

SOUTH-EAST
COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVES NETWORK
MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013-23

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
2013/14 – 2016/17

PARKS AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

The South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network is part of the Commonwealth Marine Reserves estate, along with the Temperate East, South-West, North-West, North Commonwealth Marine Reserves Networks and the Coral Sea Reserve.

The South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network (South-east Network) was established in 2007. It stretches from the far south coast of New South Wales, around Tasmania and Victoria, west to Kangaroo Island off South Australia, and includes Commonwealth waters of Bass Strait and around Macquarie Island in the Southern Ocean. It protects 388 464 square kilometres of Commonwealth waters in 14 reserves.

Detailed information on the South-east Network (including guidance on zoning and maps) is available at: www.environment.gov.au/marinereserves

South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Management Plan 2013-23

The *South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Management Plan 2013-23* (Management Plan) is the primary tool for the conservation and management of the South-east Network. It sets out the approach to and direction of management activities for 10 years.

Delivery of the outcomes of this Management Plan will build a strong foundation for future management of the Network and its reserves beyond 2023.

The Management Plan has two objectives supported by seven management strategies and a range of actions that aim to achieve the objectives (listed in Appendix 1). It also provides for the development of supporting policies and procedures to enable effective and consistent delivery of management across the marine reserves estate.

The Management Plan objectives are to:

1. Provide for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and other natural and cultural¹ values of the South-east Network; and
2. Provide for ecologically sustainable use of the natural resources within the South-east Network where this is consistent with objective 1.

The Management Plan strategies to achieve the objectives are:

Strategy 1: Improve knowledge and understanding of the conservation values of the marine reserves network and the pressures on those values.

Strategy 2: Minimise impacts of activities through effective assessment of proposals, decision-making and management of reserve specific issues.

¹ Cultural values elsewhere in the Management Plan includes cultural and heritage values (see 2.2.4 and 2.3.5). Cultural and heritage values in the South-east Network include shipwrecks and associated relics within and outside reserves (three shipwrecks older than 75 years are listed under the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* and lie within reserves – the *MV City of Rayville* (Apollo CMR) and the *SS Cambridge* and the *Eliza Davies* (Beagle CMR)) and sites of Aboriginal significance (such as sea country associations with the Murray CMR).

Strategy 3: Protect the conservation values of the marine reserves network through management of environmental incidents.

Strategy 4: Facilitate compliance with the Management Plan through education and enforcement.

Strategy 5: Promote community understanding of, and stakeholder participation in, the management of the marine reserves network.

Strategy 6: Support involvement of Indigenous people in management of Commonwealth marine reserves.

Strategy 7: Evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the Management Plan through monitoring and review.

There are several actions listed under each strategy that set out how these will be achieved.

South-east Implementation Schedule

PURPOSE

The purpose of the South-east Implementation Schedule is to guide priority activities for the foundation phase (first four years) of implementation of the Management Plan. The Implementation Schedule provides a clear linkage between the Management Plan strategies, outcomes and actions and the on ground day to day activities which will support management effectiveness and improvement.

This Implementation Schedule is consistent with and supports the objectives of national plans managed by the department including threat abatement plans and threatened species recovery plans.

RESPONSIBILITY

The South-east Network is managed by the Department of the Environment (Parks Australia) by the Commonwealth Marine Reserves (CMR) Branch.

DURATION & SCOPE

The Management Plan is operational for 10 years from 2013-2023. The focus of implementation of the Management Plan has been divided into three phases:

Years 1-4: Foundation Phase (foundation activities and immediate activities and outcomes)

Years 5-8: Consolidation Phase (intermediate and longer-term outcomes)

Years 9-10: Review of Management Plan (continuing achievement of longer-term outcomes and preparation for next 10 year management plan)

CONTEXT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The South-east Implementation Schedule considered a range of factors in developing key activities:

- Legislative requirements (such as permits and approvals)
- Protection relative to known/emerging threats and understanding and protection of values in IUCN zones I & II in particular
- Budget allocation and future outlook

