

MARINE RESERVE IMPLEMENTATION

**DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERIC COMMUNITY/
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE PROCESS FOR
MARINE RESERVE PLANNING AND
IMPLEMENTATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Type of Report: MRI - 17/1998

A collaborative project between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
and CALM Marine Conservation Branch

A project funded through Ocean Rescue 2000: Marine Protected Area Program
Project No: G023/97

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OCEAN RESCUE 2000

MARINE PROTECTED AREA PROGRAM

Final Report Project No G023/97

**Development of a generic community/
stakeholder consultative process for marine
reserve planning and implementation in
Western Australia**

A collaborative project between the Great Barrier Reef Marine park
Authority and the Department of Conservation and Land Management of
Western Australia.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the major activities and outcomes of the project entitled *Development of a generic community/stakeholder consultative process for marine reserve planning and implementation in Western Australia*, conducted as a cooperative project between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) of Western Australia, under funding from the Ocean Rescue 2000 Marine Protected Area Program 1996/1997, Project No. GO23/97, and administered by GBRMPA.

The objective of the program was to develop generic consultative protocols for marine reserve planning and implementation in Western Australia and to implement these protocols with the community in association with the Jurien Bay marine reserve proposal and planning process.

During the progress of this project there have been a number of major pioneering steps forward in marine conservation for Western Australia, culminating in the evolution of a new marine conservation framework that is underpinned by amendments to the CALM Act 1984 through the Acts Amendment (Marine Reserves) Act 1997. This project has made a significant contribution to the implementation of the amended legislation through the development and trial of community participation operational procedures.

1. Introduction

The objective of the project was to develop protocols and operational procedures for community participation in the planning process for Western Australian marine reserves. This was then to be trialed using the Jurien Bay marine reserve proposal as a test case. Project specifications were as follows:

Action 1	Develop strategic framework for community stakeholder consultation in line with legislative requirements	30 June 1998
Action 2	Develop a generic community involvement programme, with particular reference to the Jurien Marine Reserve proposal	30 June 1998
Action 3	Apply generic community consultative models for marine reserve planning, using the Jurien Marine Reserve proposal as a 'test' case.	30 June 1998

2. Major Activities and Outcomes

Action 1

This action was serviced through the development of operational procedures for community consultation in line with legislative requirements (Attachment 1).

Actions 2

The state wide operational procedures were applied directly to the Jurien Bay marine reserve planning process. Using the generic lists of contacts in the operational procedures, key stakeholder and community groups together with individual representatives were identified and the community education and negotiation effort has focused on these contacts.

Action 3

The planning process for the Jurien Bay marine reserve has reached a stage where an indicative management plan is being developed by a stakeholder advisory committee. The planning process has some way to go yet. However, progress to date has followed the operational procedures in accordance with the following stages:

- An Access data base has been designed which provides query capabilities in relation to contact names, locations, coastal areas of interest, type of institution, club or society and activities or interests in the marine environment. Attachment 2 is a data entry form associated with this data base.
- A twelve member advisory committee has been established consisting of representatives from all major stakeholder and interest groups. The membership and representation of this committee is provided (Attachment 3).
- The committee has met five times so far. Decisions relating to reserve boundaries and zoning are now at a critical phase with negotiations taking place both during the committee meetings and out of session. In addition to the normal secretariat support required for a committee of this kind, the proposed Jurien Bay marine reserve advisory committee has placed a significant resource requirement on this department to service requests for information and the production of maps using geographic information system support. *[NB The results of an additional habitat mapping survey and a selection of GIS products can be referred in the Final Report for the Marine Protected Area Program Project No G021/96].*
- An issue analysis was undertaken to investigate community attitudes, levels of knowledge and understanding and to identify issues, rumours and conflicts within the community in relation to the reserve proposal. A summary of the results of this survey is provided (Attachment 4).
- Community liaison at the grass roots level has been divided into 2 phases. First an effort has been made to inform the public of the existence of the Jurien Bay marine reserve proposal, the concept of marine reserves and the planning process and secondly we have started a phase of negotiations to seek resolution to boundary and zoning issues.

The first consultation phase involved a wide range of communication techniques for each user and interest group. These included, the provision of newspaper, magazine and newsletter articles, radio interviews, letter drops, telephone calls, formal presentations, informal meetings, displays and the distribution of printed material developed as part of the Ocean Rescue 2000 Marine Protected Area Program Project No. GO20/96. Samples of community liaison products together with a progress report on this phase of the community participation program are provided (Attachment 5).

The negotiation phase refers to the establishment of small well informed groups of five or six people who assist their advisory committee representative with issues of zoning and boundaries through a series of two group or three group negotiations.

This phase has just started with two rounds of meetings so far;

- to refine zoning options which best represent the positions of each individual group, and
- to discuss the appropriateness of a compromise zoning map as a starting point for further discussions.

The results of these meetings in terms of a series of maps was produced.[*NB These can be referred to in the Final Report for the Marine Protected Area Program No G021/96*]. The next phase of negotiations will start to reconcile the differences of opinion regarding zoning design by facilitating discussions between and among groups.

3 Discussion

This Department has fully embraced the spirit of recent amendments to the CALM Act by developing community participation protocols which have been applied to the Jurien Bay marine reserve planning process.

The funding provided through this OR2000 project (Project No. GO23/97) has been an important resource contribution in developing the initiatives and in achieving the results that flowed from those initiatives, above.

4 Resourcing

The initiatives listed above have used CALM resources to the value of \$72000. This comprises both in-kind support and direct funding. The \$8000 awarded to this project under the OR2000 grant has been used to assist in the design of a contact data base and in carrying out an issue analysis. Other components of the project have been resourced by CALM.

- (i) Expenditure table of Ocean Rescue 2000 fund contribution to total project.

Item	C/Wealth Funds
Develop contact data base (salary)	\$ 4500
Travel and accommodation for three people in on central west coast	\$ 2500
Data analysis (salary)	\$ 1000
TOTAL	\$ 8000

- (ii) Expenditure by CALM to support project

Item	CALM Resources
Professional Officer to conduct community liaison 0.5 FTE (Salary Level 5 plus 35 % salary on-costs)	\$ 28500
CALM Information Management Branch (in-kind support)	\$ 5000
Infrastructure (office etc) on-costs for professional staff (1.35 x salary)	\$ 38500
TOTAL	\$ 72000