish and manage the Coral Sea Islands Health Project.				

Dependencies - National Actions

- Development of a national Australian Marine Parks science strategy.

Assessments and authorisations program

Provide for efficient, effective, transparent and accountable assessment, authorisation and monitoring processes to enable sustainable use and protection of marine park values.

Management Plan Outcome:

- Assessments and authorisations ensure ongoing protection of marine park values through the management of activities in marine parks.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Issue authorisations – a permit, class approval, activity licence or lease – for activities in the Marine Park assessed as acceptable either by the Director or another government or industry policy, plan or program accepted by the Director.
- Work with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland government agencies to improve experiences and consistency of approaches for people seeking authorisations

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Activities are assessed consistent with legislative requirements.
- Authorisation assessment and approval processes are timely.
- Authorisations policy and guidance materials are easily accessible and clearly communicated to Marine Park users.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
The online authorisations process is accessible and functional.				
Communicate with stakeholders and government agencies on authorisation requirements.				
Work with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland government agencies to streamline authorisations processes.				
Dependencies - National Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a customer focussed online authorisation system for marine park users. • Development of an assessment and authorisation policy. 			

Parks protection and management program

Timely and appropriate preventative and restorative actions to protect natural, cultural and heritage values from impacts

Management Plan Outcome:

- Impact of pressures on marine park values are minimised as far as reasonably practicable.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Enable infrastructure such as moorings to protect coral reefs and enhance visitor safety, such as at Osprey Reef.
- Collaborate with and support other agencies that undertake invasive and protected species management and marine debris removal. For example, biosecurity assessments, research, or removal of ghost nets.
- Work with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and other Commonwealth and state government agencies to respond to environmental incidents and accidents.
- Collaborate with traditional owners and Indigenous ranger groups to undertake management actions.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Priority parks protection and management activities have been identified.
- Effective processes are in place for providing timely and relevant advice on EPBC Act referrals.
- Management activities are consistent with other legislative obligations (e.g. Ramsar, World Heritage, Threatened Species Recovery Plans)

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Identify and prioritise parks protection and management activities (e.g. infrastructure audit, marine debris surveys, invasive species/biosecurity assessments).				
Develop an infrastructure and maintenance register.				
Micro-plastics and marine debris assessments.				
Identify partners for delivery of parks protection and management activities.				
Work with Mer Island traditional owners to identify opportunities to deliver parks protection and management activities at Ashmore and Boot Reefs.				
Encourage park protection projects through the Our Marine Parks Grants.				

Dependencies - National Actions

- Development of a critical incident strategy.
- Development of a mooring and anchoring strategy.

Compliance program

Actions to support appropriate and high level compliance by marine park users with the rules set out in the Management Plan

Management Plan Outcomes:

- Improved user awareness of marine park rules.
- Increased levels of voluntary compliance and self-regulation by marine park users.
- High overall levels of compliance with the rules by marine park users.
- A decrease in the number of non-compliances.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Work with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and other Commonwealth and state government agencies in compliance planning, including implementing actions to deter illegal activities and encourage voluntary compliance.
- Collaborate with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and other Commonwealth and state government agencies in surveillance, including water and aerial patrols.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Marine Park users and stakeholders understand how the Marine Park is managed, including an understanding of marine park rules.
- Partnerships with other government agencies are in place.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Prepare annual compliance plan using a risk based approach.				
Develop communication material to inform users and stakeholders of the Marine Park rules.				
Work with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland government agencies to establish partnerships in surveillance and enforcement activities.				

Dependencies - National Actions

- Annual Australian Marine Parks compliance plans.