- Broader estate wide considerations, including strategic direction for other reserve networks
- Existing and ongoing management activities
- Government priorities
- Implementation risks and complexity
- Support for other Australian Government responsibilities for Commonwealth agencies and in Commonwealth areas (such as for Threat Abatement Plans and Recovery Plans)

FUNDING

The Commonwealth Marine Reserves Branch within Parks Australia has ongoing funding allocated according to identified national and regional priorities. Supplementary funding for specific activities include:

- Capital works (by financial year – internal competitive bid process);
- Sourced from external sources (such as open competitive grants avenues as opportunities arise)
- Co-contributions (funding or in-kind) from our partners and CMR marine users.

OUTCOMES

The primary outcome of this Implementation Plan is to effectively and efficiently deliver identified activities and contribute to the overall objectives of the Management Plan. This will provide a solid foundation for future activities in the consolidation phase of the Management Plan, building towards ongoing future management of the South-east. Whether this outcome is achieved will be determined through an evidence based review in year four.

REPORTING

The duration of this Implementation Schedule is 4 years from 2013-2017. Each year a report will be prepared by Parks Australia to document progress against actions, and make recommendations on initiating, continuing, or terminating activities as part of an adaptive management cycle. The yearly reports will be used to inform attendees of the South-east Network stakeholder forum on progress and to jointly review priorities to take into account emerging issues and stakeholder needs. Key outcomes will be reflected in our corporate responsibilities

A substantial activity in Year 4 will be to review our performance effectiveness based on annual outcomes and draft an Implementation Schedule to guide our progress against the objectives of the Management Plan in consolidating our activities in years 5-8 from 2018-2021.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

SOUTH-EAST CMR NETWORK: STRATEGIES, OUTCOMES, ACTIVITIES, TIMEFRAMES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY 1. IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSERVATION VALUES OF THE MARINE RESERVES NETWORK AND THE PRESSURES ON THOSE VALUES.

END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (10 YEARS)

- Understanding and knowledge of those conservation values identified as a priority for management improvement over the life of the Plan.
- Understanding of the pressures affecting key conservation values, improves over the life of this Plan and management actions are adapted to take account of the latest available information.
- Data arising from monitoring and research conducted within the South-east marine reserves and the findings of the research can be easily accessed and shared.
- Research and monitoring needs are met in partnership with relevant research organisations and marine reserves users.

END OF IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (4 YEARS)

- Targeted research and monitoring is in place to understand conservation, cultural and heritage values and pressures, establish ecological baselines and detect changes in them over time to inform management responses.

ACTION REFERENCE	ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 2013/14	YEAR 2 2014/15	YEAR 3 2015/16	YEAR 4 2016/17
A1, A4	<p>1.1 Knowledge gaps identified and a scientific research and monitoring strategy developed that includes priority research areas.</p> <p><i>Parks will build on existing work and collaborations with research institutions and marine users to collate data relevant to the South-east to identify gaps in knowledge and prioritise research investment to better understand the conservation, cultural and heritage values and determine ecological baselines Effort on existing and future data analysis and collations for reserves in the SE network will feed into information for key users (links to Strategy 5 communication and education strategy).</i></p>	✓	✓		

A2, A3, A4	<p>1.2 South-east priority research/monitoring commenced.</p> <p><i>Develop and implement monitoring in line with national CMR estate principles and systems (including access and sharing of findings). Monitoring will identify changes over time as a result of management intervention including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Deep water habitat sampling monitoring pilot undertaken and report on effectiveness for management and ongoing monitoring (Year 1-2);</i> <i>Research and monitoring in the Tasman Fracture CMR to compare areas inside and outside reserve (Year 2);</i> <i>Monitoring habitat recovery/response in historic trawling grounds where trawling is no longer an allowable activity (Year 4).</i> 	✓	✓	✓	✓
A4, A3	<p>1.3 Partnerships are identified and in place to actively support and deliver identified South-east research and monitoring priorities.</p> <p><i>Parks will identify and engage in key partnerships with research institutions (building on existing collaborations) and users including industry bodies to implement research and monitoring priorities in line with national CMR research and monitoring principles. Identify opportunities for aligning potential interests and interested parties and stakeholders to participate in monitoring programs.</i></p>	✓	✓	✓	✓

STRATEGY 2. MINIMISE IMPACTS OF ACTIVITIES THROUGH EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS, DECISION-MAKING AND MANAGEMENT OF RESERVE SPECIFIC ISSUES.

