

TEMPERATE EAST MARINE PARKS NETWORK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 1

FOUNDATION PHASE

2018 – 2022



This Temperate East Marine Parks Network Implementation Plan 1 (years 1-4) identifies foundational management activities in the first four years of implementing the Temperate East Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018 (Management Plan). These activities 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 Temperate East Marine Parks Network, the Director of National Parks (Director) will need to make decisions about enabling use and managing pressures, while balancing the need to protect natural, cultural, heritage and socio-economic values of the Network, now and in the future.

Each year a report will be prepared by Parks Australia, in consultation with the Temperate East Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee), to document progress against activities in this plan and make recommendations on initiating, continuing, or terminating activities as part of an adaptive management cycle. 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 performance measures and outcomes in Implementation Plan 1 will occur in year four to inform drafting of Implementation Plan 2 to continue ongoing management actions in years five to eight. Management actions may change during the life of the Management Plan as new information and approaches become available. Additional actions will be developed in partnership with stakeholders and the Advisory Committee.

Communication, education and awareness program

Actions to 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 for visitors on the marine parks to encourage increased awareness and understanding of values and management arrangements.
- Provide infrastructure in and adjacent to the Network, such as signs and marker buoys, to increase understanding of marine park values and rules, particularly at sites that are regularly visited.
- Establish a Temperate East Marine Park Advisory Committee to support and collaborate with the Director in management.
- Engage closely with Norfolk Marine Park and Lord Howe Marine Park users and communities to identify communication needs and opportunities.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Information on marine parks accessible, current, understood and meets audience expectations.
- Marine park users and key stakeholders are aware of Australian Marine Parks, their values and how they are managed, including an understanding of how marine park rules impact their own activities.
- General public are aware of Australian Marine Parks, their values and the role they play in protecting Australia's marine environment.
- 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
Guided by a National Communications and Marketing Strategy, prepare a Temperate East Action Plan to inform network communications.				
Identify target audiences and appropriate communication mechanisms (e.g. websites, E-news, social media, newspaper advertisements, factsheets, visitor guides, events, locations with high visitor numbers, meetings, and through local government).	✓	✓	✓	
Update infrastructure and signage	✓	✓	✓	
Develop accurate and relevant communication content, including for the science community.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Participate in regional events and committee meetings.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work cooperatively with NSW Government and relevant agencies to collect and share information on the Temperate East Network, including through the Lord Howe Island Marine Park Advisory Committee and school curriculum programs.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Convene bi-annual meetings of the Temperate East Marine Park Advisory Committee and publish meeting communiques.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conduct on-island engagement with regional land and sea managers, tourism operators, marine park users and communities to ascertain communication needs and opportunities.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Dependencies (including national actions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a national Marketing and Engagement Strategy.
--	--

Tourism and visitor experience program
 Actions to 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 Network.
- Work with other Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies, the Norfolk Island Regional Council, Lord Howe Island Board, and the tourism industry to support tourism initiatives, events and attractions that promote visitor experiences in marine parks.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Visitors increased awareness of marine parks values.
- Understanding of tourism activities being carried out within marine parks.
- Increase in high standard tourism businesses.
- Cultural values recognised in tourism activities.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Develop visitor products (e.g. brochures) and interpretive signs and themes for displays adjacent to parks, and in visitor centres, museums or aquaria.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commission projects and provide grants to support sustainable marine tourism.		✓	✓	
Participate in regional tourism events that promote marine parks.			✓	✓
Work cooperatively with the NSW Government, the Norfolk Island Regional Council, Lord Howe Island Board, the tourism industry and other relevant agencies to support tourism initiatives and promote visitor experiences in marine parks.			✓	✓

Dependencies (including national actions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a national Tourism and Visitor Experience Strategy Development of a national commercial tourism authorisation system.
--	---

Indigenous engagement program

Actions to 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 and relevant partners such as the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council on implementing the Indigenous engagement program, including supporting Indigenous groups to participate in marine park management.
- 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.
- Identify opportunities and mechanisms to engage Traditional Owners including through coastal Local Aboriginal Land Councils, established under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 in the management of marine parks.
- Increase understanding of traditional knowledge and cultural values.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Traditional Owners contribute to marine park management decision-making processes.
- Cultural values are accounted for in decision-making processes.
- Partnerships are in place with Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers to manage sea country in Australian Marine Parks.
- The Australian Marine Parks deliver social, cultural and economic benefits for Traditional Owners.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Parks Australia staff to undertake Indigenous cultural awareness training.	✓	✓		
Identify Aboriginal people, communities and representative organisations with rights and interests in marine parks.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Identify opportunities and mechanisms to engage Traditional Owners in the management of marine parks.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Collaborate with Traditional Owners and relevant partners on implementing the Aboriginal engagement program, including supporting Aboriginal groups to participate in marine park management.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dependencies (including national actions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national AMP Indigenous Engagement and Cultural Heritage Strategy • Capacity of science providers to engage with Traditional Owners. 			