END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (10 YEARS)

- Potential impacts of allowable activities on the conservation values of the marine reserves network are identified and avoided or mitigated by appropriate assessment and authorisation processes.
- Authorisation processes are streamlined to improve efficiency and effectiveness, and reduce duplication.

END OF IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (4 YEARS)

Effective assessment and authorisation processes are in place for management of activities and to enable users to undertake their activities consistent with management arrangements.

ACTION REFERENCE	ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 2013/14	YEAR 2 2014/15	YEAR 3 2015/16	YEAR 4 2016/17
A5, A6, A7, A8	<p>2.1 Individual activities and proposals assessed consistent with the EPBC Act Regulations, in line with the management plan and the CMR national estate policy and decision making framework.</p> <p><i>Assessment for individual activities are the responsibility of Parks and will be consistent and coordinated with other permit/approval requirements in line with CMR national estate policy to make our individual authorizations more efficient and deliver a timely outcome to CMR marine users.</i></p>	Ongoing			
A5, A8	<p>2.2 Activities subject to class approvals managed consistent with the management plan and the CMR national estate policy and decision making framework, including consultation with affected stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Class approvals will be managed and reviewed in a consistent, coordinated and transparent process in the South-east Network to deliver a timely outcome and certainty to CMR marine users.</i></p>	Ongoing			
A9	<p>2.3 A class approval for charter fishing for tourism purposes investigated by Parks in accordance with the management plan.</p> <p><i>Need to ensure that existing permit holders have a lawful right to continue activities from Y2 moving towards a class approval.</i></p>		✓		
A10	<p>2.4 Internal Activity Audit program</p> <p><i>Internal activity audits will be undertaken by Parks as part of a program to review the effectiveness of conditions to ensure they are appropriate, can be complied with and are achieving the objectives of the management plan. 2014/15 Parks will design an audit strategy and associated program and initiate in the South-east. Improvements based on the initial audits will be factored into the program to be continued in</i></p>		✓	✓	✓

	<i>future years with recommendation implemented through appropriate mechanisms. The audit will identify opportunities for improvements and efficiencies (including conformance with relevant Codes of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures) for CMR management and marine users.</i>				
A10	<p>2.5 Conditions placed on assessments adapted/modified to address changes in environmental risks/threats, changing marine use circumstances and in response to audit recommendations.</p> <p><i>Where audit recommendations suggest a change to management authorisations, Parks will provide guidance and advice on our website and will consult directly with affected parties and provide updates to the SE Forum.</i></p>	Ongoing			

STRATEGY 3. PROTECT THE CONSERVATION VALUES OF THE MARINE RESERVES NETWORK THROUGH MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS.

END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (10 YEARS)

- Impacts associated with environmental incidents are identified and managed appropriately.
- Systems for timely reporting of and collaboration on responses to environmental incidents are effective.

END OF IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (4 YEARS)

Emerging threats of environmental incidents are identified and management response arrangements (including influencing prevention options) are clearly understood between relevant agencies.

ACTION REFERENCE	ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 2013/14	YEAR 2 2014/15	YEAR 3 2015/16	YEAR 4 2016/17
A11, A14 (links to A18)	<p>3.1 Hazard identification, hazard/risk assessment and control of hazards/risks evaluation.</p> <p><i>Incidents that may impact on the conservation values of the South-east Network may include foundering</i></p>		✓	✓	✓

	<p>vessels, oil or chemical spills and introduction of marine pests*. Parks will prepare an Environmental Incident Hazard/Risks Management Plan in year 2, in collaboration with the SE Forum, that will identify, assess and prioritise hazards/risks as well as opportunities for prevention avenues and identify appropriate management responses in collaboration with relevant partner agencies and CMR marine users. Priority hazards/risks to monitor will be incorporated into the monitoring strategy (see activity 1.1/1.2).</p> <p>* Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing/extraction of living resources incidents will be addressed/responded to under Strategy 4 Action 18.</p>				
A14	<p>3.2 Marine debris programs supported for identified priorities.</p> <p><i>Marine debris is an identified threat in the South-east Network. Marine debris can comprise plastic garbage, derelict fishing gear from recreational or commercial fishing activities, and ship-sourced solid non-biodegradable floating materials lost or disposed of at sea. Activities will include assisting in coordination of ghost net and other marine debris recovery consistent with the existing partner agency arrangements, reporting on activity under the Threat Abatement Plan for the Impacts of Marine Debris on Vertebrate Marine Life, and contributing to priority marine debris research initiatives relative to protection of the values of the South-east reserves.</i></p>			✓	✓
A11, A12, A13	<p>3.3 Standard Operating Procedures for incident response updated and maintained.</p> <p><i>Parks will update our current standard operating procedures to include key environmental incident response partners such as the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, State Government agencies in Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria and key industry and other CMR marine users to take into account recent agreements in relation to coordination of environmental incident response to ensure a consistent and coordinated incident response protocol for the South-east Network.</i></p>		✓		
A14	<p>3.4 Environmental advice provided for incidents that may threaten conservation values.</p> <p><i>This is an ongoing function undertaken by Parks. Advice will consider likelihood and consequence of incidents to inform incident response and ongoing monitoring.</i></p>	Ongoing			

STRATEGY 4. FACILITATE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (10 YEARS)

- Activities within the marine reserves network are undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the management arrangements as specified in the South-east Management Plan.
- Marine reserves network users have a clear understanding of what is required to comply with the South-east Management Plan.
- Marine reserves network users contribute to the management of the network through the reporting of suspected non-compliant activity.

END OF IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (4 YEARS)

- CMR marine users have a clear understanding of what is required to comply with management arrangements.
- Our compliance program encourages/promotes voluntary compliance through awareness, education and surveillance.

ACTION REFERENCE	ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 2013/14	YEAR 2 2014/15	YEAR 3 2015/16	YEAR 4 2016/17
A15, A18, A20, A21, A22	<p>4.1 Annual Compliance operational plans will be developed and implemented based on annual risk-based compliance planning.</p> <p><i>Annual compliance operational plans will be developed by Parks based on the outcomes of annual compliance workshops with South-east compliance agencies to formulate the following year schedule of compliance activities, including those detailed below (activities 4.2-4.9).</i></p>	Ongoing			
A15, A16	<p>4.2 Vessel Monitoring System Alert operational in South-east Network.</p> <p><i>The ALERT system aims to improve awareness of CMRs and prevent unintended prohibited activity by commercial fishers fitted with a Vessel Monitoring System. A pilot project completed in year 1 will identify the optimal way of utilising this technology. Vessel Monitoring System operators will receive alert notification regarding vessel movements in CMRs commencing 1 July 2014. The ALERT system will be closely monitored by Parks with industry over the term of the implementation schedule.</i></p>	✓	✓	✓	✓