Marine science program

Actions to 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 the social and economic uses and their benefits and impacts on marine parks in the Network.
- Monitor the condition of important habitats and their vulnerability to climate change.
- Monitor the impact of invasive species on marine park values and the effectiveness of management.
- Collaborate with other Commonwealth and state government agencies, the Norfolk Island Regional Council, Lord Howe Island Board, marine park users and the science sector to support long-term monitoring. For example, monitoring of coral reefs, protected species and the effects of fishing on marine parks.
- Investigate opportunities to extend citizen science programs.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Inventory surveys have been undertaken to identify AMP values and pressures.
- Effective partnerships are in place to enable Parks Australia to leverage research in AMPs.
- Understanding of AMP values and pressures has improved.
- Parks Australia has appropriate systems in place to consider relevant information in assessments and other decision-making processes.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Establish baselines and build an understanding of key natural, cultural and socio-economic values, pressures, and effectiveness of management responses.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Identify and implement priority science projects through partnerships across the science community.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Establish long-term monitoring programs of important values and pressures.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Explore and identify opportunities for appropriate citizen science initiatives in marine parks, including through the Our Marine Parks Grants Program.		✓	✓	
Dependencies (including national actions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of ecological, social and economic baselines for priority values. • Development of a national Australian Marine Parks Science Strategy. • Establishment of an authorisation system for science research and monitoring. 			

Assessments and authorisations program

Actions to 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 – permit, class approval, activity licence or lease – for activities in marine parks assessed as acceptable either by the Director or another government or industry policy, plan or program accepted by the Director.
- Work with other Commonwealth and state government agencies, the Norfolk Island Regional Council, and the Lord Howe Island Board, to improve experiences and consistency of approaches for people seeking authorisations.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Activities are assessed consistent with legislative requirements.
- Authorisation processes are timely.
- Authorisations policy and guidance materials are easily accessible and clearly communicated.
- The online authorisations process is accessible and functional.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Assess and issue permits and licences to authorise allowable activities to be undertaken.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Communicate with stakeholders (including NSW government agencies) on authorisation requirements.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work with state government agencies to ensure our authorisations approaches are consistent where possible/appropriate.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dependencies (including national actions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a customer focussed online authorisation system for marine park users. • Development of a Marine Parks Authorisation Policy 			

Parks protection and management

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 habitats and enhance visitor safety.
- Collaborate with and support other agencies that undertake invasive and protected species management and marine debris removal. For example, this may include working in partnership with relevant agencies to foster high standards of biosecurity, particularly in sensitive marine ecosystems and World Heritage-listed areas of the Lord Howe Marine Park.
- Work with other Commonwealth and state government agencies, the Norfolk Island Regional Council, and Lord Howe Island Board, 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.
- 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
Develop a Network infrastructure register and maintenance plan.	✓	✓		
Identify and prioritise parks protection and management activities across the network.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Implement priority parks protection and management activities.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work with NSW government and Commonwealth agencies to monitor, report and respond to environmental incidents in Temperate East marine parks.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dependencies (including national actions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an Environmental Incident and Emergency Response Strategy • Development of a Mooring Policy 			

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 other Commonwealth and state government agencies, the Norfolk Island Regional Council, and Lord Howe Island Board, particularly where marine parks adjoin state marine parks, in compliance planning, including implementing actions to deter illegal activities and encourage voluntary compliance.
- Collaborate with Commonwealth and state government agencies, the Norfolk Island Regional Council, and Lord Howe Island Board, in surveillance, including water and aerial patrols.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Improvement in marine park user awareness.
- Non-compliant activities reduced
- Enforcement actions (e.g. fines and prosecutions) are successful and publicised.
- Increased coverage and frequency of surveillance and monitoring.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Prepare annual Temperate East compliance plan using a risk based approach.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work cooperatively with state and Commonwealth government agencies to identify opportunities for partnerships in surveillance and enforcement activities.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Collaborate with peak bodies representing park users to develop communication material to promote compliance awareness.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work with Traditional Owners to identify opportunities for partnerships and build capabilities to undertake reporting activities in marine parks.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Dependencies (including national actions)

- Development of a Compliance Risk Assessment for the Temperate East.