A15, A16	<p>4.3 Vessel Monitoring System Alert evaluated.</p> <p><i>The SE system will be reviewed by Parks and key users to consider its performance, effectiveness, and impact on compliance incidents. It will be refined as required to optimise support for industry.</i></p>		✓		
A16	<p>4.4 Maps and data available on our website and accessible to CMR users and commercial charting companies are aware of our products.</p> <p><i>Available mapping and data will provide access for CMR users to CMR boundaries and zones to assist voluntary compliance through the avoidance of unintended entry into CMRs. Technological advances in delivery options (such as mobile phone applications) will be considered over time.</i></p>	✓	✓		
A16	<p>4.5 Vessel survey to verify CMR marine user charting needs completed.</p> <p><i>The vessel survey aims to identify those operators who require additional mapping and data accessibility support. The outcomes will inform targeted communication needs and products for activities in year 3 (2015-16).</i></p>		✓	✓	
A16, A17, A18, A22	<p>4.6 Industry understanding of compliance progressed and cooperative compliance arrangements promoted.</p> <p><i>A workshop of commercial fishing industry will assist identifying compliance risks and explore opportunities for cooperative compliance initiatives. Workshop invitees will include industry representatives, boat owners, concession holders and operators.</i></p>	✓		✓	
A16, A17, A22	<p>4.7 Industry education package developed, promoted and supported by boat owners/concession holders and modules achieved by operators.</p> <p><i>Commencing in 2015, Parks in partnership with industry and AFMA will pursue developing on-line training modules for the fishing industry in the South-east, to improve understanding of the network and</i></p>		✓	✓	✓

	<i>management arrangements. Performance of training will be monitored and reported in year 4 (2016-17).</i>				
A19, A21	4.8 Website tool initiated and promoted for the public reporting of suspected non-compliant activity. <i>Implement a reporting tool on the Parks website (complementary with GBRMPA Eyes and Ears Incident Reporting program) to facilitate CMR users to report suspected non-compliant activity.</i>			✓	✓
A15, A19	4.9 Compliance activity and enforcement data is appropriately collected, securely managed and utilised for planning and reporting purposes and effectively supports investigations. <i>The Compliance and Enforcement Management System (CEMS) is a Parks database, which will be maintained and improved to support compliance and enforcement activities. Standard Operating Procedures will be refined and updated to guide collection and usage of sensitive data (including spatial and temporal surveillance data).</i>	Ongoing			
A15, A18, A20	4.10 Effective and efficient working partnerships and agreements with regional marine compliance agencies. <i>Cooperative service arrangements are agreed to between participating regional compliance agencies for the cost-effective, streamlined and coordinated delivery of compliance activities prioritised and guided by a risk-based annual compliance plan (A18), including compliance awareness, compliance monitoring and enforcement.</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
A20	4.11 Regional enforcement partners are trained to achieve a thorough understanding of their powers and are confident in executing their warden powers under the EPBC Act. <i>Development of warden training package by Parks and delivery of EPBC Act warden training for South-east state and commonwealth agency EPBC Act appointed wardens to support compliance with the EPBC Regulations the management plan. Training will be repeated every 2 years.</i> Note: Customs officers and Australian Federal Police Officers are ex-officio wardens under the EPBC Act. Currently, there are over 130 State agency officers appointed as wardens across the CMR estate. In the SE,			✓	

	State wardens are drawn from TASPOL (Tasmania Police) and PIRSA (South Australia) together with customs and AFP officers. Certain Parks officers and Department of Environment investigators are also wardens across the CMR estate.				
A21	4.12 Investigation and, where appropriate enforcement action to achieve individual and general deterrence of illegal activity and reduce non-compliance incidences. <i>Alleged illegal activities will be investigated and enforcement action will be executed consistent with Departmental and Parks Australia compliance policy and guidelines.</i>	Ongoing			

STRATEGY 5. PROMOTE COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING OF, AND STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN, THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE RESERVES NETWORK.

END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (10 YEARS)

- Stakeholders and the community understand the importance of the marine reserves network, the values it protects and management arrangements.
- Stakeholders effectively participate in managing the marine reserves network.

END OF IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (4 YEARS)

- Marine reserve users and key sector groups know where CMRs are and understand management arrangements.
- Advisory committee contributes to management and assists in the management of the network.
- Adjacent coastal communities are aware of the CMR network and the conservation values.
- Priority partnerships are in place and operating.

ACTION REFERENCE	ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 2013/14	YEAR 2 2014/15	YEAR 3 2015/16	YEAR 4 2016/17
A23	5.1 South-east Network communication and education plan developed and implemented.		✓	✓	✓

	<p><i>Consistent with CMR national estate communications principles Parks, in collaboration with the SE Forum, will develop and implement a South-east Communication Plan that will analyse and prioritise needs and identify appropriate delivery methods/tools to reach target users and the general public (particularly coastal communities) to raise awareness of the CMRs and management arrangements and to communicate new policies and procedures to CMR marine users. This plan will include how effort on existing and future data analysis and collations for reserves in the SE network will feed into information for key users (links to Strategy 1 scientific research and monitoring strategy outcomes). The plan will be dynamic and adjusted on an annual basis with a more fulsome reflection and review at year 4 based on progress and developments in the preceding years (evidence-based review). A key element of the plan will be conducting a baseline survey of community understanding and awareness of the SE network that will inform the communications plan. Another activity will be Parks updating the commercial fishers guide and considering electronic delivery.</i></p>				
A23	<p>5.2 Signage audit conducted and priority signage projects delivered.</p> <p><i>Parks will undertake a signage audit to identify existing signage, conduct a needs analysis of signage across the South-east Network and prepare a prioritised forward signage plan. This will assist forward budget and logistic planning for new and replacement signage and provide on-ground information at key locations for CMR marine users and general public. In year 1 Parks signed an MOU with Tasmania NPWS to deliver interpretation signage at Freycinet and other locations (including boat ramps and visitor centres) building on signage work commenced in 2010. Work to be completed in year 2.</i></p>	✓	✓		✓
A24	<p>5.3 User group meetings facilitated by Parks for the exchange of knowledge, understanding and participation in the management of marine reserves (such as for the commercial fishing industry and commercial tourism charter fishing industry).</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
A23	<p>5.4 Community initiatives presented to the SE Forum and/or its representatives, or generated by SE Forum members, that seek to enhance awareness, understanding and protection of CMR values will be encouraged and supported as appropriate and where possible (relative to other priorities). Support may include influencing outcomes, in-kind, funding or facilitating access to networks/expertise.</p>		✓	✓	✓

A24	<p>5.5 Collaborate with key CMR users to guide and participate in the management of the network and advise on the implementation of the management plan in the interim before formal consultative structures are put in place.</p> <p><i>South-east multi-sector forums are arranged to maintain continuous liaison with key CMR user group representatives in the interim before formal consultative structures are put in place. The agenda will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience in the implementation and management of the networks.</i></p>	✓	✓	✓	
A25	<p>5.6 Future consultative structure and membership established and operating effectively to deliver advice on the implementation of the management plan.</p> <p><i>Parks will establish and administer a consultative structure (such as a committee) to facilitate participation and active engagement by key CMR users and community. This group will provide advice on the implementation schedule, assist with identifying emerging issues and prioritising management activities.</i></p>		✓	✓	✓

STRATEGY 6. SUPPORT INVOLVEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN MANAGEMENT OF COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVES.

END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (10 YEARS)

- Indigenous people and organisations are partners in the management of sea country within Commonwealth marine reserves.
- Management activities within Commonwealth marine reserves acknowledge and respect existing Indigenous governance arrangements, activities and cultural needs.
- Indigenous customs, practices and knowledge inform relevant management planning activities.

END OF IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (4 YEARS)

- Indigenous customs, practices and knowledge relevant to CMR management in the South-east are identified, understood and respected by marine users.
- Agreed consultation arrangements for Indigenous engagement are implemented.

ACTION REFERENCE	ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 2013/14	YEAR 2 2014/15	YEAR 3 2015/16	YEAR 4 2016/17
A27, A28 (links to A23-25)	<p>6.1 Indigenous representation is facilitated to support future consultative structures</p> <p><i>In line with national CMR Indigenous engagement principles (under development), capability/interest in participation will be reviewed by Parks and relevant contact information for Indigenous groups with an interest in the South-east region updated. Indigenous members on consultative structures will assist guiding management on a reserve and/or network level.</i></p>		✓	✓	
A26, A27	<p>6.2 Indigenous cultural values within the South-east region are updated and, where appropriate, are communicated to the wider public.</p> <p><i>Building on previous research work on Indigenous cultural values within the South-east region, facilitate a project to update and publish (where agreed appropriate) in consultation with relevant Indigenous people and organisations in line with national CMR Indigenous engagement principles. Opportunities will be explored to involve Indigenous people in delivery of this project, and broader management activities including exposure to marine protected area management.</i></p>			✓	✓
A29	6.3 Management plan administered in compliance with the requirements of the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> .	Ongoing			

STRATEGY 7. EVALUATE AND REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN THROUGH MONITORING AND REVIEW.

END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (10 YEARS)

- Management is improved on the basis of new information and knowledge
- Improved understanding of the conservation values, and the pressures on such values, of the marine reserves network.
- The establishment of a program which provides the foundation for the long-term monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the marine reserves network.
- Effective reporting on reserve management to inform stakeholders and meet statutory requirements.

END OF IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (4 YEARS)

- Performance framework and reporting provides management guidance to support adaptive management.

ACTION REFERENCE	ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 2013/14	YEAR 2 2014/15	YEAR 3 2015/16	YEAR 4 2016/17
A30	<p>7.1 Progress on actions monitored and reported and management effectiveness measures (including indicators) developed.</p> <p><i>Building on foundation activity to develop a management effectiveness framework for the CMR national estate (consistent with Parks reporting requirements), the framework will be finalised (including identifying performance indicators at the national and regional level) in Year 2. This framework will be adapted to the South-east and applied from Year 2 to underpin performance reporting and give effect to adaptive management.</i></p>	✓	✓		
A30	<p>7.2 Yearly progress reports prepared to inform our consultative representatives and management.</p> <p><i>This yearly report will comprise an interim review that will consider progress made against the activities that support outcomes under this phase 1 implementation schedule. Based on this review, Parks, in collaboration with the SE Forum, will assess development of priorities for activities in future years of this implementation plan building towards the consolidation phase 2 implementation schedule for the South-east Network.</i></p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
A31	<p>7.3 South-east information to the Department of the Environment and Parks Australia annual reports submitted.</p>	Ongoing			
A32	<p>To be completed in Years 9-10 of current Management Plan (review).</p>	Years 9-10			

APPENDIX 1 – SOUTH-EAST MANAGEMENT PLAN STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Strategy 1: Improve knowledge and understanding of the conservation values of the marine reserves network and the pressures on those values.

- | | |
|----|--|
| A1 | As part of a national-scale program for Commonwealth marine reserves, develop and implement a South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Research and Monitoring strategy that contribute to increased understanding of the values of the reserves and provides for ongoing reporting of their condition. |
| A2 | Develop and implement a framework for the long term scientific monitoring of changes in key conservation values protected by the Commonwealth marine reserves and on the pressures on those values. |
| A3 | Adopt standards and protocols for managing biophysical and ecological data collected within Commonwealth Marine Reserves. |
| A4 | Collaborate, including through developing partnerships, with national research facilities, science and academic institutions and, as appropriate, marine reserve users, to deliver on strategic information needs and to inform research programs and government and industry investment in marine research. |

Strategy 2: Minimise impacts of activities through effective assessment of proposals, decision-making and management of reserve specific issues.

- | | |
|----|---|
| A5 | Establish in consultation with relevant stakeholders, efficient, effective and transparent processes for assessment, decision-making and authorisation of activities, and implement within the marine reserves network. |
|----|---|

Note: For example, the Director will consult with the commercial fishing industry and other relevant stakeholders to establish the process for assessment of fishing methods and gear types.

A6 When the interests of a person or group are likely to be affected by a decision under this Management Plan, the Director will:

- a. as far as practicable consult them in a timely and appropriate way;
- b. provide an opportunity to comment on the proposed decision and associated actions;
- c. take any comments into account;
- d. give reasonable notice before decisions are taken or implemented (except in cases of emergency); and
- e. provide reasons for decisions.

A7 Comply with Division 14.3 of the EPBC Regulations in relation to reconsideration of decisions about permits.

Note: Division 14.3 of the regulations provides that, subject to Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975, a person who has requested a reconsideration may apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of the reconsideration.

A8 Reconsider a decision about a class approval when requested by a person whose interests are affected by the decision. A request for reconsideration must be made and considered in the same manner as provided by Division 14.3 of the EPBC Regulations. Subject to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975, a person who has requested a reconsideration may apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of the reconsideration.

A9 Consider further use of class approvals where there is a sound case for effectively assessing and efficiently approving users that carry out a class of activities in a uniform way.

A10 Identify reserve specific issues and develop, implement and evaluate management responses where appropriate.

Strategy 3: Protect the conservation values of the marine reserves network through management of environmental incidents.

A11 Establish systems for timely reporting of, and assisting with responses to, environmental incidents. See 3.4 for possible threats/incidents.

A12 Collaborate with responsible agencies and assist with responding to environmental incidents that threaten the values of the marine reserves network.

A13 Maintain effective liaison and partnerships with relevant environmental incident response agencies and organisations.

A14 Identify and assess potential incidents that may threaten conservation values of the Reserves and implement, if feasible, approaches to reduce the likelihood or consequence of such incidents.

Strategy 4: Facilitate compliance with this management plan through education and enforcement.

A15 Implement reliable methods for monitoring compliance with this management plan.

A16 Develop, maintain and provide appropriate information to enable users of the marine reserves network to comply with the provisions of this Plan.

A17 Consult with users of the network to identify opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of compliance measures.

A18 Implement a risk-based annual compliance plan.

A19 Establish a reporting system that supports users and visitors of the marine reserves network to report suspected non-compliant activity.

A20 Build effective working partnerships and agreements with Commonwealth and state government agencies for delivery of compliance services.

A21 Investigate and monitor suspected non-compliant activity and, where appropriate, take enforcement action.

A22 Support initiatives and programs which promote best practice standards that guide use and minimise impacts on the marine environment.

Strategy 5: Promote community understanding of, and stakeholder participation in, the management of the marine reserves network.

A23 Develop and implement a communication and education plan that increases community understanding of the importance of the marine reserves network and meets reserve-specific needs for communication about the values protected and management arrangements and requirements.

A24 Maintain effective working relationships with user groups to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, understanding and participation in the management of the marine reserves network.

A25 Within the first 12 months of the Plan's operation, establish consultative structures (e.g. committees) to guide and participate in the management of the marine reserves network.

Strategy 6: Support involvement of Indigenous people in management of commonwealth marine reserves.

A26 Drawing on the significant body of knowledge built as part of sea country planning and similar initiatives across Australia, and in consultation with relevant representative organisations, consolidate and communicate information about cultural values protected in the South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network.

A27 Identify and, where feasible, support opportunities for Indigenous people to engage in the management of sea country in Commonwealth marine reserves, for example through the delivery of critical management services, such as monitoring surveillance, compliance and research.

A28 Build effective partnerships with Indigenous communities and organisations that have an interest in the marine reserves network.

A29 Comply with the requirements of the Native Title Act 1993.

Strategy 7: Evaluate and report on the effectiveness of this management plan through monitoring and review.

A30 Within the first twelve months of the Plan's operation, design and initiate a program to measure and monitor progress on Actions and outcomes.

A31 Report annually on the South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network in the Director of National Parks annual report.

A32 Evaluate and report on the implementation of the management plan before its expiry. The report will consider:

- a. an assessment of the existing measures to protect the South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network;
- b. progress of the strategies and actions towards achieving the stated outcomes;
- c. options for improving management of the marine reserves network.